

Ohio CPUSA Joins Chorus— “Kill the Commies”

Cleveland. “Maoist thugs went on a rampage here last week assaulting auto workers.”

“In an effort to launch a repeat of a disruption they provoked in the coalfields... a gang of 30 Maoists, members of the Revolutionary Communist Party, blocked parking lot exits.”

The above is just some of the highlights from an article in the press “reporting” on the July 18 incident at the giant Ford Brook Park plant near Cleveland. According to this fairytale, sellers of the *Revolutionary Worker* launched a vicious and unprovoked attack against “workers.” So what else is new? After all, hysterical anti-communism and complete fabrications are to be expected from the press.

Well, this particular article came from the *Daily World*, none other than the newspaper of the “Communist” Party, USA, from whom the unfamiliar reader might not expect this kind of absurd anti-communism.

The facts of the incident, of course, have nothing in common with the slanders. What actually happened was that for some time Ford Motor Co., the Brook Park police and the officials of the UAW local have been frantically trying to stop the growing readership of the *Revolutionary Worker* at the Brook Park plant. After a series of arrests and harassment by the local cops failed to deter the Revolutionary Communist Party from selling at the plant, the reactionaries thought they had found a way to stop sales of the paper. On July 18 the cops were surprisingly absent as about 20 were vigorously selling the *Revolutionary Worker*. All of a sudden two jeep loads of union officials and committeemen appeared expecting an easy mopping up operation as they came at the revolutionaries with pipes, knives, brass knuckles and rocks. Instead these goons found out, as a spokesman for the RCP in Cleveland put it, “the Revolutionary Communist Party, when attacked, defends itself.”

These cowards went to the press whining about how they had been “attacked” by communists. And the so-called “Communist” Party has outdone the Cleveland daily paper in printing every lie and slander of the union hacks. These traitors even quote from a leaflet put out by local union president Thurmond Payne that called communists “dirty scum” and called on backward workers to stop communists and “use every means at your disposal to do exactly that.”

But the CP in this country is shameless in its parroting of the line of the capitalists. Long ago they openly gave up the goal of revolution and have busied themselves since trying to prove to the bourgeoisie that they are loyal, and that they will try to keep the workers bogged down in fighting for petty reforms. So it is not surprising that the CP parrots the same charges as the capitalists against the RCP.

The capitalists have long tried to portray genuine communists as terrorists and as “saboteurs,” people who have no link to the workers and simply want to cause disruption for its own sake. For example, during the many struggles of the coal miners they have gotten particularly hysterical, slandering the RCP and the Miners Committee to Defend the Right to Strike for the role they have played in leading the struggle in the mines. In their ridiculous article on the Brook Park incident, the *Daily World* repeats this charge too, blaming the “Maoists” for the loss of free medical coverage in the latest contract! In the coalfields the CP, which has no influence on the rank and file, busies itself promoting Arnold Miller, who they try to present as a progressive. They claim that the RCP is trying to sabotage the upcoming auto contract by “attacking” the union officials at Brook Park!

CP Joins in Attack on Communists

After the incident at the gates, the officials at the plant used everything they

could to try to whip up the most backward and reactionary workers to attack communists. Again, they found support from the CP. Carl Edelman is known for two things by the workers at Brook Park, 1) being the biggest suck-ass in the factory (see letter from Brook Park worker), and 2) being associated with the “Communist” Party. Right after the incident came down, and the union hacks were trying to whip up an orgy of anti-communist frenzy,

Edelman put a giant sign reading “UNION” over his work area and helped the officials distribute their openly anti-communist leaflet. He went around the plant spreading ridiculous stories (also printed in the *Daily World*) that communists had been running off a leaflet on a company mimeo machine, and that when they were “discovered” they beat up a worker.

But despite all their whimpering, the CP is not really upset by violence. They think it’s fine to promote Thurmond Payne who was accused by underlings of kidnapping a man at gun point for objecting to a salary kickback scheme. Payne was cleared on these charges by the UAW International, but workers at

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Letter from Brook Park Worker: CP Member “Biggest Suck-ass in Plant”

Letter from Brook Park worker to RW

I think that the *Revolutionary Worker* is an inspirational paper for the working man. To find out the truth about the government and how the capitalists are dominating the workers, driving them down into the ground and forcing them to exchange their ability to work for a paycheck.

I think that the incident at Engine Plant 2 was totally an outrage because 1) Ford told communists they could sell the paper outside the gates. Then Ford got the union flunkies to attack them with clubs, pipes and knives. I think it was totally wrong for them to do that but they got what they deserved. The fact of the matter is that they got whipped and aren’t willing to admit it. Our so-called president of the union had the gall to write a death threat to keep the members behind the union by trying to get the union members angry and to try to drive the communists out of the plant. But everyone knows that Thurmond Payne is nothing but a thief, a kidnapper, and is out for no one but himself. Well, his plan failed and no one has driven them out. I guess people are beginning to realize that our union is not what it is cracked up to be. The bad part is that we have to pay for the union. It just isn’t right. But, the thing that upsets me the most is that they will resort to anything to cover their asses. Example: Carl Edelman, a so-called communist, that is the biggest suck ass in the plant. He’s been telling people that real communists were in the foundry and broke in and used their mimeograph machine to write their leaflet, which is bullshit cause they have their own machines. He’s nothing but a punk bullshitter, that’s trying to make a name for himself in the union and make brownie points with Thurmond Payne. Right on, Keep on publishing the paper! I think you should keep the paper in the plant. It really helps workers to get to know about revolution and how to get rid of these capitalists!

Fraternally yours,
a Ford worker

Cleveland

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the plant swear that it is true. In other words, the CP doesn't mind working with any kind of crook, kidnapper or goon, but as soon as revolutionaries dare to defend themselves, they, like the capitalist press, shed crocodile tears for the poor "mistreated" hacks. These scum then had the nerve in an official CP statement, to call on "the Brook Park authorities to prosecute the perpetrators of the attacks on Ford workers [!] to the fullest extent of the law."

Unfortunately for the CP, the union officials and Ford Motor Co., the ridiculous charges and slander aimed at the RCP is not succeeding. The CP, like the capitalists, has nothing but contempt for the rank and file worker—and they must think the

workers are pretty dumb if the CP thinks that anyone will really believe that the RCP was trying to "block the exits" of the Brook Park plant or that Maoists would attack workers with pipes. While a few backward workers are willing to swallow any bullshit from the company and the hacks, most workers are asking what the hell is the story—why are the union officials who never lift a finger in the struggle against the company are all of a sudden running all over the place waging a big campaign against the Revolutionary Communist Party. The *Revolutionary Worker* continues to sell like hotcakes, and workers have put themselves on the line defending RCP members in the plant.

And in the course of this struggle, workers at the Brook Park plant are learning why real revolutionaries have nothing but contempt for the "Communist" Party, USA. ■