

The New Policy Of Stalinism In America

By JAMES P. CANNON

Once again American Stalinism has apparently changed its color. The bright yellow of recent years, which reflected the alliance, or attempted alliance, of Stalin and the imperialist democracies, has been suddenly transformed, like the color of a chameleon on an autumn leaf, into the reddish-brown of the Stalin-Hitler pact.

Overnight the raucous demand for American participation in a holy war against German fascism in the name of democracy has given way to fervent appeals to "Keep America out of war"—against Germany. For good measure—and for the benefit of dupes—the Kremlin agents have even begun to mutter something about socialism and to threaten to "vote against war credits" in "all the belligerent countries," including, it is to be assumed, Hitler's Germany if and when the Communist party deputies are summoned from their concentration camps or resurrected from their graves to cast their votes in the Nazi Reichstag.

What is the real meaning of their new policy, which so sharply contradicts their pronouncements of yesterday, and whom do they expect to deceive by this obscene horse-play with revolutionary slogans?

The answer to that double question must be divided into two parts. The new policy is designed to serve a definite purpose in the service of the Stalin-Hitler alliance. At the same time, by giving the pro-Axis agitation a superficial radical coloration, they hope to make it acceptable to the workers whose interests and sentiments have been so rudely violated. The new policy spells as sharp a turn of the American Stalinists in American politics as Stalin's alliance with Hitler represents in the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and reflects the latter like an image in a mirror.

Agents of the Kremlin

The Communist Party of the United States is a direct and immediate agency of the Stalinist bureaucracy of the Soviet Union. All the otherwise incredible twists and turns and overnight reversals of policy are understandable only in the light of this relationship. The fraternal association of the various national Communist Parties in an international organization for the promotion of the common aim of world revolution—the original design of the Comintern—has long since been replaced by the arbitrary rule of Stalin over staffs of functionaries in the various countries, selected for their readiness to execute any order, no matter how infamous, without hesitation. This mercenary staff in the United States is now beating the drums for the joint policy of Stalin and his axis partner, Hitler.

The Stalin-Hitler pact, first explained as an innocent device to secure the neutrality of the Soviet Union, actually gave the signal for Hitler's invasion of Poland. This has already been followed by the Red Army's invasion, first of

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Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

It hasn't taken long for Sino-Japanese peace rumors to begin circulating as a direct sequel to the Soviet-Japanese truce. These rumors may be nothing more than a smoke-screen barrage accompanying the resumption of large-scale hostilities by the Japanese on Kiangsi, Honan, and Shansi fronts. Nevertheless, such rumors seldom arise out of a vacuum.

The fact is that the proclamation of the new central puppet Chinese government to be headed by Wang Ching-wei has been again postponed. This latest bit of Japanese midwifery was supposed to be scheduled for Oct. 10, the anniversary of the establishment of the Chinese Republic. Postponement of the blessed event is being attributed in Shanghai to the opening of secret negotiations involving the Japanese, the would-be puppets and Kuomintang leaders at Chungking, with Russia in the role of mentor.

Out of Chungking come sharp denials that such negotiations are under way or even contemplated. At the same time Chinese leaders are clearly digesting the effect upon them of the spectacular turn of events in Europe. Should a Moscow-Berlin-Tokyo axis become a reality—and it is far from that as yet—we may be sure that Chiang Kai-shek will ponder deeply the ultimate value of friendship with Britain before decisively rejecting any peace overtures that come from Japan. For Chiang Kai-shek yields to no one, not even to Stalin, in his capacity to make 180-degree turns in policy and his ability to make such turns effective by ruthlessly crushing all who oppose it.

But the war will have to proceed to a further stage and the tempo of Roosevelt's drive to bring the U.S. into it will have to be measured before the Kuomintang chieftains would care to take any such decisive step. For the time being, however, they are confronted with the fact that they face a Japan untrammelled by any serious deterrents. Japan is freed—even if only temporarily—from the need for counting on a clash with Russia. Of this the Tokyo militarists are determined to take the fullest possible advantage by hastening conclusion of their grab in China. Reading the news from Poland, the Tokyo generals doubtless figure they had better take while the taking is good before Stalin commits another of his acts of "peace and liberation" on the Far Eastern front.

This leaves the Chungking government suspended in a position of uncertainty that is likely to become agonizing before long. Judging from the news dispatches there are mixed feelings in the Chinese capital on the effects of the Soviet-Japanese truce upon the Sino-Japanese war. Certainly by no stretch of any imagination do they believe the Chinese position to be improved by that truce—as Harry Gannes of the Daily Worker would like his readers to believe. The thin trickle of arms from Russia has not been much help to the Chinese, but if this trickle ceases and along with it the supplies secured from the Western powers, the resultant disadvantage may outweigh the geographical factors which for the present constitute their principal military asset against the new Japanese drives.

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LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR

ROOSEVELT WAR DEAL HITS SNAG IN MASS RESISTANCE TO WAR

Refuse to Shoulder Burden of Boss War

Seamen Insist on Extra War Pay; S.U.P. Plans Real Fight

By B. J. WIDICK

The general flare-up of seamen throughout the world against sailing in war zones unless given bonuses and special insurance marks a new stage in labor's struggle to prevent all war burdens from falling on its shoulders.

Recently, ship owners took as a matter of course the announcements of underwriters that all insurance rates would be boosted tremendously for all craft shipping in danger zones. Property must be protected.

A similar demand for adequate protection of human beings on these ships was distinctly disregarded by the operators. Crews of Irish, British, Dutch and American ships were forced to tie up the vessels in order to obtain even a consideration of their demands.

Refuse to Sail

In America, seven liners were tied up by members of the National Maritime Union who refused to sail for Europe unless their demands were met.

The sympathetic strike of British sailors and the complete tie-up of all ships involved gave promise of a real victory for the NMU despite government attempts of intimidation against strikers through false arrests.

However, the NMU officials are dominated by the Stalinist fakery, and a poor compromise agreement resulted which has intensified rank and file dissatisfaction and resentment.

So strong is the feeling of the NMU ranks that Curran and company are finding it difficult to get crews for the ships. The men just won't sign up under the terms negotiated by Curran. This boycott is what the newspapers have been calling a "shortage of labor."

Original demands of the NMU included \$250 a month bonus, \$25,000 insurance, a 40 per cent increase in personnel.

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Smoke-Screen

Hold WPA Strikers on Conspiracy Charge; Labor Defense Widened

Canada Convicts Watson, Anti-War Militant

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

TORONTO, Ontario—Frank Watson, anti-war militant, was the first person convicted under the stringent War Measures Act, following his arrest last week.

He was found guilty by Magistrate E.J. Browne who remanded him until Sept. 23 for sentence.

Watson was charged with conducting an anti-war meeting, during which he was quoted as saying, "Why join the army if you are going to be used for cannon fodder."

Another piece of "evidence" against him was the claim of governmental witnesses that fundamentally the democracies were as bad as the fascist states.

AFL National Convention May Discuss Case As Federal Agents Press Frame-up against Indicted Minneapolis WPA Strikers

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 22—With the federal government now openly pressing "conspiracy" charges against over half of the sixty workers listed in the second batch of indictments handed down in the Minneapolis WPA strike case, the Central Labor Union's WPA Defense Committee is getting in touch with leading national trade union figures to bring the Minneapolis defense case before the coming annual convention of the American Federation of Labor in Cincinnati.

Resentment against the vile gang of union-smashers, from Roosevelt and Murphy down, reached a new pitch in this city yesterday when it was learned that some of the latest indictments name more than 30 persons, charging "conspiracy to violate the emergency relief appropriation act." They charge defendants with conspiring to deprive the WPA of the workers services!

Charges Unsubstantiated. Needless to say, the government has no facts to back up its charges of conspiracy. And

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Boss Politicians Seek To Trick People Into War by Lies and Scares

Mounting Mass Opposition to War-Makers Compels Administration to Shift Tactics In Drive to Get U.S. into the War

Under the pressure of mounting public alarm at the war moves of the Administration, and increased popular determination to resist entry of this country into the war, Roosevelt's hope that he could railroad his repeal of the arms embargo through Congress in double-quick time is, for the moment, confronting unexpected obstacles.

The President has been compelled to shift his tactics: on the one hand, making certain concessions to isolationist sentiment; and on the other spreading war-mongering rumors reminiscent of the Spring of 1917.

No sooner had the Special Session opened than Roosevelt announced to the press that two submarines of "unknown nationality" had been sighted off the coasts of North America. This story, even if true, which is at the least doubtful, has in itself not the slightest significance. But Roosevelt's purpose was served. The headlines played it up as if the mainland of the United States were being threatened by immediate attack.

Smearing War Opponents. A far more despicable, and dangerous maneuver followed twenty-four hours later. The White House and members of Congress are being swamped by hundreds of thousands of letters demanding that this country be kept out of the war. An overwhelming majority of these letters insist that the arms embargo be retained.

There is no doubt that a certain percentage of these letters are "inspired" by the pressure campaigns of Coughlin and even the Nazi Bund. However, the reports from Congressmen make clear that most of them are genuine and spontaneous expressions of the opinions of the ordinary people of the country.

Determined to ride roughshod over any and all opposition, the administration released a "confidential report" that messages had been intercepted from Berlin and Moscow which instructed Hitler's and Stalin's friends in the United States to put pressure on Congress to retain the embargo.

Here is the perfect foreshadowing of the future! Anyone who opposes any act of the government—is an enemy spy!

Landon's Proposal. Alfred Landon, in the only smart trick he has yet chalked up as a politician, added to Roosevelt's discomfiture by reminding Roosevelt that he could aid in clarifying the political atmosphere by announcing publicly that he would not run for a third term.

Roosevelt naturally had no comment to make on Landon's suggestion. Roosevelt recognizes that the war is the one factor that can save him, personally, from political oblivion. He looks forward to riding straight into a third term as war president, and this is not the least of the reasons why he plans entry into the war in the shortest possible number of months.

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Friday, Sept. 29 8:30 P.M. Irving Plaza (Irving Pl. & 15th St.) ADMISSION—25c

HOTEL UNION PROGRESSIVES FIGHT C. P. RULE

NEW YORK—Denouncing the "cancerous growth of Communist Party policy and Communist Party domination" and demanding "the re-establishment of inner-union democracy," representatives of progressive groups in the Greater New York Locals of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' International Union and Bartenders' International League of America met in a twelve-hour convention last Monday and united their groups into a joint, inter-local organization to carry on their fight on a city-wide scale.

From the opening address de-

livered by Louis Rifkin, chairman of the Provisional Committee which called the convention, to the adoption of the final resolution, the several score delegates voiced their determination to emulate the progressive painters who had recently united their forces and delivered a crushing blow to Communist Party domination of their District Council in New York.

Progressive Program. Declaring the necessity of full trade-union democracy, amalgamation of craft locals, and "reliance only upon our own efforts and actions" to or-

ganize the unorganized, the declaration of principles pledged the progressives to fight for the following points as part of their program:

1. For the fullest inner-Union democracy and freedom of expression and opinion for all members of our International Union.
2. For the re-establishment of the closed shop and real job security in our local unions.
3. For the ratification of all agreements and the adoption of uniform wage standards by a membership vote of the local union.
4. For the equal distribution

of work to the unemployed; for a genuine, rotating open work list.

5. For the democratic election of officers in all local unions.
6. For the organization of the unorganized on the basis of achieving real union conditions and wages for the unorganized workers.

Industrial Unionism. 7. For the application of the principle of industrial unionism in our industry, wherever feasible.

8. For AFL-CIO unity without sacrificing the principle of vertical organization in mass

WAR--WHAT FOR?

The First of a Series of Friday Night Lectures

By James P. Cannon

The First Imperialist War---1914-1918 Its Causes and Consequences

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