

The Communist Party of America

(Reprinted from "The Call," official organ of the British Socialist Party)

WE have received the following statement from an authorized representative of the Communist Party of America:

In the "Daily Herald" of January 8th appears a cable from America containing certain accusations against the American Communist Party made by Santeri Nuorteva. The accusations allege:

1. That agents of the Department of Justice "organized the Communist Party of America."

2. That these agents "dictated the parts of the Communist Party programme which now constitute the basis for wholesale prosecutions and deportations."

Mr. Hanna characterizes these accusations as "astounding." They are more than astounding—they are criminal.

1. That government agents organized the Communist Party of America is as stupid as it is preposterous. The movement toward the Communist Party is international; it is a movement determined by the war, by the betrayal of Socialism, and by the collapse of the Second International, and by the proletarian revolution in Russia. The old Socialist movement has been split asunder, the Left elements rallying to the Communist Party and the Communist International.

2. It is monumental audacity, and worse, to say that Government agents "dictated the parts of the Communist Party program, which now constitute the basis for wholesale prosecutions and deportations."

These parts of our programme concern mass action, destruction of the bourgeois state and dictatorship of the proletariat, and these are copied almost word for word from the manifesto of the Communist International. In fact, circulation of this manifesto was made the basis for deportation proceedings against a number of comrades, during the Gary strike some months ago. Would Mr. Nuorteva assert that these passages in the manifesto of the Communist International were dictated—in Moscow—by agents of the American Department of Justice?

Mr. Nuorteva, in spite of being "secretary" of the American Soviet Bureau, is not a Communist; is, in fact, still a member of a discredited and reactionary Socialist Party. I have evidence which is now on its way to the Soviet Government in Moscow proving that Mr. Nuorteva is engaged in a sinister plot to wreck the Communist Party of America, and that he is trying to use the prestige of the American Soviet Bureau in his criminal plot.

The moderate Socialists in most countries have accused the Left element of being agents of the government-provocateurs. The Majority Socialists of Germany repeatedly stigmatized the Independents and Spartacans as agents provocateurs. During the Left Wing struggle in the American Socialist Party the representatives of the Left were more than once stigmatized as provocateurs; and now Mr.

Nuorteva repeats the accusation as against the Communist Party—in the interests of the corrupt and reactionary Socialist Party.

At this moment the American Communist Party is engaged in a life and death struggle with the powers of reaction. The party has been organized only four months, but already more than 5,000 of our 45,000 members have been arrested—one out of

nine. Practically all our officials are under arrest, and meetings are all broken up. The American Government is determined to break up our party. And at this moment Mr. Nuorteva tries to complete the demoralization of the party by a plot to discredit its active representatives. He will fail. Neither the plots nor the machine guns of the moderate Socialists can break the Communist movement.

Wasting English Money

THE Manchester "Guardian," in its issue of December 20, 1920, prints the following editorial under the title "Sharing the Burden." We observe that while the article appears to deal with English matters, it throws an interesting light on one of the sources of the impoverishment of the British exchequer:

The House of Commons have passed with the necessary celerity the Government's Bill to increase the scale of relief to be granted to old-age pensioners. One may endorse without enthusiasm Mr. Lloyd George's tribute to the unanimity with which members resolved upon this deeper dive into the purse of the taxpayer. Another hole in a sieve makes little odds. But it is worth while to get things in their proper perspective. The additional £10,000,000 a year which the Government are prepared to spend on old people who at the end of their life's work have not more than 10s. a week to live upon may seem a generous sum in the total. To the recipient it will mean a good deal less than what is commonly thought to be a living wage. The Government refuse to do more on the grounds of economy. Possibly they are right. We are all poorer, or should be, and perhaps the old-age pensioner ought

to bear his share of the increased national burden. But if the Government are right in this they are the more clearly wrong in other things. The final installment of General Denikin's subsidy, which the Government have not paid but are going to pay this winter, is an almost exact measure of the additional amount which would be required to carry out in full the recommendations put forward by the Select Committee last month. The Government put a higher value upon the fostering of civil war in Russian than they do upon securing a decent means of subsistence to the old-age pensioner at home.

FRENCH SOCIALISTS QUIT SECOND INTERNATIONAL

A dispatch of February 29th states that the French Socialist Party has voted to leave the Second International. Probably the French party will now join with the German Independents, the British I. L. P., the Swiss party, etc., in the proposed conference to consider unity with the Communist International.

The Paris section of the French party is predominantly Bolshevik, ready for immediate and unconditional affiliation with the Communist International.

We Must Show an Unbroken Front to Our Enemy

The capitalist class of the United States threw all the power of the government against the Communist Party of America during the first week in January.

Raids and arrests were carried out on a scale never before undertaken by any government against the working class movement. Even the Czar was outdone by the agents of American capitalism.

The capitalist government hoped to destroy the Communist Party by this unparalleled aggression and persecution.

The Victims of the Raids

Deportation

About 3,000 members of the Communist Party are being held at Ellis Island, New York City, Deer Island, Boston, and in prisons throughout the country. These men and women are charged with being members of the Communist Party, and because of such membership are threatened with deportation.

Although the capitalist government threw all its power into the effort to destroy our party, it has failed. In spite of the wholesale arrests our organization is functioning. The government has taken three or four thousand of our workers, but there are tens of thousands left who stand in their places and who have assumed their work.

The first duty of the party is to organize the defense of those comrades who are the victims of the ruling class attack upon us.

We must see that not one of our members is needlessly sacrificed. We must fight their battles against deportation and imprisonment. We must take advantage of every phase of capitalist laws to return them to our ranks and the service of the party.

To carry on this work a Central Defense Bureau has been organized.

This Bureau will have general charge of the defense of the party members everywhere. It will immediately give aid to those in localities where the defense organization is not functioning properly and as quickly as possible establish branches throughout the country to take over all defense work.

Every party unit should at once send its contributions for this defense work. Circulate the Defense Fund lists and Defense Fund Stamps.

The emergency is great, comrades, and you must make your contributions as great as the emergency. Never before has a working class organization been compelled to defend more than 3,000 of its members at the same time.

Let us show an unbroken front in spite of this attack. Let us show the power of Communism by performing this task quickly and well.

COMMUNIST DEFENSE COMMITTEE

C. E. RUTHENBERG, Sec. I. E. FERGUSON, Treas.
ROSE PASTOR STOKES JAY LOVESTONE CHARLES DIRBA

Send all contributions to: I. E. FERGUSON, 138 West 13th Street, New York City
(Use this address for defense fund contributions only)