

19 Clifford #805  
Detroit, Mi. 48226  
September 18, 1976

SEP 21 1976

Political Committee  
New York

Dear Comrades,

At our September 12 convention the Detroit local voted to recommend to the Political Committee that we extend critical support to the campaign of General Baker Jr. for Michigan State House of Representatives in the 9th district. Baker is the candidate of the Communist Labor party.

We feel that critical support of the Baker campaign can be a useful tool in carrying out opponents work with the CLP in the election period. The CLP in Detroit emerged from a fusion of the Black Workers Congress and the Motor City Labor League, both Maoist formations. At their inception they had 200 members or so according to comrades who were around at the time, and they have continued to grow. Although their sectarian rhetoric and their position on the Black nationality in the U.S. put them a bit way out, they have been active here and elsewhere in the school desegregation fight and the NAACP as well as other struggles for social progress (they were involved in the ERA group here), and their influence has grown accordingly.

A key factor in our proposing that we extend critical support to the Baker campaign is the fact that this is seen as a serious campaign by their membership and their periphery. They have opened a store-front campaign headquarters in Highland Park, a small city enclosed within Detroit, and have printed posters that are visibly up and have purchased a bill board.

The seriousness with which they view the campaign is reflected also in their choice of a candidate. Baker is well known as an activist in the Black and labor movements. The reputation he enjoys goes back to the days of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. The fact that Baker is also a national officer of the CLP indicates the seriousness with which the campaign will be viewed in the ranks of the CLP.

What do we stand to gain by such a maneuver? By adopting a position of critical support in relation to the Baker campaign we will be in a good position to carry out an effort to open a discussion with the CLP ranks and their periphery. We would want to discuss the CLP's solutions (or lack thereof) to the problems confronting the working class today and compare them to those offered by the SWP. We would want also to discuss the question of independent working class political action and the necessity of their supporting the SWP slate in the absence of a CLP slate of candidates outside the 9th district.

We feel that we could do this in a number of ways.

Our candidates could issue a letter to Baker urging his support of the SWP candidates and expressing our support of his campaign and our criticisms of his program. This could be made public as a leaflet to be used throughout the campaign. We would also want to attend CLP campaign gatherings and engage Baker's campaign supporters in discussions. It is possible that an article in the Militant would be appropriate as well. In any case we want to approach this thing as a little bit more than a formality, seeing it as a tool to go after the CLP membership and periphery and win some away.

Comradely,

*John Hawkins*  
John Hawkins

P.S. One thing that needs to be pointed out explicitly: in our opinion this campaign will have a good deal of attractive power among a layer of Black radicals and radicalizing Black youth in Highland Park and elsewhere in Detroit. These are some people that we wish to reach and keep out of the clutches of the CLP. In addition it should be noted that the CLP is predominantly Black, with a good deal of their membership this side of being hardened Stalinists.

Enclosed is some of their campaign literature. Looking over it again one thing deserves to be pointed out - their emphasis on electing Baker. This is not just a formulation designed to pitch his campaign to the level of mass consciousness around elections, but is their basic approach to the campaign and their perspective according to comrades familiar with the CLP. They are telling their membership and periphery that they can win in November. This will undoubtedly be a subject of discussion among them and will give us a handle to explain exactly how revolutionary socialists approach election campaigns. They had also predicted victory for the CLP on August 3 (the Michigan "minor party" primary) and to that end spent \$40,000. They received little over 400 votes. This is now being explained away to their membership as a "victory" of the sort originally predicted.

# VOICE YOUR CHOICE

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General Baker, an assembly line worker at Ford Rouge, fights for the platform of jobs, peace and equality.

His opponent, George Edwards, Chairman of the Corporations and Finance Committee in the House of Representatives, actively supports banks and insurance companies.

General Baker lives in the Ninth District and fights for better working conditions at work and better living conditions in our communities.

His opponent owns a house in the Ninth District but does not live in it. By reason of his wealth, he knows nothing of the problems faced by people in the Ninth District.

General Baker has participated in struggles in the community to upgrade education at Highland Park Community College, to recall reactionary boards of education and to give children camping and recreation experience.

His opponent has been state representative from the Ninth District for 20 years. His work has focused on legislation to support banks and insurance companies. For this work, he is now a rich man and conditions in the Ninth District have steadily deteriorated.

General Baker fights for a program which includes free universal health care.

His opponent did absolutely nothing when Highland Park General Hospital was shut down.

General Baker led the fight to keep the Jefferson Avenue Plant open and to build unemployment committees to fight for jobs.

His opponent said nothing and did nothing to keep jobs open in Wayne County or Michigan.

General Baker fights for unionization of the South and against right to work laws to prevent the continuous loss of jobs to that area.

His opponent says nothing and does nothing about jobs, welfare, housing and he has no program.

General Baker is a representative of working people and in particular of working people in the Ninth District.

His opponent is representative of the banks and insurance companies.

General Baker is the Communist Labor Party's candidate for state representative in the Ninth District.

His opponent represents all that we must fight against.

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20 YEARS IS ENOUGH!!! THIS NOVEMBER YOU DO HAVE A CHOICE.  
VOTE FOR GENERAL BAKER FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR THE NINTH DISTRICT NOVEMBER 2ND

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# ELECT GENERAL BAKER

COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY

16525 HAMILTON / HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN 48203 / (313) 341-0346

# VOTE FOR A CHANGE

CLP CANDIDATE GENERAL BAKER

SEP 21 1976

General Baker was born in Detroit in 1941, and has been in the working class struggle for all his adult life. Since the early 1960's, Gen has been a leader in the struggle of the Negro people for equality, and of the whole working class for socialism. He was active in the United Negro Improvement Association; the UHURU Organization at Wayne State, in the anti-war movement, and in the communities. While working at Dodge Main, Gen was one of the founders of the Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM). He was a full-time staff member of the Inner City Voice, and one of the founders of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers.

When the Communist Labor Party was formed in 1974, General Baker was one of the leading members of the party, who had worked actively for its formation. Since that time he has continued his involvement in all of the main

struggles in Detroit, in Michigan, and throughout the country.

General Baker has felt speed-up and unemployment, he has experienced the policeman's club and jail, he has seen the poor schools, rats, and knows what it is to strike and stage a walk-out. But most important, General Baker is dedicated to eliminating these problems and fighting for a better country and society for his children.

Gen is a real leader of the working class. Now it is time to put his leadership skills, and his unwavering dedication to the cause of the working class, into the halls of the state legislature. Only the workers and progressive people of Michigan can win this victory. Put General Baker in the State Legislature. Give the working class a voice of its own.

Elect General Baker in November

Our platform is based on the following demands:

- (1) A Job for Every Worker at the Expense of the Military Budget. End compulsory overtime; strict adherence to a 35 hour Work Week. No speed-up. Guaranteed safe and healthy working conditions.
- (2) End All USNA Military Intervention.
- (3) Equal, Quality and Integrated Education for All Children. Nationalize Education. Support Busing.
- (4) Outlaw the KKK, Nazi Party and All Fascist Gangs.
- (5) Nationalize the Energy Industry.
- (6) End All Deportations of Undocumented Workers.
- (7) Recognition, implementation and protection of the rights of women; equal pay for equal work.
- (8) Expand the public sector of housing; guarantee decent housing through government financing and public housing.
- (9) Support the Right to Bear Arms.
- (10) Demand the right to organize into unions and to strike. Repeal all anti-labor legislation. End all price hikes and other attacks on the living standards.
- (11) Free Universal Medical Care, stop all Medicaid Cuts.
- (12) Fight against the spread of crime, pornography and dope in our communities.
- (13) Nationalize Welfare and expand Social Security Benefits.

## COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA

For further information about the CLP and its political papers; THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE, and the Spanish language TRIBUNO POPULAR, and the Campaign to Elect General Baker, call or write:

16525 Hamilton  
Highland Park, Michigan 48203



SEP 21 1976

# COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY



# CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 6, 1976

## NO. 1 PRIORITY - ELECT GEN

It should be clear to us that the priority which we must adopt as progressives, as socialists, for the next several months, is the election of General Baker. For his election can move all of the other work which we are involved in forward tremendously.

To have a communist elected to state office in Michigan will have world-wide effect. And most certainly here in Michigan, it will have tremendous effect in galvanizing the struggles of the workers, further uniting them and giving further recognized leadership to the working class.

Every struggle in the plant about speed-up, every workman's compensation struggle, every battle for quality health care and quality education will be taken up by Gen. The needs and aspirations of the working class and progressive people are Gen's own.

We must see that in order to move everything forward, we must concentrate on the election of the Communist Labor Party candidate for the state legislature from the 9th district -- General Baker.



## COMRADES AND FRIENDS

An important part of our campaign to get General elected in the 9th District is the struggle to register voters. This is true because the mass of workers are not registered.

Even though the Democratic Party announces itself to be the party of the working man, they expend little energy on voter registration. And because of their tweedle dee politics, they inspire few to go out and register. On the other hand, if the Communist Labor Party does some work to educate the workers in the 9th District, it can look forward to a large proportion of the vote of those who will now be getting registered.

Therefore we are going among those who have not registered. In cooperation with the Detroit Unemployed Council, COPE, NAACP and other organizations, we will see to it that an extensive voter registration campaign is waged between now and October 4 -- the last day for registration for the November elections.

Anyone who is interested in registering voters would please call the campaign office at 341-0346 and we will refer you to the appropriate organization.

The fight to elect Gen is the fight of all of us. LET'S GET OUT THERE AND REGISTER VOTERS IN THE FIGHT FOR A BETTER LIFE AND IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM.

CLP - 16525 HAMILTON, H.P. - 341-0346

# "DEMOCRACY" EXPOSED AS FARCE FOR WORKERS

The process of getting General Baker on the ballot has been one of overcoming one obstacle after another. Why has it been so difficult? Because General Baker stands for socialism and his campaign presents a threat to the continued rule of the capitalists. In the course of this struggle to present a real choice in November, we have had to battle the state in the courts at the same time as we have campaigned in the community.

When the Communist Labor Party decided to run General Baker, the only requirement to be placed on the ballot was to gather 17,000 signatures on petitions. After we had gathered twice the signatures necessary, the capitalists set up another roadblock--Public Act 94. This law forced voters in the August 3 primary to choose between voting to get the CLP and its candidate on the ballot in November and choosing candidates for the other races. For the first time in the history of this country, the state made a political party run in a special race just to get its name on the ballot!!

The CLP filed in federal court to prove this law was unconstitutional and get it taken off the books. We asked for an immediate injunction to stop the the state from printing the August 3 ballots, but the federal judges refused to act.

As if the law itself was not outrageous enough, the state moved on other fronts. Three days before the election, the CLP motorcade in Gen's district was stopped and six people were beaten, maced, and arrested. But election day itself brought violations of the law at the polls that really made clear that this was a rigged election.

Election officials repeatedly gave voters incorrect instructions about how to vote for the CLP. Some voting machines had metal bars over the Party Qualification Section so it could not be pulled down. Demonstration voting machines showed only the Democratic and Republican party choices. Instruction ballots had the wrong number for the CLP. Our poll workers were singled out personally by Highland Park City Clerk Tremon McDermott and arrested for "being within the 100 foot limit." Spanish language ballots were translated incorrectly, causing ballots cast for the CLP by Spanish-speaking voters to be invalidated.

In mid-election day we again went to federal court and protested that with these injustices there was no way the election results would be fair. Again we asked the federal judges to stop the election and once again they refused to act saying "lets see what happens! Lets see how many votes are cast."

As the reports from the precincts came in, the poll workers told us that many election officials were refusing to even count the votes cast for the CLP. We refused to be discouraged and gathered signed statements from our many supporters testifying to this fraud and corruption. We prepared new legal papers for the federal judges outlining each and every outrage--exposing the way the working class was tricked. We demanded immediate action--put Gen on the November ballot!!

The judges knew a court hearing on our latest legal papers would clearly show the people of Michigan how undemocratic this election was. To avoid this, they gave us a compromise decision--they upheld the constitutionality of Public Act 94 in general, but said it would not apply to this November election.

Why did we win this victory? The judges were forced to put Gen on the November ballot because the CLP battled on every front. We waged a tit-for-tat struggle with the police, the corrupt city clerks, and the federal judges. We had with us hundreds of honest workers, fed up with the unemployment, poor housing, welfare cut-backs and crime offered them by the capitalists.

We must continue the fight to use the ballot to raise the question of socialism. The judges' decision upholding P.A. 94 will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court. The only way to protect our democratic right to vote for the party that represents our interests--to fight for it in every way necessary. The CLP will seek to have federal marshals supervise the elections in the 9th District. But we will also train our supporters to guard the polls on November 2 and prevent the election officials from robbing the workers of their votes once again.

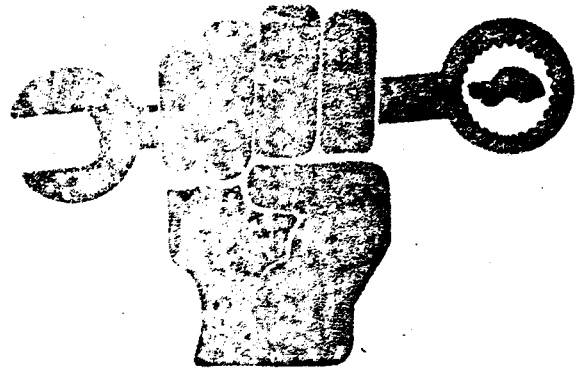
# "Why Work for General Baker's Election?"

We have heard the question recently from a number of people -- "I don't live in the 9th District, what can I do to help General Baker get elected?" People have also asked, why should I help since he isn't in my district and I can't vote for him and he won't represent me?

Taking the second question first, it seems a little strange that people would ask this, for although the content of our campaign is different from all the others, the form is pretty much the same. All parties and organizations supporting candidates focus in on a few crucial races which they feel will make a real difference.

For instance, progressives from around the country support Ron Dellums, Congressman from California, even though they don't live in his district or even his state, because of the positions he takes and struggles for. The same is true of the conservatives in their support for Senator Buckley in New York or Hayakawa in California. Money, support and endorsements flow in from around the country. They focus their support and money on one campaign to move their work forward all around the country. We must do the same. Just as Dellums and Buckley will fight for issues around the country and represent a certain class, so too will Gen.

Gen may be running in the 9th District, but he will represent workers all over the country. We understand that electing Gen will not change the character of the State Legislature itself, but it will change the character of the struggle within it and without to a great degree.



Gen can and will speak out against the deals that go down, the laws that are passed at the expense of workers throughout the state. He will speak out in support of workers struggles everywhere and introduce legislation to move forward the struggle of the workers for a better life.

Gen will consistently put forward the fact that it is only socialism which will in the end bring us a qualitatively better life, and it is only the working class and its allies which can bring this about. Have no fear, Gen will, as he has always done, represent the best in our society. His representation will not be limited to any particular nationality or age or place of work or community -- certainly not to any imaginary lines drawn by the politicians.

In terms of the first question about what people can do, we have to point out again that Gen will, in fact, represent us all and therefore we must all work to get him elected. Fundraisers of all sorts are needed from block clubs, unions, churches, etc. You can organize a get-together of neighbors to talk about Gen and with him. We need endorsements from organizations and prestigious individuals. This will aid us in the campaign in the 9th District.

The struggle is one. We must be one in our efforts.

# **MARCH FOR JOBS SEPTEMBER 22**

Every day now the newspapers are full of stories about the crime in the city. And how are the capitalist politicians planning to stop crime? By treating all our youth as criminals. Concentration camps are being proposed through bills, such as House Bill 6395, which would allow over 1,000 children to be imprisoned in forced labor camps for indefinite periods of time for 12-18 year olds. Detention cages such as the ones on Grand River and Rosa Parks Boulevard (12th Street) are already in use! Plans are being made to use department store facilities for jails.

Even though we are opposed to criminal acts, we understand the real criminals are the Nixons, Fords, and the other capitalist politicians who offer only imprisonment for our children. These capitalist politicians leave our youth no where to turn in the face of a millage failure which aids in turning horrible and shameful Detroit city schools into more hideous and dilapidated schools. Unemployment against our youth has ranged from 30% to 50% in the inner city for the last three years. Compared to this situation the big 3 auto companies have been reaping profits. At the end of the second quarter in June, General Motors Corporation recorded 909 million dollars more profits than they have ever made in history. The Ford Motor Company listed 442 million and Chrysler Corporation recorded 155 million. For the first ten days in August they all listed more record profits for auto sales!!

While all of these corporations house their headquarters right near and around the cities of Highland Park and Detroit, they have not offered us a dime, as all of the hopes, dreams, morality of our youth are crushed by capitalist exploitation!! Back in 1968, the Big 3 Auto companies offered programs to hire inner city labor, including youth, after the 1967 Rebellion. Ford hired 5,000; GM sent buses from Detroit to Pontiac to transport their new labor force; and Chrysler Corporation started a hard-core program! But, today, they offer nothing but detention centers and curfews. During the week of August 3rd, three youth entered Chrysler's Mack Stamping Plant and worked 3 days for nothing which dramatized the desperate fight for jobs for youth!

Thus, we are calling for a broad coalition of youth to March for Jobs! We are demanding that our youth be placed into apprenticeship programs and be trained for skilled jobs. We want an end to monies being directed toward concentration camp sites, labor camps, and detention cages proposed by politicians and FBI aspirants!

**WE ARE CALLING FOR 10,000 UNEMPLOYED YOUTH AND SUPPORTERS TO MARCH FOR JOBS SEPTEMBER 22nd!!**

The September 22nd Movement



1973 buying power declined by 40%; the rate of inflation is 20%.

All aspects of life on the island are controlled by the US government and corporations. Puerto Ricans are forced to serve in the US army, and thousands of young Puerto Ricans were killed in Korea and Vietnam. Yet Puerto Ricans do not even have the right to vote for elected US officials, nor a voting representative in Congress. Of a population of 2.7 million, over 100,000 Puerto Ricans are addicted to heroin, and both the alcoholism and suicide rates are among the highest in the world. Because of unemployment and miserable economic conditions, a third of the Puerto Rican population has been forced to migrate to the slums of Anglo-America. Most shocking, thanks to the plans and sponsorship of the US government, is that one out of every three Puerto Rican woman of child-bearing age (14-50) have been sterilized. What more blatant proof can there be that a people have been denied their right to self-determination.

### US Military

The little island of Puerto Rico serves as one of the most vital outposts of USNA military strategy in the world. A full 15% of the best, most arable land on the territory is owned by the US Defense Department and covered with bases for the US Army, Navy and Air Force. Puerto Rico is an occupied country, surrounded and saturated by the most modern, high-powered radar and launching systems and more than 30,000 US troops. Clearly this intense military presence is meant to protect more than US interests in Puerto Rico and to hold back more than the Puerto Rican revolutionary struggle. It forms a vital part in the entire Imperialist defense network in the Caribbean—ranging through Texas, Florida, the Guantanamo base in Cuba, the Virgin Islands and the Panama Canal Zone—which secures the fist-tight grip of North American imperialism on its main and most crucial sphere of influence, Latin America.

Historically, Puerto Rico has always had this strategic meaning to the imperialists. Ever since the US government moved in to take over from the beaten Spanish colonialists, Puerto Rico has served as a military and political reserve of USNA imperialism. Particularly since the victory of the Cuban revolution in 1959, the imperialists have built up this function of the island as a political "showcase" and fortified military outpost. There can be no doubt that these military, strategic considerations account in large part for the ferocious protectionism of

# CLP PAST THE MARK

As it stands now, the Communist Labor Party, its friends and sympathizers, have gathered 2700, 700 more than the necessary 2,000 signatures to put the Communist Labor Party on the ballot in New York. With only one week to go before the petition deadline, we will continue to gather signatures and have set a goal of 5,000. Our experience, and the experience of the international communist movement, has shown that the government will do anything to blunt the efforts of socialists to put forth the ideas of socialism and rally the people to this cause. As we saw in Michigan, with the enactment of Public Law 94, the government tried to keep the Communist Labor Party off the ballot. They failed however, and they shall fail in New York.

The working class wants to hear about socialism. They want representatives in the government apparatus who will speak out against the injustices of capitalism, and in

their interests. When the petition campaign is over in New York, the CLP is running Arthur Goldberg for state senator in the 23rd senatorial district. Art will be able to use the legislature as a forum from which he can raise the burning questions for the people in New York. He can point his fingers at the gigantic banks and expose how it is they who have brought default to New York. He can expose the utter disregard that the banks have for the people, as daily day care centers, hospitals, schools and other social services are closed down. He can fight for jobs, quality, integrated education, and for free and universal medical care.

Not for 30 years have the people of New York had a communist to represent them in government. The people in New York City, Brooklyn, the Bronx, and the entire state have a real opportunity to make their voices heard. Sign the Communist Labor Party's petitions. Vote for Art Goldberg on November 2.

## MARCH FOR JOBS

## VOTE FOR GENERAL BAKER

Skilled jobs for unemployed youth! Make the auto companies provide jobs! These will be the demands of thousands of young people, their parents and friends, September 22 in front of the GM world headquarters in Detroit, Michigan. While the profits of the Big Three auto makers soar, GM reaching a record 909 million dollars, more than they have made ever in history, during the second quarter in June, unemployment among youth, particularly Negro youth, also soars. It is estimated that close to 50% of the Negro youth in the inner city of Detroit are unemployed, with no hope for the future.

In the wake of this disastrous economic situation, the millage proposition (school taxes) failed on the primary ballot. The effects of this will be the closing of many schools, the lay-off of hundreds of teachers, custodial and secretarial staff, the elimination of sports and other extra-curricular programs and the cutting of the school day in half. Capitalism offers the youth in Detroit a future

1958-1959  
In the eyes of the ruling class it was clear that in order to maintain the high rate of capitalization it was necessary to maintain iron control over the unions. It is precisely on this principle that the whole notion of "charismo" (sold out unions) and all forms of political and trade union corruption are based. Any expression of independence in the struggles of the working class implies a dangerous situation for the State which has never had any scruple about repression.

It is within this context that one can understand the repression against the railroad workers' movement. This movement, lead mainly by Vallejo, was not only an economic struggle, but precisely because of its context was a political struggle that went straight against the mode of domination. It struck directly against a political system that had shown to be necessary in order for capitalism to develop in Mexico.

The defeat of the railroad workers' movement was the defeat of trade union insurgency in 1958-1959. At the beginning of the sixties, the working class, destroyed by the repression, ceased to occupy the main role in the class struggle. The historical moment was now ready for the middle sectors: the students, teachers, intellectuals, etc.

The movement of 1968 was the culmination of a long history of struggles to win political freedoms in Mexico. The decade of the sixties is characterized at one level by the revolutionary movement of the teachers (MRM) who fought directly and bravely. They struggled for a different education, against authoritarianism in the schools, antidemocracy, and for the effective participation of the workers in education and for the participation of the workers and the students in the formulation and programming of their own education policies.

1968 was to be the highest expression of these middle sectors participating together with many popular forces at a national level. The years after the 1968 movement signified a period of reflection not only for the left and the working class movement, but also for those that in the seventies would take power headed by Echeverria. With him a new order is evoked in the political arena, a new form of relating to the masses of workers and peasants and with the producers of the national culture and with the marginal populations.

The CIA and Trade Unionism in Mexico  
While the Mexican state talks, Fidel Velazquez (head of the CTM, the Mexican trade union) who had the honor of naming the next president, openly promotes the imperialist interests in the

Continued on Page 4

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# Farmworkers

This November 2 when California voters go to the polls, they will be asked to vote "yes" or "no" on Proposition 14. This proposition—the Farmworker Initiative—guarantees farmworkers the right to the secret ballot election process and it requires the legislature to keep the election process funded. If it passes, which now appears likely, it will be the culmination of many years of heroic and often bitter struggles by California farmworkers.

Farmworkers in California under the leadership of the United Farmworkers (UFW) have utilized strikes, boycotts, marches, petitions and legislative campaigns to get a secret ballot election law. Union elections in the fields first began last summer under the Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975. But the large capitalist agricultural monopolies through their control in the state legislature sabotaged funding for the Board set up to oversee the elections.

Governor Brown, heralded as a "friend of the farmworker" knew when funding for the Act would expire. Yet he did not keep the ALRB going. He revealed himself to be much more a "friend" of the Bank of America than of the workers. He has yet to take a stand on 14. "Liberal" politicians in the state legislature have "revised" a weakened ALRB as an excuse for not supporting Proposition 14.

## "Run-Away Crops" Support TFW

Proposition 14 deserves the support of all working and progressive people. If it passes, California will be the only state with such a farmworker law. Usually, whenever workers in the North or West win concessions, the capitalists mechanize production, slash the workforce, and shift production to the colonies where wages are low and unions weak or non-existent. Farmworkers today, like their brothers and sisters in auto and rubber, are threatened with having their jobs runaway. In this case, "run-away" crops.

This makes it imperative that workers fight tooth and nail for Proposition 14 and at the same time demand unionization and wage parity for workers in the colonial Negro Nation, Southwest and Mexico, wherever farmworkers labor.

If we see the current struggle of the Texas farmworkers for unionization in this light we can understand why it is so important to all workers. Texas has the third largest agricultural population in the country. Wages

in Texas are often under \$1.00 per hour. These farmworkers have no benefits or contracts and growers won't negotiate with their union, the Texas Farmworkers Union (TFW). Their struggle for union recognition, higher wages and better conditions is ruthlessly suppressed by the Texas Rangers, armed growers, local Sheriffs and vigilante gangs.

The TFW just announced that it too will begin campaigning for a secret ballot election law similar to California's. This law will be introduced in the Texas legislature this January. A massive petition campaign in support of the bill will be launched by the TFW this September.

## "Right to Work" Laws

It won't be easy to win this kind of a farmworker law in Texas. Texas is the heart of the Southwest region and also in the Negro Nation, where the Mexican national minority, Mexican national and Negro farmworker face constant oppression. The Texas legislature is reactionary, fascist-oriented and tightly controlled by grower interests. Texas was one of the first states in the USNA to pass a "Right to Work" law. This law has been one of the capitalists' legal weapons to crush the organization of farmworker unions, to weaken the unions that do exist, and has become the scourge of all workers in this country.

All states in the Negro Nation have these laws and the Texas law is a model of reaction. The Texas law was passed in 1947 as part of a

## General Baker

Continued from Page 1

Communist Labor Party, the program of jobs, peace and equality. He stands for equal, quality education and for the nationalization of the school system which would force the federal government to fund the system equally so that millage would no longer be necessary. The working people have been taxed too much, too long. The federal government must take on the task of educating our youth, and not relegating them to a life of illiteracy. General Baker will fight for the nationalization of education.

We urge all the people of Detroit to join the September 22 movement and demonstrate for jobs and decent education. Our youth deserve a chance for something better. We also urge all workers and progressive people to vote for

national-wide anti-union campaign by the National Association of Manufacturers. While supposedly giving any worker the "right" not to join a union, this law is being used by growers like this: Workers in a field walk out for union recognition, to protest bad conditions, or the brutality of a foreman. Under this law, the boss has the right to break the strike because scabs have the "right to work" (i.e. to strikebreak). Actually the law gives the growers the right to force workers not to join unions and to break strikes. When a union pickets because a field is non-union or to keep out scabs, the grower can go to court to stop the picket.

An ALRB in Texas would be meaningless unless this "Right to Work" law is repealed. It is the duty of all workers to join with the TFW in their fight to repeal this fascist law, and to demand the repeal of all "Right to Work" laws, so union organizing can move ahead.

The Texas Farmworkers who have been organizing on both sides of the border, have given the working class a real example of proletarian internationalism. Through support of the struggles of the TFW, the Anglo-American working class supports not only the Mexican national minority worker, Latin America. Support for the TFW is a good example of hemispheric unity. It is this type of concrete action which unites the proletariat of the Americas and strikes a blow to USNA imperialism.

General Baker this November, and give the working class their long awaited voice within government.

The Communist Labor Party urges all the readers of the *People's Tribune* to help sustain our party's press by subscribing now.

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- San Francisco, CA.

pinch in Chile, or the military dictators in Brazil or Argentina. Rather than using these tax dollars for the creation of jobs, hospitals, schools, housing recreation centers, the hard-earned money goes for military invasions, nuclear weapons and CIA intervention.

The people of this country do not benefit from the colonial enslavement of Latin America. In fact, daily this colonial enslavement undermines their standard of living. But at the same time a situation where workers of different nationalities are pitted against another. Although objectively united, the working class fights each other instead of against capitalists. The upcoming auto negotiations is a good example. Although there are numerous US owned auto plants in Latin America there are few unions. The leadership of the US trade union movement has dedicated itself to the destruction of progressive unions in Latin America. They have played the part of the CIA in the trade union movement. Now that it appears that UAW will strike the Ford Motor Company what kind of solidarity can the US workers expect from the Brazilian Argentine Ford workers? Will they strike sympathetically so as to help and cripple Ford? Probably not, and why—because the working class in this country has not taken up the cause of the Latin American auto worker. They have not protested against the low wages, miserable working conditions, lack of trade union organization, and constant police repression. They have not demanded wage parity, they have not demanded that all military get out of Latin America; they have not stood in solidarity with the Latin American worker.

We are taking the opportunity of Mexican Independence Day, and Puerto Rico Independence Day, (El Grito de Lares) bring home the importance of hemispheric unity; to educate and increase the awareness of the situation which the Latin American worker faces. The unity of the American proletariat is vital if socialism is to triumph. The most important way in which the US proletariat can support the revolution of the people of Latin America is to overthrow the seedbed of world-wide reaction—the US bourgeoisie. Every struggle that the workers engage in must have as its object the weakening of imperialism. The concrete support of the Latin American worker crucial in this historic task.

# INTERNAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN

# SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

SEP 10 1976

## DETROIT LOCAL

Volume 1, No. 1

September 1976

## CONTENTS

- |  | Page |
|--|------|
| 1. WHY WE SHOULD NOT EXTEND CRITICAL SUPPORT TO THE CAMPAIGN OF THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY<br>by Ron Jameson, West Side Branch  | 1    |
| 2. WHY WE SHOULD GIVE CRITICAL SUPPORT TO THE CANDIDACY OF GENERAL BAKER, JR. OF THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY FOR STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE NINTH DISTRICT<br>by Tim Craine, West Side Branch | 6    |

WHY WE SHOULD NOT EXTEND CRITICAL SUPPORT TO THE CAMPAIGN  
OF THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY

Submitted for preconvention discussion to the Detroit  
Local by Ron Jameson, West Side Branch.

The Communist Labor Party is running General Baker for the Michigan House of Representatives in the 9th Congressional District.

There are two reasons why our party might consider extending critical support to this campaign. 1) If we saw it as a step towards independent working class politics we could support it as a maneuver. By supporting their candidate we would raise the question among their ranks and supporters of supporting our candidates and especially Camejo-Reid campaign. While we can be sure that their party will not support our campaign--they consider us revisionists and police agents--it would expose the sectarianism of their leadership. It would also be an example of how class solidarity can include supporting candidates of other working class parties whose campaign works towards independence from the capitalists while still criticizing their program.

2) We might support the CLP campaign because it has been impressive. Their posters, leaflets, and rallies have made a mark on the city. They have won many supporters and run a professional and well financed campaign. We and other revolutionaries are feeling the pressure of this fact.

I feel that while everyone agrees that it is the first consideration that counts--it is the second which is making the impression on our thinking.

At first I thought this way too. Their campaign literature and paid advertisements seem to be everywhere. I have read their paper and heard about their rallies. Most importantly I have seen many of my friends become involved in and inspired by their campaign.

A CLP spokesperson reported that over 200 people worked on their campaign for the August 3 primary, and they spent \$40,000. The figures are undoubtedly high. We know know that they can lie and delude themselves, but compared to what we have done this has got to make an impression all around and including on ourselves.

This shows that we can be sensitive to successful campaign techniques in the radical movement.

A copy of the CLP program is attached to this article. It has good points, bad points, and stupid points. They call for an end to anti-labor legislation, nationalizing the energy industry (but not workers control), equal rights for women, free universal medical care, etc. On the other hand they want the state to stop the spread of crime, outlaw rightwing groups, nationalize education, etc. Most curiously they call for

integrated education but not the right of the Black community to control its own schools, equal rights for women but not support for the ERA, a 35 hour work week but not the traditional 30 for 40. No where do they talk about the struggles of the working people, the need for working people to organize to fight for their needs and against the capitalist government, or the need for political independence from the capitalist parties.

Taking the program as a whole it is reformist. They call for little more than the mildest of reforms. While they call themselves "Communist," they do not mention socialism. Franklin Roosevelt would have little trouble dealing with their demands.

Why is this? They want to get elected to office. That is what counts for them in this election. They have come up with what they consider a reasonable set of demands, present them in mild terms, and think that people will vote for them. Especially in Highland Park. That is why they picked General Baker as their candidate and are running for State House in Highland Park.

There is nothing wrong with revolutionaries trying to win an election. But if you run a campaign on a reformist program and your goal is not to educate and organize the working class but simply to get elected, that is opportunism.

Look at the August 3 primary. They thought that they could win. They ran a campaign expecting to get 4,000 votes and qualifying for the ballot. They got less than 450 votes. They were so opportunist they had to believe that they were going to win, or there would have been little other sense to their campaign.

The election was a big disappointment to them. They expected a victory and got a defeat. We did not operate this way, and therefore the results did not have the same impact on us.

The CLP is a classic example of what is called "Third Period Stalinism." They run on a reformist program and an opportunist campaign. At the same time they are sectarians and at times ultra-leftist. Under some conditions we could give critical support to a working class party with even this orientation. Is this the time?

I can think of one very likely situation and it is worth analyzing because it gives a clue to the kind of support the CLP gets from leftists.

If there were a serious threat of fascism coming to power, it could make sense to support the CLP as a working class party. This is why their leaders inculcate the members with the fear of fascism. It disorients them, and allows them to accept an obviously reformist and opportunist approach.

By giving critical support to their campaign we would be opening ourselves to the same mistake. Rather

than reaching and educating their supporters we would only be playing to their misunderstanding.

Finally, the CLP is made up of middle class elements like lawyers and free lance radicals left over from the 60's, college teachers and social workers who are open to considerable petty bourgeois pressure, and workers. Their composition is not homogeneous. The relative weight of the working class elements is not that great. They are a Stalinist party but not the Stalinist party which we recognize as part of the working class movement because of its special relationship with the Soviet Union.

In my opinion, the CLP is a centrist party on an opportunist course. Its greatest strength lies in bluffing and bullying its supporters most of whom have never been involved in a revolutionary party or socialist election campaign.

Rather than giving critical support to the CLP campaign I think we should set as our goal educating its militants.

We should press for debates and common speaking engagements with them. We should take our campaign to their supporters and put them on the spot in regard to the presidential election. We should present our ideas and our alternative to the parties of capitalist rule. We should direct some of our propaganda directly at their periphery. In particular we should direct ourselves to questions facing teachers and public employees, women and oppressed minorities, etc. In short, we should show them how revolutionaries use an election campaign to educate and involve the working people in struggles to fight for their own needs independent of the capitalists.

If we do this we can teach some of their supporters a lesson in revolutionary politics and what a revolutionary party really stands for. A measure of our success will be the education of their followers and recruitment from their periphery.

August 27, 1976

# WHAT IS THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY?

The Communist Labor Party of the United States of North America was founded over the Labor Day weekend in 1974. Its membership consists of active leaders in the struggle of the working class dating back to the 1920's. The CLP is not like the Democratic and Republican parties that promise you all sorts of things, but deliver the country to their masters, the Wall Street financiers and the large corporate manufacturers.

The CLP fights for the interest of the working class in the factories, mines and mills, in neighborhoods, schools and unions. We see an immediate need to organize against the growing fascist influence in this country, influence that pushes us closer to war on the international front while creating divisiveness, impoverishment and extra-legal terror at home through such means as the S-I Bill, the KKK and the Nazi Party, and anti-labor legislation. The struggle against this fascist drive brings us on step closer in our fight for socialism.

**Our platform is based on the following demands:**

- (1) A Job for Every Worker at the Expense of the Military Budget.  
End compulsory overtime; strict adherence to a 35-hour Work Week.  
No speed-up. Guaranteed safe and healthy working conditions.
- (2) End All USNA Military Intervention
- (3) Equal, Quality and Integrated Education for All Children. Nationalize Education. Support Busing.
- (4) Outlaw the KKK, Nazi Party and All Fascist Gangs.
- (5) Nationalize the Energy Industry.
- (6) End All Deportations of Undocumented Workers.
- (7) Recognition, implementation and protection of the rights of women; equal pay for equal work.
- (8) Expand the public sector of housing; guarantee decent housing through government financing and public housing.
- (9) Support the right to bear arms.
- (10) Demand the right to organize into unions and to strike. Repeal all anti-labor legislation. End all price hikes and other attacks on the living
- (11) Free Universal Medical Care, stop all Medicaid Cuts.
- (12) Fight against the spread of crime, pornography, and dope in our communities.
- (13) Nationalize Welfare and expand Social Security Benefits.

## THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY IN MICHIGAN:

The Communist Labor Party in Michigan has brought together staunch fighters with years of experience in the working class movement. For the past year and a half, we have participated in many aspects of the class struggle in this state, including the following:

1. The CLP gave leadership to the January 17, 1975 Common Council Open Hearing on Unemployment.
2. Staunchly and actively upheld the struggle for busing for integration, equality and quality education for all working class children in the face of a two-fold opposition: the divisive, hate-filled tactics of M.A.D., the Klan, and Donald Lobsinger on the one hand, and those who merely stated their support of the desegregation plan and did nothing to unite working people against the attacks against ourselves.
3. Was instrumental in throwing the Nazi Party out of Kennedy Square and Detroit as a whole
4. Carried on struggles in support of migrant farmworkers throughout the state
5. Have carried on election campaigns focused on the support of busing.
6. Militantly struggled against the closing and cutbacks at Jefferson Avenue Assembly Plant on Detroit's East Side.
7. Have joined in the struggle to create Unemployment Committees to Defend the Rights of Unemployed Workers



COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF NORTH AMERICA

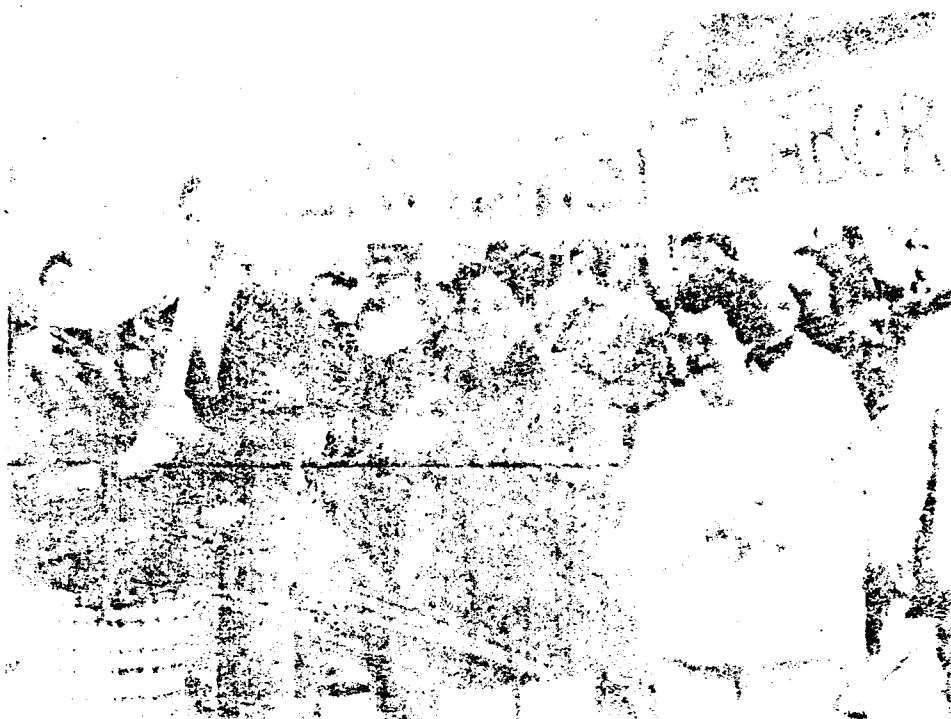
For further information about the CLP and its political papers;  
THE PEOPLES TRIBUNE, and the Spanish Language TRIBUNO  
POPULAR, write or call:

CLP MICHIGAN CAMPAIGN



**Give the Working Class of this Country a Real Voice in Government . . .**

**Back the Struggle for Jobs, Peace and Equality . . .**



**VOTE**

- **Communist Labor Party**
- **August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1976**

**WHY SHOULD WE KEEP THE CLP ON THE BALLOT?** Because the working class must use every avenue available to fight for the demands listed on our program. There has never been a party that represents the true interests of the working class in this country. A party that struggles at every turn against the attacks from the capitalists aimed at our living and working conditions and at the same time leads the fight for socialism, for a society in which the factories, mines, mills, farms and government are owned and controlled by the working class.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP GET OUT THE VOTE FOR YOUR PARTY ON AUGUST 3RD!**

**WHY MUST WE VOTE AUGUST 3RD?** In January 1976, the law said the Communist Labor Party had to get 17,500 signatures to get on the ballot and our candidates in November 1976. In March and April 33,500 people signed petitions to put the Communist Labor Party on the ballot. Recognizing the growing strength of the working class movement, the state legislature changed the rules and passed a new law. In order to get the Party on the ballot in November, the Party now must get 6,000 votes on August 3. This is the first time in the history of this country that a Party was required to get votes in a primary before it would be allowed to run candidates. The working class movement is growing in strength and 33,500 signatures in 8 weeks is a great victory. Neither the Democrats nor the Republican Parties (the parties of Ford, Reagan, and Carter) have any viable program for us. Each year less and less voters turn out to vote for these capitalist parties. A communist vote is a vote for jobs and against war. That is why the state legislature erected a new barrier for the Communist Labor Party, attempting to exclude us from the ballot. Do not let the government try to deny the working class a voice in Lansing.

**BITE THE BULL: T - VOTE TO PUT THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY ON THE BALLOT ON AUG 3rd!**



**WHY WE SHOULD GIVE CRITICAL SUPPORT TO THE CANDIDACY  
OF GENERAL BAKER, JR., OF THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY  
FOR STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE NINTH DISTRICT.**

Submitted for preconvention discussion to the Detroit  
Local by Tim Craine, West Side Branch

The decision of the Communist Labor Party to enter the electoral arena presents a challenge and an opportunity for the Socialist Workers Party. The Communist Labor Party traces its origins to the Revolutionary League of Black Workers, an outgrowth of the upsurge among Black workers in the Detroit auto plants in the late sixties. Over the past few years the CLP has evolved into a Stalinist sect. Although it is fairly insignificant on the national level, its major area of strength is here in Detroit, where its support is primarily in the Black community and its membership considerably exceeds our own.

The Communist Labor Party appears to many radicalized young people and workers as an attractive alternative to capitalist politics. These are people whom we should strive to win over to revolutionary socialist politics. The CLP, imbued with Stalinist ideology, is an obstacle to recruiting these people to the program of revolutionary socialism. Devising tactics to combat the influence of the CLP thus becomes one of the tasks of the Detroit Local of the SWP. In the past we have had few opportunities to accomplish this. The election campaign now provides us with an opening.

In this election the CLP is running only one candidate, General Baker, Jr., for the relatively minor office of State Representative. The ninth district, in which he is running, includes all of Highland Park and nearby sections of Detroit. It is an area in which the SWP and the YSA are politically active and lies within the First Congressional District in which B.R. Washington is running for the SWP.

Since we are not running a candidate for state representative in opposition to Baker, I believe that we should give Baker critical support in this election.

Critical support for a candidate of another party means that we ask people to vote for the candidate while at the same time criticizing the platform on which he is running. Critical support is one means of opposing the politics of the party to whom we extend critical support. We support the fact that the candidate is running as a working class candidate in opposition to the capitalist parties, while criticizing her or his program as inadequate to meet the needs of the working class.

The history of the SWP's use of the tactic of critical support is a rich one. In the past the SWP has extended critical support to candidates such as Herbert Aptheker of the Communist Party (New York, 1966), Bill Epton of the

Progressive Labor Party (New York, early sixties), and Bobby Seale of the Black Panther Party (Oakland, California, 1973). (In the case of Seale, we should note that the SWP withdrew critical support from Seale when he crossed the class line and declared himself a Democrat.)

The question of under what circumstances it is appropriate to give critical support has generated much discussion and debate within the SWP. Comrades who are not familiar with the discussion may refer to the Education for Socialists Bulletin, "Aspects of Socialist Election Policy," March 1971, Section VI. In addition the preconvention discussion for the 1975 national convention featured a lively debate on the question of critical support to candidates of the Communist Party between Alvin, Joseph Hansen, and Tom Kerry (See SWP Discussion Bulletin Vol. 33, No. 6, 8, and 11).

In determining whether or not we should give a candidate critical support we must ask two questions: first, is such an action in accordance with our principles, and second, is it tactically advantageous. Unless we can answer the first question affirmatively, there is no use considering the second question..

The question of principle involves the class character of the political party with which the candidate is running. Our strategic goal is to promote independent political action on the part of the working class. Any support to a capitalist party, no matter how critical, violates that principle. We can only justify electoral support to another party if that party is a working class party.

During the 1974 election campaign, the Detroit branch undertook an examination of the Human Rights Party. We determined that the Human Rights Party did not represent a break with capitalist politics. (See article by Marti Pettit in SWP Discussion Bulletin Vol. 33 no. 14). For that reason we did not even consider giving critical support to the HRP candidates who were running for offices (in Ann Arbor) for which there was no SWP candidate. To have given critical support to the HRP would have been unprincipled.

The case of the Communist Labor Party is different. The Stalinist ideology of this party places it within one of the three major currents of the working class movement, Social Democracy, Stalinism, and Trotskyism. Although it does not represent the pure Moscow variety of Stalinism, it is a working class party in the same sense that the Communist Party, the Progressive Labor Party, and the Revolutionary Communist Party are.

We should note that the program of the Communist Labor Party is not necessarily any better than the program of the Human Rights Party.. On at least one point, the Human Rights Party program was actually closer to ours--they supported the "out now" wing of

the antiwar movement in 1972-73, whereas the CLP supported the "sign the treaty" wing. It is the class character of the party, not its program, that decides the question of principle.

Thus it is principled to support a candidate of the Communist Labor Party. But that does not necessarily mean that we should use the tactic of critical support. In the same election in which the SWP gave critical support to Communist Party candidate Herbert Aptheker, we withheld support from a Progressive Labor Party candidate, Wendy Nakashima, on the grounds that since her campaign was not attracting much attention, giving her critical support would result in few gains for the SWP and become a diversion from more important areas of work.

So we must now ask what advantage, if any, would the SWP derive from giving General Baker, Jr., critical support.

On the local level, the CLP is in some ways stronger than we are. They are waging a vigorous campaign and are attracting a milieu that we wish to attract. Giving critical support to Baker can help us win the attention of this milieu.

In the first place we demonstrate that we're not sectarian, for we are willing to support their campaign in spite of our disagreements with their program. At the same time we put the CLP on the spot. If they are really in favor of independent political action, why don't they support B.R. Washington, the SWP candidate for Congress? Or Camejo for President? If the CLP leadership responds with their usually rabid anti-Trotskyism, they expose themselves as sectarians. Or if they say they don't support our candidates because our candidates don't have a chance of winning (they seem to think that Baker actually does!), then they expose themselves as opportunists. If we press them on this point we may find that they actually find something "progressive" in the candidacies of Jimmy Carter and John Conyers, whom they may actually prefer to Camejo and Washington.

On the other hand if they give critical support to the SWP campaign, we have a wider opening which allows us to work with their membership and discuss politics in a friendly way. We would welcome that opportunity, since it would give us a greater chance to win over individual CLP members and supporters.

In order to make our tactic of critical support effective, we would want to do the following:

1. We would study their program and draft a carefully worded leaflet expressing our criticisms. The leaflet would ask voters of the ninth district to vote for Camejo-Reid, Reimers, Washington, Duncan, Hayes, and Baker. It would also suggest that the CLP support our candidates.

2. We would take that leaflet with us whenever we went campaigning in the ninth district, especially in our work at Highland Park Community College. There we are likely to run into people who ask what the difference is between the SWP and the CLP, and this leaflet would answer their questions.

3. We would seek out campaign activities which the CLP is building on its own and intervene in them with this leaflet and other campaign materials.

The alternatives to critical support are to ignore the CLP campaign or to simply denounce the CLP. To ignore the CLP is to let a large layer of radicalized Detroiters get sucked into rotten Stalinist politics by default. And to denounce the CLP without offering to support their candidate would make it harder for us to win a hearing in this milieu.

There is one additional benefit that may be derived from this tactic. The CLP is one of the few organizations on the left besides the SWP which supports busing and has actively participated in pro-bussing demonstrations such as the May 17, 1975, march on Boston. We would like to get them actively involved in the work of the Student Coalition Against Racism. We should also explore what their position is on Mayor Young's attacks on Black youth, for we may be able to work with them in coalitions against the curfew and the imposition of STRESS. If by using the tactic of critical support we succeed in opening the door so that they will start talking to us, we may be able to bring them into united front actions with us. This would benefit the antiracist struggle and provide us with opportunities to work with them in the period following the election and make further inroads on their ranks.

August 31, 1976