

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 16 OF 16

FOLDER 4

COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY
AKRON OHIO

East Akron Voice

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 4

JUNE 1975

A community newsletter must reach-out into the community, speak to its needs wants, wishes and desires. It must be a communication network which absorbs every fibre of the community's being, its thoughts and ideas which will act as a catalyst to move the whole community FORWARD.

LABOR DONATED



OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON U-NITY

TO THE EAST AKRON RESIDENTS:

I, Willie Horton, have been elected as the President of the East Akron Neighborhood Council, of the East Akron CAC. On June 9, 1975, along with several members, I met with the staff of our center. The meeting was to be one of exchanging ideas and setting up priorities for our community.

Many good things came from the meeting. We all understand what the expectations will be from both sides. One of the best suggestions was a weekly meeting to check on progress made by the staff and by the council. This will give us a chance to keep in close contact with whats going on and allow us to change any plans within the week.

(continued on the next page)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE EAST AKRON NEIGHBORHOOD CAC:

On June 3, 1975, the East Akron Neighborhood Council of CAC had its election of officers. I personally felt good because it means a new Unity and Togetherness for the East Akron CAC Center. The combined effort that went into the election of officers, especially under a strenous situation, should be praised and is a positive move for the whole East Akron community.

Now that we have built a good sturdy foundation for the neighborhood council, LET US JOIN HANDS TOGETHER, to consolidate the

needs and desires of the WHOLE community. We've got to put together our ideas to help solve the common problems that we all face. (continued on the next page)

TO THE EAST AKRON RESIDENTS(cont'd)

I asked the staff and council to come up with new ideas for helping and improving our community! Now I appeal to you, the community, to come up with ideas and suggestions, to become active and involved in our community, to make it a better place for all of us.

THE COUNCIL MEETS EVERY FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY, AND ALL RESIDENTS OF EAST AKRON ARE WELCOME.

Any suggestions will be considered by the council and they can be left at the CAC office, 369 South Arlington. I want to Thank the staff and council for their cooperation in getting us started on the right foot.

NOW, LET'S WORK TOGETHER AND MOVE FORWARD--OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON U-nity!!!

MESSAGE(cont'd)

This Summer we will be planning and enjoying the outdoors life, with trips to Cedar Point, Seaworld and many other educational spots. For more information and the dates, CALL 535-2240.

JOIN HANDS EAST AKRON--LET US BUILD OUR FORCES AND COME TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE!!

Wilson S. Lawrence
Director, EANCAC

note

THE IDEAS IN THIS NEWSLETTER DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE IDEAS OR BELIEFS OF C.A.C. AND ITS PROGRAMS. CERTAIN ARTICLES WHICH MIGHT SEEM "CONTROVERSIAL" WERE PRINTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE EDITOR WHO IS IN NO WAY EMPLOYED BY C.A.C OR ANY OF ITS AFFILIATES OTHER THAN VOLUNTEER SERVICES. THE MATERIAL FOR THIS NEWSLETTER WAS SELECTED AND PRINTED ON THE BASIS OF ITS INFORMATIVE CONTENT, WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL AID THE COMMUNITY RESIDENTS IN MANY WAYS!! THIS PAPER WAS PUT TOGETHER TO REALLY LET YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AND WE WANT YOU TO FEEL THAT THIS NEWSLETTER BELONGS TO THE EAST AKRON COMMUNITY, WITH WHOM ITS INTEREST MUST LIE.

SINCERELY,
JERI LOVE
EDITOR, EAST AKRON VOICE

SOULS RE-ORIENTED

We have a new neighbor in our community who we MUST welcome with open arms!! SRO (Souls Re-Oriented) is a community service program that is here to deal with one of the most destructive vices in our community, and in particular amongst our youth- DRUG ABUSE.

Mrs. Joan Bell, the director, started SRO in her private home in 1970 because she was concerned about the use of drugs in her neighborhood. The existing agencies were not being used and there were a lot of OD's(overdoses) so she wanted to start some type of service where drug abusers could get help. Until 1972, SRO's staff was all volunteers, and the monies used were donated.

Funded now under Summit County, the staff of SRO consists of caseworkers, counselors, and youth advisors who are skillfully trained in dealing with drug abuse. They have been through several training sessions both in and out of state. Constant re-education is stressed because of the need for always developing new ideas and techniques to fight drug abuse. They offer: 1 to 1 counseling, educational programs and materials for the community on drug abuse, group counseling, crisis intervention and follow-up treatment.

The new SRO building is located at 367 South Arlington(corner of 4th Avenue). It is larger than the previous building on E. Market, and more spacious. It is also within walking distance for most of the youth they want to reach. The development of a Human Resource Center, which will include medical facilities, is in the near future plans for SRO. The medical services will offer mass screening for Sickle Cell Anemia, Diabetes and Lead Poisoning for children and adults. They will also offer pregnancy and VD testing with follow-up counseling.

This is indeed an asset to our community because there have never before been previous services of this kind. We must support SRO, and thank them for trying to do an important and desperately needed job of dealing with drug abuse.

COMMUNITY NEWS

PAGE 3

THE MINICLASSES:

Project Trend of the Akron Public Schools and the East Akron CAC have just successfully completed their six week programs. The classes offered were: Crocheting and Knitting, Budgeting, Buying and Nutrition, Learning more about Math, and Sewing for the Family.

The Crocheting and Knitting course was taught by Molly Neal. The class learned to make a chain stitch, slip stitch and how to make a change purse. The Budgeting, Buying and Nutrition class was taught by Maxine Winters. The class learned the proper way to care for wigs, and they learned new skin care techniques with every day cooking aids. Tips on furniture shopping, how to make old wigs look like new and a speaker from the East Ohio gas company gave tips on grocery shopping by showing slides. One of the most important

things learned was how to prepare meals for less than \$1.50/person that were both tasty and nutritious. Learning more about math was taught by Jeri Love. We did not have the adults attending the classes as we had hoped, but the dedication of the students that attended and the sincerity of the teacher made it a worthwhile experience for all who participated. Sewing for the family was taught by Mrs. Elsie Lindsey at EACH. The student interest was extremely high, but there wasn't enough time to complete the garments that were started. People made pant suits, dresses, short sets, skirts, kaftans and blouses. We were fortunate to have young men making themselves suits.

We'd like to thank all of the people who participated, and a special thanks to our teachers who made it possible. We feel that the success of this program has made it possible for us to have another one in the fall. Let us know what you would like to see in terms of programs--WE'RE HERE TO HELP AND SERVE YOU!!

MRS. C. BENSON
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER - EACAC

SUMMER SWIMMING

The "Learn to Swim" program applications are now appearing in the Beacon Journal. This is a six week program for adults and children. Take time out this summer and "get in the swim". We have an opportunity to cut out the unnecessary drownings by learning the correct way to swim. I am a qualified Red Cross instructor, and I will be teaching part of the summer classes. The program begins on JULY 7th. Also, if you're interested in sewing classes this summer, contact me at the East Akron Center.

MRS. ELSIE LINDSEY
INTAKE COORDINATOR - EACAC

WELFARE RIGHTS INFORMATION

The Ohio State House of Representatives has passed an \$11.25 raise for each person on A.D.C. Some of our state representatives are pushing for more. Write your state representative and let him know how you feel. There is a definite need for more money so that every child in this state is adequately provided for. We are still meeting at the CAC office- if you'd like to get involved with the Welfare Rights Organization contact Mrs. Juanita Page - 535-2240.

FOOD STAMPS

According to the Akron Beacon Journal, Akron residents who have any questions about the federal food stamp program can call any time of the day to get answers. The hotline 1-800-2821190, is staffed from 8:00am to 5pm (toll free) Monday through Friday. At other times, a telephone answering device will record the caller's name, address and telephone number. The staff will return the call or send written information as soon as possible.

here we are...EDITORIALJeri Love
editor

The East Akron Voice would like to apologize to the residents of this community. It was our intention to do a special issue on the school levy, presenting both sides in order for people to get a clear understanding of what the issues were so that they could vote accordingly. Due to a limited amount of time needed to do the necessary objective research, the EAV was unable to publish that special issue. The school levy passed 2 - 1, however the issues which were the sparks that fanned the flames of the opposition are still at hand and must be dealt with by every person in our community and in this city who is concerned about quality education for ALL children. The main base of the opposition was that the school board was not responsive to the needs or desires of the community. We feel that the primary aspect - the one that affects each and every one of us, black and white, is the struggle to integrate the Akron schools. Integration of our schools is important for two main reasons: it lays the base for raising the level of the quality of education for black children in particular, and it will also mean an end to segregation which is important in building real solid unity amongst all people. The divisions in our ranks have made "black people fight for black people's rights and white people fight for white people's rights" and consequently nobody is getting anywhere. We have seen though, that when there is a united fight- "a thousand voices in unison makes a thunderous chorus"- things get done. Because it is easy to pit one section of people against another to stop any kind of progressive motion, one of the major breakthroughs that we can make is to desegregate. But we cannot wage this fight in isolation from all the other problems that we are facing today: the fight for busing and against discrimination must be linked up with the fight for jobs, the fight against war in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, the fight against deportations of all undocumented workers and the fight against the Klan. These are common problems that we must begin to wage a concrete struggle around, for in their solution lies the basis for making this country what it is supposed to be. Some organizations in the Akron area are beginning to get involved in the fight for integration of the Akron schools. The EAV salutes the National NAACP, the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and Save Our Siblings(SOS) for taking an uncompromising position on this important battlefield. We urge the residents of our community to take an active part in this fight because the future of ALL of our children is at stake. People wishing to contact or get involved with SOS and the NAACP: SOS c/o Shirley Brown, Coordinator 613 Vinita Akron, 44320 Ed Parms-PRES. NAACP c/o Humanity House 475 W. Market Akron, 44303 James Turner-PRES.



We must break our chains
or live in vain
in hunger and poverty...
we must stand up and fight
for our human rights
our salvation is in UNITY.

We must stand our grounds
United and STRONG
to save our communities;
we must fight for jobs
quality education for all
we must demand equality.
From our churches to our shops
we must shout
and answer the beckoning call:
UNITED - we can't be stopped
until we reach the top-
Freedom and Justice for ALL!

Why Are Jobs Leaving Akron?

22,000 of our jobs have been moved out of Akron since 1950. Why? On one level, we all understand what's going on: in the South there are lower wages and taxes, weaker and fewer unions, less political freedom for the workers. While, for example, Akron Goodyear workers average \$5.80 an hour, Tennessee rubber workers average \$3.89, Virginia \$4.16, and Mississippi \$3.90. Taxes average \$460 per capita on manufacturers in the USNA (United States of North America) as a whole, but only \$272 in Alabama and \$302 in Tennessee. In the South only 13.1% of the workers are in unions as compared to 31.8% in the rest of the country and every Southern state has a right-to-work law (no union shop).

But WHY is all this true? Is it because people in the South are lazy, stupid, or always willing to just take what comes along? Hell, no. Let's look at history. Centuries of slavery in the South obliterated all African tribal distinctions and created one stable people: the Negro people. Following the Civil War, during the period of rising capitalism, a nation was formed in the South. The general area of the Negro Nation is the "Black Belt" and the surrounding areas historically and economically connected to it.

What is a nation? It is a historically evolved, stable community of people, formed on the basis of a common language, common territory, common economic life, and common psychological make-up manifested in a common culture.

But while the Negro People are the base of the nation, nations are not made up of only one color. All people--Negro, Anglo (white), and Native American--who live within the borders of the Negro Nation are an equal part of it. Don't they speak a common language, have a common territory, economic life, and to a large degree a common culture, (For example, food and a common resistance to Northern, "Yankee" domination)? Yes, they do. And many rubberworkers know, first hand, that it is not only Negroes, but "whites" as well, who suffer colonial super-exploitation in the Negro Nation. Fifty percent more "whites" in the South than in the North make less than \$6,000 a year. 24% of all people in the Negro Nation live below the "poverty line" (35% in Mississippi) compared to only 10% in the North. The average payment for Aid to Dependent Children is \$96 a month in the Negro Nation, but \$233 in the North.

Isn't it clear that these conditions can only mean that the Negro Nation is a colony of USNA imperialism and that this is the real reason that the greedy, blood-sucking, capitalists find it so profitable to move out of town?

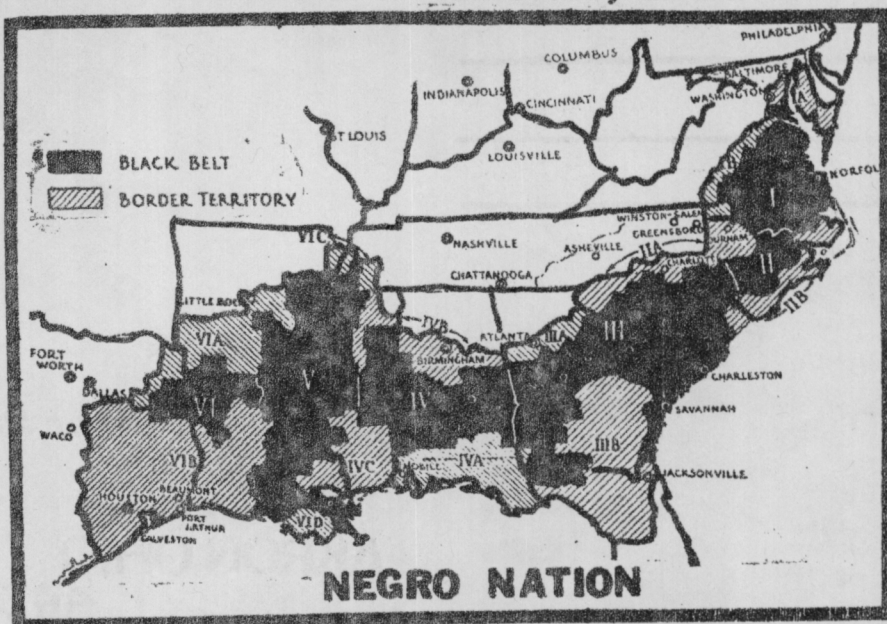
Where else do these conditions exist except in other imperialist colonies and neo-colonies such as Puerto Rico, Chile, and the Phillipines?

Fellow workers, there won't be a single damn job left in Akron for our children and grand-children if we don't start to struggle for higher wages, more political freedom and full unionization of the South, if we don't struggle to free the Negro Nation. This is no moral question along the lines of "Gee, it sure is terrible what goes on in the South." It is a matter of life and death for us.

Fight for your Job!

Free the Negro Nation!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A FREE SAMPLE COPY OF OUR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER, THE PEOPLES' TRIBUNE, WRITE:



Communist Labor Party PO BOX 1411 AKRON, OHIO 44309

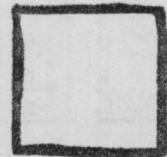
PHONE: 434-5918

TURN OVER PLEASE



YOUR COMMENTS

FOLD HERE AND MAIL IN!!



Communist Labor Party
PO BOX 1411
AKRON, OHIO
44309

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD — UNITE!



BROTHER'S AND SISTER'S:

During the period between 1969-1971 a coordinated Black Student Movement raged across the city of Detroit. The Black Student United Front (BSUF) the youth arm of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers (LRBW) was active in almost every high school, and college campus in the city and had contacts all over the country. The program was "straight-up black nationalism" fighting for things beneficial only to Black people, i.e. "Black studies, community control and self-determination" and we supported the Black worker's struggles in the plants. Our line was a combination of "Black unity" on the one hand and smitherings of Marxists-Leninist "rhetoric" on the other, urging people to study Marxism-Leninism as the theory of "Black revolution." Many people rejected Marx and Lenin because they were "white" and instead turned to interpretations such as Kwame Nkrumah and A.K. Cabral, avowed Marxists and Africans. The BSUF also fell into that trap. The results of this narrowness was the futility of our struggle: We had allowed the bourgeoisie to use us; we weren't a threat to their stability, we were a guarantee! As long as we were isolated from the white student movement, and as long as the LRBW was isolated from the white worker's movement and fighting amongst ourselves we could do no harm to the bourgeoisie and they could continue their reign of terror at the expense of us--the working class.

After ten years of bitter nationalist struggle, the Negro people are worse off than they've ever been before. With war on the horizon, inflation eating away our pockets, and our democratic rights being snatched away daily, our only alternative is a UNITED working class struggle for Communism!

Today many of the brothers and sisters who were in the BSUF and LRBW are in the Communist Labor Party of the United States of North America (CLP). The CLP is a MULTINATIONAL WORKING CLASS PARTY, composed of men and women, black, white, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Asian and native Americans with some comrades having 25-50 years service in the Communist movement. Why the change?

It was not overnight! It took years of struggle, determination and RE-EDUCATION to learn that you CAN'T be a communist if you keep the class divided!

Karl Marx pointed out in the Communist Manifesto (p. 47, Pk ed)

"The communists are distinguished from other working-class parties by this ONLY: 1) In the national struggles of the proletarians of the different countries, they point out and bring to the front the common interests of the ENTIRE PROLETARIAT INDEPENDENT OF ALL NATIONALITY; 2) In the various stages of development which the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie has to pass through, THEY ALWAYS AND EVERYWHERE REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE." (our emphasis)

It became clear to us that the struggle for the liberation of the working class must be a struggle for the freedom of the WHOLE class, and not just one section of it. We DO understand the differences between sections of the working class, and the privileges on the one hand, and the oppression on the other that has arisen. We understand that the Anglo-American proletariat allowed the enslavement of the Negro people, and benefited from the exploitation of the Negro Nation (historically evolved, stable community of people, formed on the basis of a common language, common territory, common economic life, and common psychological make up manifested in a common culture. Negro people are the basis of the nation, but nations ARE NOT made up of only one color--all people, Negro, Anglo (white) and native Americans living within that border are an equal part of it. The general area of the Negro Nation is the "Black Belt" and surrounding areas historically and economically connected to it--it is a COLONY of USNA imperialism.). But we have only two choices: Fascism (as an example what is happening to Joan Little in the Negro Nation--a 20 year old Negro woman who killed an Anglo guard who attempted to rape her. She is now up for first degree murder. The CLP is supporting her fight for freedom) or Communism--which means united with Anglo, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Asian and native American workers for our common cause; Fascism means an early death for national minorities, Communism means freedom for our class.

We are not struggling for abstract unity, but unity around the following program which is one of the KEYS which will unite our class in defense of national minorities, and in turn benefit the whole class because an attack on one of us is an attack on ALL!

1. A JOB FOR EVERY WORKER AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MILITARY BUDGET
2. SUPPORT BUSING--END SEGREGATION OF THE SCHOOLS. ALL EDUCATION FINANCED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON A PER STUDENT BASIS
3. SMASH THE KU KLUX KLAN, THE NAZI PARTY, AND OTHER FASCIST GANGS
4. END ALL DEPORTATIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS
5. NO USNA MILITARY INTERVENTION IN S.E. ASIA OR THE MIDDLE EAST
6. NATIONALIZE THE ENERGY INDUSTRIES

History has shown us that only a united working class, armed with the science of Marxism-Leninism, guided by a true revolutionary Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, can be VICTORIOUS!

**Communist Labor Party of the United States
Of North America (C.L.P.U.S.N.A.)**

In Akron: 434-5318

YOUR COMMENTS:

FOLD OVER AND MAIL IT IN!

**Communist Labor Party
P.O. BOX 1141
Akron, Ohio 44309**

OPPOSE INTERVENTION IN CAMBODIA

FELLOW WORKERS--

We have just received word of the attack by the U.S. military on three Cambodian gunboats. While all the facts are very unclear, it is VERY CLEAR THAT THIS IS A MOVE TOWARDS RENEWED WAR, WHICH IS IN NO WAY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS.

We remember very well the so-called attacks on the U.S. destroyers Maddox and Turner Joy in 1964 which led to the sinking of North Vietnamese PT boats and the subsequent slaughter of millions of workers, including thousands of our sons and brothers. It later turned out that this incident was virtually a complete fabrication. WE CANNOT LET THIS HAPPEN AGAIN!

We know that the government has lied and must continue to lie. They didn't tell the truth about Vietnam or Watergate and they aren't telling it now. The bourgeoisie is trying to force us to die for them again in an attempt to get out of their capitalist over-production crisis. They are trying to take our minds off poor schools, no jobs, the rise of the Klan, runaway shops, etc. by whipping up a national hysteria for war.

The biggest problem we face in fighting the capitalists is that we are divided in our own ranks, especially white VS black. In order to unite our class and stop the drive toward war and fascism we must unite around:

1. AN END TO SEGREGATION IN THE SCHOOLS--FIGHT FOR BUSING!
2. SMASH THE KLAN!
3. A JOB FOR EVERY ABLE-BODIED WORKER!
4. AN END TO DEPORTATIONS!
5. UNIONIZE THE SOUTH TO KEEP JOBS IN AKRON!

We are in a VERY SERIOUS SITUATION. We must fight FOR jobs and against war in every church, school and union. If we do not, long unemployment lines will surely become bloody front lines.

**Communist Labor Party of the United States
Of North America (C.L.P.U.S.N.A.)**

PO BOX 1141

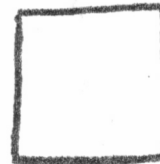
AKRON, OHIO 44309

PHONE: 434-5318

Jobs NOT War!

YOUR COMMENTS:

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East Akron Voice

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3

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Labor donated

FIGHT FOR BUSING!

STOP THE KLAN !!

The Ku Klux Klan is on the rise again! From Illinois to West Virginia to Louisiana they are openly waging their hate campaigns. We have seen them around Akron too. Dale Reusch of Lodi is running for U.S. President on the Klan ticket and Klan official David Duke recently spoke at Akron U.

While the Klan focuses its attacks on the Negro people, it should be clearly understood that they have always been anti - Catholic, anti - Jew, anti - labor and anti - union. They are the vicious enemy of ALL working people. The Klan has always been one of the main forces in the South that has prevented unionization and kept existing unions weak. Thus the struggle to raise wages in the South which in turn will keep rubber shops from leaving Akron for cheap labor.

continued on the next page.

IN MY OPINION...

We as Americans say that this is a land of opportunity where even the "poorest of poor" can become president. But we know that this is just another myth. We still create animosity, distrust and jealousy amongst ourselves instead of trying to help and support one another. Some still cling on to the illusion of "black power, togeterness and we shall overcome," while others cling to the "white reaction or backlash". How can we overcome, any of us, if we tear down ourselves everyday??

The news media has swayed, manipulated and even destroyed our sense of judgement. It covers-up the REALITY of what's going on with bits and pieces of truth. When people on the top in this country have had problems they have dealt with them...HOW? By covering up, destroying and walking the thin line between criminal laws and punishment. And they've gotten away with it! Have we not

continued on the next page

note*

This newsletter is a SPECIAL ISSUE which is primarily composed of letters recieved by the editor on issues which effect all of us! We would like to do something like this every month, because we want to know, and we want others to know what you're thinking about. The next issue will have FOOD CO-OP news, as well as "MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR", and "STAFF NEWS AND VIEWS", as well as other information.

Send your letters, responses, and any other information to: EAST AKRON VOICE
369 S. Arlington Akron, Ohio 44306

FIGHT FOR BUSING(cont'd)

Why is the Klan on the move at this particular time with war on the horizon and massive unemployment here at home? It is because the powerful people who control this country know that their very survival depends on us fighting against each other, especially white vs. black! The Klan has been meeting with the Nazi Party, George Wallace's campaign staff, the Minutemen and other right-wing forces to plan their strategy against busing. They are against busing for the same reasons we should be for it. It will mean an end to segregation of the schools and integration brings the potential for real, solid UNITY. It means one step away from the ghetto for black children, instead of the way it is now: most school money goes to rich kids schools and very little to the schools where we send our kids. This is especially hard on black people and other national minorities, but it seriously affects the children of white workers, too. Let's put an end to this inequality, an end to the divisions between us. **LET'S FIGHT FOR BUSING AND AGAINST THE KLAN!!**

- a concerned community member

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SINCERELY,
JERI LOVE
EDITOR, EAST AKRON VOICE

IN MY OPINION (cont'd)

seen this in one of the greatest manipulation tactics of all times - WATERGATE?!?

What we need is STRONG UNITED ACTION - in our communities, in our schools, our places of work, and even in our churches. Because whether we realize it or not, we DO have a problem! Unemployment, lack of Welfare rights, loss of some of our democratic rights (like the right to vote for our president), and discrimination is EVERYBODY'S problem, whether it affects us directly or not. And we've

got to do something about it NOW!!! Haven't we learned from years of depreivation that the only voice that is heard, the only group that is recognized, and the only group that can get something done, is one that is held together by unity that benefits all of the people?!? And a consistent struggle is our only hope for our children, and our children's children!

There are a lot of people that are trying to do a good job out in our community. If we are going to condemn them for what we think is wrong then why not compliment them when we think they are right. BUT WHEN THEY ARE WRONG WE'VE GOT TO GET BEHIND THEM AND GIVE THEM A KICK TO GET BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

In our community the CAC has tried to do a lot, but it lacks our support. It has the funds and access to the facilities that can begin to implement some of the programs that would speak to our needs - day care, welfare rights organizations, food co-op, etc. But there are other problems that CAC will never deal with unless we are taking the lead of motion and we are behind them pushing them forward. They are here to help the community and we can help them also. Don Ellis, who is the head of CAC, and Wilson Lawrence, who is the director of the East Akron CAC are both here to help us. Being a part of the bureaucratic system their hands are tied, however, with community support we can untie their hands.

I am not a member of CAC's staff, but I am a long - time resident of the East Akron community. I'd like to make it a better place to live in for all people.

Vincent Benson
director of W.H.I.P.

A LETTER FROM A CASEWORKER

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

If you are currently receiving Welfare or if you will soon be forced to because of unemployment or lay - off with no SUB, it is important that you understand the REAL roots of all our problems. The Federal and State governments blatantly lie to the public, using the media as their tool: You are told that YOU are the cause of inflation, unemployment, poverty... You are told that because workers demand higher wages, the price of basic necessities rise... You are laid - off your job because your employer tells you "we can't afford to keep you on the payroll, because we are losing money"... You are told that businesses' profits are decreasing. You are again and again demeaned by the people who try to get around paying unemployment compensation. You are forced to apply for welfare and then are questioned whether or not you are "deserving".

ISN'T IT CLEAR THAT WORKERS NEED A COST OF LIVING INCREASE OR WAGE INCREASE TO KEEP UP WITH SPIRALING INFLATION? DIDN'T PEOPLE GET LAYED OFF FROM WORK BECAUSE THERE WERE TOO MANY CARS, TOO MANY TIRES... The price of sugar skyrocketed not because there was a shortage, but because there was too much stockpiled in warehouses. And to top it off, last year Exxon (oil company) reported to the Senate Committee that its profits had risen 300%!!! So we're taking the blame for "too much, too many" due to unplanned production - overproduction! - on the one hand, and massive profits by the companies on the other, while we suffer.

YOU ARE NOT THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM, BUT A VICTIM OF IT AND THEREFORE PART OF THE SOLUTION!!

As a caseworker I must daily deal with the injustices of the Welfare system. It is disgusting that a person is expected to live on \$110.00 a month, maximum! It's no wonder that caseworkers avoid their clients, because it is a very difficult thing to say "I'm sorry, but our welfare department isn't equipped to help you find a place to live, or that we don't have any more money for you, etc." But when you and your family are hungry, and you don't have a place to live, "I'm sorry" isn't good enough!

The client typically relates to the agency through his/her caseworker. There are many, many, things that the caseworker has no control over, simply because Welfare is bureaucratic inefficiency. Welfare is swiftly becoming a legal way to establish repressive state control (fascism) under the guise of reform.

ORGANIZED WELFARE RECIPIENTS, are a constant reminder of the need for change. Poor people haven't doomed themselves to poverty - our system has, unless we FIGHT BACK!!

The present Welfare system is indicative of the exploitation that forces people to apply for it. If you find yourself in a situation where the only alternative to starvation is Public Welfare, then by all means DO IT!! Make sure that your caseworker knows all of your needs, discuss your problems, and VOICE YOUR DEMANDS.

Caseworker
SUMMIT COUNTY WELFARE DEPT.

W.H.I.P.

WORKERS HELP INCENTIVE & PRIDE

Saturday, April 26, 1975, a bake sale was sponsored by W.H.I.P. It proved to be a total success!! The cakes, pies and cookies were all very delicious. W.H.I.P. would like to thank all that donated baked goods, and to all that purchased baked goods a special THANKS to you!!! Because of the great success of the bake sale we will cheerfully be able to give a \$5.00 certificate to Joyce McGee for the best suggestion of the month. THANK YOU JOYCE!

If you have a constructive suggestion for improvement in the East Akron area, for the benefit of all the people, please send it to: W.H.I.P. c/o C.A.C., 369 S. Arlington Akron, Ohio 44306.

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO APPEAR
IN THE NEXT EAST AKRON VOICE IS
MAY 14th!

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL is the "governing body" of the local CAC centers. It is through this council that activities and plans for the community are supposed to be channeled. But the Council needs to know what you want! A strong neighborhood council means an active CAC which will mean programs, facilities, etc., which will benefit US, the East Akron residents.

ANY RESIDENT OF EAST AKRON IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP!

The meetings are the first and third Tuesdays, 7:30p.m. at the East Akron CAC office-369 S. Arlington, corner of 4th Ave. This is election month! There are a few people who feel that they know what East Akron needs and wants. COME OUT and VOTE on may 20th for the people you feel will fight for you.

SOULS REORIENTED

We have a new neighbor! Souls Reoriented will soon be moving to 367 S. Arlington. This program was designed to provide counseling and help, as well as education for the community on drug abuse. SRO has moved closer to the community to make itself more accessible to the youth(ages 15 - 21) it serves. All the staff is trained in and out of state and are constantly being re-educated in techniques to fight against drug abuse. For more information or help, call 535-7888 from 9 - 9; 535-5181 which is the 24 hour line. A more indepth report will appear in the next EAV.

Time is getting short, if you want your children to participate in "Friendly Town". Get your application immediately from Mrs. Elsie Lindsay, at the CAC office-call 535-2240. Also, for information on N.Y.C. summer jobs for youth, stop by the CAC office.

PARENTS!!!

We have something to offer you FREE! Project Trend of the Akron Public Schools in cooperation with CAC's East Akron Neighborhood Center invites you and your family to attend any or all of the following miniclasses. These classes will be held once a week for 6 weeks. HURRY, THE CLASSES HAVE ALREADY STARTED!

The classes are:

Crocheting and Knitting which meets at the CAC office Wednesday's from 4 - 6 p.m.
Sewing meets at the East Akron Community House, Monday's from 5 - 7p.m.
Math for Parents meets Mondays from 4 - 6p.m. at the CAC office.

Hopefully, we will soon be able to start a Budget, Buying and Nutrition class. For more information, call 535-2240.

To register please fill out the bottom coupon and return it to MRS. C. BENSON at the CAC center.

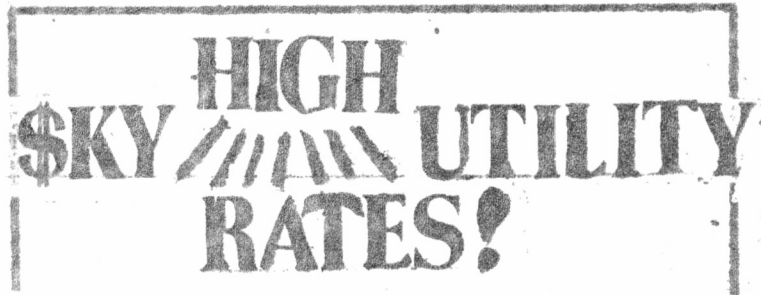
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

1st CHOICE _____

2nd CHOICE _____



TIRED OF BEING RIPPED OFF???

Find out why your utility rates are REALLY going up and how to stop them!!!

COME TO A PUBLIC MEETING:

WHEN? Thursday, May 8, 1975

WHERE? City Council Chambers(Municipal Bldg., 166 S. High St.)

TIME? 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

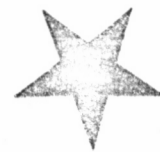
IT WILL BE A PUBLIC MEETING FOLLOWED BY AN OPEN DISCUSSION.

TOGETHER WE CAN ROLL BACK THE RATES!!!! Join with CITIZENS FOR LOWER UTILITY RATES-

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL- 762-4419



Closer To It



BOX 553 AKRON, OHIO 44309

Dear Comrades,

This letter is to explain why the staff of Closer To It, a "revolutionary" newspaper in the Akron-Canton area of Ohio, has decided to suspend publication indefinitely. We are speaking only for ourselves.

LET NO ACTIVE WORKER TAKE OFFENSE AT THESE FRANK REMARKS, FOR AS FAR AS INSUFFICIENT TRAINING IS CONCERNED, I APPLY THEM FIRST AND FOREMOST TO MYSELF. I USED TO WORK IN A CIRCLE THAT SET ITSELF VERY WIDE, ALL-EMBRACING TASKS: AND ALL OF US, MEMBERS OF THAT CIRCLE, SUFFERED PAINFULLY, ACUTELY FROM THE REALIZATION THAT WE WERE PROVING OURSELVES TO BE AMATEURS AT A MOMENT IN HISTORY WHEN WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAY, PARAPHRASING A WELL-KNOWN EPIGRAM: "GIVE US AN ORGANIZATION OF REVOLUTIONARIES AND WE SHALL OVERTURN RUSSIA!" AND THE MORE I RECALL THE BURNING SENSE OF SHAME I EXPERIENCED, THE MORE BITTER ARE MY FEELINGS TOWARDS THOSE PSEUDO SOCIAL-DEMOCRATS WHOSE TEACHINGS "BRING DISGRACE ON THE CALLING OF A REVOLUTIONARY," WHO FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THAT OUR TASK IS NOT TO CHAMPION THE DEGRADING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY TO THE LEVEL OF AN AMATEUR, BUT TO RAISE THE AMATEURS TO THE LEVEL OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES. (LENIN, WHAT IS TO BE DONE?, FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS: PEKING, 1970, p. 156.)

* * * * *

We feel that we, too, have been rank amateurs, as evidenced by the content of our newspaper.

In issue number 1 we had a cover story on a union recognition struggle at a small plastics plant where one of our comrades was working. What were the mistakes? First, it was a small insignificant plant and there was nothing particularly important about the struggle in terms of lessons for the class. Therefore it is very questionable that we should have printed ANYTHING and certainly not put this forward as the main thing we had to say. We tailed the masses in their desire to have an independent union free from the control of international hacks. In other words, two errors: We saw the issue as freedom from control instead of the issue of control by whom (which class). This is the idealism and individualism of the petty-bourgeois. We committed the classic syndicalist error of trying to form an isolated "honest" union instead of organizing the workers into URW where they would have been at least minimally connected to thousands of workers in the same industry. Of course we could only have won over the workers to this position by boldly putting forward the reason for such a line--part of a strategy for seizing state power. This was not done.

In issue No. 2 we had an article on the 12,000 jobs at BF Goodrich that have been taken out of Akron since 1947. We put forward the line that those jobs should stay in Akron, period. That's it. We didn't talk about why wages are higher in Akron than in Tennessee or Kenya (superprofits, imperialism, bribery) and that it is correct to oppose jobs leaving town but only if we raise demands concerning the liberation of the colonies and all workers. To just oppose runaway shops in an isolated manner is blatant national chauvinism (Fuck those niggers in Mississippi! I just want to keep my job!) and as communists, proletarian internationalists, this was and is impermissible. Further, we put forward the idea that the way to fight runaway shops is by militant trade union actions. We gave the example of the sugar workers in Hawaii. While we certainly do not oppose militant trade unionist actions (forcing jobs and other concessions from the company and getting such things in contracts) that is not the way to really fight runaway shops and can never be that successful. The only way to fight runaway shops is to destroy imperialism and liberate the colonies and dependent countries--overthrow the rule of capital. We didn't even bring up these ideas.

Then in issue 3 we decided to really get down and put out our ideas up front with a big centerfold article on what a great thing communism is. Well, we tried. Two pages on communism without ever mentioning what Marxism-Leninism is and what its role is or even talking about the dictatorship of the proletariat. We based our line mainly (as we always did) on getting people to relate to communism on the basis of what great places to live China, Korea, etc. are. As one comrade from another organization put it, we were like used car salesmen selling a bourgeois commodity. While it is very important to use our very fortunate historical situation--1 billion people liberated from the rule of capital--to the maximum propaganda advantage, the PRIMARY aspect of winning people over to communism must be Marxist-Leninist education. Otherwise where would you be if China went revisionist. (Mao Tse-tung has often pointed out that at this stage of history it has not yet been finally decided who will win out in China--capitalism or socialism.) We must educate workers about the inevitable motion of history and how we can accelerate it.

We subtly refined the CPUSA's line of "Communism is 20th Century Americanism," to "Want to realize the American dream? Let's go communist!" This stemmed from aiming our propaganda at middle and backward elements and not at advanced workers. Is there a significant number of advanced workers in the United States of North America (USNA)? Workers who are definitely interested in overthrowing the rule of capital, even if these thoughts are only--at this time--very crudely formulated in their minds? Workers who would READILY become communists if only someone would put forward communism to them in a disciplined, systematic manner? Our experience has been that this is indeed true. Fortunately, we did not always make the same errors in some areas of mass work that we made in the paper and have attracted a small number of advanced workers. And our discussions with people around the country has further shown to us that the ability of communist groupings (and of course the coming party) to recruit advanced workers is directly related to the degree to which they correctly put forward Marxism-Leninism both in the course of mass struggle and in general in analyzing the local, national, and international situation.

We realize now that Closer To It was bowing to spontaneity and putting out a generally bankrupt political line (in so far as a line could be discerned) and most importantly that it did little or nothing in helping to accomplish our central task--the building of a multi-national anti-revisionist communist party.

We were not making communists out of workers or out of ourselves, we were not participating in the party-building movement or drawing others into it. We were just trucking right along putting out an interesting, clever newspaper which objectively was anti-communist and directed at middle and backward elements. Mao Tse-tung described us perfectly in *Combat Liberalism*: "To work half-heartedly without a definite plan or direction; to work perfunctorily and muddle along-- So long as one remains a monk, one goes on tolling the bell." We believe that any communist who does not firmly grasp the central task and direct the bulk of his efforts towards accomplishing it is not a communist--he is a monk.

But why did we make these mistakes? Was it because of a lack of practice? No. Most of us have had a great deal of "practice" and experience in struggle (up to 20 years). In school, the workplace, the military and afterwards in veterans movements. Prison work. Anti-war. Political trials. And on and on. No, this is not the problem.

Are we isolated from the masses? No. We all work in large-scale production, through various comrades we have close ties with a broad base in the working class and have always gotten a lot of feedback regarding the paper from the class.

Well then, why don't we get anywhere, develop correct ideas, embrace the central task with all our experience and contact with the masses?

Because we do not have a proletarian (i.e. communist, Marxist-Leninist) understanding of the world we are unable to correctly proceed in making the USNA into a dictatorship of the proletariat. What do the great Marxist-Leninists have to say on this subject .

"Chairman Mao teaches us that the 'correctness or incorrectness of line decides everything.'" (TENTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY , FLP, Peking, 1973, p. 17.)

"The role of a vanguard fighter can only be fulfilled by a party that is guided by the most advanced theory!" (LENIN, WHAT IS TO BE DONE? p. 29.)

"Socialism, since it has become a science, demands that it be treated as such, i.e., that it be studied." (ENGELS)

Compare this to the line of the October League/Guardian cabal as expressed by Irwin Silber on page 9 of the July 17, 1974 issue of the Guardian: "Winning the confidence of the masses is not the result of announcing oneself as a communist or EVEN OF ADVANCING THE "CORRECT" POLITICAL LINE." (Emphasis added.)

Or, in direct opposition to Stalin, who taught us that socialist ideology develops independently of the spontaneous movement and in fact in spite of it, we have the line of the Revolutionary Union which holds that correct line does develop out of involvement in the spontaneous struggle. We can certainly see that they are serious in this regard: Their cadre we know spend little or no time studying and are seldom able to express a coherent Marxist-Leninist view of the role of communists, the situation in Ethiopia, or anything else.

So, to eliminate the material basis for our mistakes, we have recently embarked on a program of serious study of Marxism-Leninism-Mao-Tse-tung Thought. But what is our role in party building? The motion of the entire group is towards the Continuations Committee for a Congress to Form a Multi-National Marxist-Leninist Communist Party and the upcoming Congress this fall. Some of us have already decided that this is the correct path; others are at different stages of checking things out. Let us explain this in terms of the history of our relationship to the Communist League (CL).

Most of us had never heard of the CL until very recently (which we feel reflects the fact that the "movement" press refused to mention the CL until they thought their survival demanded it). A few of us used to get People's Tribune (the national CL newspaper) in the mail and immediately threw it away. Terrible layout. Too much theory--what worker would want to read it? The fact was of course that we ourselves did not really want to deal with theory.

Groups like OL and RU have been pushing the idea that CL was engaging in no practice, spent all their time isolated from the masses, and was all around just a bunch of crazies. A couple of months ago we decided that we should get a line on party-building ourselves, so we began to study the positions of OL, RU, and CL. Whereas the documents of other groups were shallow, superficial, and easy even for us to poke holes in, those of the Communist League were very thorough, dialectical, and backed up by Marxism-Leninism. While we are still struggling to develop a coherent line on the national question, we do agree that the CL press is the only "movement" literature from which we have learned anything about how the world actually works.

It was about this time that we realized that our newspaper wasn't doing anything to accomplish our central task. We received some very scientific criticism from a comrade in the Continuations Committee concerning Closer To It which helped us reach our decision. And when we finally did some investigation of the Communist League we were surprised to learn that these other "revolutionary" groups had been lying. They told us that CL was divorced from practice. But why didn't they tell us about CL's role in the 1973 Detroit Forge wildcat, in housing struggles in Brooklyn ghettos, in high school walkouts in Los Angeles and hundreds of other things we are only beginning to find out about, like the going-door-to-door-as-an-open-communist method of mass work which these other groups are afraid to do?

We already knew that groups like RU and OL are composed of mostly white ex-students which may be why they didn't want us to know about the existence of a national organization composed primarily of Black and Latin workers (the Communist League). Another slander was that CL will do anything to build their organization, but we have found that in fact they are not at all interested in bringing a given person into CL until that person thoroughly understands what that means in theory and practice. Compare this to such events as a person we know being recruited into the RU merely by happening to find herself in a room full of people where the question was asked "Now who wants to join RU?" Is this any way to build a Leninist party of iron discipline?

Also, why is People's Tribune the only newspaper of a national organization which has all its articles translated into Spanish, or as is sometimes the case, into English? The RU national paper, Revolution, sometimes has a small section in Spanish and OL's the Call always has a few pages. The Spanish articles in these papers are usually about the struggles of Spanish-speaking people and almost never are theoretical articles translated. Who are these national chauvinists, these white chauvinists, to decide that Spanish-speaking people want to read only about UFW or Bolivia and that they should not be allowed any role in ideological struggle? In other words, RU and OL are saying Spanish-speaking people must work only for "their own" liberation and not that of the multinational working class. This shows their unity with reactionary cultural nationalism and simultaneously with the CPUSA.

We would like to re-emphasize that we are speaking only for ourselves and not for CL or the Continuations Committee, organizations none of us belong to at the present time. We urge you to check things out for yourself and act on it. Don't trust someone's paraphrasing of Lenin, CL, or anything else. Go to the source. We realize we have not laid out a position on questions such as fascism, national question, trade unions and many others. We certainly don't want to avoid these questions, it is simply a question of time and priorities.

We would like very much to hear from you get your response to what we have laid out or on anything else.

BUILD A MULTI-NATIONAL ANTI-REVISIONIST COMMUNIST PARTY!

In struggle--
The Closer To It Staff
July 23, 1974