

Communist chairman says Reagan no help

By ROB CICCOTELLI
Jambar Reporter

Emotional outbursts of national pride and mistrust of communism accented the question and answer session following a speech by Gus Hall, National Chairman of the Communist Party, USA, Thursday in DeBartolo Hall.

Audience response varied, ranging from supportive to violently opposed. Hall supporters and challengers occasionally clashed during the question and answer period, taking control of the discussion at points.

Hall, while living in Youngstown, was the organizer of the United Steelworkers of America and was the leader of the "Little Steel Strike" in Warren in 1937.

Hall spoke of the current status of labor unions and the problems of the steel industry in cities like Youngstown.

According to Hall, one way to save the steel industry and other industries suffering the same impending fate, would be to initiate federal takeovers of the industries.

Hall also stated that he feels there are no "solutions under Reagan because Reagan is the problem, not the solution." He went on to explain that under Reagan, the deficit has more than tripled and that Reagan's tax cuts mainly benefit corporations and the wealthy and have done nothing for the poor.

In addition, Hall stated that concessions and wage cuts in industry "have not saved one single job." See Gus Hall, page 7



Remembrance

The Gina Tenney Memorial Sculpture, dedicated Tuesday morning at Bliss Hall, can be seen near the southeast entrance to Bliss Hall, near Ford Auditorium. Members of Tenney's family, the YSU administration, faculty and student body attended the dedication ceremony.

JOHN CHARIGNON/THE JAMBAR

Gus Hall

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Hall projected that government spending on a modern railway system and affordable housing rather than on defense would be the key to overall prosperity. This would create jobs which would in turn bring about a need for materials provided by industries such as steel.

Through the "Little Steel Strike," Hall said he learned "you can't win anything without a certain attitude and determination — militancy." He defined militancy as the drive to fight injustice.

Hall stated that in the early 30s, before the Wagner Act made labor unions legal, members met secretly in church basements.

Hall stated that he will soon meet with Soviet leader Mikhail

Gorbachev to discuss the activities of the Communist Party, USA.

Hall became General Secretary of the Communist Party, USA, in 1959. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII.

Hall also served an eight-year federal prison term at Leavenworth for a violation of the Smith Act. This law made it illegal to conspire to advocate and teach the violent overthrow of government and was later determined to be unconstitutional.

Hall has run for the presidency of the U.S. four times on the communist ticket.

The speech was sponsored by the departments of history, philosophy, economics, political science and labor studies at YSU. It was presented in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the "Little Steel Strike."