

WHY THE CPUSA PRAISES I.A.M. CHIEF WINPISINGER

One of the capitalists' newest liberal "heroes" within the labor movement is machinists' union (IAM) President William Winpisinger. As a rapidly rising star within the union bureaucracy, Winpisinger has received much praise from those who would like the workers to be fooled by his "militant" style and rhetoric of "concern" for the average worker.

One of those forces loudest in support of Winpisinger is the revisionist CPUSA, which itself is trying to mislead the workers' movement. In a recent issue of their West Coast paper, *People's World*, the revisionists talk in glowing terms of Winpisinger's leadership of the IAM. Winpisinger has a "keen sense of responsibility to the IAM's rank and file," says *People's World*.

But just how keen is it? A look at some facts can shed some light on this.

Winpisinger's "responsibility" to the workers at Rylock Co. in Union City, Calif., for instance, has been anything but "keen." He has completely abandoned those workers, who have been on strike against the company's

union-busting for 10½ months.

Under Winpisinger's leadership, the local bureaucrats refused to endorse all but one mass rally of the workers, and that was last July. Just a few months later, Winpisinger's boys ordered a cutoff of all strike benefits to the Rylock workers, who have since been forced to get other jobs to stay alive.

Then there was Winpisinger's role in the 14-week Caterpillar strike in nearby San Leandro, California. There, 1,500 strikers militantly defied several attempts by the local union leaders to ram a settlement down their throats. But Winpisinger personally ordered a sellout deal to be voted on by the rank and file through a quickie mail ballot, thereby preventing any democratic discussion of its pros or cons by the membership.

The result of this undemocratic procedure was approval of the proposed contract. Today, Caterpillar workers are facing a rising rate of firings and harassments and, because of the rotten contract, have been unable to stop these and other attacks such as racist downgrading of work-

ers.

People's World, however, makes no mention of these facts. Instead, the revisionists praise Winpisinger to the skies.

The reason is not too hard to see. Winpisinger, after all, has made a number of statements urging reliance on "detente" with the Soviet Union and covering up the growing war danger between the superpowers. He also is a big promoter of various government jobs programs that have yet to provide any unemployed worker with a job. The CPUSA is willing to unite with any traitor and scab so long as—in return—they can get support for their sham "solutions" to the problems facing the working people.

In fact, this is the revisionists' strategy in the labor movement. They are out to build their "left-center coalition" and ride the coattails of the labor misleaders into power in the unions. For the workers, this "coalition" of reformists and revisionists is no different from the schemes of two gangsters cooperating in their mutual rip-off of the people.