REVISIONISTS ATTACK COALFIELD COMMUNISTS

The so-called Communist Party USA, the main mouthpiece for Soviet revisionism in this country, has taken the opportunity offered by the current hard-fought miners' strike to launch a new attack on "communists in the coalfields."

Is it strange for the CPUSA to be attacking communists instead of the coal bosses and union misleaders? Certainly not. In fact, this is their stock-in-trade, as they desperately attempt to buy some legitimacy in the eyes of the ruling class at the expense of the miners themselves.

It is no accident that the recent attack in the Dec. 16 issue of the revisionist rag, the Daily World, written by Portia Siegelbaum, coincides with a whole wave of red-baiting articles in the New York Times and various regional papers. (See *The Call*, Dec. 5.)

The gist of Siegelbaum's diatribes against the "Maoists" is that the communists "single out UMW President Arnold Miller as the enemy." Therefore, according to the CPUSA, the communists' goal is "non-unionism" and they are "FBI fronts."

The charges reveal the CPUSA's own traitorous behavior. They are nothing but out-and-out defenders of the terrible sellout policies of the UMW leadership who, at this very moment, are throwing in the towel on the all-important question of the right to strike. (See article this page.)

The CPUSA tries to make it seem like the "Maoists" attack Miller "instead of" the company. Of course this is an outright lie. The struggle against the UMW misleaders has come from the miners themselves and from the start has been closely linked to the struggle against the coal bosses.

It has been only two months since the massive wildcat strike ended over the right to strike. The wildcat hit not only at the murderous conditions in the mines, but also at the UMW leadership which stood (along with the CPUSA) on the side of the company in trying to force the 90,000 miners back to work.

Siegelbaum's article is revealing in the way that it whitewashes the 1976 UMW convention. At that time, a motion put forth by Tony Boyle-supporter Mike Trbovich to "kick out any communists in the room" drew support from Miller. A correspondent from *The Call* and other members of the revolutionary press were then excluded by union goons who physically attacked them.

As for the CPUSA's reporter, Art Shields, he quietly departed and then was allowed to slip back in meekly. Presumably this decision was made on the basis that the CPUSA isn't really communist anyway—a presumption that the revisionists were glad to go along with.

Now upholding their part of the deal, the revisionists turn history on its head and claim that it was the genuine communists who "disrupted the convention." This is something even the bureaucrats didn't dare claim. They were honest enough to admit that it was just a plain old-fashioned anti-communist crusade.

As evidence, Daily World correspondent Shields cites the fact that "leftist provocateurs were demonstrating against Miller in front of the convention hall." This apparently was good enough reason for Shields and Siegelbaum to fully back the anti-communist purges.

There is not one word in the latest article even hinting at a criticism of the anti-communism at the convention. But the class conscious miners knew full well that the attacks on the communists were also directed at all miners who supported the wildcat strikes and the right to strike.

As for the article's FBI-baiting, this mainly takes the form of equating the CPML (the October League to the revisionists) with the opportunist RCP and the police-agent group NCLC. The revisionists don't dare discuss the line of the CPML in the light of the very real ideological struggle that has faced the international communist movement for decades.

To revisionist hacks like Siegelbaum, all those who have broken with the revisionist line of "peaceful transtion to socialism" and with the revisionists' fronting for the labor bureaucrats are "cops." This keeps them from the difficult task of explaining the differences between Marxism-Leninism and revisionism to their own rank and file—an explanation which might prove very embarrassing.

The miners and other workers will decide who is doing the work of the company and the police in the ranks of the working class movement. They are seeing every day who is joining and leading the militant struggles of the working class and who is in league with the bosses and bureaucrats.

The new wave of red-baiting in the Daily World, coming as it does in the midst of the strike and on the heels of the rash of such articles in the bourgeois press, adds more evidence in the case against the revisionists.