

British Labor Party Prepares for War

We reprint here the analysis made of the Bournemouth Conference of the British Labour Party, held recently, appearing in the current issue of the *Militant*, the organ of the Militant Group in the Labor Party, an association of revolutionary workers who are working for the principles of revolutionary Marxism among the ranks of the party in England. The analysis is all the more timely because of the interest aroused in this country by the shameful pro-armaments position taken by the social-patriotic majority of the conference, lining up the official British labor movement in advance for the defense of British imperialist interests in the coming war.—Ed.

The proceedings of the Bournemouth Conference of the Labor Party are a severe blow for the working class. On every major issue, large majorities were recorded for the Reformist Leadership's policy of surrender to capitalism. In view of the bureaucratic control of the trade unions, that was to be expected, but the most distressing feature of the conference was the absence of any real opposition.

During the past nine months we have been treated to many performances of the "Unity Bloc" circus using violent left wing phrases, Pollitt, Cripps and Mellor have flung down the gauntlet over and over again to Transport House, only to capitulate in the most shameful

manner at the first threats from that quarter. In the name of the Unity Campaign was destroyed the Socialist League, the only organized left wing body in the Labour Party. When the campaign was initiated last January, the "Militant" characterized it as "an insidious attempt to canalize the growing left wing sentiment among the workers behind a policy of Popular Front alliance with capitalism", and claimed that the division between the reformists and the unity bloc were not ones of policy but of labor.

The publication of the Immediate Program with its striking similarities in almost all respects to the policy of the Bloc confirmed our analysis. If further confirmation was needed, it was to be found in the surrender to Transport House at the first threat of disciplinary action and in the conduct of the leaders of the Bloc at the Bournemouth Conference.

The debate on the Labour Party's decision not to oppose the arms estimates wore an air of unreality. Neither the reformists nor the "Unity" mongers were opposed to giving arms to capitalism. It was merely a question of the conditions which the Labour Party should endeavor to impose upon the National Government as the price for its support. The right wing said: the Labour Party must support the armaments race or it will be impossible for it to demand a more "effective" foreign policy. The "Unity"

mongers said: the Labour Party must withhold its support until the Government has promised to apply this more "effective" foreign policy. There is no difference of principle here—it is merely a question of the best tactics to be employed to sell the workers to capitalism.

Not one of these ferocious "lefts" got up and stated that under no circumstances could the workers identify themselves with the war plans and predatory aims of their class enemies: not one of them had the guts or the honesty to declare that the only enemy of the working class is its own capitalist class and that the only war the workers should wage is the class war to overthrow imperialism.

The Battle of Words

The battle of words at Bournemouth concealed a unity of purpose between Attlee and Pollitt, Morrison and Cripps. That purpose is to mobilize the workers behind the war plans of the class enemy, behind the defense of British imperialism. The right wing leaders, experienced as they

are in the arts of betrayal, realized that the position of their capitalist masters is so grave that even a campaign of pseudo-left demagoguery might create a dangerous situation. Such a campaign was waged in France and Spain and resulted in the return of Popular Front Governments, but the workers took advantage of the situation to demand an immediate betterment of their conditions and thus created revolutionary conditions. The Radical, Socialist and Communist Party leaders have been able to filch away most of the gains the workers won during these periods, but only with the utmost difficulty. Transport House has no desire to embarrass the war plans of the National Government by helping to create a similar situation in this country.

Small wonder that the "Daily Herald" can greet the election of Cripps and Laski to the new National Executive with equanimity. These bold leaders, with the rapturous applause of the Communist Party, have already proclaimed their loyalty to Transport House, and through that, to British imperialism, and pro-

mised faithfully to conduct no more united front activities. And John Strachey informs us through the columns of the "Daily Worker" that the "next effect of the Bournemouth Conference has been to put rejoicing and high spirits into the members of the labor movement throughout the country." We might add that the "rejoicing and high spirits" are not confined to the labor movement, but are shared by the leaders of the National Government and the entire capitalist press.

(Note: Transport House is the headquarters of the Labor Party)

Felix Morrow, author of "The Civil War in Spain" and of a forthcoming book on the Spanish revolution, will speak on "What Next in Spain," on Friday, November 19, at 8 P. M., at 159 Rivington St. The place of meeting is the new spacious headquarters of the Lower East Side Branch.

Shachtman Gives Marxist War Line at CCNY Despite C.P. Disruption Move

By Donald R. Bergner

Despite continued attempts on the part of the Young Communist League to prevent him from being invited, Max Shachtman, editor of the *Socialist Appeal*, spoke to more than three hundred students at the College of the City of New York at their Armistice Day celebration last Friday.

The Young Stalinists had carried on a desperate campaign to prevent Shachtman from speaking, but were defeated by a strong united front of the YPSL, Clarityites, Lovestoneites, Labor-Zionists, and unaffiliated progressives. The Student Council had called a conference of school clubs to organize the Armistice Day Demonstration.

When a Progressive United Front defeated the YCL attempt to capture the Conference, and the Arrangements Committee elected by the Conference invited Shachtman as one of the speakers, the Stalinists pushed a motion through the Student Council to disregard the Conference Committee, and got a new Committee appointed, made up of one Stalinist, a Stalinist sympathizer and three school politicians.

Even this new committee was forced to give in to left-wing pressure, and invited Shachtman again; then, under renewed Stalinist pressure, reneged and adopted a list of speakers who would present the Stalin-Roosevelt pro-war line. Finally, after the Progressives had threatened a Counter-Demonstration, the Student Council decided to let Shachtman speak. The Stalinists then said that, with the exception of Harry Laidler (whom they invited for "Socialist" window-dressing), the other speakers (Mike Quill of the Transport Workers, a Stalinist, and the representatives of the Chinese and Spanish Consulates) would not speak on the same program with Shachtman. This was solved by having, technically, two meetings, one following the other in the same place, with the Council President as Chairman of the second.

The two consular representatives and Quill spoke first, and

gave the full jingoistic, Stalinist line. Despite these pro-war speeches the anti-war Oxford Pledge was passed at the end of this first meeting by 350 to 200.

When the second meeting began only the Stalinists and their sympathizers left. Laidler, who was forced by the Clarityites, under pressure, to speak with Shachtman and not with the Stalinists, gave his regular semi-

pacifist, semi-Socialist position. The last speaker, comrade Shachtman, contrasted the revolutionary Socialist position with the pro-war position of the Stalinists. Even the Stalinist-controlled school paper was forced to take notice of his vigorous attack upon social-patriotism and imperialism. The Stalinists cannot prevent the revolutionary position from being heard!

More Subs!

The *Appeal* is the name of our paper. You read it, you criticize it, you agree with it entirely or partially. Regardless of what your attitude toward it may be, we feel sure that YOU DON'T WANT IT TO CEASE PUBLICATION.

You read this column every week (we hope) and by this time you know that *Appeal* means something else here. This column has been nothing more than an appeal. Some day in the near future we hope that this space can be utilized for something other than emergency appeals—but this depends upon you. Get subs and contributions so that the financial headaches can be transformed into a healthy expansion program. Do your part now and we'll do the rest.

Following is another letter from an *Appeal* enthusiast: Dear Comrades:

Almost with the first issue, my wife and I wanted to send you

financial help, but so many old debts had to be paid first.

Enclosed find \$4.00 money order. This money is to be used for a double subscription order, for 12 months. Please send us two copies of each issue for a year. We plan to distribute one to interested parties, and file the other away for record and reference.

Speaking for myself, I feel that my real socialist training began only with the publishing of the original *Socialist Appeal*, by Goldman, over a year and a half ago. Despite this fact, I joined the Socialist Party in May of 1932.

We like the *Socialist Appeal* tremendously. Certainly, keep it going. We are convinced the Bolshevik way is the correct road to working class triumph.

Yours for a Soviet rule,

J. B.
More of these letters! More subs! More Contributions!

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