

Harlem Finks Get 'Hot Time'

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(Chairman of the Harlem Progressive Labor Club)

About a month ago a group calling itself the "Communist Party U.S.A.—Marxist-Leninist," showed up in Harlem—opening a storefront which it called its "Eastern Headquarters." This was located a half-block away from the Auschewitz of Harlem, the 32nd police precinct.

The opening was celebrated with a disproportionate amount of newspaper and television fanfare, sort of like the opening of a super super-market. This group (with probably no more than four members in the whole country) got the press coverage the ruling class reserves for friends.

Spokesman and self-proclaimed "general secretary of the Central Committee" of the "CPUSA (M-L)" is one Michael L. Laski, a white New Yorker recently returned from Los Angeles.

STRIKE OUT

The "party"—which claims to be a year old—was first heard from during the Aug. 1965 Watts Rebellion. They appeared distributing provocative literature, rejected by the Black people. Later, Laski attempted to organize Black workers at a Los Angeles car wash; a called strike was unsuccessful and he ran out. Two of the men involved in the strike were later arrested for attempted robbery. The Black community, seeing a connection between the unsuccessful robbery and the "CPUSA (M-L)" completely disassociated themselves from the group. Their headquarters were subsequently burned to the ground. The Black community of Watts has repeatedly set upon Laski and his followers and beaten them. Spreading their "line" at Los Angeles City College, they were beaten by the predominantly Black students there.

After all this, after having been virtually run out of L.A., this group turns up in Harlem, with an allegedly "pro-Chinese line." It

is not surprising, of course, that such a group should show up now, when Black people are more and more beginning to look to China as the vanguard of the world revolutionary movement, when Black people are seriously studying the Chinese Revolution and its lessons.

"CPUSA (M-L)" activities in Harlem so far have consisted of attacking the Progressive Labor Party and some of the militant Nationalist groups; distributing a list of books by Mao Tse-tung and other revolutionaries; and having their headquarters burned down.

BURN, BABY, BURN!

On Oct. 8, someone tried to burn out the "CPUSA (M-L)" at 3 a.m. Laski tells two conflicting stories of how the fire started.

Version Number One: One of the "Laski-ites" who sleeps in the back of the headquarters-store was awakened by the shattering of the front window by a bottle thrown by a "white racist." (It wasn't made clear whether the attacker wore a sign labeling him "white racist," but later the "CPUSA (M-L)" accused the ruling class of the attack.) The awakened "communist" saw three men making neat little piles of literature and setting them on fire. He slipped past them (the store is about eight feet wide with one exit!), left the store and gathered the members of the N.Y. "Party"—Laski and another Laski-ite. The three then returned

and put out the fire.

Version Number Two—When the man was awakened by shattering glass, he left through the "rear door of the store" (see above), gathered his friends, returned to the store to put out the fire. At this point "a bottle filled with gasoline was thrown from a moving automobile through the window."

The press joyously moved in again. A TV drama was staged, complete with Black people—supposedly residents of Harlem—arguing against Laski in support of the war in Vietnam, against socialism, etc.

(One newspaper reporter commented privately, "They obviously started the fire themselves for publicity.")

Several nights later, Laski and one of his followers appeared outside Town Hall, where a rally in support of the Ft. Hood Three was being held, and "denounced" various political groups, including the Progressive Labor Party, as being "enemies of the people."

"I wonder why he doesn't mention Johnson as being an 'enemy of the people'?" one woman observed.

The Black community has seen other paid police agents come and go—and so will Laski go. We will not be misguided by false "revolutionaries," who try to make nonsense out of Communist beliefs.

The phonies and agents of the ruling class will be exposed, thoroughly isolated and stamped out.