

UNITED STATES PACIFIST PARTY REPORT

August 10, 1984

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THE UNITED STATES PACIFIST PARTY AND THE MARXIST TRADITION: THE EVOLUTION OF "SCIENTIFIC PACIFISM"

Since traditionally pacifism has tended to be associated mainly with Christianity and other religious outlooks, and Marxism claims to have its foundation in "dialectical materialism", and is known for regarding religion as "the opiate of the people", a person might expect that the United States Pacifist Party and Marxism would have little in common. Actually, the USPP and Marxism have a common bond, both in their humanitarian aspirations, and in their respect for the scientific tradition. Understanding how both Marxism and the USPP are "scientific" can help to understand both outlooks.

Although there's an anti-scientific strain in Marxism, of which the Lamarckian, anti-Mendelian movement in Soviet biology, and the ideological emphasis of the Chinese "cultural revolution" are examples, Marxism best can be understood as a social science. Marx, and particularly Friedrich Engels, were emphatic about this. If The Communist Manifesto is the most important work in the Marxist tradition, Engels's "Socialism: Scientific and Utopian" is arguably the second most influential writing. In "Socialism: Scientific and Utopian", Engels attempted to show how Marxist socialism differed from other varieties of socialism and communitarianism and was more realistic. His approach was to argue that Marxism was "scientific", while other forms of socialism were not.

His argument has several strains. In one, he sketches the history of several socialist and communitarian movements in Europe - notably those developed by Saint-Simon, Fourier, and Robert Owen - and shows how all of them were rooted either in idealism or sentimentalism. In a second, he argues against traditional metaphysics, which, he claims, tends to see the world in isolated states, blacks and whites,

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USPP NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR CHICAGO SEPT. 1-2 (LABOR DAY WEEKEND)

The United States Pacifist Party has scheduled a national convention for Chicago, September 1-2. The agenda for the convention will include discussions and decisions concerning the Party's policies, platform, and campaign strategy, and the selection of candidates.

Meeting place for the convention is 5615 S. Woodlawn, in the Hyde Park area of Chicago, near the USPP headquarters.

The convention will begin Saturday morning at ten, and continue through the afternoon. If necessary, sessions will be held Saturday evening and Sunday morning and afternoon.

Registration will be Friday evening at the USPP headquarters, 5729 S. Dorchester, and Saturday morning at the meeting place, 5615 S. Woodlawn, three blocks away.

The convention registration fee is \$10. Fees will be used to cover food and other conference expenses. Any surplus will be available to help meet travel and other conference expenses of attenders.

Sleeping and cooking facilities will be available. Attenders who have and are used to using sleeping bags are urged to bring them.

There is ample parking in the area.

Attenders arriving by bus can take the Illinois Central suburban train from downtown Chicago to Hyde Park (59th Street).

Attenders arriving by plane at O'Hare Airport can take the C.W. Airport Limousine Service to Hyde Park for \$7.25. It's possible that by the end of the convention, Chicago's rapid transit extension to O'Hare will be open, which can make the cost of returning to the Airport about \$1.50.

There is some automobile transportation on a shared basis from the East Coast already available. For information, consult the USPP national office.

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