

Jack The Liar

IN the October 4 issue of the "Workers' Dreadnought" (official organ, Workers' Socialist Federation of England) Jack Reed has a statement on the situation in America teeming with lies.

Lie 1.—The Communist Party is "the result of an artificial grouping of foreign-born workers which formerly constituted the foreign language Federations of the Socialist Party." The Communist Party is the logical development of the Left Wing; 90% of the organizations and delegates represented at the National Left Wing Conference are now in the Communist Party; approximately 50% of the Communist Party membership is non-Federation. Considering that 60% of our industrial proletariat is foreign, the number of foreign comrades in our party is in accord with the character of the American proletariat.

Lie 2.—The Communist Party "seeks to create a foreign working class movement in the United States expressed in terms of the European movement along the lines of the Bolshevik Party of Russia (without any attempt to adapt it to the psychology of the American working class.)" This is a very stupid lie, since the agitation of the Communist Party is conforming to every requirement of peculiar American conditions, without becoming nativistic and ceasing to be international.

Lie 3.—The Communist Party "was due to the ambitions of certain people who wish above everything else to go down in history as having founded a Communist Party." Now frankly, Jack, were you not then unconsciously stigmatizing yourself and Wagenknecht, Gitlow & Co.?

Lie 4.—The Federation comrades of the Communist Party are "segregated from the Americans." Jack apparently doesn't understand the first elements of Communism, since the class struggle itself compels the foreign comrades to associate with the Americans.

Lie 5.—The Communist Party consists, according to Jack, of the Federations and "of English-speaking elements who hold to the theories of Plekhanov and oppose Mass Action." This is the worst lie of all. It is worse than a lie, it is criminal to characterize the Communist Party as favoring Plekhanov and opposing Mass Action.

Lie 6.—"The Large majority of the foreign speaking branches of the Communist Party," says Jack, "have begun to repudiate their leadership and come to us." This is the most brazen of all. Not even the official organ of the Communist Labor Party makes this wild claim: why does John Reed make claims in Europe that his party does not make in this country? Is filling the European comrades with outrageous lies promoting that Communist "unity" which the C. L. P. talks so much about?

In America, trying to break the Communist Party, Reed was amusing as Jack the Giant Killer; in Europe he is contemptible as Jack the Liar.

The "Workers' Dreadnought" does not accept Jack Reed's declaration at its face value, saying: "What puzzles one however as to the advisability of the formation of this new party (C. L. P.) is the fact that a 'Communist Party' was also formed at the same time in Chicago. . . . Not having both sides of the question at hand comment may now mean rash judgment." Precisely. We are confident that when our British comrades get the facts (not lies) they will understand the situation and realize that the formation of the C. L. P. expressed Centrism.

The Communist Party and Communist Unity

Resolution adopted by the Central Executive Committee

THE Central Executive Committee of the Communist Labor Party is still carrying on its unity agitation among the locals and membership of the Communist Party. This campaign was deliberately started and is being carried on in order to create discord and disintegration in our party.

The most characteristic feature of the C. L. P. agitation for unity is that it shoves aside the fundamental question of principles and tactics. In any discussion of the relation of one organization to another, the issue of principles and tactics is the most important—particularly at this stage of the development of an American Communist movement.

The Communist Labor Party represents a mixture of different elements which do not agree on fundamentals. It was organized by delegates most of whom wavered concerning the necessity of completely repudiating the Socialist Party. These delegates were interested chiefly in securing administrative control of the Socialist Party, and not in organizing a Communist Party; the C. L. P. was the accidental result of a convention of delegates who, for a large variety of reasons, were thrown out of the Socialist Party convention or couldn't agree with the Socialist Party. This circumstance is expressed in the program of the Communist Labor Party, which is a mixture of Syndicalism, Menshevism, Communism and ordinary parliamentary Socialism. Communism in the C. L. P. Program is "modified." Communist language is used without any understanding of its real meaning. The general haziness and unclear character of C. L. P. Program is an expression of the Centrism of its leaders and the mixed character of its membership.

The "unity" term is meaningless. Communist unity is achieved by bringing together all class conscious revolutionary workers into one organization, based on a definite Communist program and constitution. This unity, however, cannot be achieved by taking two separate organizations and compromising on a merger of their programs and constitutions. If the Manifesto, Program and Constitution of the Communist Party are in accord with Communist fundamentals (and the C. L. P. does not deny that they are) then there is already in existence a party with which every conscious Communist can unite.

We feel that there are Communist elements in the C. L. P. To these comrades we repeat our invitation to join the Communist Party—they are more than welcome; and we feel that they will realize their place is in the Communist Party and not in the C. L. P.

This is the time for action. The would-be dissenters must be forgotten. The Communist Party must carry on its work on the basis of its principles.

While the Communist Labor Party speaks in misleading terms about "unity," first on a "basis of equality," now on "a proper basis" the Communist Party has made the only concrete proposal that could realize the unity of all conscious Communist forces—the only unity that is acceptable: that branches of the C. L. P. accepting the Program and Constitution of the Communist Party will be admitted to our Party. Unity, in general, is not a factor necessarily making for strength; on the contrary, it often makes for weakness and disaster. Unity must be on fundamentals, not on bargaining and compromise of principles.

Revolutionary Outlook in Germany

WHAT is the revolutionary outlook in Germany? This question is repeated in a thousand ways not only in Soviet Russia but also in this country. Every class-conscious worker is following with anxiety and alarm the development of the counter-revolution in Germany, searchingly trying to analyze the complex social struggle going on there.

Will the German revolution, pressed under the iron heel of that volunteer army of Noske and Reinhard, perish? Or will the passionate gust of regenerated proletarian energy sweep the shameful inheritance of Hohenzollern and junkers off the face of the earth? Sooner or later German history will have to give a definite answer to this stern question.

The form which the struggle in Germany will finally take is not at all a matter of indifference to the Russian proletarian revolution. It is also of paramount importance to the development of the world revolution. If there is any one in the world whom the Russian worker hates with all the might of his titanic soul, it is Noske—the henchman Noske, writes Don Levine in one

of his dispatches from Petrograd. The same is true of the worker in Germany. Noske is the incarnation of the counter-revolution in Germany, and in proportion as he is hated by the workers he is being worshipped by the German bourgeoisie. The military-political machine in the form of the volunteer army created by Noske and Reinhard is the last bulwark of dying reaction. Led by officers of the old regime, composed mainly of middle class representatives, and therefore of consciously counter-revolutionary elements, this army is the class army of the bourgeoisie. This the German reactionaries understand only too well. The extension of the date for the demobilizing of the volunteer army to next spring, granted by the peace conference, was prompted by a similar understanding. They know perfectly well that without Reinhard's cut throats the Ebert Government would be swept aside by the German proletariat within twenty-four hours. The volunteer army is evidently the tool of the international reaction, and naturally no idea of its demobilization can be entertained.

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