

referred to their state as representing a "peoples democracy" and a "democratic dictatorship," this only masked the fact that one class, the proletariat, was dominant, and that only proletarian revolution with the expropriation of private property and the introduction of socialist planning could move China forward out of centuries of oppression and backwardness.

While this fact was debated by the entire left, it was quickly grasped by world imperialism. In less than a year, a war had been launched in Korea that arrayed the forces of world imperialism, led by the U.S., against the combined strength of the Korean people and the entire socialist camp—led by China and the USSR. Its objective was to turn back the socialist revolution sweeping Asia, and the ferocity of the imperialist onslaught confirmed the character of that revolution.

"HAIL THE COMMUNES!"

The founding of Workers World Party in 1959 signified the emergence of a tendency in the U.S. that championed **all** the socialist countries, seeking through its press to educate the most advanced elements here on the earthshaking changes being wrought in that part of the world that had seemed to be mired in social stagnation. In the very first issue of this newspaper (March 1959), a front-page article hailed the Chinese communes, which were being treated as utopian by many on the left. Workers World saw the communes not only as a higher stage of production in agriculture, but as an expression of the revolutionary determination of the youth, of women, of students and political cadre, to thoroughly reorganize life in China on a collective basis, in the process overthrowing the old oppressive institutions and social relations based on private property.

To combat ideologically the anti-communism of the U.S. imperialist ruling class and help the workers and oppressed here understand their identity of interests with the revolutionary currents in the world—such has always been a cornerstone of the purpose of Workers World Party. Of course, in order to best defend the over-all interests of our class camp, that is, in order to be most **partisan** to the cause of the world proletarian revolution, it is necessary to maintain the kind of political independence that enables revolutionaries to speak up if they see that cause being damaged by the policies of leaders of socialist countries subject to the tremendous pressures of hostile imperialism.



One of the many thousands of "barefoot doctors" who went to the countryside to help the poor peasants. The revolution has transformed the life of the masses in a way that can never be reversed. Photo Hsinhua