

# Rectify Our Style of Work!

## Combat Amateurishness!

Amateurishness is definitely another of the big evils we have to fight and defeat. By amateurishness we mean both the *narrowness* in scope of our revolutionary work and the *lack of training*, of ability to carry out the revolutionary work. As with all problems discussed up to now, this is not a problem particularly exclusive to our organization, but one that affects the entire movement. Thus, while focusing on the particular manifestations of the problem within the LPR(ML), as we have done in this report and throughout the recti-

fication campaign, we expect that the necessary connections with the problems and reality of other organizations will be made.

### NARROWNESS IN OUR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY

Our revolutionary activity is narrow on many counts. First, it is narrow because almost all of it is concentrated in New York. This super-localism greatly affects our world outlook. It makes New York City become the center of the universe and has us dreaming that by

carrying out some local struggles, we are really inflicting deathly blows at the U.S. bourgeoisie.

Definitely it is not a matter of local struggles not being important. In fact, they are crucial. But the problem is that our involvement in these local struggles is disconnected from the involvement of other revolutionaries in other local struggles around the country. Further, they are not connected to any national effort to rally the masses of the multinational proletariat and its allies to the

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# Rectification Campaign

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struggle against the bourgeoisie. Thus, the lack of ties between the different struggles and the different revolutionary organizations, and individuals that comprise the U.S. anti-revisionist communist movement is another manifestation of our revolutionary activity.

The examples in this respect are many. We have historically carried out a lot of work in support of different national liberation struggles but it is not till very recently that real efforts have been made to coordinate that work with revolutionaries in other areas of the country. We have to do this in all areas of our work. For example, we have fought for affirmative action programs in some campuses and workplaces, but that work has not been connected to any other of the many committees, organizations, and coalitions throughout the U.S. who have taken up the struggle for affirmative action. Take also for example the work we carry out in the United Auto Workers local in plant X. Efforts must be made to connect our work within that local with other aspects of our work as well as with any other work being carried out in other parts of the country within the UAW. Up to now, we have carried out this work narrowly and the same holds true for many other organizations who also work within this or that local of this or any other trade union.

Still another example is the way we carry out our mass campaigns. Maybe our organization can rally 50 people to demonstrate for this or that cause. Another organization can rally 500. And a third one, 120. And so on and so forth. But although all these people are maybe demonstrating for the same reason, there is no connection at all between one demonstration and the other. Therefore, the effectiveness of the demonstrations is immensely weakened, as opposed to a situation in which the same amount of people were to demonstrate in different parts of the country under a common program, slogans, demands, etc.

Another manifestation of narrowness can be seen in the propaganda we put out. Propaganda is our main form of activity, and this is definitely correct. But not so when it's almost our only form of activity in many struggles. There have been many occasions in which we have been able to correctly point out what is wrong, we have been able to correctly expose the social props, to identify and combat opportunist lines, to expose counterrevolutionaries, revisionists, and Trotskyites, etc. But we have not been able to go from word to action, and we have

not been able to organize the people to take up the struggle under our leadership. We must therefore attempt to broaden our revolutionary activity in those cases in which it is reduced to a few propaganda pieces.

To make things worse in this respect, the propaganda we do put out is itself also very narrow. There are many crucial issues facing the U.S. proletarian revolution that we have not addressed at all or addressed very superficially. The present economic crisis, the danger of war, the danger of fascism, the national question in the U.S., etc., are some of the most outstanding cases. Our newspaper itself, which consists only of eight pages, and sometimes does not even come out every month, is not the collective organizer, collective agitator and collective propagandist that we need in order to carry out broad revolutionary work. And we must make it so!

All of these and other manifestations of narrowness create the basis for the development and fostering of a strong narrow circle spirit on our part. We have behaved like the ostrich who keeps protected with its head in the ground. Our concern has been those particular places or issues in which we have developed work. Whether or not those places or issues are the most important ones has not been the primary consideration. Instead of trying to reach out to the rest of the movement, and joining efforts in struggles with national perspective, like Bakke, the Wilmington 10, the miner's strike, etc., we have given priority to work in various local struggles that in most of the cases have had very little national implications. This in no way comrades, should be understood to mean we should only participate in struggles that are "big" and that are being carried out nation wide, but that in fact we have to give priority to such struggles over the completely local issues that we have mainly focused on up to now.

## OUR LACK OF TRAINING

The narrowness in the scope of our revolutionary activity also results in the narrowness of our revolutionary ability to carry out the practical side of the revolutionary struggle. Many times we know what has to be done but we don't know how to do it. The poor training of our cadres and contacts is another big stumbling block in front of us. Communists must be independent leaders of our class. We have to be able to find our bearings, to know what to do under the most unfavorable conditions.

In order to be able to do this, we have to be properly trained. We have to be prepared both ideologically and practically in how to go about doing all the different things that are meant by carrying out communist work. We have to be properly trained to be good agitators and propagandists, to know how to carry out exposures, to know how and when to make compromises, to know how to build alliances and carry out united front work, to know how to fight the backward ideas of the masses, how to isolate the opportunists, how to make use of contradictions in the camp of the enemy, how to solve contradictions among the people, how to com-

bat national chauvinism and male chauvinism, how to fight for genuine reforms linking this struggle with the fight for socialism, how to win over advanced workers to communism, how to go about uniting Marxist-Leninists, and a thousand more things. And the fact of the matter is, comrades, that proper training is not possible based on the narrow scope of our revolutionary activity. Thus, in order to solve our lack of training, we have to eliminate our narrowness.

## THE DIALECTICS OF NARROW SCOPE OF ACTIVITY AND LACK OF TRAINING

Narrowness in our revolutionary activity and lack of training are definitely dialectically related. The narrower our activity, the more limited our training will be (remember we are using the concept of training in relation to the ability to carry out a particular task). This is so because we cannot train anybody in the abstract. We cannot, for example, teach somebody how to win over the middle forces in a particular struggle without participating in that struggle. It is in the process of participation that we can train people. Obviously, after we are properly trained in the course of the struggle we will be able to carry out the work in other circumstances without needing somebody to tell us how to go about things in every particular struggle.

The important point we want to get across to you is that we cannot learn how to do things by merely relying on the study of books or in the teachings of the already trained people. Again, we alert you not to take this to mean that we are to belittle importance of ideological training, and the key role played in this process by the study of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought and the teaching of the more developed comrades. The line that we are definitely going to have to defeat is that of seeing training as something apart from the actual class struggle.

To put it briefly and concisely: To the question of how do we go about about training? Our answer is, first and foremost let's broaden the scope of our activity. Consciously and systematically study the science and have the most developed and experienced cadres train the less advanced and inexperienced ones, in the actual course of the struggle.

## TO COMBAT AMATEURISHNESS IS TO FIGHT FOR THE PARTY!

It is clear that as long as we continue without a genuine Marxist-Leninist party in the U.S., the problem of amateurishness will not be completely solved. This means that the efforts that we are to unfold in the fight against amateurishness would definitely curb that problem to a great degree in our organization. We definitely can and will broaden the scope of our activity. And we can, and will, prepare ourselves, cadres and contacts, to better carry out our communist work everywhere.

But to make this battle a real war against amateurishness, we have to, more than ever, concentrate on our central task of party building. If in something the U.S. anti-revisionist communist movement has won the "Oscar" for amateurishness, it is definitely in our party building efforts. All our talk about party building has not, as of yet, provided our movement with direction on how to go about building our party. Developing a plan to do so, and uniting genuine Marxist-Leninists around it, is definitely a big step that we must take if we are to be successful in our fight against all the evils in our way of thinking and style of work.

**DOWN WITH AMATEURISHNESS AND NARROW CIRCLE SPIRIT!**

**RECTIFY OUR WAY OF THINKING AND OUR STYLE OF WORK!**

**PLACE ALL OUR WORK IN THE CONTEXT OF PARTY BUILDING!**

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