

Opportunist May Day Follies

There were a few comical moments in the opportunist attacks on revolutionary May Day. For example, just prior to May Day, *The Call*, organ of the CPML wrote "the topper to all this madness should be May 1, when the RCP will try to divert attention from the May Day programs going on around the country by staging their own 'general strike.'" Besides the "general strike" distortion mentioned in the accompanying article, what strikes you about this statement is that by *The Call's* own criteria, revolutionary May Day was a tremendous success. It certainly did succeed in "diverting attention" from their unheard-from May Day programs. Even in *The Call* the reporting on these non-events was relegated to a small box on the bottom of page 12 of their May 19 issue. Of course, we are not particularly inclined to rest on these laurels of success granted by *The Call's* criteria, and continue to sum up from the point of view of the goal of proletarian revolution both the clear overall victory on May 1st, as well as within that its shortcomings, so as to be able to continue the advance.

Of course, to be fair, there actually was more in *The Call* on their May Day activities than only this. On May 5 there was the two-page "May Day Greetings" feature, where CPML members and supporters bought space for May Day messages. The counter-revolutionary pus that spilled out of this pore resembled a rather lame version of the "personal classifieds" in various "entertainment" magazines. A sampling of this "revolutionary" material (and, no, we're not making these up): "Greetings to my favorite waitress at the Athenian Room, (signed) a friend." "Ralph, Here's to spending next May Day and the days to follow on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. Love, Stephanie." "May Day greetings to my favorite nurse. (signed) LSJ"

Then there was the behavior of the parties in this country who are seeking the revisionist Albania franchise. Both the CPUSA (M-L) (formerly MLOC) and the "Marxist-Leninist Party" (formerly COUSML) blasted May Day. The MLP, for example, denounced the RCP's May Day plans as "having nothing to do with revolution." But after May Day the Albania news service ran a news item entitled, "International Proletariat Celebrated May Day on the Barricades of Class Struggle" whose

U.S. section went "although the U.S. Administration banned the organization of demonstrations on the occasion of May Day under the pretext of preserving the order, the working class took to the streets in the majority of cities to express their demands. Demonstrations and rallies were often transformed into clashes with the police forces who arrested many workers." This could only be a reference to the RCP-led May 1st activity. Could this be a message from the Albanians to their camp followers in the U.S. that they had better try to *do something!*?

Finally there was the old, revisionist "Communist Party, USA" who was obviously most embarrassed and disturbed by the revolutionary qualities of May Day, and afraid this might disturb their attempts to build a cozy relation with the ruling class. In Detroit, the CP was so disturbed that they felt obliged to issue a press release

entitled "The Communist Party of Michigan condemns the provocative and recent action by the Revolutionary Communist Party." In their mad rush to disclaim any association with May 1st these so-called "communists" display so much boot-licking bourgeois respectability as to defy comment. So we will just reprint sizeable excerpts from this release and let the reader judge the "revolutionary" qualities of these revisionists. They mouth some ruling class slanders and add such twists as:

"...the burning of the American Flag, the defacing of public property...and superrevolutionary talk have nothing to do with bettering the lives of working people or with socialism. Or with the traditions of May Day. Their real purpose is to discredit the name of the Communist Party USA and its candidates for president and vicepresident, Gus Hall and Angela Davis...Since its

founding in 1919, the Communist Party USA has counted among its member such *outstanding Americans* (!!!) as W.E.B. Dubois, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, William L. Patterson, William Z. Foster and here in Michigan Wymdym Mortimer, Nelson Davis, Bill McKee and Bob Trotter; in August of last year we held our 22nd National Convention and a mass rally of 8,000 at Cobo Hall *without incident* (!!!)... The Communist Party of Michigan joins with all decent minded people (!!!) in condemning the actions of the Revolutionary Communist Party."

In sum, it's clear that another of the achievements on May 1st 1980 was drawing a clear line of demarcation and forcing opportunists like these out from under the rocks into the light where they can be exposed as the potentially useful, though now pitiful and puny, wing of the bourgeoisie that they are.

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