Maoists join segregationists in Boston

By DAVE FRANKEL

While attempting to deny Black children access to good schools, the racist white workers in South Boston represent the working class. In order to sink roots in this stratum of white workers, the RU is perfectly willing to adapt to the backward prejudices of these workers and even to apologize for their racism. From this point of view, the struggle of Black people for their rights is "divisive.

In contrast to RU's support of whites who want to preserve their special privileges, revolutionaries in the Socialist Workers Party say that white racism is the source of divisions in the working class. The only way to bring about unity between Black and white workers is by opposing racism, not adapting to it.

The RU has a formal position recognizing that Blacks are an oppressed nationality. They say in the October issue of their newspaper, Revolution, that it "is essential for everyone to fight against the oppression and discrimination of Black people and other oppressed nationalities."

But such words aren't worth much when in an actual struggle between the working class and the racist white workers in South Boston the RU adopts the position of the reactionary white nationalists.

In practice the RU fears any independent struggle by Blacks. They fail to understand that the independent struggles of Black people and all nationalistic struggles—are part of the working-class struggle against capitalism. In the RU's struggle against the racist offensive is currently the central battle in the class struggle.

Unify the working class can only be based on a common struggle against all forms of privilege and prejudice. To refuse to champion the demands of Blacks in the name of working-class unity is simply to ignore the needs of the most oppressed sections of the working class and to pander to the prejudices of its most backward layers. In the name of "working-class unity," the RU has wound up on the same side as the segregationists and capitalists.

Who's organizing the antibusing drive?

By WARREN HALL

BOSTON—The capitalist media have been using that myth of the anti-busing movement here as concerned parents who feel strongly about "segregation." According to these accounts, the movement to halt busing is not political at all.

But the fact is that the antibusing drive is a movement of political reaction, and its political content puts the RU at risk.

This was shown clearly at a recent meeting of the central antibusing group, ROAR (Restore Our Alienated Rights).

ROAR met in the city council chambers. They are able to do this because members of the city council are also members of ROAR, and they use their influence to provide this prestigious place for weekly gatherings.

Several hundred persons attended the meeting of Oct. 23, filling the chambers to standing room only. All those present were white, middle-aged, and as far as could be ascertained from appearances, the crowd was overwhelmingly Boston Irish Catholic, the majority ethnic group in the city proper.

The meeting was opened by a series of short talks from Democratic Party politicians—holders of posts in the Boston city government or representative of the state legislature—making the record in opposition to court-ordered integration.

The audience, however, was not made up of middle-of-the-road Democrats. This gathering of antibusing organizers was clearly a meeting of the working class.

On the way into the meeting everyone received "VOTE FOR KAHIAN" buttons. Leo Kahan, the candidate of the group, is member of the John Birch Society and a candidate for governor of Massachusetts. The American Party originated with the presidential campaign of Alabama Governor George Wallace.

Kahan was the featured speaker of the evening. He was greeted with enthusiastic applause and cheers when he was introduced. His campaign headquarters is located in South Boston, the scene of most of the racist white violence against Blacks in the current struggle to integrate South Boston city schools. Clearly, many in the room knew his record and sympathized with his views.

Kahan has been campaigning around three issues. Here is a typical statement from the South Boston Tribune, Oct. 31:

"It is as simple as ABC—Abortion, Busing, and Capital Punishment. All three of my opponents, Democratic/Socialist Dakukins, Republican/Socialist Sargent, and Socialist/Socialist Gurewitw are in complete agreement. They are against the right of the innocent unborn to be allowed to live. They are against the right of parents to send their children to neighborhood schools and they are against Capital Punishment for those found guilty of murder and other heinous crimes."

Kahan's campaign office distributes a brochure entitled, "Forced Busing—Government Control of Our Children."

Next to a picture of mothers with their children it says, "The grid of these mothers is all too apparent as their children are bused for miles into high-crime areas and schools where out-numbered whites are regularly beaten, raped, and slashed by radicalized blacks being urged by revolutionary toughs to get whitey."

At the ROAR meeting Kahan delivered a speech denouncing the integration policy as a Communist plot to "take the children away from the parents like those in Eastern Europe" and quoting at length from J. Edgar Hoover. He received a sta, d-ing ovation at the end of his speech.

ROAR is nervous about its public image. Organizers of the meeting made the press sit outside the meeting hall and closed the doors at times. One person who attended the meeting reported that the audience was told, "Make sure you're sitting next to you. We don't want any leaks to the press. Make sure no one is taking notes. We don't care if you need to write anything down."

The speakers at the meeting were generally rude to avoid the crude racist language that is common among anti-integration forces on the streets.

But one politician went too far for this crowd. He maintained that many Blacks are against busing and an effort should be made to invite them to meetings. A threatening rumble of disapproval rose up from the crowd.