

Self-Criticism of C.L. Program

The Volume II, Number 6 issue of the Peoples Tribune contained a draft program of the Communist League. In the following issue of the paper the program was withdrawn.

The leadership asked for, received and will continue to accept criticism for the publication of that "program".

The published program of the CL was a mistake for several reasons. First of all such programs are programs for mature and stabilized Communist Parties. We can only have one point on the program and that is to build a national Communist Party. Our daily tactics are too varied to detail or systematize in a program. Our only criteria is to do those things and develop those tactics that will contribute to the construction of a Marxist-Leninist Party.

It was a "new leftish" influence within the CL that prompted the program. Actually, as the Manifesto points out, "The Communists do not form a separate party opposed to other working class parties.

They have no interests separate and apart from those of the proletariat as a whole.

They do not set up any sectarian principles of their own, by which to shape and mould the proletarian movement.

The Communists are distinguished from the other working class parties by this only:

1. In the national struggles of the proletarians of the different countries, they point out and bring to the front the common interests of the entire proletariat, independently of all nationality.
2. In the various stages of development which the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie has to pass through, they

always and everywhere represent the interests of the movement as a whole." (Karl Marx & Frederick Engels, The Communist Manifesto)

The publication of the "program" indicated a weakness that borders on political laziness. We had hoped to wrap up a neat package and every time a worker asked, "What does the Communist League stand for?" we could simply hand the worker that program and automatically gain a supporter. The class struggle is not so simple.

The leadership of the Communist League criticizes itself for this political error, and on the basis of this criticism more resolutely address ourselves to the task of winning the toilers in their millions to the cause of Socialism, to the cause of building a militant Marxist-Leninist Communist Party in the USA.