

RONNIE LONG CASE EXPOSES CPUSA AND NATIONAL ALLIANCE

An important battle in the fight against racist oppression today is the movement to free Ronnie Long, a young Black worker in North Carolina who was railroaded to prison on rape charges by an all-white jury.

The defense movement has already made considerable gains. It has mobilized hundreds of textile workers in the area, especially Black workers, for several mass demonstrations and has gained the financial and political support of people nationwide.

The defense has also grown stronger through exposing the sabotage of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, a front group of the revisionist Communist Party (CPUSA), which has wormed its way into the defense committee. Activists have consistently exposed the Alliance's line of relying on the courts, rather than the people to gain Ronnie Long's freedom.

Recently, Ronnie Long himself wrote a telling exposure of the Alliance's phony "support" for his struggle. In a letter to *The Call*, Long summed up what the Alliance had done in his behalf: "Not a damn thing!" he said.

Long reported that several members of the Alliance had written to him to attack the October League and all those who have helped to build the Ronnie Long defense effort into a genuine mass struggle. In one letter, an Alliance member promised to do "everything in my power" to give as much support as possible, "people and money-wise."

So Ronnie Long wrote them back, reminding them that the defense committee

needed to raise money for his \$100,000 appeal bond. "But that was before Christmas," Long told *The Call*, "and I haven't heard from them since...still they haven't done anything, not even a little donation."

Ronnie Long sums it up this way: "I see now that the Alliance's 'support' was only a lot of bull. Members of my defense committee said they were up to no good, and that they were trying to cause demoralization among the members of the committee by saying that the court system was the right way to win my freedom...I feel that they are collaborating with the capitalists."

Long's view of the revisionists hits the nail on the head. Both the Alliance and the revisionist CPUSA that controls it are frantically trying to get hold of the mass struggles of the people in order to keep them from developing as revolutionary struggles against the capitalist system.

The revisionists long ago liquidated and attacked the demand for Afro-American self-determination. In addition to trying to misdirect Ronnie Long's struggle, the revisionists have remained completely silent on the cases of Gary Tyler and other political prisoners whose defense movement they cannot control.

In all their propaganda, the revisionists cover up for imperialism as the real cause of the national oppression of Black people. They preach reliance on the courts and liberal politicians while looking to the fascist Soviet Union as a model of "freedom."

In opposition to the reformism

preached by the Alliance, Ronnie Long pointed out that, without a socialist revolution, "we will forever be attacked by the authorities, jailed without cause, discriminated against in the fictitious courts of law and justice, and the right to self-determination will always be denied, and we will work for low wages, shedding blood, sweat and tears only to benefit the capitalists...We have to stand as one and fight because the system is aimed at us all. We must achieve unity in order to destroy capitalism, so socialism and freedom can flourish."

Two weeks ago, the National Alliance announced that they planned to "take up" Long's defense "nationwide." This new effort to sabotage the struggle must be opposed. Several members of the defense committee, responding to the Alliance's announcement, told *The Call*, "We will not let them take over because the Alliance is a tool of the ruling class."

Ronnie Long himself has also made his position clear on the Alliance. "I know that if I'm going to get a good fighting chance at my freedom," Long stated, "I myself and the defense committee can't use the recommendations of the Alliance."

The October League again urges all readers of *The Call* to continue and intensify the fight for Ronnie Long's freedom.

Donations can be sent to the Ronnie Long Defense Committee, P.O. Box 575, East Spencer, N.C., 28039. The defense committee hopes to raise the remainder of the bond money which is needed to gain Long's release within a month.