

CPUSA CRIES BLUES OVER LAWYERS GUILD

It appears that the revisionist Communist Party's city council candidate in Berkeley, Mark Allen, has suddenly decided to dabble in the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) until the next election. Allen is crying the blues about the presence of genuine communists at the recent Seattle Guild convention in an article called "Law Guild—Some Tough Nuts to Crack." (People's World, September 3)

The Guild is locked in a struggle of major importance. The revisionist Party's control over it was broken during the late 1960s, when many militant young lawyers and law students refused to cater to their line of legalism and defense of the labor union sellouts.

Now the revisionist legal hacks have been shaken by a rising trend of anti-imperialism, spearheaded by the small but growing Anti-Imperialist Caucus. The caucus has had a positive influence in pushing the Guild to carry out its declared principles of fighting against imperialism, racism and the danger of imperialist war.

For example, the revisionists tried for years to keep the Guild from adopting positions in opposition to Zionism, claiming that discussion of the Middle East question would cause some of the Guild's fundraising base to dry up. At the recent convention, however, the Guild adopted a significant position in support of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

'STOP THIEF'

In response to this growth of genuine anti-imperialism, the CP has begun to come out openly in the Guild, directing their attacks especially at the anti-imperialist caucus. Allen's article typifies their tactics.

Allen tries to play the old game of the thief who cried "Stop, thief!" by accusing the October League of "anti-communism" and "attacks on the Soviet Union." (Allen still attacks the "October League," refusing to admit that the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) has been founded.)

Guild members by now are getting used to hearing such labels pinned on all those who won't go along with the CP's "ballot-box socialism" or who won't support the actions of the Soviet Union.

The world has known for some time that struggle against revisionism and against the politics of Khrushchev, Brezhnev and Gus Hall has nothing in common with anti-communism or anti-Sovietism. This is simply because the revisionists have nothing in common

with communists. Allen's party long ago openly abandoned all the principles of communism, from revolution and the defense of the dictatorship of the proletariat to Afro-American self-determination.

Allen tries to make it appear as if the real question in the Guild is whether or not one supports the CP(M-L). He goes so far as to chastize "some of the leadership" of the Guild for failing to come to the defense of the revisionist Party and the Soviet Union.

The revisionists have recently begun to push their "detente" proposals and "international conferences" down the throat of the Guild. When there is any opposition, as there was at the Seattle convention, they try to make it appear as if it is only the "anti-Sovietism" of the CP(M-L).

REVISIONISTS RED-BAIT

This in fact is the real anti-communism in the NLG. The CP(M-L) has very few members in the Guild. To paint all opponents of the revisionists as communists is red-baiting at its height, as Allen well knows.

Trying to turn truth on its head, Allen's article claims that anti-communism is our Party's "sole purpose." But this won't go over with the members of the Guild, who have seen the Party's contributions both in their organization as well as in the streets, factories and political defense campaigns around the country.

Of course our view represents a minority among the thousands of Guild members. But the majority certainly don't go along with the revisionists' call to isolate the CP(M-L) and the Anti-Imperialist Caucus. Nor do the revisionists have much support for their line when it is openly expressed.

After spreading his sectarian and divisive attacks on the caucus and on sections of the Guild leadership, Allen does a patronizing about-face. He claims that "the majority of the organization would rather not have to spend the organization's valuable time in this kind of divisive debate..."

If there's one thing that can be said about the thousands of Guild members, it is that they are not afraid of debate. At the last convention, the debates certainly pushed forward their unity and raised it to a higher level. The fact that Allen wishes this struggle would go away only reveals his contempt for the rank and file and his fear that the Marxist mask worn by his party is being stripped away.