

CPUSA CONVENTION PUSHES 'LEFT-CENTER COALITION'

Detroit—The Communist Party U.S.A. (CPUSA) held its 22nd national convention here Aug. 23-25, charting a course that combined some newly-found "left"-sounding formulations with a fundamental political line as class collaborationist as ever.

The Gus Hall leadership made much of the fact that the convention corresponded to the 60th anniversary of the party. But today's CPUSA has nothing in common with the glorious Communist Party that stood at the head of the U.S. revolutionary movement from 1919 to the 1950s. As the convention itself showed, today's CPUSA is not a party of revolution, but a party of reformism, chauvinism and support for imperialism, especially Soviet social-imperialism.

Some 450 delegates attended the convention, and about 4,000 people came to a much-publicized "People Before Profits" rally at the close of the meeting, featuring revisionist celebrity Angela Davis, who was able to draw a sizable crowd from Detroit's Black community. In ad-

dition to the delegates, 500 observers took part, including a wide array of international revisionists headed by Peter Fedoseyev of the Supreme Soviet.

Party chief Gus Hall was himself hospitalized and unable to attend the convention. His five-hour report, however, was read by Mike Zagarell, associate editor of the Daily World. Its thrust was to show how the CPUSA can develop a cozier relationship with the pro-"detente" wing of the bourgeoisie, bloc with the liberal trade union leaders, infiltrate mass reform organizations, and in doing all this, construct their long sought "anti-monopoly coalition." In reality, this would simply be another bourgeois electoral grouping, although one in which the revisionists would have major influence.

Some of the key positions taken by the revisionists at the convention include the following:

- The "Left-Center Coalition" in the trade union movement. Building this will be the key task of the CPUSA in the next period, according to the convention doc-

uments. Explanatory articles in the Daily World reveal that the revisionists define the "left" as trade union misleaders like Winpisinger of the IAM who favor nationalization of some industries and have made some noises about a third political party. The "center" are those like Lloyd McBride of the USW, who supposedly is part of "an articulate, more-or-less progressively-inclined center," and who will "shed right-wing influences" as he gets drawn into the left-center coalition.

What all this boils down to is an excuse to bloc with anyone in the trade union movement short of the most exposed and isolated misleaders, in an effort to get positions of power for CPUSA members. At the same time it is an attempt to strengthen Winpisinger, McBride, and others whose role at the "left" and "center" is, for the revisionists, determined by the fact that they support the SALT treaty, arms cuts and more trade with the USSR.

- The national question. It was

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 13)

CPUSA convention . . .

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

in abandoning the struggle for Afro-American self-determination that the Gus Hall revisionists first exposed themselves as traitors to the party's revolutionary history in the 1950s. The latest convention continues in this tradition.

A special resolution on the Afro-American struggle is sprinkled with "left"-sounding phraseology, even affirming that the "Black question" is "essentially a national question," according to the Daily World—something the revisionists have denied for 20 years. But beneath these superficial changes in terms, the new position glorifies capitalism and bourgeois democracy in the same way as before, arguing that advanced technology has obliterated national oppression.

According to the convention materials, "big advances in technology and the consequent tremendous growth of the productive forces" have produced a "qualitative change" in U.S. society. "The material conditions which have been used by capital-

ism to create and foster divisions in the working class" between white, Black and other minority workers have "ceased to exist," the CPUSA says.

The revisionists argue that "economic regionalism has come to an end." No longer can any states or regions be used by the capitalists as bases for "anti-working class, racist and other ultra-right campaigns."

All this is a euphemism for the revisionists' basic and long-standing view that capitalism has solved the national question, that there is no longer an oppressed Afro-American nation in the South; that the Southwest is not a region characterized by the national oppression of the Chicano people. Presumably, even Puerto Rico's colonial status has been transformed by these great technological leaps forward. As for Native Americans, their oppressed status can be solved by federal land grants of better land and more government funding. Socialism is never mentioned as a necessary demand to bring about equality for any of the oppressed peoples.

The conclusions that flow from this reasoning is that the struggle to put real political power in the hands of the oppressed nationalities is unnecessary. Only a vague, amorphous struggle against the remaining forms of "racism" needs to be conducted.

There are other developments of note in the CPUSA's line, which will be the topics of future *Call* articles. In the electoral arena, for example, while condemning the two-party system, the revisionists held the door open for some type of support to a Ted Kennedy candidacy. On their own internal organization, they again admitted that their party club structure is weak and must be reformed.

On the international scene, the revisionists reiterate their slavish support for the Soviet Union and Soviet-backed regimes all over the world, including the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea. Support for SALT, "detente" and other forms of appeasing the USSR is heralded as the noblest goal of every mass movement from workers to women.

The convention's attack on China was more frenzied than ever, calling U.S.-China normalization "the most dangerous development" on the world scene. The main political resolution makes dozens of attacks on "Maoism" revealing that the revisionists are more frightened than ever of the anti-revisionist forces in the U.S. and around the world.

The political line of the revisionist party certainly holds nothing for those who want to pursue genuine class struggle actions and fight for socialism in the U.S. But the CPUSA is still a dangerous force, precisely because it has the capability to deceive people with its "communist" facade, while at the same time entrenching itself in the trade union bureaucracy and joining hands with imperialism at home and abroad. For this reason it is necessary to know this enemy well; to know what is wrong with its politics and to study the latest developments in its efforts to sabotage the revolutionary struggle.