

COUNTERATTACK

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

FACTS TO COMBAT COMMUNISM

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Dear Subscriber:

STALIN IS BUILDING A NEW WORLD-WIDE COMMUNIST FRONT FOR "PEACE"... like his chain of leagues "for Peace and Democracy" in the 1930's.

U S section of this front was partly established this week under name of "Cultural and Scientific Committee for World Peace". This can easily be broadened to include labor and other elements. Committee was set up last week-end by U S Congress of Intellectuals, which was sponsored by Natl Council of Arts, Sciences & Professions, headed by Prof Harlow Shapley.

"World Congress of Partisans of Peace" will be held in Paris April 20-24. A "Canadian Peace Congress" is scheduled in Toronto May 6-8. A British "peace congress" in June is planned by British-Soviet Society.

For months Communists in Western Hemisphere have been tentatively planning an "American Congress for Peace & Democracy", probably to be held in Mexico City (Counterattack #82, p 4).

Willi Muenzenberg, Communist member of German Reichstag, formed Stalin's world-wide "peace" front in 1930's. At his direction two French novelists, Romain Rolland and Henri Barbusse, early in 1932 issued a call to a world "anti-war" congress. Months before it was held, Muenzenberg sent a Russian secret agent named Urevich to U S. A group of intellectuals met in home of A A Heller, rich Communist angel. They set up American Committee for the World Congress Against War. A public conference was held in August '32, and delegates were sent to world congress in Amsterdam in September.

"In the foreground of the (Amsterdam) Congress were more intellectuals, non-Communist 'big-shots', than Communists," declared Daily Worker proudly. After that a permanent U S section was set up, under name of American Committee for Struggle Against War. In 1933 this name was changed to American League Against War & Fascism, and in 1937 to American League for Peace & Democracy. The league demanded an alliance of all the "democracies" (including Stalin Russia) against Hitler, Mussolini & Japan.

But in August 1939 Stalin signed his pact with Hitler. So American League for Peace & Democracy was soon killed. In its place came Amer Peace Mobilization, which denounced Britain & France as imperialist, and put a picket line at White House to label Roosevelt a warmonger. After Hitler invaded Russia in 1941, this front was scrapped. But after the war it was replaced with Natl Committee to Win the Peace. In 1947 this was dissolved in favor of Progressive Citizens of America, which is now "Progressive" Party.

Now the Cominform is staging the same show all over. There was the World Congress of Intellectuals, at Wroclaw, Poland, last August. And then U S Congress of Intellectuals. And now there's a bogus "peace" committee that was created by that congress and will hold meetings and try to collect a vast number of signatures on a "roll call for peace". Atlantic Defense Pact is denounced, and U S has become "the new Hitler", the tyrant whom the "democracies" must resist through a new world-wide front.

HOW SHOULD ANTI-COMMUNISTS COUNTERATTACK THE PHONY "PEACE" DRIVE?

The new "Cultural & Scientific Committee for World Peace" and the Natl Council of Arts, Sciences & Professions are waging a nation-wide propaganda campaign. This must be fought. The most effective work against U S Congress of Intellectuals was done by a hurriedly formed group, Americans for Intellectual Freedom. They included people of many points of view, ranging from conservative Republicans to Socialists. This group organized a successful counter-meeting, addressed by leading intellectuals, including a scientist who is a Nobel Prize winner.

Similar work should be done by Americans for Intellectual Freedom or groups of the same sort in many places. They should organize anti-Communist intellectuals to fight the powerful propaganda of the pro-Communist intellectuals. And they should expose the party-line records of many local & regional sponsors of "Cultural & Scientific Committee for World Peace".

NINE JAILED IN COMMUNIST INQUIRY. Federal Judge Peirson M Hall this week sentenced three leading Los Angeles Communists to a year in jail for criminal contempt, and six other persons to indefinite terms for civil contempt until they're ready to answer Federal Grand Jury's questions. Grand jury wants CP membership rolls and other information in order to learn whether some Federal employees perjured themselves in denying CP membership.

COMMUNISTS ARE TRYING TO TAKE OVER LOS ANGELES CITY GOVERNMENT by backing CP members and other candidates in non-partisan primary election Tues, Apr 5. Mayoralty candidate on their slate is former Lt Gov & former Congressman Ellis E Patterson, who has played ball with them for many years.

Leo Gallagher, "an admitted & registered member of the Communist Party" (as Calif Un-American Activities Committee reported in 1945), is candidate for Bd of Education. So is Henry Steinberg, legislative director for CP, who is one of the Communists sentenced to a year in jail by Federal Judge Hall this week for contempt because he refused to answer questions of Federal Grand Jury about CP. Other candidates for Bd of Education, City Council, and municipal judge who are supported by Communists are Raphael Konigsberg, John A Barnes, Paul Major, Isaac Kushner, Robt J Sullivan.

CP TELLS ITS UNION LEADERS TO ORGANIZE THE UNEMPLOYED AND TO DEMAND HIGHER WAGES FOR WORKERS. Asserting a depression is coming, the CP has sent out a new directive, signed by Natl Labor Sec'y John Williamson (one of 11 top leaders now on trial in Federal Court for plotting against Govt).

"This new unemployment situation marks the onset of another crisis of overproduction," says the directive. "It threatens to develop into a full-blown cyclical crisis" (meaning a depression). "...The trade unions should take the initiative now to organize the unemployed and to cement the unity of employed and unemployed workers in action around the issue of jobs—and particularly around the problem of securing the job rights of the Negro workers....Such leadership should come from the most experienced workers, and especially from the Communists...."

"The unemployed workers and the trade unions should take the initiative in establishing councils and other coordinating bodies."

In order to win support of the unemployed, it's necessary for Communist leaders of unions to have a program that especially appeals to them. CP won a big following among the unemployed in 1930's. Now it issues a program based on that experience. It orders Communist leaders in unions to

demand higher corporate & excess profits taxes...increased unemployment compensation rates, "with a single national standard, and its extension for the duration of unemployment"...wider unemployment insurance coverage...big Federal programs for housing & slum clearance, public works, health, hospitals & education, "at prevailing trade union wage scales and with a minimum wage rate of \$1 an hour"...and broader old-age security provisions.

And the CP lays down the following legislative & industrial program for unions: Outright repeal of Taft-Hartley law, and "reenactment without amendment" of Wagner Act & Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Act. Immediate wage raise of 25¢ an hour. Decrease of work week to 30 hours, with no cut in pay. "Sharp curtailment of speedup and cancellation of all productivity increases since the end of the war." \$1 hour minimum wage. A guaranteed work week and guaranteed annual wage. "No overtime work while there are workers without jobs." Protection of job rights of Negro workers. Wider veterans' benefits and GI unemployment insurance, and a national bonus. "Severance pay for all laid-off workers to be paid by the companies."

And United Electrical Workers follows CP policy by issuing appeal to CIO. This top CP-controlled union urges CIO to call a national wage conference of delegates from all CIO unions and CIO state & city councils, plus CIO regional directors, in order to "advance the standard of living and check growing unemployment." If Philip Murray called such a conference, the Communists would urge adoption of program laid down in CP directive. And if Murray doesn't call such a conference, the Communists will blame him for not calling it, and will use their alluring program as a weapon against him.

Note that the CP program for workers & unemployed isn't a Communist one. Non-Communists and anti-Communists in unions are making somewhat similar demands. But CP, as usual, goes further, in order to win new supporters.

PHILIP MURRAY FACES HARD PROBLEM IN FARM EQUIPMENT UNION DEFIANCE.
United Farm Equipment & Metal Workers (FE), in convention in Cedar Rapids, Ia, has unanimously voted to disobey order of CIO Executive Bd to merge with United Auto Workers. Murray had wired FE convention it must obey order or else CIO Exec Bd in its next meeting would take "proper action" to put it into effect. Convention ignored the warning. Now what will Murray do?

Not only the Communist leaders of FE but the rank & file are defying him. Murray can't easily overcome this defiance by simply giving UAW a free hand to raid FE. Such a direct attack would embitter the FE members.

Murray has badly hurt one anti-Communist union by hasty acts in disregard of its members' opinions. At CIO convention in Portland, Ore, last Nov, he assailed some small Communist-led unions for not doing their organizing work capably. At the same time he assailed the ANTI-Communist-led Retail, Wholesale & Dept Store Union (RWDSU) for similar failure. Strong bloc of Communist-dominated locals of RWDSU had seceded a short time before. Murray turned much of the RWDSU jurisdiction over to the big Amalgamated Clothing Workers. He expected Amalgamated to go in, beat the Communist secessionists in NLRB elections, and organize large masses of store employees.

But he got a surprise. The Communist secessionists easily held their own in NLRB elections. And RWDSU lost many members to rival AFL unions (it's beginning to do better now...it's getting stabilized). CIO was unable to enforce a mere edict on RWDSU members. And the members of Communist-controlled Farm Equipment union are showing similar resistance.

A deal between the FE leaders and their big brothers in United Electrical Workers has been reported to Murray. The FE leaders are using this alleged deal as a threat. They whisper that it provides for transfer of as many of their locals as possible to UE, if Murray cracks down on FE for refusing to merge. According to FE leaders' story, Jas J Matles, UE organizational director, who is CP commissar (boss) of that big union, was at first opposed to accepting the FE locals, because he didn't want a head-on collision with Murray. But he is said to have finally agreed to accept the locals in case there's no other way to prevent the merger with UAW.

With this alleged deal in mind, Murray is apt to avoid headlong measures in dealing with FE. And the Auto union leaders themselves haven't much taste for a frontal assault on the smaller union. Their present inclination is to move slowly, allay the FE members' resentment, and gradually induce them to favor a merger with UAW.

COMMUNIST PARTY ARRANGED THE PICKETING OF BEVIN. This week British Foreign Sec'y Ernest Bevin arrived here, to cooperate with America for freedom. He was picketed. Arriving on the same ship was Andrei Gromyko, representing world stronghold of slavery, Stalin Russia. He was NOT picketed.

Explanation of this topsy-turvy situation is that Communists, who are well organized, do a lot of picketing, while their opponents don't.

The Communist organization in charge of the picketing of Bevin is Joint Committee to Combat Anti-Semitism. This is a front, set up jointly by International Workers Order (IWO) and American Jewish Labor Council. IWO is Communist Party's fraternal insurance society. It's on Justice Dept list of fronts. American Jewish Labor Council (AJLC) is also a front. CP formed it as rival to Jewish Labor Committee, which is strongly ANTI-Communist. Atty Gen Tom Clark, in speech at recent Jewish Labor Committee convention, intimated he would add AJLC to his list. But he hasn't done so at this writing.

CP is using Palestine issue as weapon against Atlantic Defense Pact. It smears Bevin as anti-Israel and then it implies the pact is clearly bad, because Bevin is one of its signers. Among the LESS vicious slogans chanted by the pickets was this one: "Go home Bevin, take Churchill with you." When Churchill arrived a few days earlier, he was greeted with boos & Bronx cheers...as a result of specific orders by Communist Party (Counterattack March 25 p 1). In both cases the demonstrations were part of the CP's campaign against Atlantic Defense Pact.

Most newspaper readers & radio listeners didn't learn that the anti-Bevin demonstration was Communist-inspired. Only a small minority of newspapers & broadcasters were alert enough to indicate this important fact.

Justice Dept is mainly to blame for not listing ALL important Communist fronts, so that the press & radio can identify them when they demonstrate. But this doesn't wholly exonerate press & radio. The big newspapers & networks that had reporters at the scene of the anti-Bevin demonstration should have spotted it at once as the work of a Communist front. And they should have told this frankly to the public. Millions of people were misled because press & radio didn't report this Communist trick rightly.

Yours faithfully,

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