What Is the Communist Labor Party?

At a conference held over Labor Day weekend in Detroit, the left-Maoist Communist League (CCL) declared itself to be the Communist Labor Party, the official labor party of the American proletariat. While this pretentious declaration doubtless occasioned much excitement among its followers as an organization which boasted that over 500 delegates attended the recent CLP founding conference, it is doubtful that in the eyes of the U.S. working class, it has had any more effect than a self-proclaimed Maoist organizations.

In the months leading up to its Labor Day declaration, the CCL was the object of lengthy and bitter denunciations by virtually every Maoist tendency in the U.S. Unable to change the reputation that the epithets flung at it ranged from "out and out counter-revolutionaries", "thieves", "right-wing politics", "reactionary political imposters and swindlers" to the ultimate in Stalinist invective: "Trotskyists". Interscience warfare among the Mao cultists is nothing new, of course, and the CCL has been described by the CL as particularly enamored with the slogan "self-determination by the masses". Thus the Maoist Organizing Committee to Reconstitute the Communist League of America (POC) is the organizational success of the October Revolution. Especially in the case of the Rockefeller Group, the entire weakness of the CLP's recently adopted line is that it is not a political line in the working class but a vague without principle, without ideas, of wretched internationalism, intertribal service stations, war, stupidity, a game of armwrestling the enemies of the working class, working in the pay of the intelligence services of foreign states.*

The CLP's Stalinism

Unlike its OL and RU rivals, whose leaders first came over to Mao and then to Stalin via petty-bourgeois New Left protest politics, the CLC's line was a direct one from Trotskyism to Stalin. The OL and RU used a variety of routes to get to Stalin and thus fell over the socialist workers.
It appears that the U.S. government is now considering proposals to lift its 13-year embargo on trade with Cuba. In April of this year Senators Javits and Pell introduced a Congressional resolution calling for a "review of United States-Cuban relations." Then, earlier this fall, the two senate leaders traveled to Havana accompanied by a large number of newsmen. They returned with reports that Castro was "friendly, frank, and warm" (New York Times, October 1). Pell also walked off with one of Castro's cigars, which he presumably smoked before passing through U.S. Customs.

The U.S. restrictions on trade with Cuba began in 1960, in response to expressions of U.S. properties there following the overthrow of Batista. Eisenhower and Kennedy hoped that a boycott and economic isolation of Cuba’s sugar quota, would damage the island’s economy and hinder the potential growth of its agricultural production. The U.S. also ordered its Latin American allies to stop buying from Cuba and to cut off all financial credits, and for a while also curtailed trade with Europe. But neither the economic blockade nor the CIA’s Bay of Pigs invasion succeeded in reenforcing imperialist domination. Now, as Britain and Spain have traded regularly with Cuba for years, and with the world price of sugar now much higher than the quota price (up from 6.5 cents in 1961), a resumption of trade appears advantageous.

Trotskyists are the best defenders of the social struggles of the Russians, the Chinese, and the Cubans. Revolution. From 1939 on we have opposed the imperialist economic blockade of Cuba. Trade with the capitalist countries is necessary even in the earliest years of the Russian Revolution, in order to obtain needed commodities and the advanced technology. Against the attempts by U.S. rulers, the Communist Union of the USSR, American Trotskyists continued to demand diplomatic recognition and the ending of the U.S. economic blockade.

With the Seventh World Congress of the CLP, the Cuban workers state is welded into a united workers state. There is a steel working class, a united working class, a united CLP, a united working class party. The working class party is the CLP. It is the vanguard to the working class. Together we can overcome the imperialists and the reactionaries. Together we can overcome the reactionaries and rebuild the working class state. Together we can overcome the U.S. imperialists. There is one CLP. There is one working class.

The CLP claims to have broken with the "theory" of two-stage revolution only to return to it through the back door. The CLP claims to have abandoned the "theory" of revolution by stages, and to have abandoned the American exceptional theory of "revivalism in one country." But the CLP attempts to construct a political party of the working class and intervene in the class struggle, it will only be able to do so if it is able to bring the working class into open struggle and fight. Indeed, despite its "leftist" illusions and ultra-stalinism the practice of the CLP does not transcend the sub-reformism of its New Left Maistriot competitors.

The only answer to the danger of capitalist restoration is a proletarian internationalist policy of extending the revolution. The Stalinists, who seek to consolidate imperialism, are incapable of carrying out such a Marxist policy, and it is no accident that today Castro has joined the Russians and Chinese in a struggle against the praisers of Henry Kissinger and détente.

In a recent television interview the "father of the maxima" pointed out that the defeat in Chile was due to the fact that the military was not on the side of the working class (conservatively "forgetting" that he supported Allende before the coup). But Castro contrasts this with the "revolutionary" governments of Africa and Latin America on the colonies allegedly are on the side of the workers: "Peaceful coexistence," popular slogans with the "progressive" bourgeoisie, and support for "anti-imperialist" military juntas—this is the logic of Stalinism.

Down with the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba! For unconditional defense of the deformed workers states against imperialist attack! For political revolution to overthrow the parasitic bureaucracies from Moscow and Peking to Havana and Moscow:...