Last March the Congress of African People (CAP) published "76 Strategy," a declaration of political war on the "intermediate lackey sector" of society, including "petty bourgeois politicians (democrats, republicans or 'independents')." The April issue of CAP's Unity and Struggle boldly proclaims that "the intermediate lackeys must be grappled with, struggled against and exposed as practically bankrupt" in order "to win the workers to scientific socialism and revolution and away from reform or bribery."

The apparently revolutionary determination of this strategic perspective stands in pointed contradiction to CAP's concrete tactics for carrying it out. Electoral campaigns are a key aspect, and CAP unequivocally announces its willingness to "sacrifice our classical purity for the power of coalition and mass motion."

The reformist program that lurks behind the hyper-militant rhetoric of "76 Strategy" is expressed in CAP's current participation in an electoral coalition in Albany, N.Y. Clarence Samuel Johnson, a black minister and Urban League executive director, described this coalition as a "first." "For the first time," he said, "we have been able to overcome our differences" (Knackacker's News and Union Star, 17 September).

Johnson's electoral program indicates that this political unity was achieved by CAP's simply accepting the Urban League's program: quality education, redistribution of educational funds, informing parents of their legal rights and a classic formula for union-busting, "accountability of teachers to the community." Johnson told a WV reporter that his platform explicitly does not include demands relating to desegregation of the schools or fighting budget cuts. Even within a program that narrowly focuses on educational issues, CAP has capitulated to the Urban League's sub-reformist "share the poverty philosophy."

In a case where a working-class organization or black organization expressing the anti-capitalist aspirations of the oppressed minority masses advances an independent candidate against the bourgeois parties and politicians, a revolutionary Marxist organization could consider calling for a vote to this candidate. However, there is no basis for such critical support to Johnson's "independent" campaign, whose platform is, in some respects, most reminiscent of that of a run-of-the-mill reform Democrat. But CAP, of course, is not even critically supporting this candidacy. It is politi- cally liquidated into this coalition and advances Johnson as its own candidate.

With the Albany coalition CAP comes full circle back to Baraka's former role as left mouthpiece and bullyboy for New- \ wark's Mayor Kenneth Gibson, whose friends in the Urban League and Prudential Insurance Co. are identical to the interests that back the Urban League. Moreover, it was on the issue of "accountability to the community" that Baraka launched a vicious attack on the Newark Teachers Union during the 1970 and 1971 strikes. Although the NTU was led by black teachers and advanced demands for educational improvements that would have benefited black students (a majority in the city's schools), Baraka threw his forces into Gibson's strike-breaking campaign in order to preserve his opportunist alliance with this black Democrat. Gibson's repeated attacks on Puerto Rican and black people subsequent- ly forced Baraka to adopt a left posture, which echoes through "76 Strategy." CAP's hypocrisy of independ- ent electoral activities. Nevertheless, the political essence of the Albany campaign is identical to Baraka's previous alliance with Gibson.■