

Summary of the National Committee Plenum

(POLITICAL COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF THE RECENT
PLENUM OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE, CPNZ)

In briefly summing up the results of the Plenum the following points emerge. First is the question of leadership down through the Party at all levels. This entails the continued two line struggle to **rectify style of work**, overcome narrowness, arising from subjectivism in study and outlook, from sectarianism in practice and relations with people, and from stereotypism — to break with the old routine habits and writing and speaking to overcome a bookish presentation and narrowness.

We should at all times keep in mind Mao Tsetung's direction, "Practise Marxism and not revisionism; be open and aboveboard, unite and don't split and don't intrigue and conspire."

The plenum was held in the spirit of Mao's direction and with the object of combining leadership with the Party membership and the Party with the class and for specific guidance down through the Party. This was a step forward in combatting bureaucracy and promoting the mass line and practising democratic-centralism.

The Plenum exposed the small group outlook of departmentalism and independence, as a danger to a revolutionary party.

The Plenum called for the whole Party to grasp more firmly the banner of Marxism-Leninism and so use the scientific dialectical method of Marxism as opposed to the subjective or idealist method in study and in working out solutions to practical problems.

The direction arising out of the Plenum was for greater partici-

pation in activity and leadership towards the industrial workers. To more effective use of the "People's Voice" and in all-round consolidation of the "People's Voice" as a weapon of the revolutionary movement, for increased sales and greater contact with the working class. For an increase in agitational and propaganda work, particularly directed to the working class, as a step to widen influence and show the face of the Party, and raise the level of social ist consciousness.

We should break completely with an outlook which sees things so bleakly that nothing can be done in the immediate future and so sit back to await more favourable times. There is a swirling mass of activity all-round. Everywhere people are resisting and condemning the effects of capitalism in its dying imperialist stage at the level that they see it. It ranges from conservation, pollution, abortion, the Maori Land March, the People's Union for protection against the landlord class, union struggles, etc., etc. You name it and you will find some people somewhere who are stepping forward to take up these issues as they see it. The spirit of standing up and fighting back is there. These flood-gates will open wider yet, bringing more people into activity. Our forces are small and it would be incorrect to dissipate our forces or to jump on every bandwagon that may pass by but there is a great deal we can do in the present situation to make contact with people, primarily with working people, to make our presence known and to show the independent face of our Party.

In this respect, our most valuable weapon is the "People's Voice." It is our main organiser, educator and agitator. Without it neither the Party nor activists would be able to develop, to the fullest extent, a week-by-week unified direction of activity closely linked with the struggle of the working class. Yet an objective examination of the situation shows we are not making full use of this weapon, which is and will remain our main link with the working class.

To see the "People's Voice" as our main organiser, educator and agitator, is a correct outlook to ensure the success of our work in building the Party and its press. We could not successfully carry on our work with the "People's Voice" without a high degree of organisation. In fact, it is this correct outlook expressed in organisational work that finally decides the success or otherwise of the "People's Voice" itself. Nor can the Party itself reach the required level without the use of the "People's Voice." From this we learn the truth of Stalin's statement, "Once the political line is set organisation decides everything."

But the "People's Voice" is not only an organiser inside the Party, it is an organiser outside the Party. It organises workers for militant action around day-to-day issues. It organises workers to understand the line of the Party and to differentiate between the line

of reformism and revisionism and to lift the level of consciousness above that of the trade unions and to take political action.

And of course it is through this organising role that it is able to carry through with the important aspect of educational and agitational work.

This is one of the key ways the lead of the Party goes out to the working class. But it is also most important that this lead be based on the realities of the struggle and of the level of development. These realities must be known to the Party and to the leadership. This is why there must be a constant flow of information to the Party leadership through the branches and through worker correspondence. It is not necessary that the facts be sent in the form of articles. Indeed the task of presenting facts in an article often seems so formidable that some people end up sending no facts at all. All that is needed are the facts jotted down in note form or in the shape of confirmed newspaper clippings with brief comment. The task of collecting and analysing these facts, in their overall significance, is the task of the Party Centre. The task of preparing the articles that result from such examination by the leadership is that of the "People's Voice" staff. But there can be no examination of facts without the facts being sent in. This is why it is vital to develop worker correspondence to give an overall factual picture of the New Zealand working class struggle in its development. The development of workers able to discern the vital facts, to sift the chaff from the grain, is also part of the development of political activists.

It can be said quite truthfully, that the "People's Voice" is our most important weapon to build the Party and to prepare the working class to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat.

If we are to expand our work and increase our influence among the working class and not leave matters solely to the advanced section already in contact with the Party, we should see that, in these times of heightened class struggle there are many workers who are capable of advancing or are advancing but who do not know the Party or have wrong ideas about the Party, and who, if contacted, would move toward the Party and would become readers of the "People's Voice", correspondents of the "People's Voice" and better activists in the class struggle. There is no reason why we should restrict our work in a narrow way but every reason why we should be moving out to wider sections of workers. We have this opportunity now, but later it may be more difficult because of harrassment and restrictions by the State forces.

Lack of full appreciation of the vital role of the "People's Voice" still holds up the necessary drive to increase sales, yet readers have responded magnificently to the appeals for finance to keep it on a sound basis. Taking the "People's Voice" for granted, or as just another newspaper or a chore to be carried out week by week, is complacency amounting to liberalism. We should not

be allowed to get off guard as to how the capitalist class see the "People's Voice" as a weapon and a real danger to their privileged position.

Since the formation days of the Party there have been constant attacks on our paper. In the early days it was through the frequent jailing of the editor, printer, and sellers on sedition charges. Then we had the complete destruction of the printery and the banning of the paper by the State forces during the early period of the Second World War. In spite of this attack the Party was able to swing into action and bring out a paper within a matter of days. Later, there was the struggle to re-establish the Party press on an open and legal basis.

Following this there were other attempts by acts of sabotage against the "People's Voice." "Inspired" libel suits against the editor and publisher have been a regular line of attack over the years — and still are.

In the early days of the struggle against the Manson-Bailey group we had the wrecking activities carried out by this group in their attempt to seize control of the paper and the leadership of the Party. There is no doubt that these acts fully met with the approval of the class enemy. When these wreckers attended their last National Committee meeting, their actions were characterised by the meeting of the National Committee as indefensible. Since departing from the Party they have continued their wrecking and splitting attacks against the Party and its paper by producing what they considered would be a rival newspaper and basis for a new Party. However, the political level of these splitters as shown in their "paper" is so low that they can never hope to match the "People's Voice", and after the experience many of their helpers are becoming disillusioned or are turning towards the Party and the "People's Voice" as a source of political guidance.

The above matters relating to the attacks by the class enemy against the Party and its press, although briefly touched on here are part of the history of our Party and reflect the struggle to build its press.

This is of great importance to our whole Party and particularly to the young people in our ranks. How are these young people to understand the Party if they do not understand its history?

How are we to play a leadership role in the working class movement if we do not know the history of the working class? Then we can only rely on spontaneous and subjective ideas picked up at random. This is making every day a day in itself and will get us nowhere.

Another factor which operates against the "People's Voice" in the present circumstances is the continuing inflationary period where costs are continuing to rise. Although not the main issue, because it is objective reality we cannot just shut our eyes to it;

these extra costs have to be met in one way or another. Bearing in mind that the type-setting, printing and editorial work are the main source of costs in producing the paper any additional papers over a certain figure cost relatively less to produce. So the more papers sold help a great deal to bring the costs down. The only other way to meet the present rising costs would be through an increase in the price for the "People's Voice."

In view of the circumstances outlined above we ask every branch and every Party member to give serious attention to the situation of the Party press in the light of its role as a week-by-week lead to the Party and as an organiser, educator and agitator of the class. We must see that attention to the "People's Voice" is the main central task of the whole party. If we are to get those increased sales, the time to act is now.

There are many ways in which we can give support to the problems around the "People's Voice" if we take the all-sided view and do away with the narrow departmental view.

Communist Party Statement to HART Regional Conf.

The following statement was made by a speaker representing the CPNZ to a recent regional conference of HART (Halt All Racist Tours) at Hamilton. — E. "CR".

I WELCOME this opportunity to present the position of the Communist Party of New Zealand on this question.

Everywhere the imperialists and colonialists have gone, and continue to go, they have used the indigenous people as a convenient source of cheap labour. This exploitation includes the most brutal and inhuman legalised racist policies practised in South Africa by the white supremacist government serving the interests of monopoly capitalism.

Everywhere the colonialists have gone they have taken the people's land, destroyed their communal life-style and subjugated them to the moral, political, and social standards of the capitalist ruling class.

While we are here to deal specifically with the question of apartheid in South Africa and the proposed All Black Rugby tour, we must recognise the extent of this oppression and actively support the people wherever they struggle for liberation and independence.