

# CPUSA Convention Dilemma: How to Serve 2 Masters Headed for War?

Billboards in downtown Detroit advertise "People's Rally and Disco", August 25 and 26. Sponsored by the revisionist "Communist" Party, USA to coincide with their weeklong 22nd National Convention, the Rally-Disco promises to be a fitting finale. It will certainly be in the fine tradition of the bourgeois political circuses that the CP loves to mimic.

Slogans such as "Stop the Monopolies," "Put People Before Profit" and "Register Your Protest" are raised to attract those who won't come for the Disco alone. The build-up has all the markings of a self-conscious, stiff-necked bore trying to be "hip." And at center stage will be Angela Davis, who gained a certain fame in the late '60s by associating herself with the upsurge among Black people all the while continuing to preach the CP line of conciliation and peaceful reform.

At the convention itself, however, leaders of the CPUSA will be facing a more difficult decision than simply who to run for president or what record to spin. They have to come to grips with how to all at once serve two imperialist masters who are fast preparing to go to war with each other.

The CPUSA gave up any thought of revolution many, many years ago and since then has busied itself preaching to the people that they should put their hope on peacefully reforming the system, moving to "socialism" without the need for revolution. For this, the CP has won the tolerance of the U.S. ruling class which considers the CP a "moderating" influence on the people's struggle.

At the same time, the CPUSA leadership has been fiercely loyal to the rulers of the Soviet Union. They whitewash every crime of the Soviets, from their involvement in Africa to the recent Soviet-sponsored invasion of Cambodia by Vietnam. And the CP continues to present the Soviets as a "peace-loving socialist state" interested only in "defense" and aiding the people of the world.

The CPUSA has handled the problem of serving two, conflicting masters by latching onto and promoting the illu-

sion of "detente," the smokescreen behind which both of the superpowers have found it useful to conduct their war preparations. They promote the USSR as the "main bastion of world peace" (apparently their missiles are armed only with brotherly love) and say that within the U.S. it is not the entire ruling class that is following a war course but only a handful of "unrealistic war hawks."

But this solution to the CP's dilemma becomes more complicated in the situation today, in which the "detente" smokescreen is clearing and revealing two snarling well-armed bandits ready to go at each other. In the U.S., the ruling class is less and less willing to allow the Soviets to parade about as peaceloving and instead has been building up plenty of public opinion about their war-like nature. And, no doubt, the CP leadership is worried that as things further heat up the rulers might not be so tolerant of an organization basically conducting propaganda for the "enemy."

Still today, however, the CP finds that the promotion of pacifist illusions is the best way to carry out its work in the U.S. and to help out the Soviets at the same time. Right now they have made the ratification of the SALT II their big campaign. In fact, in a recent issue of their journal *Political Affairs* they write that the "challenge for Left and progressive peace activists is to channel this movement, the largest upswelling of peace protest action since the Vietnam War [here they are referring to the mass movement against nuclear power], into millions of letters, telegrams, and personal visits to senators demanding the ratification of SALT II!"

In their pre-convention resolution, they continue to promote the lie that "the self interests of the working class and people can be served by a foreign policy that realistically takes into account and accepts the new world balance of forces." In other words, without revolution, with the capitalists still in power, it is possible for the U.S. to adopt a foreign policy in the interests of the working class! They go on to

add, this "can be a winning struggle within a short period of time"!

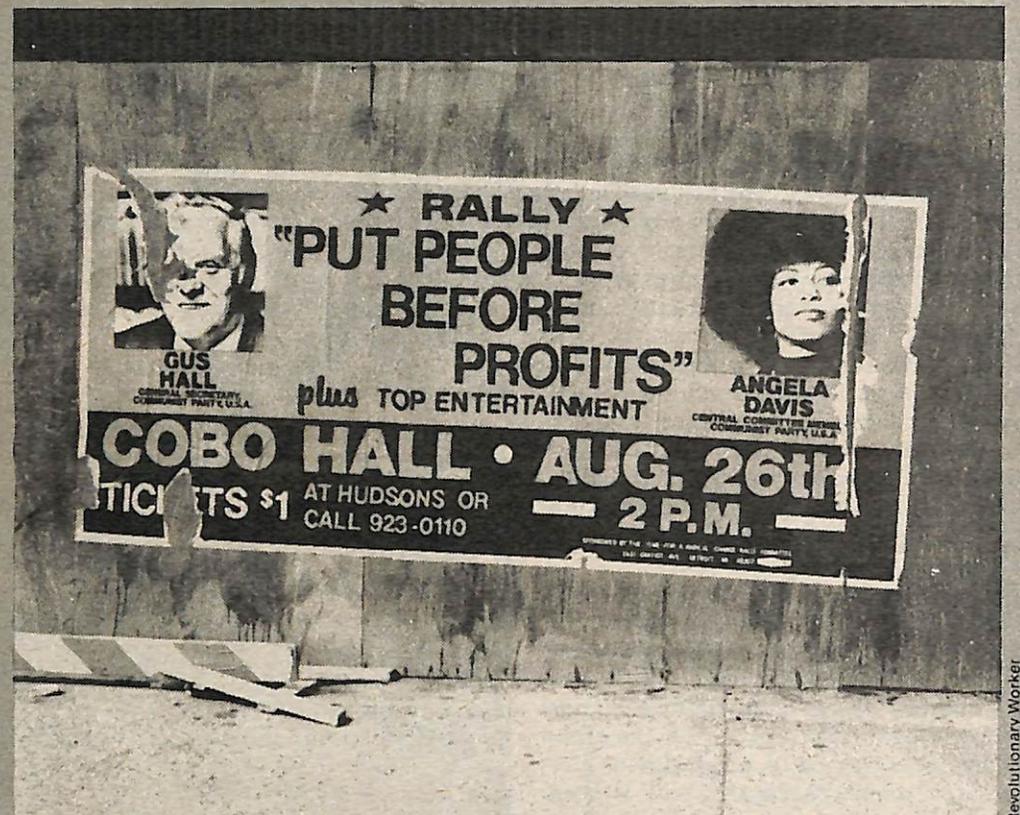
Among the workers, the CP continues to push the myth that "detente means jobs" and raise ridiculous scenarios about how if *only* the U.S. would not spend so much on the arms race (if only the imperialists wouldn't be imperialists) then we could have such and such social programs, parks, free babysitting, etc.

This is not the main tune being sung by the U.S. ruling class, but it is certainly one they can make use of. As more and more people come into motion against the war moves of the U.S. imperialists, the ruling class will consider it useful for revisionists like the CP to be out uttering pious proclamations about "peace" and "disarmament" while actively combatting the only real solution to imperialist war—rising up in armed revolution against the ruling class. Since armed revolution of the masses of people is completely opposed

to everything that the CPUSA believes—indeed, their very outlook prevents them from even considering it as a remote possibility—the CP can continue to promote a political line which will prettify the Soviet Union and aid them in their propaganda, but will at the same time disarm and cloud the eyes of the working class in the U.S.

As far as the CPUSA's perspectives for the future, their pre-convention resolution makes clear their intention to try to use the mass movement to further their own selfish aims. "We must ride the crests of the mass waves that objective reality gives rise to." But alas, poor revisionists, reality will give rise to more than just waves, but a hurricane of revolutionary struggle. And the masses could knock the CP and its surfboard right out of the water.

The CP convention should be interesting to watch, as these revisionists search for a solution to avoid doing the splits. ■



Revisionists prepare for the '80s—disco music and bourgeois politics.