

# Pro-Moscow candidates queried on Afghanistan

It seems that the election campaign of Gus Hall and Angela Davis of the pro-Soviet Communist Party U.S.A. is running into some unexpected snags.

CP writer Si Gerson, covering the campaign for the Daily World, points out in his April 10 column that when the Hall campaign tries to make its appeal on bread-and-butter issues such as unemployment and inflation, "most don't argue."

"But," complains Gerson, "there's always some guy who wants to shift the argument. I found that a couple of months ago up in Portland, Me.

"Afghanistan was the thing that month," Gerson continues. "The people got it on the air, in print and, above all, from Jimmy Carter. Radio, TV and print reporters all wanted to know where we stood on Afghanistan. Forgotten were out-of-sight prices at the supermarket,

unemployment lines and plant closings. What about Afghanistan?"

Gerson is right of course. People *are* getting their news of Afghanistan from the news media and from Carter and his government spokesmen who present their side of the story from their own class point of view. Some would justifiably argue, however, that this is far better than the situation in the Soviet Union, which the CPUSA claims is a great

"socialist democracy." The fascist-like control of the press is so extreme there that the Soviet people have no idea of their country's full-scale occupation of little Afghanistan.

As far as "shifting the argument" is concerned, Gerson is also off base. It's not that working people of this country have "forgotten" the skyrocketing prices or the plant closings and unemployment. Their daily existence won't let them forget.

But as long as the party that ties itself totally to Soviet policy runs a presidential candidate in this country, people will continue to raise questions like the ones about Afghanistan. Good for them!

And by the way, Mr. Gerson. What *about* Afghanistan?