

To Build the Party

Forge the Right Relationship Between the Party and the People

As long as the capitalist system exists, with its inevitably attendant poverty and backwardness of the masses, the proletariat as a whole cannot rise to the desired level of class consciousness and, consequently, there must be a group of class-conscious leaders to enlighten the proletarian army in the spirit of socialism, to unite and lead it in struggle. -J.V. Stalin

Today the struggle between labor and capital is the axis around which all social life revolves. For the proletariat to become conscious of itself as a class with distinct interests and objectives and then, act as a class for itself in the battle against the exploiting capitalist minority, requires protracted education, organization and practical experience.

Labor and capital stand opposed, two great armies on a vast battlefield. Because no army can operate without leaders, but requires a vanguard to march at the head, the proletariat too is in need of its own independent political party to lead it in the fight for socialism. That party is, and can only be, a communist party: a party guided by the science of Marxism-Leninism, and united for the sole purpose of defending the interests of the working class, fighting for and building socialism.

But who builds socialism? V.I. Lenin answered this question correctly when he wrote, "Socialism cannot be established by a minority, by the Party. It is established by tens of millions of people, when they learn to do this work themselves."

Both the fight for socialism, for the overthrow of bourgeois rule and destruction of the capitalist state, and the struggle to create a socialist society after the seizure of political power by the proletariat, are monumental tasks that have never been, and can never be, accomplished by a minority. Their achievement requires the direct participation of the masses of workers and their revolutionary allies.

These facts of the class struggle - the necessity to forge a vanguard proletarian party and the need to mobilize the masses in struggle under the leadership of the party - are the realities by which Marxism-Leninism defines the dialectical relationship between the party and the

people.

In a recent plenum, the Central Committee of the CPUSA/ML reviewed the struggle to forge vanguard leadership and strengthen the Party's links with the masses. It took several decisions to improve the work of building the Party in order to provide real, revolutionary leadership to the spontaneous mass movement against the new offensive of Wall Street and the White House. Numerous concrete examples pointed to the needs to uplift the propaganda work of the Party, pay constant attention to industrial concentration, and heighten the fight against white supremacy and in defense of equality and the rights of racial and national minorities. These are matters directly pertaining to the struggle to forge the proper relationship between the Party and the masses because they are means by which the Party promotes socialist ideas among the people, immerses itself among the workers and fights to ensure the unity of the entire multi-national working class.

In the present conditions of the class struggle in the U.S., in order to advance the protracted process of building a nationwide, militant, mass, Marxist-Leninist party capable of leading the entire working class and its allies in struggle against imperialism, today the CPUSA/ML seeks to reach and influence the most active, militant sections of the mass movement. The propaganda work of the Party is directed at the activists in the trade union, anti-repression, anti-war and anti-imperialist struggles with the aim of winning them to the Marxist-Leninist ideology, organizing them into and around the Party, and thereby improving the Party's ability to advocate and organize the masses to embrace revolutionary tactics which improve their fighting ability and alter the balance of class forces in favor of the proletariat. It is in these class battles, through their own experience, that workers come to understand the necessity to go beyond the bounds of struggle for temporary reforms of capitalism, and go over to a battle against capital itself.

The CPUSA/ML is waging an on-going struggle to forge vanguard leadership, strengthen ties with the masses and establish the proper relationship between the Party and the people.