

To *The Call*:

In the past few months, there has been an intense struggle in the Marxist-Leninist movement over communist strategy and tactics and particularly over the question of the direction of the main blow.

Through articles in *The Call*, many people have deepened their understanding that, in order to defeat our main enemy here in the U.S., the bourgeoisie, we must target those elements which put themselves forward as leaders of the working class but in reality conciliate and compromise with the bourgeoisie.

In the workers' movement, this means the reformist trade union leaders and the revisionists. Some, like the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) and the Guardian, mechanically call for directing the main blow at the bourgeoisie itself.

## READERS EXPOSE RCP IN FARMER JOHN STRUGGLE

These are not just abstract questions—they have important practical consequences. We have seen this in the course of a recent protracted strike at Farmer John Meat Company in Los Angeles. In that struggle, the bureaucrats did everything they could to jam a sellout contract down the throats of the workers. The only way the strike could have been won was by breaking the bureaucrats' control.

These misleaders were the main social prop of the owners, and it was necessary to direct the main blow at them. This was the line taken by the League for Marxist-Leninist Unity (LMLU) and the October League

through leaflets and articles in *The Call* which exposed to many workers the true nature of the bureaucrats.

RCP was also involved in the strike. They continued to direct their main attack on the company and totally ignored the role of the bureaucrats. Through their silence, the RCP in essence united with these agents of the bosses.

While many workers were calling the bureaucrats liars and sellouts, RCP kept telling everybody what a rotten contract the company had offered. All but the most backward workers knew that. The RCP showed itself to have less understanding of the class struggle than

the spontaneous movement itself. This movement was increasingly targeting the bureaucrats' class collaborationist policies.

But their line on the direction of the main blow was not the only example of RCP's opportunism. They never raised demands relating to the special oppression of minority workers, although Chicanos and Mexicanos make up the majority of the workforce, concentrated in the dirtiest and most strenuous jobs.

Finally, RCP invoked anti-communism. First they hid the fact of communism—selling only their "worker" paper and never raising communist ideas.

Second, they pushed their leaflets by trying to distinguish them from the communist agitation and propaganda handed out by OL and LMLU. They told workers that their leaflets "were written by workers, not by outsiders." This was in the context of a vicious red-baiting campaign by the bureaucrats and the company. They echoed the words of the bureaucrats, who were also trying to label the communists from OL and LMLU as "outsiders." The RCP well knew that the OL and the LMLU were in fact inside the plant.

The workers at Farmer John have no need for "friends" like the RCP who play to the most backward elements among the workers, shield the bureaucrats from attack, and try to turn the struggle away from revolution.

Los Angeles Call readers