

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT COLLECTION

BOX 14 OF 16

FOLDER 31

CPUSA REPORT CLIPPINGS 1974

Dear Comrades,

This is a report of the 55th Anniversary of the CPUSA and Gus Hall Birthday Celebration held October 12, 1974 in Cleveland, Ohio.

The celebration drew from 150 to 200 persons, with alot of petty bourgeois elements, few youth and many older people. The speeches, which follow, were well-recieved and many of those present took them as the "last word" in the struggle for socialism.

We are distributing this report in the units because we think it shows particularly clearly the line of the CPUSA, how they distort and disarm Marxism while talking Marxist phrases out of the other corner of their mouth. Comrades should study and discuss this report, particularly with the aim of understanding and being able to deal withthe CPUSA.

Comradely, the Area Committee

Opening remarks were made and James Steele, a Negro about 30 year old, was intorduced as a candidate for state senator for Ohio on a Peoples Program for Change (CPUSA). He said there is a new birth of aware-ness, a new level of understanding on the part of people.

He said his campaign and the '74 elections parallel what happened back in 1774. He said in 1774 the American people began to break away from the ideology of the British ruling class, and the king. He said what happened in 1774 was decisive in building the revolut-ionary movement which won our independence from Britain. "IF is possible for the people to organize and declard their independence from monopoly in two years," he said. (what follows are further quotes from his speech.

"Contrast our view of tasks faced by the people of Ohio with what is being put forth by the Democrats and the Republicans. Nelson Rokerfeller and his family haven't worked in over a hundred years, but they are gifted in counting money. They loaned money to certain individuals, as they put it, "to meet pressing human needs." The amount loaned was around \$200,000,000. They should be told that human beings have pressing needs that will require placing your oil holdings under their protection.

Glenn's answer to problems of inflation is a broad smile. Ralph Perk put forth the same solution. He promised no taxes and now he is proposing tax increases. He says Watergate is no problem but it has been one for the past two years as everyone knows. James Rhodes had a chicken dinner from which he made \$150,000. The League (refers tothe Young Worker's Liberation League, the youth arm of the CPUSA) had a chicken dinner and they made \$100. They must be reaching people without money.

Mr. Ford is an articulate mimic of Nixon. He is a liar and a racist. He should be arrested for inciting people to riot in Boston. He has issued a carte blanche to facists and racists. Mayor Perk is also inciting racism. Mentions Collinwood school incidents, where there has been a child shot dead. Steele says Perk should be arrested. He mentions the lies, corruption and demogogy of Perk and Glenn.

"This is the strategy of the ruling class at this particular moment. They are on pins and needles for fear of what the working class, blacks, brown, red and white will do. These were the tactics

used by Wilkie. They are the tactics used by Stassen and Wallace in order to cloud the issue, in order to confuse. I have been meeting men and women young and old who have serious problems. They are wondering whether we will have world War III, what the future of the country will be.

There has been a beacon. That beacon has been the Communist Party. Lenin said the American working class is a sleeping giant and that American monopoly would cringe in fear when that sleeping giant awakens. 62% of the people said "NO" to the programs of the Democratic and Republican Parties. The people have to find the way away from policies of the monopolies, against racism, inflation, huge military spending. They are looking for something new. Something which inspires confidence. We must reach the greatest numbers of people, the widest listening audiences.

Inflation--the Pentagon and military consume over \$100 billion yearly. We will always have inflation of the economy and deflation of democracy at home.

Brought up a 10 year plan to solve problem of employment
Roll prices back to pre-Watergate era, to 1960 when Nixon first took office.

It is not enough for councilmen to get upset about increases by Ohio Bell (regarding proposed 33% increase in rates). At this serious moment in history, it is not enough that Richard Nixon limps around his 17 million dollar complex. Let him limp in a jail cell. We should bring that crook to justice.

Senate bill H.R. 1400 would return us to McCarthyism. You can count on John Glenn to smile at it, wink at it. Anyone who could go to outer space and come back a millionaire should be returned to outer space.

We should demand that Congress roll back prices. We should tax big business out of business. We have come too far in Ohio for those sort of representatives (Glenn, Perk, etc.) to go one step further.

This is what we really have to do. There is no other way but to take the situation in our own hands. (!) Nov. 5, when you go to the polls, sign my name. Make that day your July 4, your declaration of independence, saying that you want freedom from the most corrupt, utterly debased ruling class that ever contaminated history. The future of your generation, your children's generation and their children's generation starts now.

(end of Steele's speech)

Gus Hall is introduced as being a native son of Ohio who led many working class struggles here. It is pointed out that Ruthenberg, the first chairman of the Communist Party of the US was also from Ohio. Speaker says "Imagine a congress and senate composed of people like James Steele..." Information regarding a school the CPUSA is setting up (10 week school on marxism-leninism) is given out. "In Australia and New Zealand the name Gus Hall is widely known. His books are eagerly sought and widely read. There is respect and esteem for Gus Hall throughout the world. The workers around the world esteem Gus Hall. Gus Hall has had a history as organizer of steel worker's unions. He organized the little Steel Strike. He came to political maturity in Ohio. He has justly earned the reputation as a theoretician and practitioner in the struggles of the working class. Today is his birthday: Happy birthday Gus! (all sing Happy Birthday, and contributions are collected) "Inflation has hit us real hard. Ford said, 'the way to fight inflation is for the people to get rid of all that extra money they have.'" The working class under socialism will establish rules which outlaw inflation. There is no inflation in socialist countries. We are asking for

contributions but save a little for carfare.

\$200 from an old steelworker

\$250-to strike a blow against racism!

\$10 from Kent

\$340 from Southeast club

\$100 from a couple of friends

\$150 from West side Clubs

\$65 from Akron

\$245 Lorraine steelworkers

\$75 from friends from Southeast

\$160 from Cincinnati Club--they came along way in driving rain

\$60 more from Akron

\$25 from the east side

The speaker now asked for \$25 contributions from the audience. None received. Then he asked for \$10 contributions. None received. Then \$1 contributions. He received about 20. Then he asked for change, and received some. The speaker then introduced Gus Hall as the General Secretary of the CPUSA.

"I must explain this shirt I am wearing. I didn't notice it had flaps on the shoulders. They must be the influence of Castro. (audience laughs).

In California where we had a rally we did things a little differently. The people paid \$12.50 for their tickets. Then we took up a collection 1,000 people attended. The collection was \$12,400. You don't do it quite that way in Ohio yet, but you will!

"The communist Party is now 55 years of age. I will give some of the background which explains why men and women got together to organize the Communist Party. The first General Secretary of the party was an Ohioan, Charles Ruthenberg. We finally decided to organize this kind of a party. Radicalism was not new. It goes back over a hundred years. During these struggles the various organizations accumulated experience. Based on that experience, they came to the conclusion that they must have a Communist Party. They had tried everything. You have probably heard about communes in Ohio. Of the radical movement and their throwing of bombs. The working class went through the experience of anarchism. Then they went through the period of electoral socialism. They had the idea they could vote socialism into power. There was also the idea of one big union. There would be a general strike and everything stops. They were faced with many difficult problems, and great pressure by the class enemies. There was much racism. They said everybody was oppressed instead of seeing the special nature of oppression. They made the error of ignoring the working class. They tried to bypass the working class. There were many people's movements and people's struggles. There was the idea you didn't need a disciplined party. These were some of the things that the radical movement went through before the party was born. They tried every possible petty bourgeois radical type of thing that didn't work. What we need is a party that puts it all together, a revolutionary party based on the working class. A party that has a science that puts it all together.

"Ours is a party that sees the class struggle, the irreconcilable class struggle. A party that makes a correct estimate of the working class. The working class is the progressive revolutionary force. It is the only class that can lead the struggle. The black people are a specially oppressed group. It is not enough to struggle for reforms. We must have fundamental change. We must lead the struggle for socialism. Our party is not only 55 years old but it is the stable organization of the left. It is the only organization that continues to grow. It attracts the most youth. All of the left organizations are in a new crisis. Every single one has split once or twice. They

are built on a fundamentally opportunistic basis. They by-pass the working class and the struggle against racism. Our party continues to grow and develop. The others are opportunists and con artists, which shows they are hiding something from the people. Our party is in good shape. We have principled positions. We are not con artists. Opportunism and the science of Marxism-Leninism are incompatible. We understand that momentarily you will not advance fast. Opportunism will fool some people.

"I feel I have a special right to speak about the problems of the country. I received 100 times the number of votes than Ford received. That is myself and Jarvis. Life has lived up to the predictions and warnings of that campaign. In it we said that Nixon's full measure of reactionariness would emerge. We said that that what had surfaced was only a splatter around the dunghill of capitalist U.S., that his control would be the most racist in history.

"All racist reactionary forces have moved into Boston. They are trying to use Boston as a break-through.

Life has proven our party is so correct. We are in a period of economic crisis. We are in a crisis of over-production and inflation. It is an over-production crisis that doesn't press down prices. It will last for some time and continue to get deeper. The decline of real wages will continue. The government claims that there is nearly 6% unemployment. This doesn't include the millions of people who have given up looking for work. The real amount of unemployed is much higher. We are facing some perplexing questions. It is not an easy crisis to resolve.

Some years ago I was arrested, tried and convicted and sent to Leavenworth prison. I was classified as a most dangerous criminal. I was put in a maximum security cell-block with the bank robbers. I used to argue with the bank robbers that that is not the way to do it. I want to add just one word-to the banks-"People"s banks. I said, "why did you pick the banks?" they said, "That's where it's at!"

"Cosmetic solutions are no solutions. You have to go to the monopolies and banks. The programs coming from Washington propose a redistribution of poverty. The recent summit conference in Washington was a confidence game on the highest level. Ford's message followed the same lead. He proposed to put a 300 billion dollar limit on the budget and cut social services which would affect the poorest people. He proposed a surtax of 5% on those couples with combined income over \$15,000 and on single people making over \$7500. He proposed a 2½ billion dollar tax on corporations and is giving back more than this in measures to aid the corporations. We should be optimistic. There is something good coming out of it. There is a fertilizer shortage. It will resolve that. Economic problems they will not solve!

"There is an unwritten law on how they approach problems. Make all the proposals you want to but under no circumstances, don't even hint at cutting corporate profits. If we are going to solve anything we will have to go where it's at. Two questions are central: corporate profits and the 100 billion dollar war budget. They talk absolute nonsense. George Meany was there at the summit conference. He said, "Mr. President, I saw workers driving over 55 miles an hour." Not to talk about these two causes of inflation is the same as speaking about causes of death and not mentioning heart attack and cancer. Inflation is the major weapon to reduce real wages. Inflation is a source of super-profits. In 1974 inflation will add about \$40 billion to the corporation's profits. Real wages will decline by 6 to 10%. Farmers and consumers face the same squeeze. Profits on the farm decreased 7½%, Retail profits increased 15%. Two years ago prices were skyrocketing and wages were frozen. They are going to freeze wages again! It is a see-saw pattern which will continue. That is a bi-

partisan poli... The Wall street Journal states that inflation can be controlled by decreasing the supply of dollars, wage cuts and increasing the supply of goods, which means speed-up. For corporations that would be very pleasant. Some time ago recessions were accompanied by booms in other countries. Now all of the capitalist countries are suffering from stagnation and declining production. The whole capitalist world suffers from phlebitis. We are witnessing a propaganda hurricane. They have a sense of hysteria.

There is a bright light at the end of the tunnel of imperialism. There is a restructuring of Africa into an anti-imperialist Africa! This frightens them! The oil producing countries are destroying western civilization as we have known it! So what? They say oil producing countries are responsible for inflation. It is possible military efforts will be attempted against them. The oil countries get 25% of the profits and 75% goes to the US oil corporations! That is where it is at! They received a 200% increase in their profits (the US Corporations)! When they sell to the oil producing countries it is the reverse. The US pays farmers not to produce. The Rockefellers don't want to accept the fact that colonialism is dead. The price increases of the oil producing countries are just undoing injustices of 100 years.

"Impress on your mind, where is the trouble? For each human being the GNP is \$5,000 in developed countries; in developing countries it is \$280. This will be a fitting inscription on the gravestone of imperialism when we finally lay it down to rest! The Rockefellers take 3 billion dollars a year from inflated profits. They want to blame everyone else but the real thieves.

"If we could get to the excess fat, we could cut off what big business gets in subsidies which is 80 billion dollars plus special tax privileges, which is 100 billion dollars and trim 130 billion dollars from the military budget. By taking this fat off we would have the sum of 300, 400 or 500 billion dollars to use for jobs, schools, etc.! Excess fat! That's where it's at! That is where the roots of inflation is! Roll back prices! Roll up wages! Take the profits out of racism! It is a profit-creating oppression and exploitation.

"They say inflation is world-wide! It is not world-wide! It only affects capitalist countries. Prices have not increased in the Soviet Union for 21 years. Wages go up every year. We are used to gas meters, water meters, parking meters. In the Soviet Union, everyone pays one ruble a month for gas. They use as much as they want! The future of civilization is in socialism

"The downfall of Nixon exposed many interesting sides of capitalism. It was like rules of the underworld. If you get caught don't expose the operation! Take the rap! It is still a real cover-up. They said get rid of Nixon and the wounds would be healed. The pus would still be there. It is like saying clean-up the drug problem by getting rid of the pushers.

"The Rockefellers and big business wrote out the contract for defeating Allende. The left groups were on CIA payrolls. Not all strikes are strikes. Not all demonstrations are demonstrations. Get rid of Nixon and you get a Ford. The role of the corporations, Rockefeller, etc. is still the same. Every public official in NY was on a secret corporate payroll! Kissinger was on Rockefeller's payroll all the time! We must understand this sense of corruption. Judges, columnists were on Rockefeller's payroll! It is monopoly capitalism! This is the nature of the beast! That is the system! How do you get from where it is at? Organize an independent people's movement. Organize militant people's power, Black, Chicano, etc.

"The two party system, Capitalism, perpetuates itself by holding the power in the two hands and passing it from one hand to the other. What is needed is the people's political independence, a new people's coalition, a new mass party, a new political party in this country.

That is the only way to put an end to this see-saw thing that takes place.

"Steele raised the basic questions. Get the people to think in new terms, in a new way! The problem is how to get the program to the millions. Steele's candidacy offers an opportunity it is important not to miss. It is a blow against racism. I speak as an experienced candidate. It is not his campaign, it is ours. If we want to show appreciation for his hard work, pitch in to get out the vote.

"I extend an invitation to join our party. Look around you at a smiling face, which may belong to one of our members. Get a card from them. Fill out the card and join our party. There will be two films: The 50th Anniversary of the Soviet Union and the World Youth Festival held in the German Democratic Republic."

CPUSA leaders open mass drive for detente

By TIM WHEELER

NEW YORK, July 4—The central committee of the Communist Party USA, meeting here recently, launched a drive for a united front movement in support of U.S.-Soviet detente.

For the U.S., the question of detente has emerged at the very center of a basic crossroads struggle that affects every phase of our lives," declared Gus Hall, general secretary of the CPUSA, in his opening report to the conference.

Hall drew a standing ovation from the CP leaders, who filled the meeting room as he urged a struggle to defeat Sen. Henry Jackson, AFL-CIO president George Meany and others who seek to plunge the nation back into cold war repression.

The fundamental issue

"The struggle," said Hall, "is over the fundamental question of whether the U.S. should continue along the cold-war path of frontal aggression . . . should continue to gear the economy to a war orientation . . . should continue . . . trying to blockade the socialist countries, and in a fundamental sense whether the U.S. should continue along the path of nuclear brinkmanship."

"While the trend towards detente is irreversible, the basic decision in the U.S. has not yet been made," he said, citing a split in the ruling class, with the most reactionary warlike elements of big business out to torpedo U.S.-Soviet trade and disarmament agreements.

Warns of leadership gap

Hall warned of a "leadership vacuum" across the entire front of battle against monopoly rule. He noted strong mass support for detente coupled with anger at President Nixon's \$100 billion military budget, and Nixon's schemes for a first-strike nuclear strategy, yet with few exceptions, he said, the anti-war movement has not pressed for trade and detente and has been passive in the face of war provocations in Washington.

Massive anger is rising against the cost of living coupled with corporation profiteering, Hall

said, but the struggle for a rollback in prices has been sporadic at best.

Similarly, he noted, there is no nationwide movement against Nixon's attacks on decades of civil rights gains in the struggle for racial equality.

And while support is growing for Nixon's impeachment, there is no real organized movement to force Congress to remove Nixon and order new elections, he pointed out.

"The moment demands the filling of this vacuum," he said. "This is a challenge to the vanguard role of our party. We must strike the sparks. This fulfillment of our responsibilities must begin with concrete initiatives, united front initiatives, for movements and actions."

Recruitment drive

Henry Winston, chairman of the CPUSA, in a report on party organization singled out the recruitment to the party of shop workers in basic industry as the key to implementing this anti-monopoly united front movement.

"The primary approach has to be in the factories, the mills and the mines," he said. "When the workers in steel, auto, electrical, longshore and rubber move, they can change America."

He proposed a party recruiting drive over a period of four months, with special recruitment pamphlets coupled with efforts to reach the people through newspaper, television and radio interviews and talk shows.

He urged greater efforts to place the party on the ballot for this fall's elections.

United front examples

Discussion of the united front tactic came to the fore repeatedly during the meeting.

Ell Scott, a Black auto worker, told the gathering that a united front approach was the key to his victory in a four-year struggle for rank and file democracy at a GM assembly plant in Tarrytown, N.Y.

Facing down physical attacks, redbaiting, firings and arrest by Tarrytown police, Scott went on to be elected shop steward of the plant, opening the way for a resurgence of rank and file struggle.

He described the meetings of the United Auto Workers local attended by 90 rank and file members, at which workers were free to raise any issue on their mind.

From these rap sessions, he said, a rank and file program has emerged supported by workers throughout the shop. It is this approach, he declared, which laid the basis for a united front in the shop.

Similarly, Jim Steele, a CP candidate for the Senate in Ohio, told the conference that he was using his candidacy to promote a united front in Ohio. He said the aim is to develop a program that reflects the demands of his constituency.

The meeting here took place in an atmosphere of jubilation sparked by the party's resurgence in basic industry across the nation. However, a stunned silence fell over the throng as Kendra Alexander announced that Mrs. Martin Luther King, Sr., the mother of the martyred Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., had been assassinated in Atlanta. A letter of sympathy was sent to the King family in Atlanta on behalf of the central committee, signed by Winston and Hall.

Reports by members of the central committee from across the country revealed the deep involvement of the party in the struggle for peace and against fascism and repression.

Raleigh march

Charlene Mitchell and Angela Davis urged support for the July 4 march in Raleigh, N.C., against racist and political repression. Applause greeted mention of the broad support by organized labor and the churches for this action.

Carolyn Black, of the Anti-Imperialist Committee for Solidarity with Africa, reported on the drive to collect 1 million signatures on a petition urging South Africa's expulsion from the UN.

Ishmael Flory, chairman of the Illinois CP, reported that anti-imperialism was the hallmark of the sixth Pan African Congress in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, held earlier this month, which he attended along with 200 fraternal U.S. delegates.

From
"Lefty" P.