

HAMMER & STEEL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1964

In this issue of Hammer & Steel we print sections of a political report recently delivered in New England. The report was unanimously adopted by those present.

Comrades:

The presidential election returned L.B. Johnson to office with a high percentage of the votes cast. Johnson's vote was partially a result of popular dislike for Goldwater--a perfect set-up man for the President. Johnson got votes by posing as a friend to the Afro-Americans. He appealed to the higher paid workers and middle class on the "you never had it so good" line. He also promised great days ahead for the 30 million people living in abject poverty--families with less than 3,000 dollars income a year.

Johnson's main vote getting was based on his demagogic exploitation of the people's fear of nuclear war. Goldwater helped him greatly on this question. Johnson claimed that Khrushchev, and then the new leadership of the CPSU were under his domination. After bombing North Viet Nam he said in effect--we are strong--we can do as we like--the Soviet Union is not coming to the defense of Socialist North Viet Nam.

The CPUSA leaders and the Worker are going into ecstasy over the election. They claim that Johnson has a mandate to solve all problems--discrimination, poverty, unemployment and war.

We take issue with the rosy outlook of the revisionists. Some of the reasons follow:

The percentage of eligible voters casting their ballots dropped from 1960. Hundreds of thousands of those that did vote did not vote for either presidential candidate. With 40 million not voting of those registered, with millions of others either kept from voting as in Mississippi or not bothering to register, the voting in the presidential election was done by a minority of adults. Millions of U.S. people understand that the election was a hoax--a "choice" between two stooges of Wall Street. Thus millions are far ahead of the phoney Marxists, Hall and Khrushchev in this respect.

The economy of our country is a capitalist economy. Production is social, it is the result of the efforts of large numbers of people working together. The beneficiaries of production in the U.S. are mainly fifty families--the DuPonts, Kennedys, Hunts, Rockefellers, Fords, etc. Production in our country is based on exploitation of the many for the benefit of a handful. Johnson is a political servant of the fifty families.

U. S. capitalism is in its imperialist stage. It exports finance capital in huge amounts to Latin America, Asia and Africa. This capital is used to rob the colonial nations of their raw materials, to sell finished goods back at high prices and thus restrict native development of agriculture and industry. U.S. finance capital imposes reactionary regimes on the colonial peoples who suffer from unemployment and starvation. This process is called U.S. aid! U.S. finance capital also invades weaker capitalist nations and seeks profits at the expense of their economy. L.B. Johnson is an aggressive representative of U.S. finance capital, a bitter enemy of the colonial peoples.

Because a handful of billionaires own and operate the economy and government of our country the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Johnson admits that 30 million are poverty stricken.

Another 100 million men, women and children are dependent on incomes from semi-skilled and unskilled wage earners. A family of four can no longer live decently on \$100 a week (take home pay). These million are caught between the wage freeze dictated by Johnson and his stooges in labor leadership and the rising cost of living. They are running up high personal debts. They are forced to work overtime when they can get it. The 40-hour week, won in fierce class struggles, is no longer an actuality for millions of U.S. workers. In many areas workers are hit by the crisis in transportation, particularly railroad passenger service. Educational facilities for children, medical service for the family and housing are deteriorating rapidly.

Rising unemployment, slum housing and brutal oppression are the facts of life for the vast majority of the Afro-American people. Twenty-five percent of Afro-American youth are unemployed. Most black women are doing menial work or toil at other types of the poorest paid jobs such as agricultural labor. Despite all of Johnson's mealy-mouthed words about equality: the brutality, murder and oppression of Afro-Americans has never been so fierce since the Civil War. Urban automation and rural mechanization have lessened the role of Afro-Americans as a source of super profits. They are a revolutionary force against U.S. imperialism.

Conditions of the working class youth, both Afro-American and white, are worse than in the depression years. Automation hits them hard. They are subject to the first draft in so-called peace time. The suicide rate in the 15 to 19 age group has increased nearly 50% in this decade as compared with the past decade. In the 20-24 age group there is a 25% increase. (Parade Magazine, 11/15/64)

The competition for markets and the interference of U.S. finance capital into the internal affairs of other capitalist nations has produced sharp clashes with so-called allies. Not only France, but Britain and Japan are resisting U.S. imperialism. Attempts to use West Germany as a nuclear pawn for U.S. domination of Europe are increasing the tension.

The people in almost every country in Latin America are suffering under the heel of Yankee imperialism. Castro's 1962 involvement with Khrushchev in the latter's policies of adventurism and capitulation has only temporarily slowed down the revolutionary movement. Millions are moving along the Cuban, the Algerian, the Chinese and the October Revolutionary road.

In Africa what U.S. imperialism considered a great victory--the murder of Lumumba and the return of Tshombe--is turning into its opposite. Nation after nation in Africa are raising the flags of independence and the peoples are determined to make independence a reality by struggling against both old and neo-colonialism.

In Asia the U.S. government tries to inflict its military domination on every country surrounding China, to exploit the natural resources of those countries for Wall Street and to re-establish imperialist rule over 700 million people in China. This policy is meeting resistance in Japan and Okinawa. It is suffering outright defeats in Indonesia, Cambodia and Viet-Nam. The successful nuclear test by China has greatly strengthened the resistance to Johnson's rule or ruin policy in Asia and the rest of the world.

A most severe setback for U.S. imperialism was the removal of Khrushchev. Khrushchev symbolized fear of imperialism, awe of the H-bomb, capitulation to military aggression and the return to capitalism in the Socialist camp. His major error was under-estimation of national liberation forces and over-estimation of imperialism's strength. Khrushchev's ouster was a victory for Marxism-Leninism over theories of peaceful transition to Socialism--over distortions of peaceful coexistence to mean capitulation to the main enemy of all peoples--U.S. imperialism. Khrushchev's ouster symbolized the bankruptcy of the 20th, 21st and 22nd Congresses of the CPSU.

Khrushchev's removal demonstrates the failure of imperialist propaganda to divide and immobilize the Socialist camp and especially the unity of China and the Soviet Union.

Does this mean that the present leaders of the CPSU are prepared to examine what class forces within the Soviet Union, forces alien to the working class and its allies, produced Khrushchev? Does this mean that present CPSU leaders are self-critically examining what class forces in what country Khrushchev served when he slandered Comrade Mao Tse-tung and the CPC and launched his attacks on Comrade Hoxha and the Albanian Party of Labor?

No, it simply means that the revolutionary forces in the world, including the Marxist-Leninist and other patriotic forces in the Soviet Union, will rid themselves of anyone who fails to take a self-critical approach and cleanse their Party of revisionism. And it won't take eight years.

We take sharp exception to Breshnev's remarks greeting Johnson's re-election as a victory for peace. When did the President of the most powerful imperialist nation become a dove of peace? What right does Breshnev have to side with Johnson against the U.S. working class and Negro liberation movement? Is the Breshnev concept of international solidarity greeting one who commits aggression against Socialist Viet-Nam? Can a "Marxist" be trusted to defend his own country if he won't aid North Viet-Nam?

Evidently there are forces in the CPSU leadership toying with the idea that they can gain time for revisionism and imperialism and that they can out-Khrushchev Nikita.

This won't work for while U.S. imperialism is temporarily aggressive and dangerous its inherent characteristics of exploitation at home and oppression abroad bring it into conflict with the vast majority of peoples both here and abroad. Its doom is certain.

When Gus Hall, a follower of Khrushchev, evaluates Johnson's victory as a step toward ending poverty and fascism he denies the revolutionary role of the U.S. workers. He ties the CPUSA to the futile attempts of U.S. imperialism to dominate the world by aggression and war.

Hall and the U.S. labor opportunists place great stress on the relative prosperity of the top strata of U.S. workers and the middle class. When they say, "Back Johnson" they mean the aristocrats of labor and the middle class should aid the imperialists not only in Viet Nam, but also in their exploitation of the unemployed, the semi-skilled, unskilled and the Afro-Americans at home. When Hall says, "Unite around Johnson" he is urging the higher paid workers to pick up the crumbs that the imperialists allow for assistance in maintaining the status quo of oppression for Puerto-Ricans, Mexican and other oppressed minorities in our country. The hatred of U.S. revisionists for Stalin is no accident. Stalin's teachings were permeated with the Leninist concept of unity of the working class in capitalist nations with the national liberation movements and the Socialist camp against imperialism.

In the Socialist camp the Chinese and Albanian Marxist-Leninists have upheld Leninism against Khrushchev and the revisionists. They are supported by the Marxist-Leninist leadership of the Korean, Japanese, Indonesian, Australian, New Zealand and Viet-Nameese Communist Parties. A large section of India's Communists uphold Marxism-Leninism.

Developing Marxist-Leninist groups and organizations exist in all countries of Europe and many nations in Africa and Latin America.

The people need an organization which will tell the U.S. working class that alliance with Johnson and U.S. imperialism is partnership with paper tigers headed for an inferno. Our class needs a Party which will stand for the dictatorship of the proletariat in the U.S.--a Party which leads the struggles of the workers and tells the truth about their real allies--the Socialist camp and national liberation movement. Our working class needs a Party which will lead the Afro-American liberation movement to state power in the South and to autonomous rights--their own leaders bargaining for jobs and education--in the cities of the North and West. These are steps which will unite black and white workers. Our class needs a Party which will uphold Marxism-Leninism, which will expose and defeat the futile betrayals of revisionists and the labor lieutenants of capitalism.

In New England the C.P. has abandoned even the pretense of leading class struggle. The leadership is only seen passing out Democratic Party propaganda or appealing for funds to protect themselves against the very Democrats they endorse.

One New England C.P. "leader" lives on and helps operate a large estate together with one of the worst sweat shop operators in Boston. A woman "leader" is in charge of collecting funds from the middle class promising that the Party will not conduct militant struggle against the government or bother anyones middle class respectability. When she meets resistance she is not above subtle blackmail. The handful of members remaining in the Party never receive a true account of these funds. The N.E.C.P. "leaders" keep known stoolpigeons in their ranks and cooperate with them in expelling Marxist-Leninists. This is also national C.P. policy. It has been established that Clarence Hathaway was expelled as an FBI agent in 1938, although the membership was not so informed. Whether in spite of this or because of it, he was reinstated in leadership in 1959. Hall and Jackson used him to help oust Ben Davis and others from the N. Y. leadership in 1960.

Davidow's articles in the Worker attacking the National Guardian are an example of the splitting activities of U.S. revisionists. The Guardian has mildly opposed some of the most vulgar support given to Johnson by CPUSA leaders. Anyone familiar with the CPUSA leaders tactics recognize Davidow's articles as the national leadership's orders to the districts to destroy the National Guardian--to close it down.

We believe that Socialism in the U.S. can only be achieved by struggle against the policies of our own U.S. imperialism at home and abroad. We do not believe this can be achieved without sacrifice, without hard theoretical and organizational work.

With confidence in the people of the U.S. we organize a Marxist-Leninist Party to defeat and smash capitalist dictatorship and establish a dictatorship of the working class, a Socialist U.S.A.

Our Marxist-Leninist Party will be built on the basis of three main efforts:

- (1) A policy of class struggle in the labor movement.
- (2) Victory for the Afro-American liberation movement.
- (3) The withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces from the Congo, Viet-Nam and Cuba.

We hereby establish the NEW ENGLAND PARTY OF LABOR.

Many of our subscribers will agree that the report printed in this issue is an important development. Extra copies can be obtained by writing to us.

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