

A COMMUNIST ELECTION CAMPAIGN ?

The revisionist Communist Party USA is running an opportunist election campaign hardly distinguishable in its political content from the Democratic Party campaign program.

The campaign, in the words of party chairman and presidential campaigner Gus Hall, is "the centerpiece of our work." Hall added: "We will relate all our work to the elections."

Like its fraternal revisionist cliques running for office in Italy, France, Greece and other European countries, the CP has dropped all talk of revolution from their program. The U.S. revisionists have thrown all principles of Marxism to the wind in exchange for some votes. Their long range strategy is to strengthen their political base enough to form a bloc with the liberals of the Democratic Party and the "independents." This is their version of the "peaceful road to socialism." Their short-term goal is to use the campaign to promote "detente" and pressure the other candidates into appeasing the expansionist drives of the Soviet Union.

The opportunism of the Hall-Tyner campaign could be clearly seen in a recent appearance on a New York radio call-in show. For thirty minutes, Hall and Tyner discussed the various ways they could patch up capitalism, if elected. But then, an astute caller asked them about the aim

of communists, the dictatorship of the proletariat.

After all, the dictatorship of the proletariat has always been at the heart of any communist program. Lenin called it the "touchstone on which the real understanding and recognition of Marxism is to be tested." It means the replacement of the rule of the capitalists with the undivided rule of the working class. The dictatorship of the proletariat is also the pathway to communism, a society where there are no longer any classes. This is the final goal of all Marxist-Leninists.

After hemming and hawing for a few seconds on the radio show, Hall blurted out that the dictatorship of the proletariat was "not a campaign issue." He then added that the CPUSA ten years ago had decided that use of this phrase "could be misunderstood," and had therefore dropped it from its program.

It should be obvious that the Hall-Tyner campaign has nothing in common with communism. The revisionists view the electorate as an ignorant mass to be manipulated in the same way the Democrats and Republicans do. Their motive is not to educate people about socialism, but to bring the struggle of the people into the bounds of acceptability to the capitalists.

One campaign directive of the revisionist party even tells its members not to dis-

cuss politics with potential voters while doing petition work to get the party onto the ballot. In a petition-drive guide printed in the revisionist mouthpiece, "The Daily World," Robert Phillipoff writes: "Pen out in front so they may sign quickly. Speak with assurance. Smile." The petitioners are then instructed to tell people that they can vote against the CP on the ballot if they want to. "What you do in the voting booth is your own business. It's freedom of choice."

What about political discussion with potential signers about the merits of socialism as opposed to capitalism? Phillipoff writes: "...experience has shown that from the point of view of collecting a large amount of signatures in a short period of time, a big discussion of issues can be time-consuming."

He adds, "The 'freedom of choice' theme is good not only because it is true, but it tends to give the potential signer confidence that he or she is doing the right thing by signing the petition."

The CP's election campaign is a fancy bit of Madison Avenue huckstering. It is a campaign of opportunism designed to pull the rug out from under the revolutionary struggle of the people and promote instead the interests of imperialism and social-imperialism.