

Becchetti says Reagan policies court disaster

by Jerry Garner

Arnold Becchetti, Secretary for the National Organization of the Communist Party U.S.A., was in Portland last week as part of a west coast speaking tour entitled *All Peoples Front Against Reaganism*.

Becchetti, who ran for the Illinois U.S. Senate in 1972 as a Communist Party candidate, was very critical of President Reagan's policies, both domestic and foreign. He said the Reagan Administration's policy towards South Africa is being dictated by big business, resulting in the export of U.S. jobs to countries with a cheaper labor force, therefore, resulting in larger profits for corporations. This, according to Becchetti, is why the Reagan Administration is against sanctions on South Africa.



ARNOLD BECCHETTI
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Becchetti said the Blacks in South Africa earn ten times less than the Whites. Next to discrimination against Blacks in the U.S. Labor Market, the main reason for the high unemployment rate among Blacks in the United States' exporting of jobs abroad, says Becchetti.

The Reagan Administration's Civil Rights record was also criticized. Becchetti said the Reagan Justice Department has waged an all-out attack on Affirmative Action.

Turning to the Administration's foreign policy, Becchetti called the "Constructive Engagement" policy towards South Africa as "Destructive Engagement." He said "Reagan's support for the government of Pretoria has strengthened the noose around the necks of millions of Black South Africans." However, Becchetti believes that the Blacks in South Africa will eventually win their freedom.

Becchetti also criticized the Administration's policy towards Nicaragua. He said Reagan is trying to overthrow the elected government of that country. Becchetti points out the recent mining of the Nicaragua Harbor and the continuing U.S. support for anti-government rebels in that country. Becchetti said the present U.S. involvement in Nicaragua is similar to Vietnam in that the U.S. is getting more and more deeply involved in a military operation. He believes any direct military involvement by the U.S. would result in many Nicaraguan and American casualties.

When Becchetti was asked to comment about people who say Moscow is responsible for the present liberation efforts of Blacks in South Africa, he responded, "Those who claim the Communist Party is behind the present struggle in South Africa are the same individuals who supported slavery and segregation in this country before the Black Civil Rights Movement." These same individuals also accuse Communists of being "Anti-American" and fighting for goals foreign to this country. Becchetti believes that wherever there is an anti-Communist you most likely will find a racist. Becchetti says the Reaganites, who have wrapped themselves in the Constitution and taken over the White House while violating all laws of human decency, are the real anti-Americans. "It is their interests that are foreign to this country and its best traditions, not the Communist Party," says Becchetti.

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