

CP Heads in N. Y. Back Big Business Candidates

Openly Oppose Independent Socialist Votes

By Herman Chauka

A policy statement on the New York elections by Ben Davis and George Blake Charney, co-chairmen of the New York State Communist Party was published in the Worker Nov. 3. It aligns the Communist Party with the cold-war, red-baiting union bureaucrats of the Liberal Party in support of Tammany's candidate, Mayor Wagner. The main fire of the statement is directed against the Socialist Workers Party whose candidates campaigned vigorously to popularize the need for a labor party and a labor administration and to spread the message of socialism.

UNITED DRIVE

Davis and Charney are spokesmen for the Foster and Gates wing of the CP leadership. Their statement represents a united effort by the CP tops to throttle an apparently growing rank-and-file opposition to the party's "coalition" line of supporting capitalist candidates endorsed by the labor bureaucracy. (The statement takes issue with "the argument for abstention in our ranks," that is, with the attitude of those who saw no real choice between Wagner and Christenberry.) At the same time the statement is a malicious attack on independent radicals who supported the Socialist Workers ticket in this election.

After dismissing the Socialist Labor Party as an electoral choice because of its hopeless sectarianism, the CP statement says: "The situation with respect to the SWP is somewhat different. We must take into account the position of a number of socialist-minded individuals including the editors of the National Guardian that the SWP provides the only socialist alternative in the elections, and thus merits our support."

The statement then presents a falsified version of SWP views on "peaceful co-existence," on the "anti-monopoly coalition" and on the ruling bureaucracy in the Soviet Union. (See answer to the CP's satisfactions on this page.) This purported "analysis" of the SWP program concludes with a scurrilous Stalin-type smear: "A vote for the SWP is a vote that objectively gives some measure of support to counter-revolutions. Some good progressives do not take this sufficiently into account."

After presenting the SWP and those who supported its ticket as abetting "counter-revolutions," Davis and Charney announce the

13,915 VOTES



JOYCE COWLEY, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York Mayor polled 13,915 votes by unofficial count. In 1953 the SWP Mayoralty vote was under 4,000.

Communist Party's support to Wagner. True, Wagner's anti-labor record has created such a stench that the statement of support is couched in a hypocritical way.

WHAT IT ADDS UP TO

Christenberry, we are informed, is the main enemy. To abstain or vote for the SLP is bad; to vote for the SWP far worse; Wagner's administration has "accomplishments which we do not desire to minimize," and a big vote on the Liberal Party line would be progressive. But, the statement coyly adds, "We neither endorse or take responsibility for any candidate or party in this Mayoralty election." The authors safely assume that anyone of voting age will be able to deduce from all this that the Communist Party favors a vote for Wagner on the Liberal Party line.

A major justification offered by Charney and Davis for supporting Wagner is that Christenberry "is a candidate of the Daily News crowd and the McCarthyite element in New York." Overlooked is the fact that on Oct. 30 the Daily News endorsed not Christenberry but Wagner. And the News was not

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"Buy Less" -- Eisenhower's Answer on Rocketing Prices

Will Nikita Khrushchev Become Another Stalin?

By George Lavan

NOV. 6 — After being kept in the dark for a week, the Soviet people were finally informed by the Kremlin of the fate of the second most powerful figure among their rulers, former Defense Minister Zhukov. At the bidding of Khrushchev he had been expelled not only from the Communist Party's Presidium, the committee at the very pinnacle of power in the USSR, but also from the CP Central Committee.

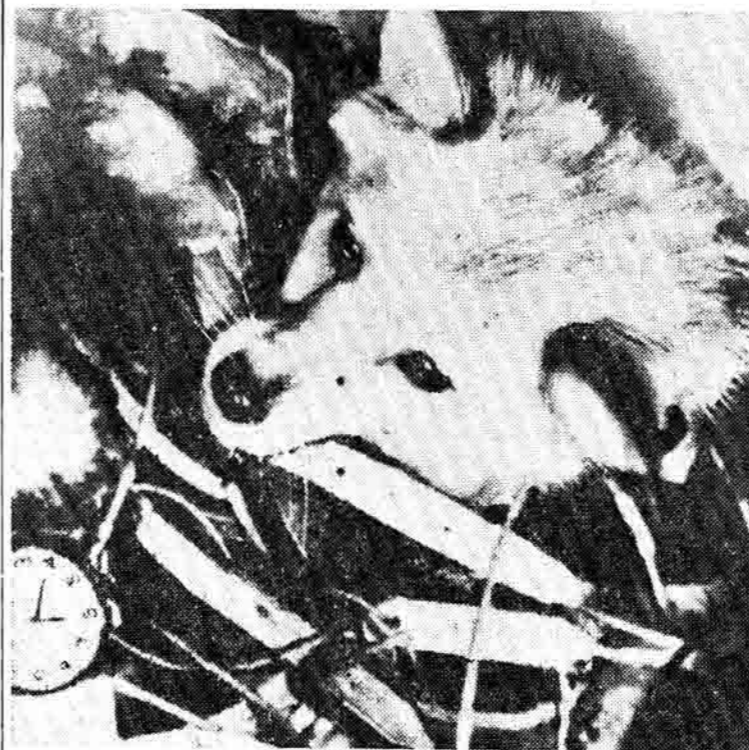
This action was voted unanimously by the 133-member Central Committee which is the upper crust of the whole bureaucracy and in which there are numerous generals and admirals. Zhukov was himself a member and not only voted for his own expulsion but made a speech confessing his "errors" and thanking the committee for making them clear to him. The only mitigation of sentence that Zhukov's capitulation brought was that he was not expelled from the party itself. It is expected that shortly rank-and-file party

ANTI-ZHUKOV CAMPAIGN

The propaganda campaign against the former Defense Minister has reached new heights. Meetings to undermine Zhukov's position, which prior to the Central Committee's action had been held only in the armed forces, have now spread to all party units in the USSR. Thousands of telegrams from such meetings "unanimously" endorsing Zhukov's ouster are pouring into Moscow. Khrushchev is employing dozens of the most important generals and admirals to make public condemnations of his vanquished opponent on political, personal and military grounds.

The denigration of Zhukov as a military figure went furthest in a re-writing of the history of the military campaigns of World War II by Marshal Ivan S. Konev. Printed in full in Pravda, this lengthy article belittles Zhukov's record at the battles of Stalingrad and Berlin, couples him with Stalin in responsibility for the USSR's defeats at the beginning of the war, and portrays him as a conceited and unscrupulous glory-seeker.

A Husky in Space



A Husky-type dog, like the one in Sputnik II, in a rocket 130 miles above the earth. It was not harmed by the state of "dynamic weightlessness" it occupied aloft for six minutes, according to the Russian navy newspaper, Soviet Fleet.

5 Million Unemployed Forecast for 1958

Conservative business spokesmen are almost unanimous in their predictions that 1958 will be a year of "recession" with at least five million unemployed.

At the fifth annual Conference on the Economic Outlook held Nov. 5 at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, professor Daniel B. Suits said that unemployment will increase by two million in primary metals and some fabricated metal products. In New York, state unemployment insurance claims are up 51,000 over last year. Jobless aircraft

Callously Tells People To Resign Themselves to Lower Living Standards

By Fred Halstead

President Eisenhower has strongly implied that the government expects the American workers to cut their standard of living in the coming period. He was asked at his Oct. 30 press conference,

how best the "American consumer . . . particularly in the field of the white collar worker" could cope with the fact that the cost of living has risen for the 13th straight month. He replied that "people should attempt to purchase less."

As advice, this statement was hardly necessary. The vast majority of American workers, whose wages have not kept pace with price rises and whose total income is already required to meet current bills, are being forced to cut purchases. But as a warning as to who is expected to pay for announced increases in armaments expenditures, the President's statement is packed with meaning.

In spite of a continuing rise of consumer prices, Eisenhower himself admitted in the same press conference that the national economy was "taking a breather" as indicated by rising unemployment and the failure of business to pick up as much as expected this fall. The economy, said Eisenhower, "always seems to be balanced between a



EISENHOWER

and unemployment claims, which usually drop in October, went up in the fall of this year as they did in 1953. In addition, the freight car loadings total—a sensitive barometer of business activity—is off 10% from a year ago.

The already astronomical arms budget is simply not enough to keep the economy going. While warning the workers to cope with inflation by tightening their belts, Eisenhower announced that

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alone. The endorsements for Wagner provide a grotesque picture of the "peoples' coalition" which the CP tells us sprang up around Wagner. He was endorsed by both Hearst papers in New York (Mirror and Journal-American) as well as the more "dignified" reactionary sheet, the World Telegram. The "coalition" was rounded out with endorsements by the liberal New York Post and the authoritative voice of Wall Street, the New York Times. In effect, Wagner was the single Big Business candidate, in the race. Christenberry did not really count.

In the campaign the SWP hammered away at the Big Business character of the Wagner administration. It demanded an end to the witch hunting of city employees. It put the spotlight on the administration's record of service to the racists. It effectively introduced a major peace issue into the campaign by demanding a city referendum on halting nuclear tests that would establish the precedent for a national poll on the issue. Over radio and TV, the SWP candidates explained the need for a labor party and also drove home the need for socialism as the

ultimate solution to the problems of labor and of the minority peoples. It is this type of campaign that Charney and Davis designate as "counter-revolutionary."

What did the Communist Party do in the elections? It ducked any frontal attack on Wagner's record. (It did not "desire to minimize" his "accomplishments.") In the Councilmanic campaign for Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, the CP leaders avoided a forthright indictment of the Big Business politicians responsible for the lack of homes, schools and social services they were supposed to be campaigning for.

WHITEWASH JOB

On a city-wide basis, the CP did its best to whitewash the odious role of the Liberal Party leadership. The Liberal Party, say Davis and Charney, "has conducted a campaign on the issues."

Throughout the campaign, the Daily Worker did not say a word about the reactionary politics of David Dubinsky, Alex Rose and the other union bureaucrats who head the Liberal Party. Forgotten is the fact that these people split their

unions from the American Labor Party on a red-baiting basis and that they stand today as one of the most rabidly anti-Soviet and pro-imperialist forces in the labor movement.

Presenting themselves in the election as "His Honor's Loyal Opposition," the Liberal Party bureaucrats "exerted pressure" on Wagner only within the framework of capitalist politics—that is, to increase their influence in relation to the Tammany machine in terms of patronage.

The Communist Party stand in the New York election bares the fraud of the "anti-monopoly" coalition policy that shaped it. With this policy, the CP leaders go hat in hand to the thoroughly capitalist-minded bureaucrats of the Liberal Party and join with them in a coalition with the Daily News and Mirror crowd. At the same time they reject and try to smear a meaningful electoral coalition with such individuals as Vincent Hallinan, Mrs. Clifford T. McAvoy, the editors of the National Guardian and others who united in support of the Socialist Workers ticket as a means of advancing the cause of independent labor political action.