

they lead in strikes, "because they are agents of imperialism, advocates of the cold war, and sell-out artists."

We would limit our electoral work to Communist candidates and would especially seek to run those candidates against liberal and progressive candidates in order to destroy the illusions of the people in candidates who support or compromise with capitalism. There would be "no scabbing at the ballot box," and in this we would join with the Socialist Labor Party which has the longest record of dogmatic and sectarian policy in American politics—and the least effective.

We would not raise the question of public ownership of industry because that is a "bourgeois demand in a capitalist society."

The dogmatists would have us attack such youth organizations as Advance, the Student Peace Union, the Progressive Youth Organizing Committee, the Students for a Democratic Society, and all other such organizations because youth should be organized only in a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist youth organization such as a Young Communist League.

They would have us stop talking about possible peaceful roads to socialism. Instead we would say that what separates us from other Americans is that we believe in the "dictatorship of the proletariat" and in the "smashing of the bourgeois state."

And so we have a picture of what things would be like if dogmatists dominated our Party.

They would have us abstractly calling for "militant revolutionary actions."

Under their leadership we would think up vile and slanderous names and charges to make against the leaders of labor and liberals in politics and public life, and on each Monday morning we would give our post-mortem on the activities of labor and the masses for the previous week.

WE REJECT DOGMATISM

All of this, of course, sounds ridiculous. It is. Yet that is the program and trap of the dogmatists who are always demanding to be heard.

We reject such nonsense because we participate in the class

struggle and do not intend to let phrasemongers and dogmatists create barriers between our Party and the working class, and because we fully accept the Marxist position of the role of the working class in the struggle for socialism.

We reject such nonsense because we know that the only path to socialism is the path of struggle that starts at the point when the masses see their own self-interest. These struggles will correspond to the level of objective developments. We recognize that the process of objective developments and the experiences of the people in struggle will reach a point of qualitative change at the same time. We also recognize that such developments will awaken in the majority of the American people a desire to end capitalism and to place the country on the path to socialism.

Dogmatism and pseudo-leftism has a special appeal to some people. It appeals to "formalists," to people who deal with "neat little systems" and to people who feel secure only behind rigid fences constructed from dogmas. It appeals to people to whom the struggles and the considerations of life have become "too much" and too involved. It appeals to people who like to play at "heroics." It appeals to people who do not have a oneness with the working class, who do not accept the discipline of that class, and who do not, in fact, understand the historic driving motive of the working class. Dogmatism appeals to windbags who cover up with shallow theories and who play upon moods, mostly moods of pessimism. They take pleasure in using bombast and enjoy coining new phrases that have nothing to do with life's realities.

Of such people, Frederick Engels once said, "This philistine is a drainpipe in which all the contradictions of philosophy, democracy and every description of phrase-mongering is mixed up in a monstrous manner."

As for our immediate problems, we must say that it is not only necessary to reject the nonsense of the dogmatist, but we also must give to the working class and people of our country a program which embodies our outlook on immediate issues and which indicates the road which we see as our country's path to socialism. We must draw a picture of what socialism will mean for the working class and the people of our land. We can demonstrate that the great capacities of the means of production and the role of