

Communist Party leader predicts continuing economic crisis

The crisis in the U.S. economy is unlike the cycle of booms and depressions it has gone through all during its history; it is facing a structural crisis, Gus Hall, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the United States, said during a visit to Portland last week.

"There is a fundamental shift in industry — the steel industry, auto, rubber, machine building and other basic industries are dying. The steel and auto industries will never again be mass production/mass employment industries under private enterprise. Raw steel — the basis of U.S. industry — will not be made here."

The U.S. steel mills have contracted to by raw steel from England, closing their steel plants in the East and throwing thousands out of work. Already, steel mills in Brazil — financed by U.S. banks — have underbid the British.

"Twenty-five million people will be unemployed most of their lives," Hall predicted. "There will be temporary upturns in the economy but chronic high unemployment will continue. If we are having an upturn, as the Reagan administration claims, it will be very short."

This shift in the economy is bringing major problems to the peo-

ple of the United States and demonstrates the basic inequities and conflicts in the system, he said.

Agriculture is in its worst crisis in 60 years with family farmers and small independent farmers going bankrupt, leaving only the large corporate farms. Unemployment is over 25 million, not counting those without unemployment compensation. There are 4 million homeless, a new phenomenon in the U.S. Twenty percent of the nation's children and one-third of the minority children are living below the poverty line.

Thirty million people have lost health insurance because of loss of their jobs. People are dying for lack of medical care.

"A cascade of lies and demagoguery comes from the White House daily," Hall said.

Starving people are dying of hunger-related disease but the administration is cutting \$300 billion from welfare, medicare, food stamps and other programs. The administration is asking a 15 percent cut in food production while the farms are going bankrupt and is cutting food stamps that would use the surplus for people who need food.

"This is a government that not only promulgates but promotes racism. There is a deliberate effort to bypass and destroy laws made to protect the rights of minorities."

"This government went out and deliberately cut the standard of living of the people on every level — wage cuts, government service cuts. The big problem is that people live too long — they get Social Security. Cutting Social Security is just one step away from saying shoot them — get rid of them."

If an organized society has any money, it is to serve the people. That is why societies are organized.

The government is bankrupting the nation, based on a total lie, Hall said. Foreign policy is totally based on a lie — the "Soviet Threat." Over 480 U.S. military bases — many nuclear — surround the Soviet Union. Two trillion dollars will be spent on arms, a totally unnecessary expenditure.

"The only way to support a wrong and unjust policy — imperi-

alist, aggressive, anti-people, anti-American — is with a lie. This policy is in the interest of a small group of corporations and banks."

Who is to blame? The economic system is based on the profit-motive. Taking steel as an example, the steel industry abroad is owned by U.S. banks and investment will go where profits are largest. U.S. steel plants have not received reinvestment, are out of date and can't compete, so investment will go out

economy has been expanding; now it is in a period of decline and contraction."

What are the solutions? "The fundamental solution is socialism, which is inevitable. Socialism is common sense — it removes the cause of crisis, it is the next stage of civilized society. It means that people will take over the reins of the economic situation; everything will work for the people. The economy will be run to benefit all of the people. Socialism is solely motivated to serve people; it is a collective social contract people make to work together to provide for all people — security, health, education, housing, peace."

In the U.S. socialism will undoubtedly come through the electoral process, Hall said.

In the meantime, among the programs the Communist Party advocates to meet the current crisis are: 1) a 6 hour day with no cut in pay, which will create 3 million jobs; 2) unemployment compensation from the date of unemployment or, for those never employed, the date of first application until the first paycheck, with no "expiration" of benefits; 3) a massive federal project to rebuild cities and the infrastructures; 4) \$5 billion for toxic waste



GUS HALL

clean-up; 5) public take-over of industries that are abandoned or closed, with government funds for reconstruction.

The money for these projects would come from taxation of corporate profits, which will go up 33 percent in 1983; from taking one-half of the military budget; \$100 billion from closing tax loopholes; \$120 billion from discontinuing the interest paid to banks by the federal government.

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'Reform' divides South Africa

A white backlash awaits any South African government that makes even a slight move toward lessening the effects of apartheid, and that backlash could force the Botha government's gesture at reform into even more rigid apartheid. The "reforms" are being highly touted in the Western press as evidence of "a step in the right direction."

Three elections for the national parliament and one for the Transvaal legislature saw a heavy racist attack on Botha and a loss in support for the ruling National Party.

The issue is the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Bill 1983, which has been introduced to the all-white parliament. The bill proposes a new parliament with 308 seats: the current all-white Assembly of 178 members; a House of Representatives for Coloreds, with 85 members; a House of Deputies for Asians (mostly Indians) with 45 members. The white mem-

bers would still be in control and the final decisions on everything. The Colored and Asian Houses would be strictly limited and no alliances across color lines would be permitted.

The nation's blacks, who are 70 percent, would be denied representation and the vote. The Botha bill, which has received praise by the U.S., has caused a fierce controversy in South Africa. The extremist parties oppose it and the more racist members of parliament in the National Party have de-

serted Botha. Botha then backed down and agreed to sending the bill to the people for a vote (white only).

The "reform" constitution is aimed at dividing the growing alliance between blacks and the Coloreds and Asians. Both the Asian and the Colored communities have rejected it.

Blacks are completely left out of the "reform" bill with the only mention of them appearing in a paragraph that says, "the control and administration of the black population will be under the jurisdiction of the president."

Blacks are considered residents of the ten tribal reservations or bantustans set up by the regime according to ethnic groups and presented as "independent states." Blacks are deprived of citizenship in South Africa by being considered citizens of the bantustans, and workers from the bantustans are called "foreign immigrants."

For the past seven years, the South African regime has had the support of the U.S. government and press in advocating a series of cosmetic reforms that would redistribute power without affecting the leading role of the white minority.

The failure of the referendum on the constitutional reform will strengthen the extreme racist sectors of that nation and make it more difficult for the U.S. corporations to justify their involvement in South Africa.

The polarization will also force the liberation forces into heightening their struggle.

Germany honors Robeson

"For peace — against racism" is the motto of an exhibition on Paul Robeson that opened recently in German Democratic Republic (East Germany), marking Robeson's 85th birthday.

The Paul Robeson Archives of the GDR Academy of Arts supplied a wealth of material on Robeson's life and his struggle against racism. There are pictures of his first concert in 1925; his tour of Sweden, Norway and Denmark; his first visit to the Soviet Union in 1934. There

are pictures of him singing for the International Brigade in Spain; in a demonstration with Scottish dock workers, with shipyard workers in California and stevedores in Honolulu.

There are gifts from Africa and Australia which went to the GDR Paul Robeson Archives from his London bequest. The exhibition also provides information on his participation in the first World Peace Congress in Paris and the eight-year travel ban imposed on him by the U.S. government.

Portland connection

(Continued from page 1 column 6) forces will be equipped to utilize the systems. But the most significant function of such satellites is the improvement of missile accuracy.

Though NAVSTAR is also being studied for cruise missile guidance, its major use will be to enable missile-launching submarines to fix their positions with vastly improved accuracy, thus posing a much more credible first-strike threat.

Like the MILSTAR communications satellite now on the drawing boards, NAVSTAR spacecraft are also intended to function during a protracted nuclear war. Their electronics will be hardened against electromagnetic radiation, and if proposed design changes are accepted, the devices will be able to relay

information without depending on vulnerable ground stations.

Moreover, NAVSTAR spacecraft will carry sensors capable of detecting and locating nuclear explosions, enabling U.S. military leaders to evaluate early strategic launches so they can plan successive strikes, an essential element in protracted war strategies.

Other electronic systems in place or on the drawing boards will link the presidential "button" more closely with U.S. nuclear forces. And extraordinarily accurate surveillance systems, once considered a force for peace because they could help verify arms control agreements, are now being used to specify targets on land and in space.

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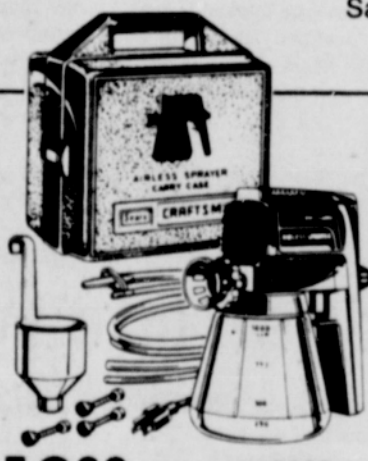
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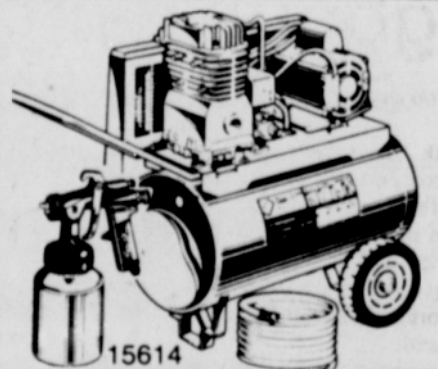


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