

What Fish Committee Means

A Fighting United Front Needed Against the Sharpening Offensive of the Capitalist Class

The bubble of the Whalen documents has been loudly and derisively punctured. That clown and former police commissioner Whalen presented these documents as "proof" that Amtorg the official Soviet trading agency in New York was the center of Communist propaganda for the United States.

Three witnesses called before the Fish Committee have conclusively demonstrated from different angles that these "documents" are absolute and unadulterated forgeries. The first witness exposed sixteen internal mistakes and discrepancies that pointed to their fabrication by Russian white guards. A newspaperman testified that the "documents" had been offered for sale in Washington six weeks before Whalen released them to the New York press. But the most deadly testimony came from the man in whose print-shop on East Tenth street the letterheads of the Whalen documents were printed.

No one in the least familiar with the history of the series to which Whalen forgeries belonged could have entertained the shadow of a doubt as to their true character. The Sisson documents of some years ago, setting out to prove that Lenin and Trotsky were "German spies" could have been convincing only to such a product of the New York Forward as Moissaye Olgin. The celebrated Zinoviev letter could impose only on the willing credulity of a social-imperialist like Macdonald.

This exposé will, of course not stay the activities of the Fish Committee. It is the time-honored practise of the ruling class always to explain away "social unrest" as a malicious foreign importation. When the masses were once struggling in England for the blessings of parliamentary democ-

ocracy, the aristocracy blamed this movement on the gold of the French regicides. The source of all evil, the Czarist bureaucracy had it, were the Jews. In our present epoch of proletarian struggle, the capitalists find the key to all the riddles of the universe in . . . Moscow gold. The one thing they will not admit is that the roots of the revolutionary are sunk deep in the crisis of a class society that has outlived its historic usefulness.

Commissioned by Congress to investigate Communist propaganda for the overthrow of the government, the Fish Committee was in reality an expedient to distract attention from the misery of the unemployment crisis. In line with this policy, the Fish Committee made a rabid attack on Amtorg. It is no pleasure to the workers of Russia to have to trade with the eneral Electric or Henry Ford but power in the United States still lies in the hands of the capitalist, not the working class. The development of trade even under these conditions is, however, of direct interest to the American working class. Amtorg bought more than \$107,000,000 of American goods in 1928-9 and was planning to double that in the near future. The goods that Amtorg purchases here mostly with hard cash go towards facilitating the work of socialist construction in the Soviet Union and at the same time inevitably alleviate unemployment for thousands of American workers.

The baiting of Amtorg by the Fish Committee aided by the Matthew Woll's constitutes part and parcel of an attack on the interests of the American working class. The defense of the Soviet Union is their own best defense. This does not mean that the U.S.S.R. is any substitute for the action of the American proletariat. The Soviet

Union is the friend and ally of the international revolution which is the only guarantee that socialist society can be built up and maintained in any country. But the development of the class struggle takes place on the basis of the conditions in each capitalist country. The world organization that fights for the establishment of a chain of Soviet Republics is the Communist International. The functions of the Soviet Government and the Comintern are sufficiently distinct without P. A. Bogdanov, the Amtorg head, having resort to Sokolnikov's worthless, dangerous and revisionist subterfuge at the Geneva Economic Conference to the effect that capitalist and socialist systems can cohabit the world peacefully side by side!

It is imperative to arouse the widest possible mass movement against this Fish Committee and its probable consequences. Elihu Root has already advanced the idea of creating a special secret Federal police, a sort of American Ochrana to spy more effectively over the revolutionary workers. Whether Root's proposal in this form is realized at this time or not, the coming storm and stress period in the class struggle will mark more and more vicious attempts to place heavier shackles on the labor movement. The Department of Justice will be more extensively solidized and its stool pigeon activities re-enforced. The revolutionary press will have a constant struggle against being barred from the mails. The industrial espionage system will be intensified. The jailing of militants who organize the workers will gain momentum. The capitalist campaign to terrorize the foreign born workers by the finger-print and passport route will revive. The criminal syndicalism and sedition laws of the various states will be brought into more

frequent play.

As the counter-action to this capitalist offensive, the workers must organize a fighting united front. To make the most powerful appeal to the masses in the approaching elections, the Communist Party should demonstrate its readiness to place itself at the head of a movement for working class unity. The immediate objectives of this movement should be the release of all class war prisoners, federal, state and municipal grants for the relief of the workless, the enactment of unemployment insurance and old age pensions, the six hour day and the five day week, and the recognition and extension of large-scale credits to the Soviet Union.

—MAURICE SPECTOR

The 16th Congress of the C.P.S.U.

Convoked after two years of calculated manoeuvring for factional advantage the sixteenth congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was one of the most ominous events in the annals of the October Revolution. There has been nothing quite like it in the entire history of Bolshevism.

Enthroned in the midst of the fawning adulation of his faction agents ("Comrade Duranty of the New York Times included) rose the sinister figure of Stalin, the man against whose aims and methods Lenin warned in his last testament, striking a note of the most poignant alarm. Every major leader of the October Revolution had been eliminated and crushed by the bureaucracy and its intrigue. But what was worse—or an accompaniment—the Party momentarily lies prostrate.

A measure of the degeneracy that has set in, is the spectacle of the Right leaders Rykov and Tomsky and others who were compelled by Stalin to drink the bitterest dreks of personal and political humiliation. For such self-abasement there is absolutely no Bolshevik tradition. Lenin never conceived of such a thing against his opponents inside the Party in the most desperate days of the civil war. But the keynote of this congress was that in Stalin, the apparatus-bureaucracy have far more reason to be satisfied than ever under Lenin.

Stalinism reigned supreme at the sixteenth Congress. There was no critical analysis of the course of political and economic events for the past two years. There was no honest and searching admission of mistakes. Self-praise and self-content pervaded the whole Stalin faction. The Congress was a mere fig leaf. It met; it dispersed. A few organizational charges were arranged to make the "Master's" power even more air-tight. Such "congresses" are of the soil of Bonapartism.

It is not the cowardly Rights and their captive leader Rykov who can give leadership to the Russian proletariat in the great crisis that looms up ahead of it. That leadership will come from the iron Bolshevik-Leninist Opposition led by Trotsky. It will come from the thousands of revolutionists who have been imprisoned and deported. It is from the Left Opposition in the Party that the Thermidorians will meet with the resistance that will give leadership to the revolution in the crucial events that are maturing behind the fog of the sixteenth congress. In the next issue of the Militant we propose to publish a detailed analysis of the significance of this congress and the situation in the Soviet Union.

A FORCED RETREAT

For the balance of the summer period, the Militant has been compelled to change its frequency of issue to a semi-monthly basis. This change, which we shall attempt to make as brief in duration as possible, was forced upon us by two factors: the severe unemployment situation which has sharply affected the financial income of the paper, and, added to it, the summer months, during which a certain organizational and financial relaxation usually sets in.

The change to a semi-monthly is an adjustment to this situation. It should be distinctly emphasized to all our comrades and sympathizers that the change is in no sense of the word a permanent one. Plans are even now being elaborated for the return to a weekly publication basis early in the Fall, and a corresponding expansion of the publishing, as well as the general activities of the Opposition.

The change is undoubtedly a blow to our movement, from which all our supporters can help us recover more speedily by immeasurably increasing their financial assistance, beginning immediately. A broadly grounded financial support, ORGANIZED NOW will not only signify a swift return to the weekly Militant, but its re-issuance on a sounder basis.

United, conscientious efforts are required. We expect the militants throughout the country to bend their efforts for a generous response. The return of the Weekly is our joint responsibility. Let it be handled with the necessary speed!

The Mass Workers Join the Opposition!

George J. Saul Also Demands That Party Reinstate Our Group

Comrade Saul has addressed a statement to the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party, in which he declares his support for the platform of the Left Opposition. He joins the Communist League of America (Opposition) and demands of the Communist Party that it reinstate all expelled members of the Left Opposition and adopt its platform in the United States; and in the Comintern.

The adherence of George Saul to the Communist League following the action of Hugo Oehler, is still further evidence of the movement of the mass workers in our direction and the dissatisfaction of the honest Communist workers with the present disastrous Party course, and the steady growth of influence among the Communists of the ideas of the Left Opposition. Comrade Saul only recently returned from work for the Communist Party and International Labor Defense in the South where he was very active in helping to organize the Southern textile workers into the National Textile Workers Union. His activity in the Gastonia and other Southern regions brought about his arrest by the southern bourbons and a sentence of six months on the chain gang. A new trial was recently granted him and Comrade Saul is returning forthwith to stand trial.

Comrade Saul was also one of the leaders and active workers for the Communist Party, along with comrade Hugo Oehler, in the Colorado Coal miners strike. He is at present working in the harvest fields of

Kansas and is making his way East and South for his trial in South Carolina. The Left Opposition welcomes comrade Saul into his ranks. The following represents some of the views expressed by comrade Saul on the situation and needs of the Communist movement:

"The contradictions of imperialism are sharper than ever. The objective situation is favorable to the revolutionary movement of the workers toward the proletarian revolution and communist society.

"At the same time there is not the close relationship between our Party and the workers as a class which anticipates a growing confidence in our party as the leader in the class struggle.

"This is explainable when one considers the inner-party situation, the non-Leninist tactics being employed . . .

"The inner-Party situation, internationally and nationally is as follows: Mechanical control by bureaucrats; the non-Leninist tactics being applied in connection with the colonial and semi-colonial uprisings; in trade union activities and strike struggles; too much emphasis on legalism—resulting in isolating the workers' support.

"The strongest defense of the Soviet Union; the most effective struggle against war and imperialism in Europe, in America, throughout the world, will be made through the adoption by the Communist International of the Leninist line of march sponsored by Comrade Trotsky and the

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