

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 peace-loving 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!"

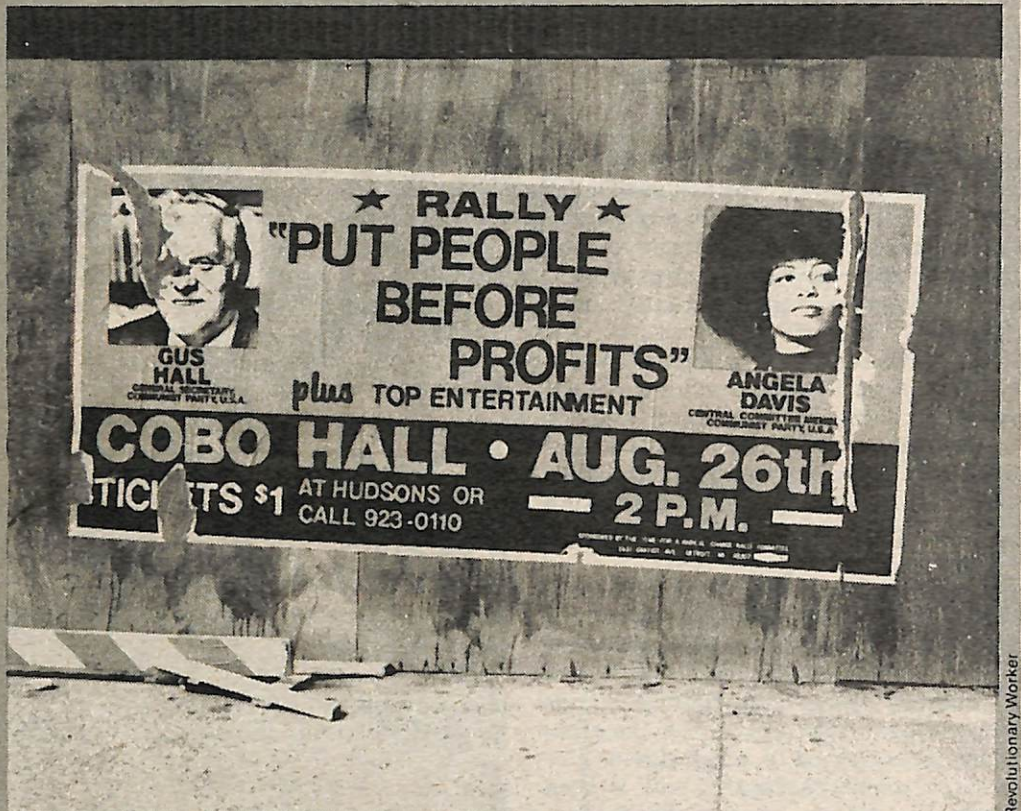
Among the workers, the CP continues to push the myth that "detente means jobs" and raise ridiculous scenarios about how if *only* the U.S. would not spend so much on the arms race (if only the imperialists wouldn't be imperialists) then we could have such and such social programs, parks, free babysitting,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

A BAD DAY for the FBI A GOOD DAY for the People

"Today was the worst day of violence in the history of the FBI," mourned Director William Webster. But while August 9th certainly upset J. Edgar Hoover's successors, no tears were shed by the people. Within a period of only several hours, three agents of the hated FBI were shot down, two in El Centro, California, and one in Cleveland, Ohio.

In El Centro, Jim Maloney went to the local FBI office with a shotgun in one hand and a pistol in the other. He blew away the entire local bureau. Maloney, mortally wounded in the shootout, then killed himself.

Jim Maloney had been a political activist in the past. He had marched against the Vietnam war and participated in more recent struggles, including the fight of California farmworkers in the Imperial Valley where El Centro is located. Like many others, he had been continually hounded and harassed by the FBI for his political activity. They had kept him under surveillance for over ten years, no

doubt applying many of the disgusting techniques which have made these bastards notorious. In the end, Maloney lashed out at these agents of the ruling class, and as their fellow political policemen grieve, they have little company.

Meanwhile, in a Black community in Cleveland, not only were no tears shed, but the people cheered in joy at the sight of the third casualty of the FBI's worst day. The dead, sheet-draped body of agent John Oliver was carried from the decaying, rat infested housing project known as Carver Park Estates. The other officers looked on grim-faced as a crowd gathered and people laughed and clapped.

Oliver and five other FBI agents had smashed into the apartment of accused rapist Melvin Bay Guyon, expecting a routine arrest. What happened was anything but routine—one agent bit the dust and Guyon got away, unhurt in a hail of bullets.

In the wake of Oliver's death, authorities have unleashed a wave of

gestapo terror against the Black community. Over 400 FBI agents, SWAT teams and other cops have kicked in doors, forced families out at gunpoint, aimed sawed-off shotguns in the faces of little children, and have stopped, searched and arrested scores in a widening dragnet. People are outraged and standing up to the attacks. An old Black man boiling with anger said, "Already thousands across the country were killed or hurt since Oliver, and not a damn thing is done. One of their own, one lousy cop is killed and they send in a whole army."

As fifty cops were breaking into one man's apartment, they yelled to him, "Get those kids out of here now or you'll never see them alive." The FBI offered a \$10,000 reward, now increased to \$20,000, as bait to get Guyon. "It won't be long before he's caught. \$10,000 is a lot of money for those people," one police spokesman boasted. The cops, in fact, got over a thousand "hot tips"—sending them on a wild goose chase all over the state! The

police captain had to admit, "If all this guy's friends could vote, he'd be mayor." For a week, Guyon outmaneuvered this massive manhunt, the biggest in Cleveland's history, until his capture on August 16 in Youngstown after a shootout with four FBI agents.

In response to this invasion, 100 people joined in a demonstration organized by the RCP and RCYB (Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade). The march was in sharp contrast to the meanderings of the NAACP and various Black politicians who predictably called for a federal investigation. This time such a call is even more ridiculous—the FBI which has sent 400 agents to terrorize Cleveland's Black community, is now invited to investigate itself impartially!

Obviously, the FBI's show of force is a response to more than one dead agent. What the FBI Director was really thinking about when he described August 8th as "The worst day... in the history of the FBI" was the sight of the masses celebrating Oliver's demise. ■