Nelson Johnson Uses Gubernatorial Election As Platform To Broadly Propagate Party’s Line

Communist Electoral Tactics

NELSON JOHNSON, member of the Communist Workers Party and folk hero in North Carolina has announced that he is running for governor of North Carolina as a write-in candidate. In his announcement he explained his reasons for deciding to run as a write-in candidate for the CWP.

"We will not promise a reform here or there as a means of easing the suffering of the American People."

"For years the bourgeoisie politicians have used the whole election process as a means of diverting the people. Elections give people the illusion that they have a voice in the government. The capitalists use the elections to spread their lies. But just as they use elections to push their lies we are going to use the election to put out the truth about what the 80's hold for the American people and people around the world.

That what the bourgeoisie politicians hold in store for us is war and fascism. Our only solution is to unite and make socialist revolution. We have to put an end to the suffering that is our birthright under the imperialist system."

The whole purpose of Nelson’s gubernatorial campaign is to put across the lies of the capitalists. To put them on notice that their days are numbered. The election will be used as a platform from which the Party can more broadly put across our line throughout North Carolina and throughout the country. This will shape how the Party carries out the electoral tactics.

The people are tired of empty promises. And empty promises are all the bourgeois politicians can deliver. Can they carry through on their promise to end unemployment? Can they carry through on their promise to end hunger? Can they promise a decent home for every single American? Can they carry through on their promise to end war throughout the world? No way! The capitalist system does not allow it and the bourgeois politicians know it’s a lie. The purpose of N.J.’s gubernatorial campaign will be to put across the program of the CWP, not just the program of the SWP, to the advanced in North Carolina, but to the entire population in North Carolina. Our program will cut through all the lies. Our one promise to the people is that through socialist revolution we can have true democracy and bring about an end to the exploitation and suffering that is ours under capitalism.

Compare this to the way the bourgeois politicians carry out their campaigns. In this year’s presidential campaign there are very few lies left for the bourgeois politicians to mouth. All they can preach is their phony patriotism and debates over who can best balance the budget. There are only shades of differences between them. The attack on Iran by the U.S. government showed this clearly. All the candidates pulled behind Carter in his decision to use military force in Iran and gave him their backing 100%. The whole election process is corrupt. Elections are a sham and are used to keep the bourgeoisie in control. The “Communist” Party, USA, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and other opportunist use elections as a way to “vote in socialism” as part of their peaceful transition to socialism. We want to be clear. The CWP has no faith in the whole election process any more than the people have faith in elections. But elections can be a podium from which we express our views. To ignore this is nothing more than narrow-mindedness and sectarianism. In the Soviet Union under the dictatorship of the Party, the Bolshevik Party skillfully used elections as a means to educate and organize the people. This was summed up in The Bolshevik in The Party Duma:

"But in order that the working class may honourably discharge its role as the leader of the movement of the people, it must be armed with the consciousness of its interests and with a greater degree of organization.

The Duma Tribune is, under the present conditions, one of the best means for enlightening and organizing the broad masses of the proletariat.

It is for this very purpose that we are sending our deputy into the Duma, and we charge him and the whole Social-Democratic fraction of the Fourth Duma to make widely known our demands from the Duma Tribune, and not to play at legislation in the State Duma."

In the very same way we do not intend to "play at legislation". We will not promise a reform here or there as a means of easing the suffering of the American people. The whole economic system is facing collapse. The bourgeoisie cannot afford any more reforms. Their only way out of this crisis is to make us pay through unemployment, rising taxes, world war. We will not lie and make fools of the people. We must overthrow the U.S. government this time. If we don’t what lies ahead for the people is endless suffering.

In the gubernatorial campaign, N.J. will speak to issues that are of concern to people—education, welfare, inflation, the right to work law. But there will be no promises of reforms. All these issues will be taken up in a way to illustrate the single truth—that our future and the future of our children lies in making socialist revolution.

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His ‘Freudian Slip’ A Warning to Carter

Kennedy Cracks Under Party Pressure, Breaks Silence on CWP 5 Murders

Baltimore, Md., May 6. The United Third District Democratic Club planned a roaring welcome for Ted Kennedy as part of the Maryland primary.

While campaigning in Chicago, Kennedy, above, receives a raw egg from the Communist Workers Party.