

In the World of Labor

By Paul G. Stevens

A Sharp Split in the Communist Party of India

The Bengal Labor Party, led by the young militant, Dutt Mazumdar, is the foremost working class political organization in the important British province of Bengal, with great influence in the peasant and trade union movements. In 1936 it merged with the Communist Party of India and appeared to be lost in the swamp of Stalinism.

Differences with the Peoples Front policy developed, however, and culminated recently at the Tripuri session of the Indian National Congress, where the Stalinists fell prone before Mahatma Gandhi, sacrificing everything for the sake of unity with the Indian capitalists and landlords whom Gandhi represents.

Dutt Mazumdar openly dissociated himself from this Stalinist line, delivering a scorching attack on the Gandhi wing of the Congress. He compared the Gandhists with the counter-revolutionary generals who rebelled against the Spanish republic. So effective was his attack that the Stalinist delegates were confused and didn't know who represented the official Stalinist line at the Congress.

After that the Stalinist machine went to work on Mazumdar and publicly attacked him in its press as a "disrupter of unity," "agent of reaction," etc. Mazumdar stuck to his guns, and he and the Bengal Labor Party were expelled from the Stalinist organization.

While Dutt Mazumdar has by no means arrived at the revolutionary position of the Fourth International, he has nevertheless taken decided steps towards a correct class analysis of the Indian revolutionary scene.

He correctly understands the dilemma facing the impotent Indian capitalist class, which is rapidly driving it to capitulate to British imperialism. "One step to the left and the capitalists might ignite the powder heap of agrarian revolution, in the wake of which might come other revolutions."

Mazumdar understands that one cannot fight British imperialism without fighting its ally, the native capitalists and landlords.

It is apparent that the struggle is between the outspoken aim of the millions of Indian people and the secret aim of the Indian bourgeoisie, between the fighting, genuine democracy of the masses and the dictatorship of the diplomatic bourgeoisie.

As to what must be done—"to consolidate

our power we must throw all our forces on the mass front and defend each mass struggle, however small or local in character, with our initiative. Our efforts to bring Congress into the struggle must be exercised to the utmost. But we (the workers) must jealously guard the initiative."

Rumblings in the C.P. of the Mother Country Also

Nor is the Communist Party in Great Britain immune to the internal disintegration resulting from the People's Front policies of the leadership.

Recently we reported in these columns on the tragi-comical dispute between the French and the British Stalinists on the subject of British Conscription. The following item from the London New Leader puts the finishing touches to the running story of this "dispute."

"All is not well either politically or organizationally with the Communist Party of Great Britain," says the New Leader.

"Some weeks ago Harry Pollitt published a pamphlet against Conscription.

"The French Communist Party protested. It urged that British Communists should support Conscription to strengthen the 'Peace Front' against Hitler.

"An international consultation of Communist Party leaders took place to settle the question. It decided in favor of the French Communist Party view and Pollitt's pamphlet was withdrawn."

Pollitt, like all the paid Stalinist scribblers the world over, can withdraw a pamphlet from publication just as easily as he can write one—and that holds true for any subject under the sun.

How the ranks are reacting to the miserable juggling of these "leaders" with the lives of the workers may be gathered from the concluding paragraphs of the New Leader's report:

"Nor is the British Communist Party happy organizationally. It has suffered such severe losses recently that it has now decided to 'recall' members whom it sent into the Labour Party.

"We have heard this week of daily resignations from the Labour Party. These represent not conversion to the Communist Party—because they were always its instruments—but obedience to the instructions of the Communist Party and its latest change of line."

On the Line . . . with Bill Morgan

OAKLAND, Cal.—Gather 'round, cynics and scoffers, sulking cowards and cranks, beef-necked bulls, stumbe-bum fascists, hypocritical boss' politicians and liars of the pulpits—gather 'round and see the beginnings of the new World society—the Socialist Society—being constructed within the framework of the old, diseased, ruthless, corrupt system called Capitalism!

Come, workers of shops and mines and mills, tenant farmers of the South, agricultural workers of the West, lumber workers of the North-woods, students of the overcrowded and lying schools, hungry men and women waiting endless hours in dreary relief stations—come see the revolutionary youth of America as they forge from truth and courage and comradeship a sword of victory—a sword of revenge—a sword to lead the advancing ranks of the World Revolution!

Behold, comrades in the fight for freedom and truth, see at last the weapon which will smash the chains which now bind us to the wall of slavery!

Come! See the youth of America as they meet together in a Yipsel summer camp they have managed to secure to study, work, and play. Here you will see the comradeship of which we boast. Here you will see the true spirit of brotherhood and serious devotion to the serious task of liberating a world bound and tied by fear and ignorance. Here you will see youth of the Socialist Workers Party as they undertake to prove the ideals of the Socialist Society by their cooperation and friendship.

Preparing for the Fight

From all sections and cities, from factory and farm and school come these boys and girls of various nationalities and colors for two weeks of common work and study. Under the very nose of the California bosses, Chambers of Commerce and the Associated Farmers these youthful revolutionists gather to develop into organizers, speakers and fighters for the youth of the nation, youth of the world.

Once away from the hypocrisy and lies of the fake democracy in the towns and cities run by the grafters and the armed thugs, these young people immediately turn to the building of a real, genuine life for the short time allowed by limited funds and the serious work waiting to be done at home—the organizing and teaching of the youth of California.

Up at seven o'clock and into the rolling blue waves of the great Pacific Ocean for a morning dip. Under the showers and then to breakfast. Promptly at nine the study classes begin. Trade Union problems, Labor History, Organization, theory and practice of Marxism, then the Sixty Families and the One Third of the Nation. For three hours the students and teachers—all fresh from the battlefield of the class struggle—discuss the problems of revolutionary work. No typical "teacher-student" business here! Common discussion and exchange of ideas, argument and frank, honest disagreement lead to solutions and general agreement. Here there are no "students" and no "teachers." Here are only comrades. Some are experienced, others are new recruits. No regular school ever saw this seriousness, this amount of real work being done in so short a time.

Book-Learning Enriches Experience

"Experience is a hard school and fools will learn in no other" is an old adage taken seriously by these boys and girls. All the vast works of the revolutionists of the past and present are collected here for research and study. Marx, Lenin, Trotsky and all the others. Books on labor problems and tactics, on public speaking, philosophy and history, novels of the shop and farm are here. And there are no librarians to watch the books—only teachers to

suggest and assist. No books are lost. None are damaged. These books and these students are vital to the school and the future of the youth.

At twelve all classes suspend for lunch—but before eating there is another swim period. Into trunks and suits and down across the long white beach to the cool water where great powerful rollers sweep upon the shore with the relentless force of the marching youth.

Lunch is a joyous meal. Horse-play and songs, spontaneous wit and harmless sarcasm prevail all during the soup and salad. Discussion carried over from the study classes mingles with tales of great feats in the water and on the beach. Mock speeches and mock manners bring laughter from the happy and comradely crowd.

Then, announcements! First, who will volunteer to wash dishes and help the cook tomorrow? Half a dozen hands go up! Who will sweep the dining room and the front porch? I will! I will! What about you? Me? Sure! Students and teachers lose their identity in this division of labor. All campers take their turns doing the necessary work. Each is anxious to assume his share of the work.

After lunch a siesta. Then another class for an hour and a half. At three another swim. This is the life! Everyone is either red or brown, depending upon abilities to take it from old Sol.

Dinner is a riotous meal. Songs and jokes and greetings to comrades who have come from the near-by city to see the school. After dinner the social committee plans the evening's fun.

At eight p.m. the camp talent appears. Musicians dominate—piano players and fiddlers especially. One night a series of amateur plays and skits—the next a masquerade. One night the camp chorus renders some fine, inspiring revolutionary songs and the next night we have a hot-dog roast on the beach. Hikes to town and fishing at night along the beach.

The "Camper's Voice"

The camp newspaper appears! The Camper's Voice is the official paper and it gives news and views of camp life. Typewritten and only two pages, it is a part of the life we would not give up for any of the daily papers issued by the boss press. This is immediately followed by a "Rank & File" paper which "exposes" the official sheet. Foolish and harmless gossip, jokes and suggested rules and regulations for the camp are contained in this practical joke of a paper. This, too, is a part of camp life we will all remember.

Fourteen days of common association and fun. Two weeks of common work and study. The establishment of bonds of friendship which will never—can never—be broken. Knowing and understanding each other, talking the same language—that of social revolution, sharing kitchen duty with comrades from all over the state—these are things no fascist whip or capitalist war can ever break. This we have forever.

Here, at the summer school on the West Coast, we have demonstrated the practical aspects of our movement and no one can ever dispute this with us. The new friends, the memories, the lessons learned, the comradeship of the Young Peoples Socialist League will remain as an indication of our ability to organize, in the face of reaction, a permanent monument to the courage of youth.

Workers of New York! Rally Against the Coughlin Bands At Union Square August 19!

Stop Fascism In America!

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When an employer wants a Fascist union contract, he dictates it from beginning to end. It is then submitted to the commissioner of the Fascist union as the "representative" of the workers. He signs it, thus making it lawful and binding on the workers.

The contract is flexible in that it may be violated by the employer without penalty.

He had promised to confiscate church property. On that promise *Il Duce* turned coat in a hurry. In 1927 he agreed piously that Fascism had no fight with the Church of Rome. The small farmers who had been deluded into believing Mussolini would divide up the enormous church holdings in land for their benefit received not a single thing except an increase in taxes.

"Fascism is not incompatible with the teaching of the Catholic Church, nay more, . . . the fundamental principles laid down by the Church with regard to the nature and purpose of the State entirely square with those embraced by that body of fascists who do in fact represent the main current of the movement." (Preface to "The Universal Aspects of Fascism," p. xviii, approved by Benito Mussolini.)

On June 11, 1929, *Il Duce* paid the Pope 1,750,000,000 lire for the occupation of Rome in 1870. This apparently settled matters very satisfactorily with the Holy Roman See to judge from the enormous enthusiasm certain Catholic priests in the public eye display toward fascism and the corporate state.

It is interesting to note that Mussolini is not the only fascist dictator on speaking terms with the Holy Roman See. Hitler is a member of the Catholic Church, the fascist butcher Franco of Spain is a devout Catholic, as is fascist dictator Salazar of Portugal whose corporate state Father Charles E. Coughlin, a Catholic priest, lauds in his *Social Justice* magazine. Dollfuss the Austrian fascist dictator was a devout Catholic too before he was assassinated in a faction fight with Hitler.

Mussolini had promised seizure of war-time super-profits and high taxation of private fortunes—he broke that promise. *Il Duce* decided that such a promise must have come from a padded cell. "A financial policy based on the persecution of capital is infected with madness." He raised taxes immediately on all the lower income groups and appeared Big Business by slashing such taxes as had been placed upon it by previous governments.

He had promised the Abolition of the Royal House and the Nobility. *Il Duce* broke that promise with an imperious command to the workers to fall down on their knees in worship before His Royal Highness.

" . . . you will welcome him with your most impetuous enthusiasm and you will repeat to him your oath of un-falling devotion to the Monarchy and to the Dynasty of the House of Savoy. (The crowd bursts out in a great ovation to H. M. The King and to H. R. H. The Prince of Piedmont.) (Speech of B. Mussolini, Oct. 15, 1931. Quoted in "Speeches of B. Mussolini," official publication of the Italian government, p. 142.)

He had promised to expropriate the land owners—*Il Duce* broke that promise with a harsh command to the slaves of the landowners to buckle down in their harness.

"The landowners have not only the right, but also the Fascist duty, of remaining in their superior positions against all challengers . . . and they must be INTRANSIGENT in matters of discipline, respect, obedience, esteem. . . ." (Pescé, Contadini d'Italia, p. 87. Quoted in *The Plough and the Sword*, p. 138.)

He had promised jobs—*Il Duce* broke that promise. He covered up the actual increase in unemployment with faked statistics and listed all those he threw into his prison concentration camps as "job-holders."

"The GROWTH OF UNEMPLOYMENT, particularly, has been attended by increasing violations on the part of employers (of Fascist 'union' contracts—J. H.) This is admitted by the Fascist press. For example, workers are obliged by the scarcity of jobs to compete with one another to the extent of making contract terms meaningless." *The Plough and the Sword*, quoting from *Lavoro Fascista*, May 21, 1929, p. 116.)

He had promised a living wage—*Il Duce* broke that promise by slashing wages and lengthening hours.

"According to the figures supplied by the Italian press itself, between 1927 and 1932 nominal wages were REDUCED BY HALF, and as the cuts have continued since 1932, it would be no exaggeration to say that wages have been reduced from the 1927 level by from 60 to 75 per cent. Wages in 1935 were rarely as high as those before the war. Although they have been twice raised by 10 per cent since 1935, the cost of living in the meantime has risen 30 per cent." (*Fascism and Big Business*, p. 192.)

The length of the working day is variable according to the whim of the employer. He may make it anything from eight to twenty hours without extra pay.

It is impossible to get a job without a labor passport. The employer enters his opinion of the worker on the labor passport when the worker wishes to leave to look for other employment.

He had promised three square meals a day—*Il Duce* gave the Italian workers starvation.

"Fortunately the Italian people is not yet accustomed to eating several times a day, and having a modest level of living, feels less deficiency and suffering." (Benito Mussolini in *Corriere della Sera*, December 19, 1930. Quoted in *The Plough and the Sword*, p. 165.)

As one of the main points on his program he had promised: "International Disarmament and Abolition of Compulsory Military Service."—*Il Duce* fulfilled this promise by lowering the limit for military training down to the age of eight and launching the biggest armament building program ever saddled on the Italian working people.

But Mussolini did keep one point of his program—He preserved PRIVATE PROPERTY.

"The fact that from 1922 to now joint stock companies have increased from 8,850 to 17,424 and their capital from 21,395 millions to over 52 milliards, is not this the most definite and eloquent denial in front of those who accuse the fascist regime of 'harrassing' private enterprise?"

M-Day Moves Nearer as War-Time Rule of Country Is Signed Over Formally to Sixty Families

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Mass. Institute of Technology; and Harold G. Moulton, president of Brookings Institute. The secretary of the board is Colonel Harry K. Rutherford, of the Army Ordnance Department.

Four top-flight "economic royalists" are thus named to become the rulers of American life—"TO GET POWER IN A CRISIS," as the New York Times headline puts it. It is expected that other representatives of America's Sixty Families will be added later.

Roosevelt in Open The brief announcement, which the War and Navy Department officials refused to amplify further, made clear that for the first time President Roosevelt has come out into the open on this plan for a war dictatorship. These officials stated that Roosevelt had approved the formation of the agency; and that the whole

War Dictatorship set-up had been recently made directly responsible to him personally, instead of to the War and Navy Secretaries as previously.

The Industrial Mobilization Plan has been known since 1933, when it was first published, as the "blueprint for dictatorship" in America in a new war "or other national emergency."

When its main provisions were introduced in Congress as the Sheppard-Hill and Sheppard-May bills, the Plan was roundly denounced by wide circles of the trade union movement, including both the AFL and CIO, and with almost complete unanimity by all liberals and liberal organizations.

The Senate Munitions Investigating Committee, headed by Nye, exposed it as providing for an "actual operating dictatorship" in war-time. The main forces behind it have been the War Department, the American Legion and Bernard M. Baruch, who headed the similar set-up during the World War.

The Plan is a detailed study of ways and means of suppressing all democratic rights in war-time, and especially of controlling the labor movement. It embodies several methods of breaking strikes, fixing wages, abolishing all social legislation which protects the interests of the workers, drafting women and children for war labor, censorship of the press, etc. It includes also an all-important provision for the imposition of the draft for all men from the ages of 18 to 45.

This War Dictatorship Plan has never been acted upon by the people or even by Congress, and indeed it is not intended to be submitted for any vote until M-Day itself. Then, the government officials expect, it can be pushed through Congress in double-quick time and without change, under the pressure of hysterical war propaganda.

Especially since the election of Roosevelt in 1933, however, the M-day plans have been put into operation even without legislative sanction, through administrative action.

COUGHLINITE SHOCK TROOPS RIOT IN BRONX

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930 E. 227th St., who stabbed Sgt. Robert McAllister. They were later booked on charges of felonious assault.

Police then attempted to disperse the meeting. Leaders of the Christian Mobilizers, however, attempted to rally the crowd in order to release their members under arrest. The crowd followed the police to the station where Christian Mobilizers again attempted to release those who had been arrested.

Police Go Easy A shock trooper who broke through the police lines waving an American flag was arrested. He gave his name as Edward Westphal, 26, a salesman, 2514 Third Ave.

Police made no move to use tear gas or horses against the Mobilizers, and arrested only two more: Jack Dougherty, 47, a pipe-fitter, 484 E. 140th St., and William O'Connor, 17, 2764 Woodhull Ave., a student and associate editor of the Christian Mobilizer publication.

After the wildly milling crowd had begun to break up, police reported finding a black-jack in the street.

The District Attorney's office announced that it might make an investigation of the activities of the Christian Mobilizers. During the past week the Christian Mobilizers, who constitute the shock troop squads of Coughlin's Christian Front, have been whipping up their ranks throughout the Bronx in preparation for their projected march on Union Square next Saturday. For weeks they have been Jew-baiting with a "Buy Christian" campaign.

(Speech of Benito Mussolini, April 2, 1931. Quoted in *Speeches of B. Mussolini*, p. 136-7.)

Mussolini Chops Down His Own Ranks

When the Black Shirts, especially those who had joined after the Fascist movement began to gain momentum, saw that the profits of the capitalists were leaping upward at new and dizzy rates, that the cost of living was shooting to fantastic levels, that the big landowners were becoming so arrogant as to take over even land that had been community property for hundreds of years, they were filled with a frenzy of despair and disappointment.

They cursed Mussolini and clamored for him to put into effect the program which had won them to his camp. They accused him of selling out to the very bankers he had promised to fight.

But Mussolini used the same tactics on them that he had used on the working class organizations. First he made sure that the Black Shirts were disarmed. He took away their guns. Then he ordered the armed police and the armed legions of the king's army to fix bayonets and put an end to the complaints of his followers.

To prevent any more complaints from becoming annoying, he organized a vast internal spy system called the OVRA. In every shop, on every job, in every apartment house, in the theaters, in the crowded districts, these agents are planted. They make regular reports to their superiors and if there is one word of complaint from anyone, he is silenced. Generally he serves a long prison term. Sometimes he is never seen again.

FASCISM rules in Italy. A CORPORATE STATE governs for the capitalists. The Italian workers stifle under a vast oppression with not even a tombstone for their once powerful labor movement.

The Italian workers failed to organize Trade Union Defense Guards.

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Roosevelt Embarrasses The Communist Party

Minnesota Stalinists Find Themselves Out On Limb by Glotzbach Promotion

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) MINNEAPOLIS — In their dishonest policy of defending Roosevelt at all costs, the Communist Party has placed itself in some pretty ridiculous situations lately, but none so really funny as in Minnesota today.

In Minnesota, the Communist Party, the CIO and the Workers Alliance have directed all their fire on Governor Stassen, Mayor Leach of Minneapolis, and Linus Glotzbach, state WPA administrator. Especially Glotzbach. Thursday, August 3, the Stalinist-controlled "Midwest Labor" went to press. It was practically an Anti-Glotzbach issue.

In an article headlined "ANTI-NEW DEAL ROLE OF GLOTZBACH CONDEMNED BY MINNEAPOLIS CIO," Lageman condemns Glotzbach "for his anti-New Deal, anti-labor, pro-Republican statements and actions in the recent WPA protest demonstrations. All locals are requested to write to President Roosevelt . . . and to Colonel Harrington, informing them that Glotzbach co-operated with Stassen and Leach against Minnesota labor and against the administration in every way."

Bill Mauseth tells the readers that "all indications are that Governor Stassen and Mayor Leach of Minneapolis have had the able support of Linus C. Glotzbach, state WPA director, in their vicious attack on

labor. There is no question in my mind but that their main purpose is to belittle the progressive New Deal forces and in this manner pave the way for the victory of the anti-New Deal forces in the 1940 elections."

Joe Van Nordstrand got out on the limb farthest of all. "Provisions in the Garner-Woodrum WPA bill that takes away prevailing wages, reduces WPA rolls, eliminates projects, was deliberately calculated by the Republican party and the betrayers of the New Deal in the Democratic party to create protests on the part of the workers to embarrass President Roosevelt. They knew the workers would fight back. . . They (the betrayers) knew that they could depend on their friend in the WPA administration, Glotzbach."

On Thursday afternoon, August 3, all the Stalinists in Minnesota seemed to agree that Glotzbach is a reactionary heel, an anti-New Dealer, an anti-laborite, a pro-Republican, a fellow out to embarrass Roosevelt, etc.

The Pay-Off Now there is no question but what Glotzbach is a vicious reactionary politician, a proven strike-breaker and a hater of organized labor and all labor stands for.

BUT—on Thursday afternoon, August 3, the Minneapolis daily papers carried a front-page news-flash from Washington that President Roosevelt himself had just nominated Linus Glotzbach for promotion from State WPA Director to Regional Supervisor.

Because of their wholly dishonest attempt to absolve the New Deal from its responsibility for passing the criminally insufficient Relief Bill, the Stalinists tried to direct the hatred of the workers away from Roosevelt and the New Deal and towards Glotzbach.

But the smiling hypocrite in the White House was so favorably impressed with Glotzbach's savage handling of the Minneapolis WPA strike that he has personally nominated him before the Senate for promotion.

So now the Stalinists must either remain silent or turn around and insist that Glotzbach is a hell of a good guy.

Unions Think Differently Fortunately, the Minneapolis trade union movement sees right through the Communist Party's deceit—and the majority of the ranks see right through Roosevelt's hypocrisy, too.

Officials of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, when they heard of Roosevelt's latest move, immediately telephoned the Farmer-Labor Senator, Ernest Lundeen, and asked him to oppose Glotzbach's promotion. Lundeen moved immediately to do so. On Saturday the United States Senate, upon motion of Lundeen, laid over Glotzbach's nomination until January. The nomination has been sent back to the committee, for action at the next session of Congress.