

X:PC

Dear Dave,

DEC 17 1979

Just thought I would send you a copy of a leaflet passed out at our last forum Dec. 8. We have been excluding the S.L. since our October meeting on Iran when they came with approx. 30 people and attempted to provoke a physical confrontation. They now regularly have picket lines of about 15 people in front of the forum. These pickets have been getting more provocative. Last week we almost had a physical confrontation when they blocked the front door and posted a few of our contacts. It may be helpful to follow this leaflet up with the mailing we sent out concerning their right position on Iran. We will keep you informed of the situation.

Cincerely,

Mark Levers

VEILS FOR WOMEN, RIGHTS FOR KLANSMEN, A SCAB FOR
PRESIDENT & EXCLUSION FOR COMMUNISTS: SWP, YOU STINK!

We of the Spartacist League are picketing tonight to protest our undemocratic exclusion from a "public" forum hosted by the Socialist Workers Party. The SWP, running scared about political atrocities like its support of the bloody Ayatollah Khomeini and defense of "democratic rights" for Ku Klux Klan terrorists, has excluded us in traditional Stalinist style from meetings all over the country for months, on the pretense that we are "disruptive." But in fact in 15 years of attendance at SWP forums there has been not one single act of physical violence by the SL. What's really behind these exclusions is that in the face of our revolutionary Trotskyist criticisms the SWP cannot defend its putrescent political line.

One look at the SWP record tells it all. The politics of these noxious reformists are like dial-a-betrayal for blacks, women and the working class:

The SWP supports the reactionary cleric Khomeini in Iran. The Militant all but endorsed this Islamic fanatic in its 17 Nov. 1978 issue, declaring that "although Khomeini subscribes to a religious ideology...his firm opposition to the shah is progressive." Since then the hideous Ayatollah has butchered Kurdish freedom fighters, put women back in the veil, executed homosexuals, banned freedom of the press and sentenced several of the SWP's Iranian co-thinkers to death for their political views. Progressive?? Apparently the SWP still believes it, for the 7 Dec. 1979 Militant not only does not oppose "the Imam," as they now call him, but declares with approval that "Khomeini's popularity stems from his resolute anti-shah and anti-imperialist stand." And to seal its de-facto alliance with a reactionary Islamic government, the Chicago SWP on 17 Nov. 1979 hosted a talk by an official representative from the "Islamic Republic of Iran," who received "an extended ovation" (says The Militant) from the SWP audience! The Spartacist League opposed both Pahlavi and clerical reaction from the beginning with the slogan "Down with the shah, Down with the mullahs!," while the SWP called our stand "counterrevolutionary" and "bizarre." And today as we demand that U.S. imperialism keep its hands off Iran we also demand that not only the shah but Khomeini be tried for his crimes by his victims. The SWP on the other hand happily sides with bloody Islamic reaction against the bloody shah and thereby betrays the women, oppressed minorities and working people of Iran.

The SWP has in recent history defended "free speech" for fascist monsters like the Nazis and the KKK. "Effective struggle cannot be carried out," wrote The Militant of 1 Aug. 1975, "if it begins by placing qualifications on democratic rights in the case of fascists." And Andrew Pulley at a Chicago forum on 22 July 1977 pontificated that "the best way to fight fascism today isn't to demonstrate against the fascists but to expose their ideas." Now the racist, fascist KKK has exercised its "democratic rights" and carried through on its "ideas" by shooting down demonstrators in Greensboro, N.C.--and the SWP keeps a circumspect silence on "free speech for Klansmen." But over the past few years, while the SL emphasized that fascist creeps are not tea-party debaters but terrorists who will use their so-called rights to attack blacks, the left and labor movement, the SWP ridiculed our calls for labor/black mobilizations to crush this menace in the egg and found our slogan "No platform for fascists!" undemocratic. And it was the SL which actively helped organize an anti-Klan demonstration of 500 predominantly black autoworkers in Detroit on Nov. 10--a powerful labor protest against growing Klan terror which The Militant has yet to mention much less support!

The SWP is running a scab for president. Andrew Pulley personally scabbed on a Brotherhood of Railway and Airlines Clerks picket line thrown up around U.S. Steel Gary Works in September, 1978. So eager was he to brown-nose a USWA leadership unwilling to call steelworkers out in solidarity that he muttered "everyone is doing it" and waltzed right across without even calling on his union to change its policy. As a "leader" of the working class Pulley has thus set an example of union backstabbing and class treachery which should make him ashamed to look workers in the eye let alone run for president on a "socialist" ticket, but this doesn't matter to the SWP. A picket line is a battle line of the class struggle which

means "don't cross," and instead of fighting the tragic fact that workers are herded across picket lines by the bureaucratic misleaders of the unions Pulley and the SWP have deliberately become part of the problem. It's no wonder that The Militant keeps silent on the campaign for Keith Anwar, a militant steelworker fired by Inland Steel Co. for refusing to cross a USWA picket line, who has received immense rank and file support in his fight for reinstatement and most recently gathered 1,500 steelworker signatures on a petition demanding that the union do everything necessary to get his job back.

The SWP crawls before the sell-out union bureaucracy. "The Militant puts unity in the struggle...above any differences of opinion we have with the political ideas of any leaders of the union," they assured arch-conservative USWA President Lloyd McBride in the 5 Oct. 1979 issue. And SWP donkey work was indispensable in building a "Labor Speakout for the ERA" at USWA Local 65 in Chicago Dec. 2, at which every speaker (trade union bureaucrats and capitalist politicians alike) called for reliance on "friendly" Democratic legislators for passage of the ERA, and SWP supporter Pat Grogan delivered a glowing introduction for Democratic State Senator Harold Washington whom she called "a voice for our needs in Springfield"! Such examples, and they are numerous, demonstrate that the SWP's "working class turn" is indeed designed to suck up to the union bureaucracy and its Democratic "friends." This strategy is directly counterposed to the SL's revolutionary perspective for class-struggle caucuses to defeat conservative and "progressive" sell-out bureaucrats. But it's nothing really new--after all the SWP has historically given back-handed support to the Democratic Party and liberal labor skates with its pop frontist coalitions like the National Peace Action Coalition.

The SWP has sold out proletarian revolution in Nicaragua. Going all the way with the petite-bourgeois Sandinista leadership, which may well consolidate a capitalist state still dominated by U.S. imperialism, and at best will create another undemocratic deformed workers state, The Militant opposes rudimentary workers struggle (e.g. spontaneous land seizures) and concentrates instead on calls for massive U.S. aid. This is the aid which the imperialists explicitly plan to use as a weapon to make sure Nicaragua does not "go communist"--so the SWP plays into the hands of the U.S. State Department! And when the Sandinista government expelled some troublesome foreigners who were members of the SWP's "United Secretariat of the Fourth International," not only did the SWP stridently disavow its own fraternal group but even may have (according to a charge by other USec members on the scene, and never denied by the SWP) fingered it to the FSLN. The SL calls for real aid to the Nicaraguan working class, that is the building of a revolutionary party and turning the anti-Somoza political revolution into a proletarian revolution against the whole bourgeoisie.

Especially hard-pressed to answer for all this to black Trotskyists, the SWP has resorted to blatantly excluding all black SL supporters in Detroit, on the excuse that a black woman SLer "disrupted" a February forum when she used her speaking time to talk about oppression of women in Iran! This odious racist exclusion speaks for itself, and the transparent slander of "disruption" needs no answer. But while we're on the subject it bears mentioning that it is the SWP which has attacked SL supporters several times in the past--including physically assaulting our comrades who protested the presence of capitalist politician Vance Hartke at a 1971 NPAC conference, and attempting to throw three Bay Area ILWU militants down a flight of stairs in May, 1975.

The SWP is a "socialist" organization which betrays women by embracing the chador-loving Ayatollah in Iran, betrays blacks by stumping for the rights of the KKK, and betrays workers by trampling on picket lines, running a scab for president and toadying to the union bureaucracy. It all stinks! Look who they welcome at their forums--Islamic reactionaries, Democratic politicians, treacherous union bureaucrats and even vicious Nazis (one of whom the Chicago SWP protected and allowed to attend a meeting 21 April 1978)! And look who they exclude--the communists of the Spartacist League. SWP, we challenge you to refute us in a fair political discussion, but you know and we know that you don't dare try.

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labor donated
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