

From the April 9-13, 1973, issue of SOLIDARITY

Death of the CPUSA

This past Saturday morning, as five hundred, black-dominated working-class organizers marched four abreast into their convention, CP spokesman Tony Monteiro, holding a bullhorn, addressed a pathetic group of about fifty, mostly white, mostly CP-hack anti-convention demonstrators -- on the "evils of racism"! Thus, the Communist Party U.S.A. died on the streets of Philadelphia last weekend. It died as Judas died: it hanged itself.

The Daily World will continue to publish. An organization calling itself the Communist Party will continue to hold public functions -- as the long-dead Socialist Labor Party has continued to hold regular memorial services over its own body. It will continue to exist as a burial society, a cooperative society of pallbearers, a mourner's society to weep for one another because there will be no one outside that group to care.

The rat tabloid, the Guardian, has already sniffed the situation around the CPUSA, and has run down the nearest ropes toward the Revolutionary Union. The RU is a wretched, almost proto-fascist cult of super-Stalinists gathered together out of the sewer-system draining from many campus left gutters into the Avakian cesspool. This cult of mindless degenerates has recently begun to celebrate the wisdom of the Hitler-Stalin pact, ironically revealing its own pact with contemporary proto-fascism. It is to this new, friskier Stalinist formation that the always-opportunist Guardian has run from the foundering CP.

All that is left of the Communist Party today is attic trunk memorabilia. Old emblems and letters from the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Cuiilty memories shared with sadness in the living-rooms of liberal suburbia. A cynical memory of a militant childhood in the momentary recollection of an aging trade-union hack. Bits and snatches of the past passed down to children and grandchildren of old Communists -- children and grandchildren increasingly gathered in the Labor Committees.

The Tragedy

The death of the CPUSA is a necessary thing, but a sad thing.

It had an almost unbroken direct connection to Karl Marx through Joseph Wedemeyer and the Sorges. It was Wedemeyer, consulting with Marx, who as early as the 1850's foresaw the fundamental changes in the political development of the U.S. labor movement that were to erupt beginning 1877. It was the mass strikes, epitomized by the great Knights of Labor "soviet" upsurges, that created a class-for-itself tendency in the U.S.A. It was this "soviet" tradition of unity of employed and unemployed, carried forward from the experience of the Knights' struggles, which created the leftwing movement of the 1890's and the IWW and left wing of the old Socialist Party.

It was all these currents, opposed to the narrow, chauvinistic notion of "building a base in the existing trade-unions," which

assembled to create the Communist Party in the great upsurge period immediately following World War I.

The founders were titans. Ruthenberg, John Reed, Louis Fraina, followed by a secondary stratum of such names as Swabeck, Cannon, and Foster. Unfortunately, their typically American philistinism, their militant antiintellectualism, their crudeness, left them impotent to resist the centrist flip-flops between adventurism and opportunism of first the miserable Zinoviev and later the bestial Stalin. By the middle to late 1920's, the noble tradition of the U.S. leftwing labor movement had been aborted and demoralized.

Still, those traditions, kindled directly and indirectly to some degree of new life by L. Trotsky's writings on the German situation of the early 1930's, forced the philistine Zinovievites of the Communist League of America, reluctantly, toward a revolutionary perspective. These same writings briefly inspired A.J. Muste to move the unemployed into unity with employed. The Communist International itself, and the CPUSA, were forced to attempt to cover their left flanks against Trotsky's writings and perspectives. Up through 1934, and with waning influence until the 1937 General Motors Strike, some spark of the heroic tradition was seen. Hundreds of thousands of the best Americans flocked into and around the Communist Party in that period, in the false conviction that it was actually a Communist organization.

That past we deeply respect. It is our own past, in large part. The well-meaning blunderers who have preceded us under the banners of the CP are our own predecessors in this continuing battle for worker's government. It is on that account that we have the unique right and obligation to destroy the last vestige of left-hegemony of the Communist Party in the U.S.A. today. And that is precisely what we are about to do. We bury our dead.

Our Awful Responsibility

Our organization, by using its resources as a screening force to permit welfare and unemployed organizers to reconstitute the nucleus of their own fighting organization, has established its unique position as the responsible vanguard organization. We are taking the brunt of the struggle wherever the workers' movement needs our moral strength, our encouragement to organize itself into new formations.

In North America, and in principle in Western Europe as well, the programmatic outlook and personal courage of our handfuls of memberships are the only existing basis for hope that there will be a human quality of life anywhere in the world after the end of the present decade. In other words, our tendency now represents in fact, in North America, and in principle, in western Europe, what the Communist parties were supposed to represent in earlier periods.

This is no sectarian's grandiose claims to self-importance; it is an awful responsibility. It gives us very little to cheer about. We have no feeling of strutting about in pride because of such facts. It is an awful responsibility. We have so much responsibility; millions have nowhere to turn but to us, and we

have so few resources, we are so personally insufficient in our present development, to meet the duties placed in our hands. It is an awful responsibility.

In the U.S.A., there is the following situation.

Over the past several months it has been clear that we were on the verge of taking over the dominant left position formerly held for so many years by the CPUSA. The point was reached, earlier this year, that the CPUSA had no choice but to either move into a position of critical, active support of our main thrust on employed-unemployed organizing, or the CPUSA, in attempting to oppose us, would virtually destroy itself.

That latter happened last week, as the CPUSA leadership willfully placed its demoralized resources at the disposal of a philosophical fascist agent, Ed Schwartz, in support of government and corporate efforts to prevent the reconstitution of the Welfare Rights Organization. The showdown at Philadelphia this past weekend clearly demonstrated which of our two organizations held a leading position in the U.S.A. left.

The Socialist Workers Party has been dead for months. The so-called International Socialists is a stinking swamp. The tiny sects are non-sequiturs. Apart from the NCLC, the only viable professedly socialist group of any size here is the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. Otherwise, there are only small groupings which are more or less viable in respect to the commitments of their members.

In Western Europe, there exists today not a single organization, except for propaganda-group sized International Caucus of Labour Committees, which has the slightest conception of establishing workers' government in this decade. There are large collections of viable socialists, but no other organized group with even the capacity to develop an actual socialist perspective.

We have an awful responsibility. Within five years we must organize mass forces capable and prepared to institute workers' governments throughout North America and Western Europe. It can be done; it must be done. It can not be done if we dally about catering to the illusions and sensibilities of people seized by foolish ideas. We are not adventurers; we shall never take childishly reckless actions. Yet, we shall be cruelly ruthless in carrying out those duties which are necessary to build the kind of mass force required.

Immediately, readers will obtain a taste of our ruthlessness in the way we proceed to finish off the Communist Party. We have routed the CP in a decisive battle. We do not rest and gloat over that victory. While the CP is temporarily routed and demoralized, we harry it mercilessly, we conduct the most ruthless mopping-up operation against each of its ragged formations. We can proclaim the CP to be dead, because we have it in the position in which we can finish it off, and we are determined to do exactly what is necessary to use our advantage to destroy it.

We shall not say now exactly how we intend to do this. We have an exact tactical plan for this mopping-up operation. It

is more convenient to our purpose to let the CP leadership perplex itself on the matter.

This mopping-up operation has another importance. It is one of numerous tactical rehearsals of our own membership in the development of those qualities of ruthless leadership necessary to lead the North American working class forces to workers' government in this decade. The North American workers will have confidence in us, in our leadership, once they recognize that we have the fighting qualities, the stamina, their increasingly desperate situation demands.

from special issue of New Solidarity, April 16, 1973

COMMUNIST PARTY CALLS THE COPS

For weeks preceding the March 31 conference which rebuilt the National Welfare Rights Organization, the Labor Committee repeatedly warned the Communist Party that if it joined Nixon in helping to destroy the only organization of unemployed in the country, we will destroy the CP. The CP took that step -- on March 31 in Philadelphia its picket line entered the camp of Nixon arm in arm with the self-proclaimed National Socialist Ed Schwartz. The CP announced whose side of the class struggle it is on.

The Labor Committee is now in the process of destroying the Communist Party.

CP GOONS CALL THE COPS

For the first few days after "Operation Mop Up" commenced, the Communist Party national leadership obviously did not know what had hit it. But after a significant amount of CP-YWLL blood was spilled at Temple University in Philadelphia last Wednesday, in retaliation for an earlier YWLL attack on two Labor Committee members, the CP reacted the way any frightened liberal reacts: they called the cops.

It was not the only decision the CP could have made; it was just the easiest course of action out of several ruinous alternatives.

The CP leadership knows -- and has shown that it knows -- that it cannot mobilize any sizeable goon structure from its own membership. Its hard core of aging goons, the types who have "defended the Party" in years past, is in no better shape to carry out goon actions than it is to do working-class organizing. The CP's more viable stratum of young workers and ghetto youth is so demoralized by their organization's alliance with the government against the NU-WRO, as well as by the aftermath of the McGovern debacle, that only the most gutless hooligan elements could be mobilized against the Labor Committees.

The CP leadership faces the problem that its only worthwhile stratum of members -- its youth, who are heavily black -- know down deep that the NCLC was and is right in its organizing to reconstitute NWRO, and that the CP was wrong. It is this aspect -- the respective political morale of the two organizations -- that makes it impossible for the CP to mobilize any mass defense against the Labor Committee from among its own younger membership.

UNWELCOME CHOICES

The CP was thus left with only three alternatives: to attempt to mobilize its trade-union apparatus and friendly labor bureaucrats against us, to attempt to rally other left organizations, or to call the cops.

The first alternative was quite impossible. For years the CP has been trying to convince its trade unionists and various sympathetic trade union officials that they need the CP more than the CP needs them, on the grounds that the CP is the most powerful radical organization in the country. But if the CP now turned around and asked its trade union allies to defend them against the Labor Committee -- that is, to defend the powerful CP against

"a tiny, isolated group of white students," -- it destroys its claim that it is the most powerful and influential group around.

Likewise, how could the CP -- the left-hegemonic organization until recently -- ask lesser left organizations to come to its defense, admitting that it could not defend itself from the "tiny" Labor Committee?

The CP took the only remaining course: to organize its faithful front groups and paper organizations to demand that the police defend the "mighty" Communist Party.

If the CP did not take seriously the "Death of the CPUSA" editorial in New Solidarity several weeks ago they had every reason to do so after the confrontation at the New York City planning meeting of the "People's May Day Committee" on Saturday April 7. When a delegation of NCLC members entered and demanded that the first item of business be a discussion of the CP's crime in allying with Nixon and fascist Ed Schwartz against the National Unemployed and Welfare Rights Organization, two CP hacks forgot what decade it was and foolishly attacked the NCLC delegation. But they learned that dealing with the NCLC in 1973 is not like dealing with Trotskyists in the 1930's. In other words, they lost.

On Sunday, a delegation of 60 NCLC members paid a visit to the W.E.B. DuBois Communist Center in Harlem, but found only a handful of people there. After denouncing the CP's alliance with Nixon against welfare and unemployed organizers, the delegation left.

On Tuesday, April 10 a Labor Committee "truth squad" dropped in on the Jefferson Bookstore to demand that a sign denouncing the CP's crimes be placed in the bookstore window, which is normally full of lies.

The next target of Operation Mop Up was to be a lecture by Dr. James Jackson at the W.E.B. DuBois Center on Tuesday night. However the CP had apparently discovered that there was a pattern to the Labor Committee operations, so they cancelled the forum and left the store tightly locked up.

On Wednesday the confrontation in Philadelphia occurred, and that same day the CP made its decision to mobilize its front groups and front-people to call for police prosecution of the NCLC.

If it is thought that this policy is only being carried out in Philadelphia, we would inform the reader that in New York the CP West Side Marxist Center was defended by police on Friday evening, April 13, in expectation of an NCLC "educational" intervention.

Sixteen "husky workers" employed by the New York Police Department were observed in groups of four and five on the corners of 106th, 107th, and 108th Streets near Broadway. Two police lieutenants were stationed in police cars about 50 feet from the West Side Marxist Center on 107th St. between West End and Riverside Drive.

Now, having committed itself to an alliance with the cops, the Communist Party USA is finished. If the CP attempts further goon attacks on Labor Committee members or offices, it is undercutting its liberal-police defense. If the CP or any of its

"Defense Coalitions" attempt any physical retaliation against the Labor Committee they will be crushed. We will retaliate ten-fold. If other socialist organizations cross the line and actively join the CP's alliance with Nixon and the fascists in the name of "workers democracy," they will be treated similarly.

SWPers WILL DEFEND CP's RIGHT TO SCAB

"We can't believe what you're doing to the Left," moaned a high-ranking New York City organizer for the Socialist Workers Party. "Once you talked about uniting the left against CP hooliganism. Now the entire left will unite against your hooliganism."

Several SWPers have been asked in the last week: will your organization help us destroy the hegemony of the Communist Party? We have said: If you or anyone else intends to do any working-class organizing in the coming depression, you must help us bust up the CP now. The CP, as everyone knows, has beaten socialists who opposed McGovern; it has beaten socialists who built the new National Unemployed and Welfare Rights Organization. The international Moscow movement has sent goon squads against all its left-wing opponents for the last forty years.

But these SWP organizers whined, "We would defend the CP against you to preserve democracy in the movement." They are too frightened to realize that by our present policies the National Caucus of Labor Committees is defending the future of working-class democracy. There can be no democracy as long as the Communist Party is able to "organize" -- in the capitalists' interest.

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY APRIL 19 1973

STATEMENT BY TONY CHAITKIN

OPERATION MOP UP: THE CLASS STRUGGLE IS FOR KEEPS

The National Caucus of Labor Committees has launched "operation mop up" which will bury the Nixon allied "Communist" Party within six to eight weeks. A press conference is scheduled for 11:00 am April 20, at NYC Community Church, 40 East 35 Street where I will announce the latest events of this military operation.

To implement our editorial policy of last week, we will enter CP-YWLL meetings, conferences, rallies, classes, etc. to confront the CP on its alliance with Philadelphia fascists to help Nixon destroy the March 31 Philadelphia convention to rebuild the National Welfare Rights Organization. These meetings or other events will not take place unless their participants first condemn the class treachery of the CP leadership.

We warned the CP that we would destroy them should they scab on the campaign to rebuild NWRO, which alone could unite the employed and the unemployed in common organization to fight Nixon's slave labor recycling offensive. The CP publicly mobilized its demoralized organizational forces in a pitiful attempt to wreck and disorganize the March 31 convention in alliance with Ed Schwartz, a "national socialist" and well known CIA collaborator in the old National Student Association. The CP has transformed itself into the "left" political arm of Nixon's terror campaign directed against pro working class welfare organizers. Now the CP will be destroyed.

As the new hegemonic tendency in the US left, we destroy the CP because it is an absolutely necessary step to ensure that the working class in the USA and Western Europe is prepared with competent leadership to establish socialism in this decade. Our tendency will immediately become a significant factor in the non-US socialist movement as we will be recognized as the first revolutionary socialist organization ever to finish off a Moscow-aligned "communist" Party in any country of the advanced sector.

Operation mop up picked up steam Wednesday, April 11, when Labor Committee members went to confront members of the CP and YWLL in the latter's headquarters in Philadelphia's Temple University.

Labor Committee members wanted to discuss with CP leader "Tough Tony" Monteiro and others why the CP had aligned itself with a fascist organization and Nixon's HEW in their futile attempt on March 31. When confronted, Monteiro's first reaction was to begin to cry, but other CP-YWLL members began to get violent and had to be dealt with. Douglas Crawford, a YWLL member and son of the CP's candidate for Comptroller of Philadelphia, pulled a knife and attempted to cut the face of a Labor Committee member; however, he and other CP-YWLL members who resisted were dealt with. According to the Daily World, newspaper of the CP, six YWLL members were sent to the hospital, two with broken noses and one with a broken rib.

A press release issued in Philadelphia by the CP-YWLL and

recent issues of the CP's Daily World continue to expose the CP's cowardly "defense" of its alliance with fascist Schwartz and the Nixon regime. What does the "big, tough" Communist Party say in its newspaper? It says it will ask the police, the courts, and the Temple University Administration, to protect it from the big, bad National Caucus of Labor Committees!

DEATH THREAT TO TONY CHAITKIN

A death threat against myself and another Labor Committee leader, Zeke Boyd, was received at Boyd's home at 1:05 pm, April 13. "The Communist Party is going to shoot Zeke. They are going to shoot Tony Chaitkin too," said the nervous caller with a Spanish accent, who refused to say who he was.

It is obvious to us that the CP would not dare try to shoot or assassinate our members. However, the Nixon Administration and its police agencies which have over the last few months tried to disrupt our organizing, might. This call must be seen as simply another in the recent series of death threats, bomb threats, arson attempts, FBI visits, phone tapping, etc., employed by federal police agencies to stop our organizing. Unfortunately the press has not yet seen this scandal which makes Watergate look like child's play worthy of reporting.

We are prepared to defend ourselves. We will not be stopped by anybody. But if any government assassination or frame-up attempts occur, the CP will bear equal responsibility with the government, for it has sided with Nixon against NCIC and NU-WRO attempts to build a movement that can win something for working people in this country.

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YOU WILL NOT GOON FOR THE CP!

Rasheed Storey, the Communist Party's chief New York thug and joke "mayoral candidate," showed up at his scheduled debate with Labor Committee mayoral candidate Tony Chaitkin, Monday night at Columbia University. But only after he had been surrounded by 50 goons provided by the "trotskyist" Socialist Workers Party.

These goons could not be mobilized from Storey's own crumbling party. CP members are aware that their party is continuing to ally with Nixon, with fascists, and with the police to try to disrupt the Labor Committee's united front welfare organizing.

The Labor Committee is systematically destroying the Communist Party, and CP members will not defend their party, because they feel like cornered criminals. Virtually no CP meetings or events of any kind are taking place except those which are defended by squads of police, or those which are actual meetings with the police, as the April 18th CP meeting with Philadelphia's Red Squad! Fascists, Ed Schwartz in Philadelphia and Jim Easton in Buffalo, have joined the Communist Party to help fight the Labor Committee.

The National Caucus of Labor Committees has co-organized, with leading welfare rights organizers, a nationwide fight against Nixon's plans to use welfare recipients as slave laborers to bust unions. Together, we helped to create the National Unemployed and Welfare Rights Organization, whose founding convention the CP attempted to disrupt. We faced Nixon's police harassment -- arson, frameups, repeated death threats and FBI visits. But they failed to stop the only organizing of the crucial employed-unemployed alliance in this country, they could not stop the only fight against slave labor. We warned the CP that if they crossed class lines to disrupt this organizing, we would end their organization forever.

Now the self-proclaimed heirs of the CP-murdered Leon Trotsky have been mobilized to defend the race-baiting, criminal Communist Party, a party so rotten its own members will have nothing to do with its defense.

We warn the Socialist Workers Party: When you did all the fighting for the Communist Party at the Monday mayoral forum, we held back -- we gave you a mild warning, though several of your members were bloodied and broken. But should you repeat as goons for the CP, we will put all of you in the hospital; we will deal with you as we are dealing with the Communist Party.

NATIONAL CAUCUS OF LABOR COMMITTEES

Chicago Statement on NCLC

AGAINST HOOLIGANISM IN THE RADICAL MOVEMENT

In the past few weeks several deplorable incidents have occurred which cause us to speak out. The National Caucus of Labor Committees has launched what it describes as "operation mop up" against the Communist Party, U.S.A. NCLC has publicly declared in the pages of its weekly publication New Solidarity that their organization is "determined to do exactly what is necessary to use our advantage to destroy it [the CP]."

What the NCLC terms a ruthless campaign has taken the form of organized "mop up" squads of NCLC members disrupting public meetings of the CP or organizations in which the CP participates, and provocative visits to several bookstores which carry literature expressing the views of the CP.

"These meetings or other events will not take place," states the April 16 issue of New Solidarity "unless their participants first condemn the class treachery of the CP leadership."

In the course of these provocations carried out by the NCLC squads, violence has been leveled against members of the CP and the Young Workers Liberation League. The most serious incident to date took place on April 11 at Temple University. Twelve to fifteen NCLC members, armed with sticks, chairs and pipes, attacked YWLL members on this campus. Six YWLLers required hospital treatment.

In Chicago, the NCLC pasted copies of New Solidarity on the doors and windows of the Modern Bookstore and the Guild Bookstore. In addition, issues of New Solidarity were plastered to the doors and outer walls of the Chicago Socialist Workers Party headquarters.

We strongly condemn this hooliganism on the part of the NCLC. We urge all groups and individuals to rally to the defense of the Communist Party. These physical attacks by the NCLC are an attack on the entire radical movement. Indeed, NCLC has stated in its publication that other organizations that come to the defense of the Communist Party will be "treated similarly."

These actions threaten the democratic right of all organizations to hold meetings and freely express their views - that is, the right to exist. Political differences are not solved by physical attacks. They are resolved only through a free exchange of ideas which are tested through their application in the struggle for social change. The goon squad tactics of the NCLC serve only to do the job of the rulers of this country who themselves seek to limit democratic freedoms for radical organizations and to discredit the radical movement in the eyes of the American people. Organizations who use physical attacks to attempt to settle political differences provide fertile grounds for police agents and agents provocateurs in their attempt to destroy radical organizations.

We demand that the NCLC cease this gangsterism now. We urge that all organizations respect the right of those they disagree with to hold meetings and express their ideas.

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DEFEND THE RIGHT OF FREE POLITICAL DISCUSSION AT COLUMBIA

At a candidates night sponsored by the Board of Managers at Columbia University on Monday night, April 23, a group of about 60 members of the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) armed with clubs, brass nuckles, num-chucks and other deadly weapons attacked the meeting in order to stop it from taking place. The scheduled speakers included: Al Blumenthal - Democrat, Tony Chaitkin - NCLC, Norman Oliver - Socialist Workers Party, and Rasheed Storey - Communist Party.

In their paper, at public meetings and in a leaflet distributed widely in the Columbia area entitled "Whither Rasheed" the NCLC has threatened to physically annihilate the Communist Party and the Young Workers Liberation League and any other organizations that defend the right of the CP to exist, and to disrupt all meetings at which the CP is present.

The NCLC using lethal weapons caused injuries to many students present, and sent at least 6 people to the hospital. This use of physical violence and disruption cannot be tolerated by students at Columbia. It is our right to hear all political viewpoints. Such violent attacks have no place within the student and radical movement and must be repudiated as a means of settling political debate. We must be able to consider and discuss all ideas in an atmosphere of free debate and discussion. Only through open political discussion can differences be settled. The use of violence as a means of resolving "debate" plays into the hands of the administration and cops by lending credence to their slander that the radical movement is basically violent and destructive.

We (individuals and groups) at Columbia and Barnard call on groups and individuals who support basic democratic rights to join in a campaign to repudiate the NCLC's attack on Monday night's meeting and their use of violence in the movement. We also call on the NCLC to publicly repudiate their physical attack on Monday night's meeting sponsored by BOM and to also repudiate their further use of violence within the movement.

In the past few weeks, several deplorable incidents have occurred which cause us to speak out. The National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) has launched what it describes as "Operation Mop Up" against the Communist Party USA. NCLC has publicly declared in the pages of its weekly publication, New Solidarity, that their organization is "determined to do exactly what is necessary to use our advantage to destroy it [the C.P.]."

What NCLC terms a "ruthless" campaign has taken the form of organized "mop-up" squads of NCLC members disrupting public meetings of the Communist Party or organizations in which it participates as well as provocative visits to several bookstores which carry literature expressing the views of the Communist Party. "These meetings or other events will not take place," states the April 16 issue of New Solidarity, "unless their participants first condemn the class treachery of the Communist Party leadership."

In the course of these provocations carried out by NCLC squads, violence has been leveled against members of the Communist Party and the Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL). The most serious incident to date took place on April 11 at Temple Univ. in Philadelphia. Twelve to fifteen NCLC members armed with sticks, chairs, and pipes attacked YWLL members on this campus. Six YWLLers required hospital treatment.

We strongly condemn this hooliganism on the part of the NCLC. We urge all groups and individuals who support basic democratic rights to rally to the defense of the Communist Party and any other organization whose democratic rights are assaulted in this way. These physical attacks by the NCLC are an attack on the entire radical movement. Indeed, the NCLC has stated in its publication that other organizations which come to the defense of the Communist Party will be "treated similarly."

These actions threaten the democratic right of all organizations to hold meetings and freely express their views -- i.e., the right to exist. Political differences are not solved through physical attack. They are resolved only through the free exchange of ideas which are tested through their application in the struggle for social change.

The goon squad tactics of the NCLC serve only to do the job of the rulers of this country who themselves seek to limit democratic freedoms for radical organizations and to discredit the radical movement in the eyes of the American people. The use of violence as a means of "resolving" debates lends credence to the government's slander that the movement is basically violent and destructive. Organizations who use physical attacks to attempt to settle political differences provide fertile ground for police agents and agents provocateurs in their attempts to destroy the radical movement. WE DEMAND THAT THE NCLC CEASE THIS GANGSTERISM NOW! WE DEMAND THAT ALL ORGANIZATIONS RESPECT THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHT OF THOSE THEY DISAGREE WITH TO MEET AND EXPRESS THEIR IDEAS.

Signed _____
Organization _____

Signed _____
Organization _____

Candidates' Forum

Disrupted by Brawl

Labor Committee Protests Appearance Of Communist Mayoral Nominee

By DAVID RAAB

Members of the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) started a chair-throwing brawl in the Lions' Den last night, preventing a debate between four New York City mayoral candidates.

The fight, which resulted in at least six injuries, began when the NCLC members stormed the dais to attack Communist Party (CP) candidate Rasheed Storey.

During the brawl, members of both sides wielded clubs, pieces of broken chairs and ash trays. The fighting, which lasted for about twenty minutes, was finally halted when members of the Ferris Booth Hall night staff set off a fire alarm.

At least four New York City police and fifteen security guards were at the scene.

Earlier in the day, two contenders for the Democratic

mayoral nomination had cancelled their appearance at the Board of Managers (BOM) sponsored forum amidst threats by NCLC that the group would "destroy Communist Party hegemony" as part of "Operation Mop-Up" which has sparked similar violent incidents at other college campuses. The disruption began when Mr. Storey entered the room, which was filled with 200 people, at 8:00 p.m., and was greeted by cries of "thug... labor scab..." and "punk..." in reference to the ideological dispute between the NCLC and the CP.

After joining NCLC candidate Tony Chaikin, Democratic Assemblyman Albert Blumenthal, and Joanna Misnik, a representative of Socialist Workers Party (SWP) candidate Norman Oliver on the stage, Mr. Storey was addressed by members of the audience who screamed, "We're going to finish you."

Other members of the audience shouted "let them speak" in an effort to drown out the heckling. As the crowd quieted somewhat, Mr. Chaikin spoke for nearly twenty minutes, charging that the CP has formed "an alliance with Nixon and the fascists" in opposing

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 1) the formation of a National Unemployed and Welfare Rights Organization.

Some hecklers continued to yell demands that Mr. Storey "get off the stage," and asserted that he called the cops on welfare organizers in Philadelphia.

After Mr. Chaikin concluded his speech, two women from the audience began to fight, and an ashtray was thrown across the room. A group of about eight people then rushed up to the center of the room threatening Mr. Storey, and fighting broke out throughout the room.

According to David Horvick '75, the moderator of the event, the NCLC members who moved toward the dais were stopped by some SWP members who had taken seats directly before the dais and linked elbows to hold back the Labor Committee supporters.

While the "skirmish line" formed to protect the speakers, Assemblyman Blumenthal left through the rear exit surrounded by ten or five bodyguards, Horvick said.

After about a third of the audience left the room, NCLC members blocked the front exit, stopping further departures and preventing immediate calls for aid from security guards. They then hurled chairs at the crowd until the fire alarm was sounded.

Several witnesses stated that Assistant Proctor John Lawson threw a chair through the window, smashing glass onto Broadway, so that the people trapped in the room could escape.

After being summoned by the Ferris Booth desk guard, about fifteen security guards arrived on the

John Rudolf GSAS, who was not affiliated with any of the factions involved, said, "The bystanders had no idea there would be physical violence. It terrified half of the people in the room."

A BOM member commented, "When they crashed each other, all hell broke loose. It was like a John Wayne movie."

Several observers said they were particularly surprised that the NCLC attack appeared to be well-organized. One student said, "I heard they were organized into cadres, with commanders for each unit."

Reaffirming the group's militant

scene while at least four New York City policemen came in response to the fire alarm.

The Columbia guards and Ferris Booth staff cleared most of the audience from the Lion's Den, but Mr. Storey and a group of thirty supporters refused to leave, saying they were afraid of being ambushed by NCLC members waiting outside the building.

At about 8:40 p.m., the Storey group moved through the Lion's Den kitchen to the second floor of the building, where they remained for nearly twenty minutes.

Security forces then led the group and several SWP supporters who had been in the lobby out the rear exit of Ferris Booth. The group escorted Mr. Storey to a car on 115th Street, and marched down Broadway to SWP headquarters to discuss the incident.

According to a Columbia security guard, the rest of the crowd outside Ferris Booth dispersed quietly.

The guard also reported that six persons, none of whom were Columbia students, were treated in the St. Luke's Hospital emergency room for various injuries, including lacerations, head and scalp injuries, and a kick in the groin. The guard added that all of the injuries were minor, and said the six would probably be released after treatment.

Most observers of the incident expressed shock that the fighting had become so intense.

"We just thought it would be the usual labor harangue," BOM President Ernie Krovatin '74 said. He added that while the organizers had been told a disruption might be attempted, no special security measures had been taken.

policies, an NCLC spokesman stated last night that the group has been disrupting meetings of the CP and has been attacking its members, and will "physically and politically" destroy any group which comes to the defense of the Communist Party.

"Anyone who crosses the class lines will be deprived of their freedom of speech," he added.

The spokesman, who said he wished to remain anonymous, described last night's actions as "quite soft" compared to actions taken against CP gatherings.

Mr. Storey said after the incident that the action was staged by

"monopoly capitalists to terrorize the democratic advanced revolutionary forces in this country. This is not a new phenomena...Nazis did it in Germany, used socialism as a weapon to confuse the working class."

President McGill commented that the disruption "appears to be left factionalism. I haven't seen anything like this since the thirties."

Earlier in the day, a group of organizations and individuals issued a statement calling on members of the community to "repudiate the NCLC and their use of violence."

YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE WITHIN THE LEFT

The Young Socialist Alliance condemns the recent physical attack by members of the National Caucus of Labor Committees against members of the Communist Party and Young Workers Liberation League.

The entire movement must come to the defense of the CP and YWLL against such hooligan attacks. We must all stand in solid support of the rights of all within the movement to carry out their political activities without fear of intimidation or violence from other groups.

Such violent attacks have no place within the student and radical movement and must be rejected as a means for settling political disputes. We must be able to consider and discuss all ideas in an atmosphere of free debate and discussion. It is only through this open exchange of ideas that the issues and differences facing the movement can be clarified.

The use of violence as a means of resolving debates can only hurt all radical and student organizations. Such tactics play into the hands of the administration and cops by lending credence to their slander that the movement is basically violent and destructive. The atmosphere created by such attacks can also create fertile ground for police agents and provocateurs in their attempts to destroy radical organizations.

The administration at Temple has already begun to use NCLC's attacks as a pretext to place restrictions on civil liberties on campus. On April 12, for example, NCLC's actions were used as a pretext for excluding non-student members of the Black Panther Party from campus.

The Young Socialist Alliance calls on all radical and student organizations to condemn NCLC's attacks and to repudiate the use of such tactics.

Recent events on the Temple campus make it necessary to clarify the need for open, democratic discussion to settle disputes within the radical movement. We stand in solid support of the rights of all within the movement to carry out their political activities without fear of intimidation or violence from other groups.

Such violent attacks have no place within the student and radical movements and must be rejected as a means for settling political disputes. We must be able to consider and discuss all ideas in an atmosphere of free debate and discussion. It is only through this open exchange of ideas that the issues and differences facing the movement can be clarified.

We, the undersigned, repudiate the use of violence as a means of "resolving" debates. This can only hurt all radical and student organizations. We pledge ourselves to support the democratic right of all movement groups to organize and hold meetings.