Detroit—The 22nd National Convention of the Communist Party USA was a suit-and-tie affair. The speeches droned on and on. "Responsibility!!" quoted every crack and cranny of their gathering. All of this was the out-

side expression of the likewise "res-

pectable" (to the bourgeoisie) essence of the
political line of the CP. All this was put on display at their public rallies dur-

ding convention week.

Their political line, for many years

now, has been nothing but useless, or,

when somewhat influential, poison for the

working class in its revolutionary

struggle. But this occasion was some-

what more significant. With the crisis

intensifying and war looming, they

bear their call to go into action. Far from see-

ing the developing situation as one

which will help expose the absolute

bankruptcy of this crisis-ridden system and

strengthen the revolutionary forces,

the CP has come forward begging to be

cut in on the action by helping to make

an unworkable system work and nurse it

along.

They are revisionists. They are "communists" in name only. This makes them particularly dangerous since the name "communist" historically represents revolution—while the CP tries to make it stand for reformism. Also, this time around, the ruling class saw fit to make a bigger deal out of the CP. They let them use the Cobo conven-

tion center. The 1st Republican Party will be using for its 1980 Presidential Convention. For the first time delegations from fellow foreign revisionist parties were allowed to attend, and their convention was given wide coverage, including front-

page news in the Detroit media. Most importantly, while the CP serves the U.S. imperialists through their reformism, they have nothing to do with the real imperialist masters, the Soviet Union.

"Save Dodge Main"

They thought they struck gold when they announced their plan to "Save Dodge Main." It was their reference point throughout their whole public rally at the convention. The example of their overall strategy to "change things" in America. Really, it was a share-exposure of their opportunistic line.

They started out the rally on a mili-

tary note. They talked about the dog-ebat-dog anarchy of the system that broods this over and over again. And just to make clear the CP's role in sin-

gphoning off any revolutionary semi-

tism into dead-end reformism, Angela

Davis boldly announced the goal of one

million signatures to "Save Dodge Main." This is the CP's view of the masses of people's role in all this: a paper pressure group on the powers that be to make sure that they run things better.

"We Want Electoral Power"

While they hope to make a splash to gain support, they have no intention of bit of influence with the ruling class im-

mediately (as with Dodge Main) the CP

are using a long-term strategy.

On the one hand, they seek to gain in-

fluence using mass pressure tactics or-

ganized by "watchdog" committees that

would try to implement a 12-point "people's agenda." This was clearly laid out at their mass rally. At the same time, they put out the line that the

ultimate way to change things is through elections. They push CP candidates as

well as "anyone who represents a viable alternative to this" according to Angela Davis. Their "communists" sound more like the League of Women Voters.

Their model would be something like

the Italian Communist Party (PCI) which has the backs of the working class into positions up near the highest ruling circles of government. They did this by posing as opponents of the system and spokesman of the "welfare of the workers." Once given authority in certain localities, the PCI went about proving how loyal they were to the rul-

ing class by coming down hard on upris-

ings of workers and students, keeping them down. The head of the PCI even sits on the board of directors of Italy's third largest corporation. In the 1980 elections, in all likelihood, the CP hopes to get a start in this direction. Admitted-

ly, they don't expect to win, but pro-

moting a Gus Hall/Angela Davis ticket, they expect to move a little closer.

So this electoral strategy serves two

purposes. Namely, it promotes illusions that "we can peacefully vote in all kinds of progressive changes and even eventu-

ally communism," keeping all the
government apparatuses of the capitalist class intact, that the armed seizure of power by the working class is unnecessary. And secondly, from the self-interest standpoint of the CP, it's a way to tie a piece of the power to ride

over the masses.

Angela Davis

In the '60s and early '70s, with the up-

surge of revolutionary consciousness which characterized the Black liberation struggle, many radical groups saw the anti-war movement, the CP had to adopt a more revolutionary image to at-

tract some of these people. Angela Davis and the struggle to free her, which for a time attracted people with some revolutionary aspirations, gave the CP the image of a kind of pizzazz it needed then and brought some new people into its ranks.

But, it must be said that even in the early 1980s Angela Davis was rotton to the core. For example, she and the CP did not side with of double-crossing, traitor-

ning and back-stabbing to get her the hell out of any kind of association with the PCI and Marin Gaye (SCP) and escape attempt for which she and Russell Magee were standing trial. After all, "She's a CP/SCP Pro-

fessor!!" Respectable people like that thought and couldn't possibly be involved in such "crazed acts of despera-

tion," they argued.

The CP was banking on some Black people still looking at Angela Davis as a symbol of revolution, or at least Black liberation. They played this up for all it's worth in Detroit, making it seem like Davis was going to be the main speaker at the convention itself (the official convention of the CP). Although most of the 500 or so people who came from Detroit (or top of about 1500 others) were there to hear Angela Davis, they were far fewer than the thousands that the CP had predicted. The Conven-

tion Hall had half its seats empty, show-

ing that more people than the CP thought where Angela Davis is really coming from. Davis spoke for a piddly 15 minutes, which angered those who came to hear her.

Despite her slightly more militant

phrase (rather than a suit) she ran the same bread and butter line with a little bit of barbeque sauce added. Even as she spoke, her image dripped with bourgeois ozone. It was clear she felt that Black people wouldn't be interested in hearing anything about anything but the problems of their own nationality, so she talked about how plant shut-downs affect black people. Davis talked about layoffs, "genocide against black people." Despite the nationalist over-

tones, she reduced the whole question of national oppression to economic attacks on the black working class, ignoring any person could have been a chance to be exploited like all the other workers.

It is clear that the CP sees Black peo-

ple as another possible pressure group to add to its chorus of those demanding economic reforms. "Hundreds of thou-

sands of Black people in the streets shout, 'get on your hands and knees. The force they'd have to deal with,'" she said, and "This would force white workers to join in."

In other words, white workers would be forced to get it together without blacks taking the lead. There was nothing from this phony commu-

nist about the CP's "workers" of today's working class oppressed nationali-

ties, or even about multi-national working class struggles. It was all just talk about building unity among minorities, and even that was a "atta boy scratch your back, you scratch mine" level.

Davis gave away who she really saw as the reality of Black people—black bourgeoisie politicians like Andrew Young. "The ruling class says that An-

drew Young and Black people don't have the right to stand up for the Palestinian people, in addition to their support to the image of Young as a Black David standing up against a racist Gol-

Dar.

Towards the end of her rap, Davis shoed the most valuable role that she can play for the CP, showing Soviet social imperialism down the throats of Black people. "There are people, if not or who have confidence," she said.

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... is afraid of rabbits... looks like a rabbit... eats rabbit food... has brain of rabbit... swims better than a rabbit... trips over rabbits...
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**CPUSA**

**War and Peace and Serving Two Masters**

The August 17th issue of the Revolutionary Worker pointed out that the past 25 years in Iran have shown how the Shah failed to bring about the peace the people of Iran have been fighting for. The paper further pointed out that the struggle for peace has been strengthened by the mass uprisings of workers and peasants during the past few months.

The paper went on to say that the Soviet alliance has been a significant factor in the Iranian war and peace situation. It noted that the Soviet alliance has been a major factor in preventing the United States from sending the war to a peace settlement.

The paper concluded by calling for a world revolution to end the war in Iran and to bring about peace.

**Brain-Washing for Peace**

The Revolutionary Worker pointed out that the United States and the Soviet Union are both engaged in a propaganda war to win the hearts and minds of people in Iran.

The paper noted that the United States has been using its influence in the United Nations to pressure Iran to accept a cease-fire. It also noted that the Soviet Union has been using its influence to promote a peace settlement.

The paper pointed out that both the United States and the Soviet Union are using the war as a means to spread their propaganda. It noted that the United States is using the war to promote its own agenda, while the Soviet Union is using the war to promote its own political and economic interests.

The paper concluded by calling for the people of Iran to stand up to the propaganda war and to demand peace and freedom for their country.

**Band-Aids for Cancer**

The October 25th issue of the Revolutionary Worker pointed out that the United States and the Soviet Union are both using the war in Iran as a means to gain influence in the Middle East.

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