



THE COMMUNIST PARTY, USA: 75 YEARS OF STRUGGLE

By Gus Hall, National Chair, Communist Party, USA

(Excerpted from the speech to the Oct. 23 events.)

Welcome to the celebration of our 75th anniversary on a nationwide teleconference hookup with 65 cities and towns, from California to Maine. From one end of our great country to the other, we especially want to welcome the many hundreds who have joined our Party in the last few weeks.

To the world Communist and workers movement, to all the parties who sent anniversary greetings, we extend our warmest fraternal revolutionary wishes of international workingclass solidarity.

Our country's roots can be traced back to almost every corner of the world. Many who came to our country brought with them progressive, revolutionary and socialist ideas.

The Communist Party was born and grew strong as an integral, inseparable part of the working class, USA. In the early days there were immigrants and settlers who established communes, based on the socialist principles of public, social ownership, collectivity, sharing and equality.

Ironically, these were also the beliefs and way of life of the Native American Indian peoples. It is a little-known fact of American history that the indigenous peoples became the first genocide victims of U.S. capitalism, in its drive to privatize and plunder the land and natural resources. The history of genocide, broken treaties, and national oppression was the first chapter in a hidden, shameful history of U.S. ruling class racism and chauvinism.

Socialist ideas and the experiences in communal living resulted in a debate and vote in the U.S. Congress about whether the new nation should be capitalist or socialist. This vote sealed the fate of the new nation as a class-divided, capitalist society. Thus began the class struggle between the working class and poor against the bosses, big business and the landowners.

The workers and farmers of the new nation wisely rejected the U.S. Constitution until the Bill of Rights was added, which specified and guaranteed certain inalienable rights, like freedom of speech. Ours will certainly be a "Made in the USA, "Bill of Rights" socialism.

Private, for-profit property will be transformed into public, social property, a system that will be run by and for the working people. Contrary to popular myth, hard work as a rule does not make one rich. The secret of getting rich is to have a lot of people working hard for you. The rich amassed huge fortunes without ever setting foot on the production line or picking up a tool. For 75 years our party initiated and organized the movement that fought for and won unemployment insurance. To this day workers are getting unemployment checks because Communists helped write and fight for the unemployment insurance that became the law of the land.

Our party called the first public meetings that brought working people together to demand, fight for and win the social security law that makes it possible to retire with some measure of security. Our party helped build the first rank and file committees that organized the United Steel Workers of America.

We took the initiatives that became the backbone for the union organizing drives of the auto, textile, electrical, rubber and oil workers, among others. Our party pioneered the union organizing drives in the mass production industries. Communist workers and trade unionists were the spark that ignited the movements that gave rise to the CIO.

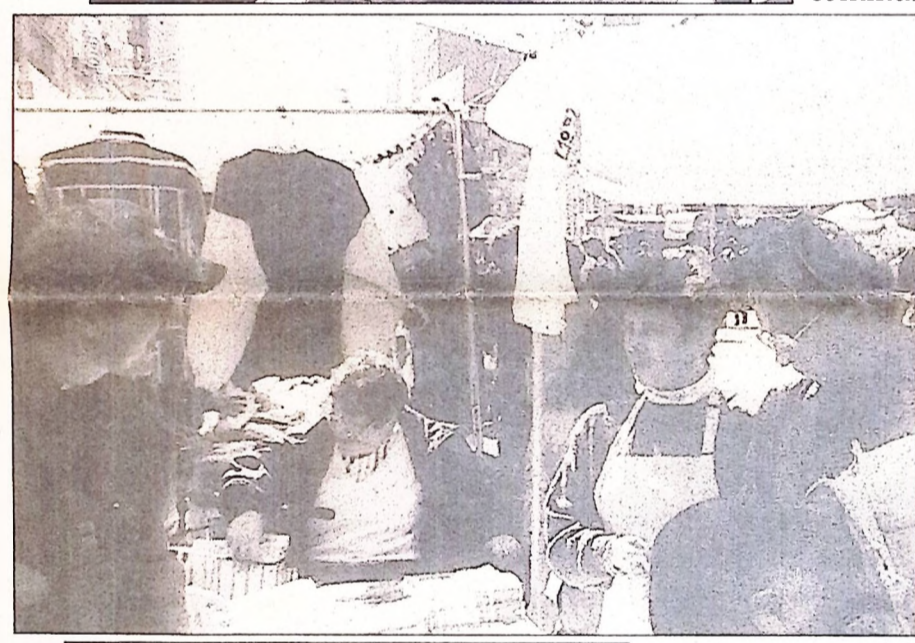
(Continued on next page)

On October 23rd, 1994, the Communist Party, USA celebrated its 75th anniversary.

At rallies and meetings in 65 cities and towns, people gathered to mark that red-letter date in U.S. workingclass history, and to continue the Party's legacy.

"Jobs and Equality!" was the rallying call. Organizing the fight for jobs for all is a focus of the Party's day-to-day work and has inspired hundreds of people to join in recent weeks.

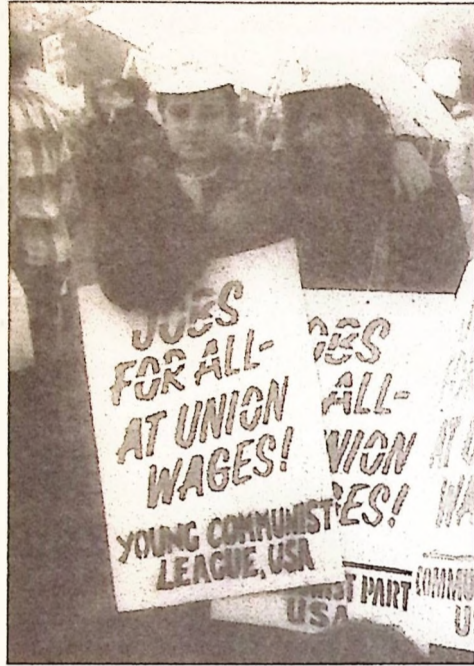
Celebrating the anniversary were veterans and brand new members, as well as friends of the Party, including leaders from the labor, peace, civil rights and other people's movements, who work with Communists and were there to honor the Party's contribution to the struggle.



(top) CP National Chair Gus Hall, Terrie Albano, YCL National Coordinator, and Cuba Friendship-ment leader Rev. Lucius Walker at the 10/23 rally; (center) John Bachtell, NY CP district chair, collecting jobs petition signatures and signing up new members at a street fair; (bottom) Juan Lopez, district chair of Northern Cal. CPUSA at 75th anniversary rally in Oakland.

(continued from page 1)

From the earliest organizing drives we were the first to call for Black-Brown-white unity in struggle. For 75 years our party has kept its "eyes on the prize" of working class unity.



Demonstration in Washington, DC, 1987

From the organization of basic industry and the struggles against Jim Crow segregation, to the fight to free the Scottsboro defendants; from the victorious battle to integrate baseball, to the consent decree in steel — Communists played decisive, leading roles.

From the early struggles for women's right to vote, to today's battle over abortion rights and equal pay, our party has been in the forefront of the movements for women's equality.

Young men and women, Black, Brown and white, are joining the Young Communist League by the hundreds — on the streets, on campuses and on picket lines — to fight for a Youth Bill of Rights for jobs, education, peace, equality and socialism.

Through the years, Communists were involved in all the struggles for world peace — in the war to save the world from Hitler-fascism, against the Korean and

Vietnam wars and the threat of a nuclear holocaust.

Communists were on the front lines even during the height of the Cold War, anti-communist, McCarthyite witch hunts, in spite of the FBI-government harassment, persecution and prison sentences.

In the long, victorious struggle against South African apartheid, it was our National Chair Henry Winston — blinded in prison under a Smith Act frame-up — who initiated the worldwide movement for comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against racist South Africa.

As the quality of American life goes down, more of us become anti-corporate, anti-Republican and Democrat, anti-government. Millions are looking for new, more basic answers.

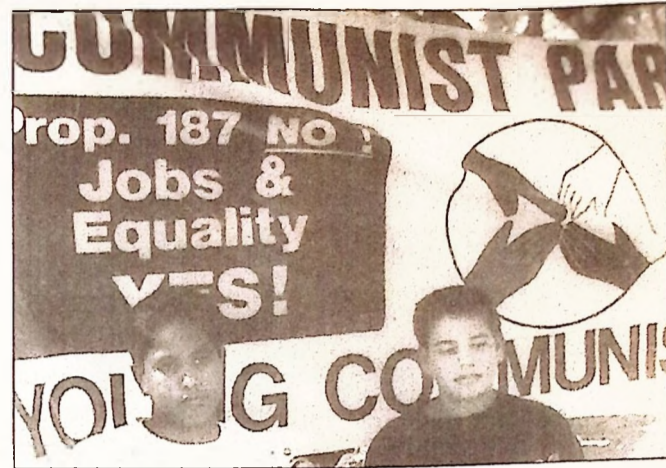
For example, we advocate a new, New Deal, a 1995-type social security act, extended unemployment benefits, from paycheck to paycheck, a cut in the work week without a cut in pay. There are over 20 million unemployed and underemployed.

What is government for if it is not to look after the needs and interests of the people?

Still, the layoffs keep coming by the thousands. Why? Because the Corporations keep downsizing, even as they force speedup and overtime on the workers who are left, making greater profits with fewer workers.

As U.S. capitalism becomes more multinational, more global, more imperialist, it becomes less and less concerned about human life and society. Around the world,

U.S. imperialism uses its military might to impose a new world order, dominated by U.S. multina-



At the historic anti-Proposition 187 march in L.A., Oct., 1994

tionals, backed up by U.S. armed forces.

As part of its drive to destroy socialism, Cuba is on the top of the list. What is it about Cuba that corporate America, the Clinton administration and its media hate so much? Cuba is not a military threat. It is not an economic competitor. What U.S. imperialism fears so much is that Cuban socialism will be seen by other countries as the way to go.

One of the new problems we have is corporate America's decision to try and solve the crisis of its own making by cutting our entitlements, as if they are something people get for nothing, like they are handouts. Entitlements are lifeline programs — social security, Medicare and Medicaid, public education, transportation, the postal and social services like welfare. They are paid for out of our taxes.

Our taxes go up, but we can't even get minimum health reform. But we all pay for the president, his family, his Cabinet, the senators and representa-

tives to have the best, health and dental care, from cradle to grave.

The 40 million people without any health care coverage and the millions who pay through the nose for coverage will continue to suffer. Why not free, universal, comprehensive health care for every man, woman and child?

And, why not a job for everyone who needs one. Why not enact a massive jobs creating, public works program?

We could put America back to work rebuilding our crumbling slums, ghettos and barrios, our roads and bridges, our schools and hospitals.

In California, where 100,000 marched against the vicious anti-immigrant proposition 187, our party was there under the slogan, "an injury to one is an injury to all."

Proposition 187 attempts to blame immigrants for California's problems. The truth is that California is staggering because of the big corporations who downsize,



NYC march for justice on Martin Luther King holiday 1988

close plants and run away to low wage, non-union areas.

(Continued on next page)

Greetings to the CPUSA, from leaders in the fight for jobs, labor's rights, peace, and democracy

A hallmark of the Communist Party's contribution to the people's movements is its emphasis on the importance of building broad unity. At the 75th anniversary celebration, both the national meeting broadcast from New York, and on the programs in the 64 other cities, leaders from labor, the civil rights, peace and solidarity movements and elected officials spoke about the Party's role and highlighted the key struggles of the day: jobs and equality, fighting racism and police brutality, ending the blockade of Cuba. The following speeches were part of the national broadcast.

Greetings Chairman Hall, brothers and sisters throughout the world, and on behalf of everyone here in the city of angels I want to congratulate you and the Communist Party of America for 75 years of struggle, accomplishments and progress.

When asked to participate in today's celebration I was honored and humbled. I began to think about the thousands upon thousands of Party members across this

country who contribute their own time in a constant vigil over working men and women, regardless of race, creed, color or

national origin. I wondered if someone else would be more worthy on this momentous occasion. I recalled a bit of history concerning my own national union, the Utility Workers Union of America. A young Communist gas worker named Jim Doherty was asked in 1936 to organize a work location that is now part of the second largest gas

distribution company in the world. And in 1941 he became the Utility Workers' first regional director west of the Mississippi. He not only organized the first West coast local of the UWA, but he also negotiated the first contract on what is now the Southern California Gas Company. In a phone conversation I had with Jim last night, he told me how the Party taught him the art and the technical aspects of parliamentary procedure, negotiating contracts and grievance handling. In short, my friends, the Party was there.

Now, in 1994, I am the regional director of the Utility Workers Union west of the Mississippi. And when a group of labor leaders in Los Angeles came together for a coalition for public works jobs in an effort to counter massive unemployment, hopelessness and to take the offensive in rebuilding schools and the country's infrastructure, we selected Arturo Rodriguez, a member of the Communist

Gerry Acosta, Vice President, LA County Federation of Labor; Chair, LA Labor Coalition for Public Works Jobs; Regional Director, Utility Workers Union

75 years of struggle 75 years of struggle 75 years of struggle

Proposition 187 will increase racism and discrimination against Mexican Americans, Latinos, and



CPUSA: For peace and against racism.

Asian Americans – citizens and immigrants. The campaign for this racist law is not unlike laws passed in Nazi Germany.

From the struggles against slavery, Jim Crow and genocide, to the civil rights movements and the struggles for full equality, Communists link the struggles against racism and chauvinism as a prerequisite for workingclass unity.

Jobs, health care, public education, affordable housing and every other necessity to live decent lives should be constitutional rights. What is government for if it is not to look after the needs and interests of the people?

When the corporations will not provide jobs, the government must step in and put people back to work, at union wages. Double the minimum wage. Cut the work week, with no cut in pay.

The government and corporate America keep saying we can't afford it. We say, "Yes we can." But we have to take it from

where it's at.

If we raise the taxes on the rich and corporations, cut the military budget and cancel the interest on the national debt there would be more than enough. Rather than throw people off welfare, which so-called workfare would do, more welfare should be provided until decent, good-paying jobs are available.

The prospect of empty lives with little hope pushes young people into gangs, crime and drugs. Clinton's answer is more police, more arrests, more jails, especially for racially and nationally oppressed youth, whose jobless rate in some areas is over 70 percent.

And what about ruling class violence and crime against people? Aren't hunger, poverty, joblessness and homelessness crimes against people?

The Clinton administration is turning its back on the people. While the government is privatizing public and social services, the corporations are downsizing. People are fed up with layoffs, downsizing and privatizing, higher prices, higher taxes, a declining quality of life and a loss of confidence in the future.

Why not take over and turn over ownership to those who run

the factories, make the products and produce all the wealth? No one knows better than workers

gridlock, led by corporate America, that blocks any measure that would benefit people.



Housing NOW demonstration, Washington, DC, 1989

how to run the plants, factories and farms.

Why not reclaim our natural resources from the corporate polluters, and begin the process of reversing the poisoning of our water, food, land and air? We would establish the principle that the only purpose of producing, manufacturing, farming and every other human endeavor would be to satisfy human needs.

In a capitalist society, human welfare doesn't count. In the new society only human welfare counts. We believe that if the profits, assets and riches were equally distributed there would be no unemployed, no homeless or hungry people.

In this, our 75th year, we pledge to continue initiating and building movements, struggles and coalitions for real change. At this moment we are involved in building a nation-wide movement for jobs and equality. We are asking everyone to join with us in this movement to force the president and Congress to enact laws — like the Martinez and Sanders jobs bills that have already been introduced — that will create millions of productive jobs at union wages.

The two old parties of big business keep shifting to the right. There is a Republican-Democratic

There is a real danger from ultra-right forces who hide behind covers like the Christian Coalition and fascist-minded politicians like the Oliver Norths. The political structure of our country is moving to the right. But the people are not.

We need to elect more working class, trade union candidates. We need a new people's

In this, our 75th year, we pledge to continue initiating and building movements, struggles and coalitions for real change.

party, led by labor. And we need more Communists to run for public office and win.

From our new members, new leaders will arise not only for the Communist Party, but also for the trade unions and people's movements. Few organizations will celebrate their 75th year. Fewer still will celebrate it with such a membership explosion.

It's been a great 75 years. And the best is yet to come.

The complete text of Hall's remarks will appear in the 12/94 issue of Political Affairs, the CPUSA's theoretical journal, 235 W. 23 St., New York, N.Y. 10011.



Solidarity with Cuba-1993 Friendship caravan

Party, to be our coordinating director. Again, 53 years later, the Party was there. Collectively we persuaded a great congressman by the name of the Marty Martinez, who this year introduced HR 4708, which calls for a 250 billion dollar jobs bill.

With the support of congressmen and congresswomen across the country, including Maxine Waters, in conjunction with community groups, labor organizations, we will reintroduce this bill when Congress reconvenes.

Chairman Hall and members, today is your day. Your accomplishments and the fruits of your labor are forever interwoven in the history of this country. I can congratulate the ferocity with which you stand tall against the forces which want to reduce wages and exploit workers, feed the fires of immigrant bashing in order to create scapegoats and to hide greed and corporate irresponsibility.

The ideals and the persistence that you embrace pave the way for another 75 years of accomplishments and progress. I wel-

come your alliance, and await future successful endeavors.

Reverend Lucius Walker, Director, Interfaith Foundation for Community Organization; Founder, Pastors for Peace

I'm honored to be here today and to have this opportunity to bring a very warm and appreciative happy 75th birthday to the Communist Party, USA.

I am sure I speak on behalf of hundreds of thousands of activists who are in solidarity with Cuba and who, like you, are opposed to the blockade of Cuba. There is no more pressing foreign policy issue before us today than the US blockade of Cuba, and unfortunately the government has been moving in the wrong direction on this issue for 35 years and that's too long. And it's not going to end because of the people who are in Washington, it's going to end because of the hundreds of thousands of US citizens

like you who are going to pressure the government.

We represent a new wave, the wave of the future. Let me say thank you to the Communist Party because you've been in the right place on this issue for those 35 years. You have led the way. But our movement is growing, our numbers are growing. There is no more diverse and broad coalition of forces on any issue in this country and we are going to win on this issue.

Let me tell you that Mr. Clinton is wrong on this issue, like he's wrong on a lot of issues. He's wrong on this issue. He does not represent the will of the US public. We represent the will of the US public. And we're winning, we're growing, there are evidences and signs of a crack in that blockade wall and it's because of people like you in this room and in the 65 cities around this country today.

And I want to say to you that as we go forth in November for the 4th US-Cuba Friendship Caravan, we go forth in

(Continued on next page)

(Lucius Walker continued)

November for the 4th US-Cuba Friendship caravan, we go forth in the confidence that it is not a question of whether we're going to win on this issue, it's a question of when. It's a question of whether we can amass the forces quickly enough to hasten the end to this most despicable policy on the 35 year foreign policy record of the U.S.

We want people from all of the 65 cities to be a part of the effort when on Nov. 2 we launch the Friendship Caravan. It is not too late. Call our office. Call the Communist Party, USA, which is a vitally important member of that coalition. Tell us that you're ready to go. Join the effort. Make it happen. We will win on this issue because of you, and because of people who are gathered around this country who know that the time has come for a new relationship, for a new model in the world, and that model is Cuba.

Honorable George Crockett, former U.S. Congressman from Michigan

Greetings to the nationwide meetings that will be celebrating on October 23rd the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party, USA.

A political organization that has carried on the fight for freedom and justice, and has survived and fought back each step of the way, for that length of time is certainly worthy of congratulations.

And so, I extend congratulations, not just for me, but for each of my co-defense lawyers in the Foley Square trial - Abraham Isserman, Harry Sacher, Richard Gladstein and Louis McCabe - each a martyr to the defense of the Communist Party's right to exist.

John Randolph, Tony award-winning and Oscar nominated actor

Greetings Gus Hall and my friends and comrades across this land. As an actor in both NY and LA, I have been on hundreds of network shows whose listening audience numbers in the millions, but this network, celebrating its 75th anniversary today, is the most exciting of them all.

I can add my voice immediately to yours about the magnificent demonstration here in Los Angeles of over 100,000 Latinos, labor and other minorities who made history on October 16 in a march against racism and for the defeat of Proposition 187.

Or, I can tell you of another first in the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio and Television Artists, of fourteen new Latino voices of every age, male and female, who initiated a united front of performers and are demanding full representation in the leadership of our union. They want to represent our country's 80 million Latinos and other minorities in television and film. They are trained actors, the voices of the future, of every color, Brown, Black, yellow and red, young and old, women, those with disabilities, who want new leadership and roles to play, equal to their roles in the American scene. They are performers neglected by the networks and the communications industry. Well, they can't be stopped.

And neither can we. As we raise our cups today, to the now, to the future, may we not forget our brothers and sisters in Cuba, and Fidel Castro and continue to fight for the ending of the blockade of a proud people and bring real peace into our hemisphere.

Alicia Roman, 1199 Delegate; Commissioner on the Hartford Civilian Review Board

Hello from Hartford! We've been waiting for this meeting. The major struggle we're having here is battling the Hartford police, and it's really a fight against police brutality.

The Communist Party was very important in all stages of building our Civilian Review board. The Party demonstrated to force Hartford to have one in the first place. The Party also built around the elections, working to get us out there to vote, campaigning to get elected people that would fight to keep a civilian review board active here.

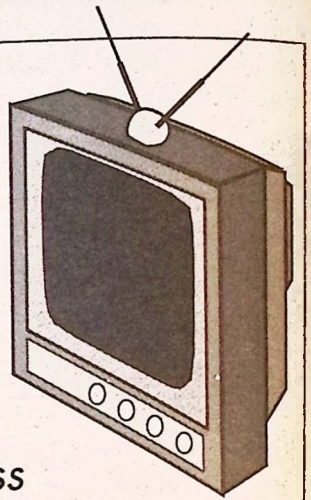
They came to our meetings to shout down the cops who were shouting at the members of the Board. They have now fought for the resignation of the police chief and are building a large movement to force the reappointment of the experienced members of the board.

The Communist Party is a key force in our struggle against police brutality, and that's why I encourage all the visitors and all the guests throughout these 65 cities who are not members of the Party to please join. That's what we're doing here. From Hartford, stay in the struggle, Peace!

CPUSA VIDEO

History's Challenge: 75 years of workingclass struggle

The Communist Party's role in the struggles of the working class and people, from 1919 to today, has shaped US history. See it all on the video produced for the 75th Anniversary celebration, History's Challenge.



Order your video today!
\$10 plus \$4 shipping and handling.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip code _____

Video(s) @ \$ _____ + Shipping \$ _____ = Total \$ _____

Checks payable to: CPUSA, 235 West 23 St, NY, NY 10011



Join the organizations that fight for Jobs, Equality, Peace and Socialism!

Young Communist League

Join the Communist Party, USA!

I want to join the CPUSA

I want more information on the CPUSA

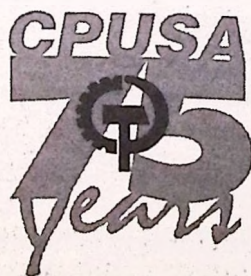
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Please mail to CPUSA, 235 W. 23 St., NY, NY 10011.
(212) 989-4994 FAX (212)229-1713



Join the Young Communist League!

I want to join the YCL

I want more information on the YCL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Please mail to YCL, 235 W. 23 St., NY, NY 10011.
(212) 741-2016

