CPUSA CONVENTION PUSHES ‘LEFT-CENTER COALITION’

Detroit—The Communist Party U.S.A. (CPUSA) held its 22nd national convention here Aug. 23-25, charting a course that combined some new-found “left”-sounding formulations with a fundamental political line as class collaborationist as ever.

The Gus Hall leadership made much of the fact that the convention corresponded to the 60th anniversary of the party. But today’s CPUSA has nothing in common with the glorious Communist Party that stood at the head of the U.S. revolutionary movement from 1919 to the 1950s. As the convention itself showed, today’s CPUSA is not a party of revolution, but a party of reformism, chauvinism and support for imperialism, especially Soviet social-imperialism.

Some 450 delegates attended the convention and about 4,000 people came to a much-publicized “People Before Profits” rally at the close of the meeting, featuring revisionist celebrity Angela Davis, who was able to draw a sizable crowd from Detroit’s Black community. In addition to the delegates, 500 observers took part, including a wide array of international revisionists headed by Peter Fedoseyev of the Supreme Soviet.

Party chief Gus Hall was himself hospitalized and unable to attend the convention. His five-hour report, however, was read by Mike Zagarell, associate editor of the Daily World. Its thrust was to show how the CPUSA can develop a cozier relationship with the pro-“detente” wing of the bourgeoisie bloc with the liberal trade union leaders, infiltrate mass reform organizations, and in doing all this, construct their long-sought “anti-monopoly coalition.” In reality, this would simply be another bourgeois electoral grouping, although one in which the revisionists would have major influence.

Of the key positions taken by the revisionists at the convention include the following:

- The “Left-Center Coalition” in the trade union movement. Building this will be the key task of the CPUSA in the next period, according to the convention documents. Explanatory articles in the Daily World reveal that the revisionists define the “left” as trade union insiders like Winpisinger of the IAM who favor nationalization of some industries and have made some noises about a third political party. The “center” are those like Lloyd McBride of the USW, who supposedly is part of “an articulate, more-or-less progressively-inclined center,” and who will “shed right-wing influences” as he gets drawn into the left-center coalition.

What all this boils down to is an excuse to bloc with anyone in the trade union movement short of the most exposed and isolated leaders, in an effort to get positions of power for CPUSA members. At the same time it is an attempt to strengthen Winpisinger, McBride, and others whose role at the “left” and “center” is, for the revisionists, determined by the fact that they support the SALT treaty, arms cuts and more trade with the USSR.

- The national question. It was

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United League president

Women and Revolution

Fight Rape and Racism

By Ellen Blum

If you’re a woman, chances are 1 out of 5 that you’ll be raped sometime in your life.

While other violent crimes are down, the number of rapes is rising—despite the fact that an estimated 40%-50% of rape victims never report the crime. That’s because the same system a march and rally to protest the frame-up. That same evening, over 6,000 women marched to “take back the night.” Participants in both actions carried signs saying, “Oppose rape and racism.”

A member of the Take Back the Night Coalition addressed the Willie Sanders demonstration. Likewise a member of the
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...CPUSA convention...
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in abandoning the struggle for
Afro-American self-determination
that the Gus Hall revisionists first exposed themselves as
traitors to the party's revolutionary
history in the 1950s. The latest
convention continues in this tradition.
A special resolution on the
Afro-American struggle is sprinkled with "left"-sounding
phraseology, even affirming that the
"Black question" is "essentially a
national question," according to the Daily Worker
somewhile the revisionists have
denied for 20 years. But beneath
these superficial changes in terms, the new
position glorifies capitalism and bourgeois
democracy in the same way as before,
arguing that advanced technology has
abated national oppression.

According to the convention materials,
"big advances in technology and the
consequent tremendous growth of the
productive forces" have produced a
"qualitative change" in U.S. society.
"The material conditions which have been used by
tendencies of petty-bourgeois revolutionism, namely,
the "Socialist-Revolutionary" Party. First,
that party, which rejected Marxism, stubbornly refused (or,
obligatory to participate even in a most reactionary
parliament and in a number of other institutions
 licensed in by reactionary laws.

The conclusions that flow from this reasoning is that the
struggle to gain real political power in the hands of the
oppressed nationalities is unnecessary. On
ly a vague, amorphous struggle against the remaining forms of
"nationalism" needs to be conducted.

There are other developments of note in the CPUSA's line,
which will be the topics of future Call articles. In the electoral
arena, for example, while condemning the two-party system,
the revisionists held the door open for some type of support to
a Ted Kennedy candidacy. On
their own internal organization,
it was again admitted that their
party structure is weak and
must be reformed.

On the international scene, the revisionists reiterate their
slavish support for the Soviet
Union and Soviet-backed re-

gimes all over the world, includ-
ing the Vietnamese invasion of
Kampuchea. Support for SALT
"detente" and other forms of
appeasing the USSR is heralded
as the noblest goal of every mass
movement from workers to
women.

The Convention's attack on
China was more frenzied than
ever, calling U.S.-China normal-
ization "the most dangerous de-
velopment on the world scene.
The main political resolution
makes dozens of attacks on
"Marxism" revealing that the re-
visionists are more frightened
than ever of the anti-revisionist
forces in the U.S. and around the
world.

The political line of the re-
visionist party certainly holds
nothing for those who want to
pursue genuine class struggle
actions and fight for socialism
in the U.S. But the CPUSA is a
dangerous force, precisely be-
cause it has the capability to
destroy people with its "commu-

nist" facade, while at the same
time entrenching itself in the
trade union bureaucracy and
joining hands with imperialism
at home and abroad. For this
reason it is necessary to know
this enemy well, to know what is
trope with its politics and to
study the latest developments in
its efforts to sabotage the revolu-
tionary struggle.