

# Communists Resist Anti-busing Fascists at Louisville Factory

As the resistance movement grows in Louisville against the monopoly capitalists' fascist anti-busing movement, Marxist-Leninist Communists are playing an active part.

In the last week of February, at the gates of the large Philip Morris cigarette factory, several comrades from the Louisville Branch of the Central Organization of U.S. Marxist-Leninists were violently attacked by the anti-busing fascists from inside the plant. The comrades answered these attacks with tit-for-tat resistance, defeated the fascists and won the warm support of large numbers of Black and white Philip Morris workers.

On Wednesday, February 25, two COUSML comrades went to the Philip Morris plant in the afternoon to sell **The Workers' Advocate** to workers leaving work after the first shift and coming to work for the second shift. They were selling the February 1st issue, which featured a detailed exposure of the anti-busing movement launched by the monopoly capitalists to attack the Afro-American people and the entire working class. The article pointed out the class-traitor role of a large section of the labor aristocracy in Louisville in organizing the anti-busing movement. The article also pointed out the treacherous role of the "liberals" and opportunists in advocating passive capitulation to fascism under the banner of "peaceful desegregation". The comrades were determined to organize active resistance to the fascist movement among the workers.

When the comrades arrived at the plant, some 30 or so workers were standing near the gates and several held friendly discussions with the comrades. As the second shift began going in and the first began coming out, a skilled tradesman known as "Smockey", a well-known racist Ku Klux Klansman, one of the labor aristocrats on whom the capitalists are relying for their fascist movement, came out from the first shift. He was immediately recognized by one of the comrades who used to work at the plant. This racist made a bee-line for the other comrade, snatched a paper and called it "dirty communist trash". The comrade snatched it right back while the other comrade immediately denounced the man as a fascist and a Klansman to the workers present, and pointed out that it was the nature of fascists to try to intimidate the people. Another skilled tradesman came running out to back up "Smockey", who arrogantly declared that the comrades should leave. The comrades declared that the working class has the right to distribute and receive revolutionary literature. At this point, "Smockey" attacked one of the comrades and the second fascist attacked the other comrade.

During the fight that ensued a crowd of about 150 workers gathered, forming a ring around the fight. The plant guards stayed away. No one came to the defense of the fascists, nor cheered them on. Even though the fascists were considerably larger than the comrades, the comrades gave them tit-for-tat and as soon as the fight came to a pause,

the fascists ran off. At this point the plant guards ran up yelling to "break it up" and then disappeared into the plant. The comrades picked up their papers and distributed them to the workers present. About 50 workers stayed to discuss the significance of the fight with the comrades. One group of Black women gathered about one comrade and denounced the cowardly attack by the racist thugs, pointing out that "Smockey" was well-known at Philip Morris for his racism, and suggested that next time the comrades come they should bring guns. The comrade pointed out that the fascists had attacked because they were selling **The Workers' Advocate** exposing the fascist and racist nature of the anti-busing movement. He pointed out that the attack illustrates exactly how the fascist anti-busing movement is an attack on both the Black people and the entire working class. These statements were well-received by the women workers. Another group of white male production workers gathered around the other comrade. They offered their sympathy and several denounced the fascists' cowardly attack. These workers agreed that the comrades had won the fight, observing that the fascists had failed in their attempts to stop the distribution of revolutionary literature and had run off. More and more small groups of Black and other workers stopped the comrades and asked for papers. One group pointed out that the comrades were attacked because **The Workers' Advocate** tells the truth and the KKK is afraid to have the truth told. They denounced the attack as unjust and congratulated the comrades on their staunch resistance. After the shift change was entirely over and the workers had left, the comrades also left, vowing that they would never be chased away.

On the following afternoon, the comrades returned at the same hour, this time bringing a leaflet militantly denouncing the fascist attack in addition to **The Workers' Advocate**.

This time, the city police were parked near the main gate (exposing the role of the capitalist government in supporting the fascist anti-busing movement). Supervisors and plant guards were stationed at each gate. About 50 workers milled around in front of the plant. The comrades began selling the paper and passing out the leaflets. Many of the workers going in for the second shift had not heard about the struggle the day before, or had only heard vague reports. After reading the leaflets, many denounced the fascists and told the comrades to keep up the good work. A young white worker approached a comrade, shook his hand demonstratively, bought a paper and left without saying a word. First-shift workers coming out told the comrades that "Smockey" had been bragging all day about how he had "beat up" the communists the day before. When the comrades asked these workers why "Smockey" had run off if he had won the fight, while the comrades had stayed to talk with the workers, they agreed that it was the comrades and not the fascists who had won the fight.

As soon as the first shift started to come out, a crowd began to gather on either side of the gate and across the street. Before the shift change was over more than 200 workers had gathered, clearly waiting to see if the fascist "Smockey" and his cronies would come out and make good their boasts. While the crowd was waiting, a few reactionary individuals tried to provoke fights with the comrades but backed down when they were firmly denounced. Their activities drew only a few feeble cheers from a clique of skilled tradesmen in the crowd of workers. Comrades pointed out clearly the undemocratic character of the fascists, who do not even want to discuss the anti-busing question among the masses, but must resort to intimidation and physical attacks to prevent democratic discussion from taking place among the workers. As the situation heated up, the plant supervisors were heard to say "let's get out of here!" and scurried back into the plant. Finally, after the handful of provocateurs outside had given up, a crowd of over 200 workers remained, waiting to see if "Smockey", the fascists' champion, would come out.

During this time, a group of some 15 mainly Black men and women workers gathered around one comrade who was standing near where the clique of fascist skilled tradesmen was gathering. About six of these anti-fascist workers militantly declared that they were staying to fight the racists if they tried to attack us; not only this, but they also organized other workers to stay and urged them to fight. A lively discussion took place denouncing and making fun of the fascists. These workers took a copy of the February 1st **Workers' Advocate**, which had a photograph of the January 15 anti-fascist, anti-racist demonstration in Louisville on its front cover and pointed out just where they had been standing in the crowd at the rally, generating further enthusiasm for fighting the racists and further discussing the previous day's fight. Meanwhile, at the main gate where most of the workers were coming out, where several other comrades were, at first the comrades were standing alone. Then a young white worker came out of the gate and walked straight up to a comrade and vigorously shook his hand, an act of open defiance to the fascists' intimidation. He pointed out that "Smockey" had previously threatened him for acting friendly towards the communists and related how he had laughed at this fascist. He then walked over to a group of about 35 Black workers who were also supporting the comrades. Then several Black and white workers walked right through the middle of the fascist clique, bought papers and took leaflets and walked right back defiantly through the middle of the fascist group, a route which was completely unnecessary to take since the other comrades they had been standing near had plenty of papers to give them.

Towards the end of the shift change, a group of mainly Black women workers gathered around another comrade and en-

couraged him, saying "don't let them scare you away!" They made fun of the fascists and denounced the cowardly attack by "Smockey". One man asked what the difference was between communism and fascism and said that he had been told that the communists wanted to send Blacks back to Africa. The comrade pointed out that these lies are spread by the bourgeoisie which tries to lump together communism with fascism in an attempt to discredit communism. He pointed out how the fascists attack the rights of the workers, as the day before at Philip Morris, and of the Black people, as in the anti-busing movement. He pointed out that the genuine communists are leading the struggles of the working and oppressed people for their liberation the world over, just as they had done in People's China. The worker then enthusiastically declared that he was a communist.

As the last of the first-shift workers filtered out of the gate, everyone began asking the question: "Where is 'Smockey'?" It was like electricity in the air. The workers began to realize that he must have sneaked out the back door. As soon as this became clear, the workers supporting the comrades and other workers all up and down the street began commenting about how the cowardly fascist must have slipped out the back door and began laughing wildly. After it was clear that no one else was coming out, and as the workers began to leave, the comrades walked back to their car together with them discussing politics and resistance. One group


of mainly Black workers began taunting the fascist clique shouting: "You'd better watch out for the communists!" The progressive workers all laughed and patted the comrades on the back and encouraged them not to be scared away by the fascists. The comrades declared that they would certainly return consistently to distribute revolutionary literature to the workers and had not been scared away and would not be. By this time there were three police cars on hand, but the large number of workers present and supporting the comrades forced them to stay away and not interfere.

The comrades returned that night and the following morning, and the fascists did not risk another attack. All told, in three days at the Philip Morris plant, over 110 copies of **The Workers' Advocate** were distributed and 450 leaflets were passed out.


Only active, tit-for-tat resistance to fascism, not a passive surrender or a meek plea for "peaceful desegregation" or "non-violent struggle", will arouse the workers and the Black people to unite against the fascist anti-busing movement, support the struggle for democratic rights of the Black people and get prepared for a proletarian revolution to wipe out the masters and sponsors of the fascist anti-busing movement — the monopoly capitalist class.

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End item.



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