

Labor in Focus by Marianna Wertz

There's a snake in the Hormel strike!

A front organization for the Communist Party U.S.A. has introduced the tactics of the 1930s.

Corporate Campaign, Inc. "has been very effective," Greg Tarpinian told a researcher for *EIR*. Tarpinian is executive director of Labor Research Associates, a recognized front group of the Communist Party U.S.A. "The reason Corporate Campaign has gotten so much publicity is that they are the only ones doing what they are doing," he said.

Mary Jo Kilroy, a member of the left-radical National Lawyers Guild, which regularly defends terrorists and communists, also recommends Corporate Campaign: "Yes, I am familiar with CCI. CCI . . . tries to raise consciousness."

Corporate Campaign, Inc. was founded in New York in 1984 by Ray Rogers and Ed Allen, high-priced labor "consultants" whose services have been hired by Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers in Austin, Minnesota in their strike against the Hormel meat company.

The five-month-old strike has gained widespread media attention because of the level of violence it has generated. Beginning in January, the strike escalated, after Hormel began hiring replacement workers for the more than 1,000 strikers. Some 800 national guardsmen now stand shoulder-to-shoulder in front of the plant daily, to prevent violence. On Feb. 1, more than 1,000 university students showed up for a rally at the plant, bearing a large banner which read "Solidarity." Farmers from the pro-terrorist Groundswell organization recently brought their tractors into town to blockade entrances to the plant.

Dozens of instances of sabotage of Hormel meat products have been discovered in area stores, while a letter threatening to "poison" Hormel products was sent to the press on Feb. 4.

Ray Rogers' definition of his "Corporate Campaign" is "a mechanism to confront power with power." Rogers has been touted in the national media as the "Clausewitz of the corporate campaign," a "new approach" to trade union struggles, in which the union's efforts are focused against the targeted company's "corporate power structure," including its banking, insurance, and other financial ties.

Rogers first skyrocketed into public attention when he took command of the 17-year-long struggle to unionize 10 J. P. Stevens plants in the Carolinas and Alabama. His tactics were hailed by *New York Times* veteran leftist labor reporter A. H. Raskin: "Pressure on giant banks and insurance companies and other Wall Street pillars, all aimed at isolating Stevens from the financial community, helped generate a momentum toward settlement that could not be achieved through the 1976-80 worldwide boycott of Stevens products or through more conventional uses of union muscle such as strikes and mass picketing."

Rogers has been accorded massive press coverage since the Stevens strike, which was the subject of the motion picture, *Norma Rae*. *Business Week* gave him accolades in an April 1984 article, "The Picket Line Gives Way to Sophisticated New Tactics." The *New York Times* gave him a Section-

A op ed on Feb. 8, 1984, titled "Fighting Management." The *Christian Science Monitor* titled its August 1981 coverage, "Fighting Power with Power." And, of course, the left press loves him.

But the traditional unions keep a safe distance from Corporate Campaign, and at least four unions, including the Air Line Pilots Association and the International Association of Machinists, hired Rogers' services, but cut him off after a brief association.

Rogers, a pacifist and a vegetarian, claims that he "would not kill a fly." He holds a college degree in sociology from the University of Massachusetts, and spent two years of alternative service in VISTA, mainly in the Tennessee Appalachians. His first foray into Saul Alinsky-style organizing was his founding of the non-profit, tax-exempt foundation, "Human Love Action" in Washington, D.C. in the early 1970s, for which he obtained Public Welfare Foundation grants.

Rogers' "corporate campaigns" are nothing but a soft cover for the kind of agent-provocateur policies that communists have used in the labor movement since the 1930s. His "new tactics" aren't new; they are the same tactics used by the "New Left" in the days of protest against the Vietnam War, where individual companies, was the target. Their purpose, as Rogers himself openly admits, is to "divide and conquer the capitalists."

The American System was built on the exact opposite principle, the principle of Harmony of Interest between labor, farmers, and business, in continued expansion of productivity through use of new technologies and improved living standards. If the American System of economy is to be saved, it will only be through re-establishment of the Harmony of Interest.