



#599 March 23, 1974

LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

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[Note to editors: The following article is extremely long and many papers may not find it possible to run. However, LSS feels that it is important that the information be on the record and available to movement groups. Also, see graphics section for photos to accompany the story.]

AN INTRODUCTION TO NCLC: "THE WORD IS REWARE"

LIBERATION News Service

"We have an awful responsibility. Within five years we must organize mass forces capable and prepared to institute workers' governments throughout North America and Western Europe. It can be done; it must be done. It can not be done if we dally about catering to the illusions and certainties of people seized by foolish ideas. We are not adventures; we shall never take childishly reckless actions. Yet we shall be awfully ruthless in carrying out those duties which are necessary to build the kind of mass force required."

"Immediately, readers will obtain a taste of our ruthlessness in the way we proceed to finish off the Communist Party. ... This mopping-up operation has another importance. It is one of numerous tactical rehearsals of our own membership in the development of those qualities of ruthless leadership necessary to lead the North American working class forces to workers' governments in this decade. The North American workers will have confidence in us, in our leadership, once they recognize that we have the fighting qualities, the stamina, their increasingly desperate situation demands." ... from an editorial in NCLC's New Solidarity, April 9-13, 1973.

NEW YORK (LNS)-- The National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) has, within the last year, made a name for itself among movement groups in cities across the country. And, at a point when the establishment media revels in the conclusion that the "movement is dead," (replaced, judging by the coverage, by streaking) NCLC has attracted more than usual attention from the press. In recent months, two major network stations, NBC and ABC did features on NCLC, one a two-part, in-depth study. Within the space of two weeks, both the Washington Post and the New York Times ran feature-length stories on the group.

The reason for the attention is that, over the past year, NCLC has intensified its activities in the left community, hop-skip-and-jumping through a series of programs dubbed with names like "Operation Mop-Up," "Revolutionary Youth Movement," and the current CIA-Brainwash Plot. However, the most consistent feature of NCLC's various programs, schemes, positions and actions is that they all attempt to contribute to the discrediting, neutralization and harassment of leftist organizations and the Left as a whole.

NCLC is a direct descendant of the Labor Committee, who represented a tendency in Students for a Democratic Society, allied with Progressive Labor in 1968-1969. Eventually expelled from SDS, along with Progressive Labor, the L.C.'s made a name for itself in '69 when it alone-- of every movement and progressive group in New York City-- supported the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) strike, led by Albert Shanker, against the Third World community's

struggle for community control of the schools.

During that period, a man named Lyn Marcus, (also known as Lyndon LaRouche) came into prominence as leader of the Labor Committee chapter at the Alternate University (a radical, "counter" university) and eventually catapulted himself into the leadership of the N.Y. Labor Committee. Since that time, Marcus has been the theoretical and tactical mastermind (and guru) of NCLC.

However, with the exception of their support of the UFT, NCLC was fairly subdued until the spring of 1973, when they launched "Operation Mop-Up."

It was during that spring that NCLC decided to "reorganize" the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO), a Black-led group which organized around welfare issues. Obviously, this "reorganization" had not been requested by NWRO.

After numerous attempts to lure NWRO into a coalition, NCLC proceeded to infiltrate and disrupt NWRO meetings, meeting with little success. NCLC then declared that NWRO was dead and announced the birth of a new organization, the National Unemployed-Welfare Rights Organization (NU-WRO).

The theory behind NU-WRO is basic to NCLC's operations. They insist that to make a revolution within the next five years (Marcus's date), all workers, unemployed, welfare recipients, etc. must join a common organization--NU-WRO. Anything--including union organizing, welfare organizing, rank-and-file movements, etc. distract from the building of NU-WRO and are counter-revolutionary. NU-WRO is the only acceptable, legitimate organization, according to NCLC.

The NU-WRO campaign was actively resisted by NWRO, which was still alive and active, NCLC claims to the contrary notwithstanding. Discredited by the prospect of recently organized welfare recipients being confronted with two welfare organizing groups and becoming turned-off from both, NWRO (which includes members of the Communist Party) picketed the first NU-WRO meeting in Philadelphia, last March.

NCLC was outraged and "warned" NWRO and the Communist Party that if they didn't recognize NU-WRO as the legitimate successor to NWRO, they would have to be wiped out.

"We warned the CP that we would destroy them should they stand on the campaign to rebuild NWRO --which alone could unite the employed and the unemployed in common organization to fight Nixon's slave-labor recycling offensive....The CP has transformed itself into the 'left' political arm of Nixon's terror campaign directed against non-working class welfare organizers. Now the CP will be destroyed." [New Solidarity, April 16-20, 1973]

What followed was the first in a series of assaults on the left. Known as Operation Mop-Up, the plan was to harass, humiliate and eventually destroy the CP, using a "left" criticism to justify their acts.

What in fact happened, though, was interesting--and characteristic of every action and position NCLC has undertaken since. First was the use and glorification of brutal violence.

In New York, Detroit and Philadelphia, NCLC members showed up, armed and in force, to attack meetings of the CP and the Young Workers Liberation League (YNLL), the CP youth affiliate. Also included in the first wave of violence was the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), which the NCLC accused of acting as "CP goons" when they came to the defense of NCLC victims at several public meetings. Dozens of people were injured, many seriously enough to be hospitalized with broken bones, concussions and bruises. Generally the tactic was to attack one or two individuals with a superior number of NCLC people. In almost every case, clubs, pipes, brass knuckles and mauls (a karate weapon consisting of two pieces of wood connected by a length of chain) were used against unarmed people, in clearly pre-planned physical assaults.

This tactic is euphemistically termed "intervention" by NCLC. In an internal discussion memo dated May 10, 1973, Marcus boasted of NCLC's capabilities:

"Our NYC membership...is of the very best quality...It is capable and prepared to disrupt instantly intercom into up to fifty meetings and similar events in any week. It exemplified that quality which fixed one spokesman for the former New Left: 'We can't hold even the most trivial meeting on the most trivial subject anywhere, without some Labor Committee delegation intervening to raise the Welfare Rights issue.' To the extent that such outside (i.e. non-NCLC) events still occur, our NYC local still functions very well."

But, NCLC went beyond attacking the CP and the SWP. They began to collect files "for internal discussion," which included photographs and lists of alleged CP members and used information from the House Internal Security Subcommittee. With information like this, they proceeded to disrupt local community and rank-and-file meetings, demanding denunciations of CP members and allegiance to NU-WRO.

"In Detroit, on April 28 of last year, NCLC members attempted to disrupt a meeting of municipal employees at the Local 26 Union Hall (sanitation workers). They were forced out by the mostly-Black workers, but not before they had demanded denunciations of the CP.

"Also in Detroit, the NCLC disrupted a union meeting of mostly-Black nurses at Children's Hospital, demanding that they take sides against NU-WRO. The nurses refused and NCLC broke up the meeting.

"In Springfield, Massachusetts, NCLC members from Boston, disrupted a rank-and-file union meeting partially organized by a local working-class paper, New Unity, demanding that the meeting denounce the CP and endorse NU-WRO. In particular, the NCLC people cornered a 60-year old factory worker and accused him of being a CP member. They threatened him physically, demanding a renunciation of the CP. They also demanded that the group submit to being photographed.

"In Tarrytown, N.Y., an incident occurred which most clearly called into question the intent of NCLC's campaign. During a local union election at a GM plant there, a leaflet was distributed by a group calling itself "UAW Committee to Stop Communism."

The leaflet consisted of a reprint of an article appearing in NCLC's paper, New Solidarity, which denounced a rank-and-file candidate for shop steward, Bill Scott, as a "500-lb CP Hack," referring to Scott as "snorting," "drooling," and "hog-like." The article also used information which appeared in hearings before the House Internal Security Subcommittee, identifying some young auto workers as members of the CP. The leaflet was entitled "STOP THE PINKOS."

In all these incidents, and many others as well, NCLC seemed more interested in obtaining denunciations (hopefully with photos) than they were in actually informing groups about the CP (whatever their criticisms of it might be). During this period, New Solidarity was covered with photos of groups giving "the fist," and allegedly denouncing the CP, according to the captions.

"Further, little attempt was made to convince other movement groups of the CP's crimes, although many groups on the left have strong reservations about the CP's role. Instead, NCLC preferred to disrupt meetings of people having a first encounter with the left, screaming "Commie!" and "Fink." and playing a red-baiting role reminiscent of Sen. Joe McCarthy's era."

NCLC perhaps hoped that they could get away with these disruptions, playing one group against the other, and capitalizing on the serious criticisms that many U.S. leftists had of the CP. But, luckily, Operation Map-Up wasn't that successful. In every city where NCLC was visible, movement groups came together to denounce their activities and warn people away from them. In some places like Detroit, "defense fronts," were organized to resist NCLC's violence. And, anywhere that NCLC met with serious resistance they invariably fled, preferring the techniques of ambush and mugging.

As one Philadelphia welfare activist said, "The biggest coalition you could create in this city is a coalition against the Labor Committee."

By the summer of 1973, the left community of most major cities had confronted NCLC and pretty much isolated the group. In response, NCLC declared "Operation Map-Up" a success and announced the death of the CP. From that date on, NCLC repeatedly referred to itself as the "left hegemonic" force in the U.S.

"In the U.S.A., the Communist Party is virtually dead in all its traditional areas of left and trade-union activity...Otherwise, on the U.S. left, the Socialist Workers Party is dead except as a participant in various CIA-directed schemes and projects. The formerly-Marxist Progressive Labor Party is a tiny fragment, its disorientation systemized by its support of the outright fascist and CIA stooge, 'Aunt Janina' Buraka!

"The other 'Marxist' and 'Trotskyist' groupings are either also inside the CIA movements or are simple inconsequential little sectlets hawking in their determination to maintain perpetual obscurity." So, according to the National Caucus of Labor Committees' monthly magazine, the Campaigner, "It is in the U.S. that the NCLC has so far emerged

as the unquestioned left-hegemonic force—and consequently, the principal target of the CIA, FBI and allied agencies."

However, the failure of Operation Mop-Up to cause divisions among the organized left, does not change the effect that it had on people who were just getting involved in the left movement-- workers, welfare mothers, students, etc. It took much energy on the part of the left to respond and deal with NCLC and much energy to undo and combat its negative influence in organizing situations.

From Operation Mop-Up, NCLC went on with a series of other programs: organizing gang youth into a paramilitary Revolutionary Youth Organization (RYM), continuing with NU-ARO and finally and most recently, beginning a campaign about a newly-discovered CIA plot, which among other things has discovered that several prominent left and progressive individuals are CIA agents.

The RYM movement is based on the premise that you can organize gang youth if you promise to "give them the whole thing in 5 years." Implicit in this is NCLC's basic conception of the future-- that when the revolution comes, we'll all get "\$18,000" a year with increased productivity" which Lyn Marcus and NCLC can organize. Very little is ever said about worker ownership or control of production or the redistribution of power and wealth in this society.

NCLC's most recent campaign, announced by New Solidarity as a "CIA Plot to Take Over U.S." talks something of a shift in rhetoric but represents quite similar tactics on NCLC's part.

Briefly, the story began in the early fall of 1973 when NCLC announced that certain NCLC members had been brainwashed by the KGB (the Soviet CIA) to assassinate Lyn Marcus, apparently in revenge for NCLC's destruction of the CP-USA.

Marcus, genius that he is, was able to thwart the first attempt and de-program the assassin, in the process discovering the key to the KGB brainwash plan. This made Marcus the only person in the world with this knowledge and of course, the CIA could not let this knowledge go untapped. So, they joined in the chase, according to Marcus, aiming either to kidnap Marcus and force him to reveal what he knows and/or kill him to prevent the KGB from getting at him.

The plot becomes extremely complicated, and Marcus's explanations of "psy-warfare" even more so, but certain themes are clear. Once again, NCLC has the only answer. This time, instead of denouncing people and groups as CP agents, now everyone is a CIA agent or has been brainwashed by the CIA.

"If anyone tomorrow is naming a discrediting of the Labor Committee in this city (N.Y.C.—ad.) we know that he is willfully doing the work of the CIA, because he has been warned by us."

The first victims of this process were left journalists who refused to cover the CIA/Brainwash Plot. Andrew Kopkind, who currently writes for various alternative press in Boston and has been involved in the movement for nearly 10 years, was the first to

be denounced as an agent. Soon after came Bo Berlingham, former editor of Ramparts and about to join the staff of the Boston Phoenix when he was denounced. Since then, NCLC has labelled as agents, dozens of leftists active in their communities.

Inside NCLC, some dissent arose, which resulted in at least one kidnapping for the purpose of so-called "de-programming."

Alice Weitzman, a woman active in NCLC was held for two days by 6 NCLC members, awaiting "de-programming" by Marcus. She dropped a note from the window and was eventually freed by police.

Weitzman described her "restraint" period to Boston Phoenix reporter Vin McLellan. She was made to listen to Beethoven at a very loud volume (Beethoven is Marcus's favorite composer; he has described rock and soul music as "animalistic.") because Beethoven's music was the "key" to her brainwashing program.

After her release, Weitzman called an NCLC member and friend in Boston. He called a meeting of Boston's 45 NCLC members and described Weitzman's experiences, reporting that something must have gone haywire in New York.

"I guess they came down on him and he completely capitulated," Weitzman said. "I called back and his wife told me that he had gone voluntarily into 'restrained isolation' and he was considered hysterical for having listened to me. I called back and he shouted 'CIA dogs are shit,' and hung up. I thought it was just him but now I've gotten it from a dozen different people. It's the line. Marcus told them to say that to me and a couple of other people who called to screw up our brainwash program." [Marcus charges that people inside NCLC who question his brainwash theory have been brainwashed themselves. He claims "trigger phrases" can disrupt a programmed individual's functioning.] Weitzman added, "It's such a crude way to isolate people from outside critical thought."

Since then, NCLC tried to organize an "independent" commission to investigate the CIA plot. They issued a release which included a number of prominent left-affiliated individuals, including Nat Hentoff, a columnist for the Village Voice and active in the ACLU. Hentoff says he was approached by an NCLC person and was informed that several people he respected were on the commission.

He says that, although he distrusted NCLC from Operation Mop-Up, he adhered to the "honorable tradition of independent left commissions of inquiry," and agreed to participate.

Soon after, Hentoff was warned by a friend, that NCLC was not above using people's names for more than they had agreed to and so Hentoff withdrew. He began to investigate the commission, calling up the other names listed by NCLC.

He discovered that nearly all who had been approached had either never given permission at all or had done so on the understanding that someone they knew and respected had suggested their name for the commission. In most cases, this was not true.

Eventually, the entire commission was replaced

by new names after all the people withdrew publicly. But the incident and its description in Hentoff's Voice column, earned him a denunciation from NCLC, who charged that he worked for the CIA. They "proved" this by charging that he had made more than 30 phone calls to check out the commission and obviously couldn't have paid for them himself.

In addition to the major campaigns, NCLC, particularly through its weekly paper New Solidarity, and its monthly magazine Campaigner, takes positions on other issues. And, here again, there is a basic pattern: whatever the left movement supports, NCLC doesn't!

In particular, this has been true of strikes. At a time when the left movement is increasingly expending energy on developing a base among workers, NCLC has come up with the theory that strikes are, in general, a counter-revolutionary act. In fact, most times, major strikes are termed "lock-outs" by New Solidarity, implying that the workers are being used by the bosses.

NCLC opposed the Farah strike and in general oppose the United Farm Workers (UFW), ridiculing the boycotts and terming Chavez a "slave-driver." In reference to the UPN, NCLC said, "UFW or Teamsters, it's all the same hustle.... We seek to organize the rage that we know exists in farm-workers. The question is this: Will you join us in building a movement that can direct that rage, that will struggle for productive jobs at capitalist expense, that seeks to become the government? Will you help build NU-WRO? If you don't, your future degeneration is a certainty."

On the issue of union democracy, NCLC almost consistently opposes rank-and-file organizing, claiming that it weakens the power of the union by distributing power to a wider spectrum of people.

The United Mine Workers (UMW), since the rank-and-file successfully threw out its thoroughly corrupt president Tony Boyle and elected a Miners for Democracy candidate to head the union, has been a special target of NCLC attacks.

Interestingly enough, the only strike and union that NCLC continues to support is the UFT struggle against community control of the schools. Charging that decentralization is "proto-fascist", NCLC has continued to support the UFT's harassment of community elected school personnel.

The UFT is unusual in that it has allied itself with some of the most reactionary elements in New York in its efforts to fight against community control. During the 1969 strike (which they lost) the UFT, via their up-and-coming president Albert Shanker, resorted to red-baiting, racism and the threat of anti-semitism to whip up a hysteria among the white, primarily Jewish middle class against community control. Since then, he has consistently taken right-wing positions, supporting the Vietnam War (when the AFT, nationally, came out against it), meeting with Nixon and refusing any support to McGovern during the '72 election. He has also used red-baiting and innuendo to maintain his hold over the union.

Members of the UFT's Teachers' Action Caucus

a radical group inside the UFT, report that NCLC has consistently harassed them, coming to meetings threatening them and forcing them to repeatedly make clear to others that TAC is not NCLC.

Most recently, NCLC issued a leaflet on New York's lower East Side, which attacked a youth gang there for breaking up an NCLC press conference. In that press conference, NCLC denounced Luis Fuentes, a community-elected district superintendent who has been a special thorn in the UFT's side. In the leaflet, NCLC charges that the CIA (specifically Fuentes) used a woman to lure gang members into working for them.

It reads in part: "One lesbian-whore, one homosexual and one black nazi sufficed to get the Spanish Machos (the gang in question) aroused for 'Bro' Luis Fuentes, head faggot of Bookfeller's mop-up operation against the United Federation of Teachers.... Summer of 1971, Carmen _____, claiming connections with the impotent Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) began 'gapping' her legs in front of gangs in the Lower East Side. Within twenty-four hours, the felled agent reached one of the most important gang leaders in the area. A few months later, that same stench had lured other key potential revolutionaries into Carmen's bed of impotence and degradation.... The Revolutionary Youth Movement intends to stop Vampire _____ and her two vaginal assistants—Lukie and Ameca—who wind up in bed with her when not performing their 'vamping techniques' on gang members." The leaflet was entitled, "Office of Vaginal Opportunistics."

NCLC ON WOMEN

The leaflet entitled "Office of Vaginal Opportunities" was no aberration in NCLC's grand theoretical design. Pejorative descriptions of women appear repeatedly in NCLC material. It was, in fact, a direct conclusion of Marcus's neo-Freudian "revolutionary" theory.

Key to the theory is that the "working class" is held back from true revolutionary consciousness by women. Women represent the primary reactionary force in workers' lives.

A large part of this so-called psychoanalytical theory of Marcus's rests heavily on an anti-gay bias. Marcus insists that males fear homosexuality most of all, and insists that women use this against men, making them impotent (a favorite Marcus pejorative). He explains that "women are lesbian-oriented" anyway, pointing to the mother/daughter relationship as a lesbian one and the only one that interests women. They only relate to men to "manipulate" them, and psychologically "castrate" them. In the OVO leaflet, terms like "faggot," "impotent," and "lesbian-whore" were all used to describe both women and men being attacked by NCLC.

In an editorial in the Campaigner (Sept./Oct. 1973), Marcus's psychoanalytical theory is made perfectly clear!

See continued

"...All across the U.S.A. there are workers who are prepared to fight. They are held back most immediately by pressure from their wives. Their frightened depressed voices angrily warn these workers, 'Don't get involved in politics, dear; you know, it will get you in trouble.' If the worker rejects this pressure from his wife, she then haras into tears or threatens to leave him, wailing--or expressing herself even more forcefully--reassessing her fear of the catastrophe his 'reckless' venture into politics will bring down upon the safety of their home.

"The worker, typically, caves in, and attempts to reassure his wife, tries to calm her fears, and later andly shrugs off his fellow-workers: 'Look boys, I can't get involved,' alluding in one fashion or another to his 'family responsibilities' or simply his wife's 'fears'.

"Has that wretched woman, his wife any legitimate right to demand that her husband give up politics?"

"...To organize the working class we are going to systematically destroy the counterrevolutionary subjective element of 'woman's fears' both in the working class woman herself and in the man's infantile subjugation to the fears of the internalized 'mother-image' from his childhood."

Some ex-members described the way the so-called "mother problem" is used inside NCLC: "The mother problem is used as a derogatory way to answer any criticism or resistance to Marcus's ideas," said one. Another explained, "It was an accusation of not speaking self-consciously, of allowing your ideas to be dominated by women, by women's ideas." Alice Weitzman, an NCLC member kidnapped by the group for disagreeing with some of its positions said, "At conferences, they'd explain how women tell men that if they get into politics they wouldn't get any pussy--just like that."

NCLC has not gone unnoticed by the left during the last year. In addition to the specific denunciations of Operation Hop-Up, some leftist groups have begun to seriously question NCLC's actual purposes and intentions. The legitimacy as a leftist group that recent press coverage has given NCLC makes it even more urgent that the left determine what NCLC is. Is it in fact a legitimate leftist organization or is it a psychotic sect (akin to various religious sects), or a police-manipulated group, or something akin to the early days of Hitler's National Socialists? There is evidence to support each theory.

The relationship between Marcus and the rest of NCLC is unusual for a "revolutionary" organization. He admits to consciously manipulating the membership to make them "better revolutionaries." He obviously determines all policy and tactics. And a glance at his personal background partially explains the various targets of NCLC--if you accept a psychological explanation of the phenomenon.

Marcus, who is in his fifties, began his career as a leftist in the Communist Party. Disillusioned, he went on to join the Socialist Workers Party and the International Socialists before joining NCLC.

"...I was resolved that no revolutionary movement was going to be brought into being unless I brought it into being. I had settled with myself the general policies by which that would be accomplished, and had also located the radicalized social strata on which my work would have to begin. The only question which remained unsettled for me, until late 1963 and early 1964, was that of exactly where I could dig in to make a be-

ginning." [NCLC Internal Memo, by L. Marcus, May 10, 1973] NCLC has obviously served his purpose.

Quoted in the Phoenix, a former NCLC member described Marcus's effect on the organization. "Lyn had the notion that if his ideas did not prevail, mankind was doomed." And since he was obviously the most brilliant (and his early work was really great) everyone became afraid to criticize him...even to say 'but I don't understand.' Even when his work got sloppier, people kept conceding ground...His ideas became the organization and the organization had to be supported."

In addition, there are certain elements of Marcus's rhetoric and theory which point to psychological problems. He is obsessed with sex, particularly by homosexuality, which he sees as the greatest threat to a male. All of the CIA Brainwashing material is sexually-oriented, with a lot of focus on the role of mother in development. A pseudo-Freudian, Marcus blames almost everything on the mother. He invariably uses sexual terms as pejoratives. NCLC wrote an entire pamphlet on "The Sexual Impotence of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party," for example.

Finally, regarding the Brainwash Plot, several investigators noted an interesting coincidence. Simultaneous with Marcus's announcement that NCLC had discovered one of their members, a man named Chris White, had been brainwashed by the KGB, White married the woman that Marcus had been living with. Some speculate that this personal rejection drove Marcus to develop the theory that White was out to kill him.

Marcus then could be viewed as a psychotic who is immensely demagogic, with a capacity to maintain the allegiance of many people even in the face of severe criticism from "comradely" groups.

Another theory is that NCLC is a police organization. Red-baiting, disruption of leftist activities, sabotage of working class movements, the potential of a paramilitary youth movement--all seem particularly attractive goals for police. And given recent revelations about the counterinsurgency plans of the FBI, it is not out of the realm of possibility that some agency would go to the trouble to create an NCLC, or take advantage of one that exists.

Much of Marcus's own background is quite mysterious. Besides his left-group hopping, Marcus is a computer programmer who owns his own business. He has taught in several universities and uses an alias.

In addition, police affiliations have been proven against several members of NCLC who were prominent in the Philadelphia leadership, which directed the initial campaign against NNRO and the CP last March. One, Jose Torres, is an ex-Green Beret and military intelligence agent. Another is Daniel Valdes, a Pennsylvania parole board officer (licensed to carry a .38), and another, currently active in NCLC-RYM, is Zake Boyd, expelled from the Baltimore Panthers as an FBI agent. Boyd was expelled from the post of Minister of Defense at the same time that the Minister of Security in Chicago, also an FBI agent, was aiding in setting-up the assassination of Fred Hampton.

Finally, there is the theory that NCLC represents a similar development to that of the Nazis in Germany during the 1930's. Many groups, including

the CP, the Socialist Workers Party and the Guardian newspaper (an independent Maoist weekly) have used the term "Fascist" to describe NCLC. Clearly, "communists" have been systematically beaten up before --by the paramilitary groups of Mussolini and Hitler. But there is also a more political reason to apply the term.

In a paper on NCLC prepared for the Madison, Wisconsin radical community, a group of movement people point out:

"When the Nazi Party first came on the scene in 1920, they were avowedly anti-capitalist. Their first mass meeting called for opportunity of employment, nationalization of trusts, communitization of department stores, extension of old-age pensions, prohibition of child labor and the prosecution of usurers and profiteers. Even the Nazi flag was chosen to be red, the traditional color of revolutionary socialism.

"...They set up a Central Association of the Unemployed, patterned after the Communist Party's Workers' Congresses, and even mimicked slogans and symbols of the left, to the extent that even the terms 'comrade' and 'fellow worker' flowed freely from their lips.

"Over and over the National Socialists proclaimed that Hitler's Party was the only anti-capitalist party in Germany. The Nazi newspaper, though always talking about workers and how they were being used by the ruling class, would never support their specific demands... Hitler concluded that strikes only served the interests of 'shadow men behind the scenes, not the proletariat.' ...The Nazis declared that 'in today's political situation, the strike is a cut-in-one's own flesh' and it ridiculed workers who demonstrated for immediate gains."

The Madison paper warns that while one cannot make direct analogies between NCLC and the Nazis, one can learn from the clear similarities. It concludes:

"...NCLC, as it seems to exist today, has the makings of a truly indigenous fascist movement... And so you must be on guard, especially if you are new to the left, or to left organizations.

"The next time, therefore, a member of NCLC comes flying up and tells you that they are the only really serious organization in the world because they were the first to have the guts to beat up the Communists, you might respond by reminding them that they fascists initially did it back in 1922 and that the storm divisions of the Nazis did it hundreds of times after that."

In the last few weeks, a slightly more ominous development has occurred in New York. A group called Centers for Change (CFC), which described itself previously as a "Marxist-Leninist-Maoist" organization, issued a statement in the March 7 issue of their paper in which they declare that "NCLC is the vanguard party."

Proclaiming themselves to be the "mass-line, vanguard-rear guard organization," CFC proceeds to denounce the movement as a "CIA developed deterrent

to the development of the vanguard party."

They continue: "The CIA-controlled capitalist-fascist government of this country has developed several powerful techniques for preventing insurrection during these times of crisis. One such technique is a technique developed by bourgeois psychologists who study mass group behavior in this bourgeois society and provide their bosses, the CIA, with the information to further destroy the masses... This powerful technique for preventing insurrection during times of crisis is called 'the Left Movement,' 'the Radical Movement,' or 'the Movement.' (their emphasis.)

It is not clear how CFC came to join NCLC, but it is clear that now, in New York at least, NCLC has no more outlet for its material, and is able to give the illusion of a growing base of organizational support.

NCLC may be one or all of those things--they may be a combination. When all of the information is put together, however, NCLC cannot be viewed as a positive force on the left and serious consideration should be given to the future before they are accorded the respect due comrades organizations.

The word on NCLC is Beware!

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[Information for this article was gathered from issues of The Daily World, The Militant, Workers Power, The Fifth Estate, The Boston Phoenix, the Drummer, among others. More information can be obtained from these papers or from LNS.]

CANADIAN WOMEN'S GROUP DEMONSTRATES SEXIST BIAS OF "VOCATIONAL INTEREST TEST"

VICTORIA, B.C. Canada (CUP/LNS)-- In order to prove how women are channeled into jobs defined as women's work, members of the University of Victoria Women's Action Group recently took both the women's and men's vocational tests at the University's Counselling Center.

One woman rated high in public speaking and law as interests. Though the male test advises such a person to be a lawyer, the female results showed her suited to a career as a WCA counsellor.

Another woman whose main interest is music received the advice that if male she would be suited to be an orchestra conductor, but the female test suggested she be a piano teacher.

A third woman who took the two tests was advised to be a farmer by the male test and a farmer's wife by the female test!

The tests, which are American-made, asks women, "would you like to be the wife of the President?" rather than "would you like to be President?"

Male tests measure aggression, athletic prowess, and the desire to organize and rule people. Considered feminine by the women's test, is the woman who spends time in the morning putting on make-up, wears fashionable clothes, who likes to help people.

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