

CPUSA Steel Program

A Call for

State Monopoly Capitalism



As everyone knows, the steel industry is in crisis. Solutions to this are arriving at the door of the steel companies not only carried by Carter, but also by the revisionist Communist Party, USA

Playing on the anger of the laid off steelworkers, Gus Hall of the CPUSA delivered a speech in Johnstown, Ohio last December as a part of their "people's solution to the steel crisis"

Two of the key elements to their solution are the following

1 "A simple transfer of say 50% of the Pentagon budget and a cut in the enormous corporate profits would open up the domestic market for steel" Hall correctly says that the American people need housing, mass transit systems and new bridges

But again Hall misleads the steel workers. The problem is not that the US government does not know how to set its priorities, but that the US government is a government for and of the capitalist class. The capitalist class needs to have an extremely large military budget in order to defend its investments both in the US and overseas. So it is not a question of priorities at all, but a question of the entire capitalist system

2 "The time has come when in the US we are forced to consider nationalization of a number of industries. Nationalization means that these industries would be taken out of the system of corporate profits and would be democratically operated and controlled as public properties by elected representatives of the workers and the public and run for the benefit of all the people"

Nationalization of an industry under capitalism means that

the capitalist class through its state apparatus would still control the industry, only it would be more centralized control. This means greater exploitation of the workers. The CPUSA's call for nationalization is a call for state monopoly capitalism!

Although the CPUSA's program for nationalization would harm the working class, it would help the CPUSA. Just as all bourgeois elements have aspirations of holding state power, so does the CPUSA. When the dictatorship of the proletariat was overthrown in the Soviet Union, the revisionists set up state monopoly capitalism. As a revisionist Party, the CPUSA desires to follow suit.

The CPUSA's plan for nationalization is a part of their overall plan for coming to state power. Under the cover of fighting for socialism, the CPUSA tries to rally the working class behind them in support of their program. Their plan for nationalization is their plan to concentrate industry in the hands of the bourgeois state apparatus, which they want to control. Their call to have this supervised by "elected representatives of the workers and the public" is their call to have themselves elected.

So under all of the militant sounding words by Gus Hall and the CPUSA there is outright treachery. Their program for steelworkers and their overall program can not solve the problems of jobs for workers, nor can it solve the oppression of the working class by the capitalist class. The CPUSA's program will only perpetuate the rule of the bourgeoisie. Like all parties of the bourgeoisie, the CPUSA must and will be smashed by the working class. ★

Gus Hall (right) leader of the revisionist CPUSA. Though his words may sound militant, his program to nationalize the steel industry is in essence a program to usher in state monopoly capitalism. For the working class, this is out-right treachery.

