

SOCIALIST MONTHLY

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Organ of the Libertarian
Socialist League

LSL EMISSARY GOING TO EUROPE. OBJECTIVE - A SOCIALIST 3rd CAMP INTERNATIONAL!

One of the laudable acts of the year-end LSL National Conference and one which should earn it the gratitude and support of all genuine Socialists, was the decision to send an emissary to Europe to contact revolutionary Socialist organizations, with the objective of launching a SOCIALIST THIRD CAMP INTERNATIONAL.

The project is not undertaken merely out of sentiment that such an organization should exist. There are indications that large numbers of European workers realize the imminence of World War III, that they bitterly resent the additional burden the rearmament programs of their governments saddle upon them, further worsening their miserable living conditions, and that, as a result, they are showing increasing interest in the Socialist Movement. This reviving interest, which is bound to be reflected in the growth of organizations definitely opposed to both U.S. and Russian imperialism, provides the impetus for the establishment of a new International.

There is scheduled for early Spring a conference of Asian Socialist parties in Burma, all avowed opponents of Eastern and Western imperialism. LSL will either be represented there by its emissary or that conference will be apprised of our agreement with it thru other means. Should this conference fulfill its promise and set on foot an Asian Socialist center, its very existence will be the driving force and an example for genuine Socialist groups all over the globe that may soon crystallize in a world-wide revolutionary SOCIALIST THIRD CAMP INTERNATIONAL.

In Africa, particularly in the North, there appear the beginnings of the Socialist Movement, antagonistic to the world conquest plans of both the U.S. and Russia.

The prospects thruout the world are potentially excellent. But our immediate objective, the most important of the moment and the most accessible and practical is European organization and it is to this end that we direct our efforts. Its success would have favorable repercussions in this country as well as elsewhere.

LSL is aware that alone we could not defray the cost of sending the emissary to Europe and of maintaining him there while he does the job. But we believe that our friends and other Socialists will recognize the significance of this task and will help us.
WILL YOU??

Libertarian Socialist League
P. O. Box 770, G.P.O., New York 1, N. Y.

I want to help launch the Socialist Third Camp International.

Enclosed is check, money order, cash \$ _____

I pledge a monthly contribution of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS...

TRUMAN ON "THE STATE OF THE UNION"

Pres. Truman got a one-minute ovation, from the Democrats, appearing before Congress to deliver the annual "state of the Union" message. Then for 40 minutes, his sleep-inducing monotone filled the Capital. Stripped of self-righteousness and hokum about the 100% pure motives of the U.S. in international affairs, love of humanity, resisting aggression and helping other nations, it records the progress thus far of U.S. imperialism to subjugate the world and our preparations for war. As usual, whatever is wrong with the world is the fault of those wicket, aggressive, lying Communist Russians.

In Europe, he said, combined defense against aggression has become a reality. The "free nations" have created a real fighting force not yet as strong as necessary, but strong enough to prevent a hostile force from overrunning the continent. If you believe that, you still believe in fairy tales, because recent newspaper reports indicate the skepticism with which British, French and Italian workers view U.S. pretensions, and their determination not to fight a war for the U.S. Completely ignored was the opinion of military experts that Russia could have overrun Europe within two weeks at any time since the end of World War II and probably still could.

In the Pacific, Truman said, we have added to the chances of peace by adding Japan, Australia and the Philippines to our "defense" bloc. He did not say that Japan is in no position to resist any proposals of the U.S., that there is an increasing workers antagonism to the U.S.; that the Philippines are a doubtful ally, since the country has had a Communist-inspired guerilla war on its hands since the end of the world war; and that in Australia, a government-inspired Russophobia moots no acceptance by the workers.

Truman tells us that we turned out \$16 billion worth of military supplies, 3 times as much as the year before. He refrains from saying that because of this we have no funds for education, disease prevention, homes, flood control, or any other peaceful pursuits.

Our armed forces comprise 3½ million men and women, the President said. He does not say that they lead a parasitic existence, wasting most of the best that is produced and that they are being taught only how to efficiently kill and destroy.

Russia continued to expand its "already excessive" military power, the President said, and the world is still threatened with war. Of course our tremendous military establishment with bases all around the world and all the rest is purely defensive action, if you believe our lying politicians.

Truman admits that blackjacking our European allies into huge military outlays aggravates their serious economic difficulties.

The President observed, "The mobilizing economy shows signs of inflation. Prices are high..." Workers experiencing an almost daily rise in the cost of necessities may be surprised to learn that there is no inflation, only signs of it. If present prices reflect only the signs, workers can get an idea of what is in store for them when it really arrives.

"This will be a Presidential election year," Truman continued, "in which politics plays a large part in our daily lives...That's perfectly proper..." Don't Truman know that politics plays a large part in our lives all the time? Altho theoretically the leader of his party which controls Congress, Truman is unable to get its support for any but military projects. He knows this but asked for a strong anti-inflation law, and abandoned his fony demand for repeal of Taft-Hartley now wanting only revision. Compulsory health insurance has given way to a request for study of the health problem.

Nowhere is Truman's duplicity and the contrast between words and deeds shown more clearly than in this; "We need to take action toward the wider enjoyment of civil rights". For it was Truman who initiated the political repression in this country, creating the condition wherein men fear to speak their minds and it was Truman who rewarded with promotions narrow-minded, reactionaries like Tom Clark, McGrath, Murphy and others for their part in destroying our civil liberties. And now he has the effrontery to pose as a champion of civil rights!!

Viewed as a whole, the speech is a panoramic picture of the problems of U.S. capitalism at home and abroad, with the accent on the latter as the most pressing at the moment, and proposals to meet them. No hope for peace is voiced, only the prospect of war. The militarization process we are going thru is the road to totalitarianism.

For the workers, Truman's program means only an increasing tax burden, lowering standard of living and further destruction of freedom. Tho they do not yet see what is ahead, conditions will eventually drive them to action for the permanent solution of their problems.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

A newspaper item reveals that a candidate in the Kentucky primaries polled 35,000 votes while confined in a mental institution. A relative explained that a nervous breakdown induced the patient to enter politics. Readers can supply their own comment, but this case is unlike that of Forrestal, who swallowed so much of his own anti-Russian propoganda that he saw Russian soldiers every time he exhaled, jumping out of his pockets, in his desk, and under his bed. Subsequently, he was confined in a mental hospital from which he dived out the window, probably in pursuit of Russian spies.

BRASS STILL TAKING OVER

Continuing his policy of placing military men in Key government jobs formerly exclusively civilian, thereby covertly manouvering the military into a decisive power in government, Pres. Truman nominated retired Rear Admiral Spruance to be ambassador to the Filipines. Whether in addition to his ambassadorial duties he will be a secret military aide for the Filipino government in its war with Communist-led guerrillas is a secret that our free people in this great democracy will never learn.

TOWARD UNITY OF THE REACTION

Altho Truman withdrew his nomination of Gen. Clark as ambassador to the Vatican because of overwhelming Congressional opposition, the President stubbornly insisted that he will press the matter at some future time. Congress, playing politics, as usual, did not face the issue, many members hiding behind the technicality of refusing to release an active military man for the post, as required by law. The proposal, however, brought a storm of protests from Protestant, Jewish and non-sectarian organizations, which correctly fear that the rapidly-growing influence of the Roman-Catholic hierarchy in U.S. affairs will be greatly enhanced if it goes thru. A group of 500 Protestants, trying to express their opposition were refused access to the President, being told by his secretary that Truman said "he had made up his mind". What mind?

At the moment, the fortunes of Truman and the Dem. party are at their lowest and this move will undoubtedly gain him approval of Roman Catholics, who are united in one religious organization. If it antagonized Protestants and others, they are split into many groups and may be diverted by other issues. Since the matter will probably not be raised again until after the elections, the Demos will resort to the old "cover up" technique, and if the Repubs. refer to it during the campaign, the Catholics, will, as usual, scream "persecution" at the top of their lungs. The rising tide of reactionary Catholic influence, in all phases of American life has been hidden by continuous anti-Russian campaign, but Socialists should take cognizance of it and expose it wherever possible.

The main objectives of the exchange of ambassadors should not be overlooked. The U.S. and the Vatican have common characteristics and objectives: both are immensely wealthy and want to keep and augment their ill-gotten riches, both want to preserve the sources of their incomes, and both fear a new rival, Russia. The Church wields tremendous "spiritual" influence over its tens of millions of communicants all over the world and the U.S. wields a similar economic and political influence around the globe. Why not then a marriage of the two reactionary powers, not only to resist the rival Russian reaction, but any genuine move of the exploited to rid themselves of their unnecessary burdens? Whether or not ambassadors are eventually exchanged,

Socialists know that a threat to their possessions will bring unity of Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Mohammedan and atheist capitalists against the workers, once they move to take over the world they have built. The world's workers are indeed fortunate that their exploiters are divided into rival groups; imagine how much more difficult would be their job if all the reactionary forces, U.S., Russia and the Vatican, were united to oppose them!!!

Apologists claim that the Vatican, because of its peculiar status and location, is the "best listening post" in the world for diplomats; therefore the U.S. should have a representative there. Opponents point out that the first information even about the arrests of Catholic clergymen came from lay sources, thereby pricking that bubble. If it is the "best listening post", isn't it strange that Truman's proposed "listener" is not an experienced diplomat, but a military man? The answer would seem to be that a top U.S. general, in the guise of an ambassador, working secretly in the so-called Holy City, might be a valuable aide to Eisenhower in trying to organize that European army, whereas an attempt to send a top general to Europe semi-permanently might draw strong objections in Congress and elsewhere.

"INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE" IN PUBLIC LIFE

One of our most widely practiced rights, never mentioned publicly by our "statesmen" and at least as much a part of "our way of life" as any of its other characteristics, is the politicians right to graft. The unwritten law of politics is: You enter to enrich yourself and it can't be done honestly. Do what you will, but don't get caught. If you are careless or unfortunate enough to get caught, your fellow-politicians will sacrifice you and even help prosecute you to protect their own interests. Above all, if you get caught you must not implicate any of your fellow-grafters or disclose the many sources of their illegitimate income.

So it is no surprise that the public refuses to get excited about exposures of graft and corruption in government, and particularly those accidentally disclosed in the Federal Tax Dept. which proved so extensive and so raw that it was impossible to cover them up any longer. Congressional investigation brought about the dismissal of several Collectors of Internal Revenue and their assistants, the resignation of others and those imprudent enough to leave incriminating evidence around will be prosecuted. All involved are appointees of Roosevelt and Truman.

Caudle, Asst. Atty. Gen. in charge of prosecuting tax frauds, a Roosevelt appointee, admitted accepting bribes including a mink coat for his wife, had the temerity to deny that he was corrupt, saying he had not used good judgment. Truman, in feigned indignation, fired him thereby removing him from the reach of prosecution. Atty. Gen. McGrath, reactionary Catholic, whom Truman regarded with his present job for his prosecution of Communists, defended Caudle's character at a Congressional inquiry, observing that Caudle was merely "indiscreet". With wholesale corruption thruout the government coming to light in a national election year, Truman was particularly annoyed at McGrath's attitude. The "N.Y. Post" reported that the President asked for McGrath's resignation, but that Cardinal Spellman had intervened in his behalf. Truman denounced officials who use their positions for personal gain and promised a thoro investigation. He said that most government employees were honest, but this is so only because they do not have the opportunity to graft. Continuing his practice of rewarding reactionaries who help destroy civil liberties, the President called on Murphy, who got a judgeship for his prosecution of Communist Party officials, to head the clean up. Murphy indicated willingness to accept and subsequently discussed the matter twice with Truman, but after his second confab said he would prefer to retain his present post. Rumors are that Murphy, who is not a professional politician, demanded a free hand, but that Truman wanted a "selective" job that would create the illusion of thorniness to sooth public indignation and to deprive the Republicans of the use of the corruption issue in the campaign. Finally, Truman announced that McGrath would conduct the inquiry, so graft investigator McGrath will investigate Atty. Gen. McGrath. There will be a shortage of whitewash in the market for months to come.

Political corruption is as old as this country. We have had exposures and investigations galore, followed only by more widespread grafting. It now permeates every

pore of national, state and local government and is impossible to eradicate. In U.S. society where the possession of wealth is the measure of one's status, where "have you got it" is decisive and "how you got it" unimportant, it is idle to expect politicians not to sell their favors.

Capitalism itself is nothing but a legalized grafting process. The capitalists own all the nation's resources. Possessing only their ability to work, the workers must sell their ability to the capitalists in order to live. By doing so the workers get a small part of the wealth they produce (wages), while the capitalists retain the bulk (surplus value), the capitalists thus levy tribute (graft) upon the workers. This is the only grafting that workers should be concerned with ending.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

A graphic illustration of the futility of switching support from one capitalist political party to another and hoping thereby to progress is afforded by the recent mine disaster at Frankford, Illinois. The state is presently under the administration of Gov. Stevenson, a Democrat. The Republicans now have campaign ammunition for the next gubernatorial election. But it was under Republican governor Green that the slaughter of 111 Centralia miners took place. Whether the Illinois voters keep the Democrats in office or reinstate the Republicans will not prevent the next mine disaster. As long as capitalism lasts, the slaughter of the coal miners, like the other evils of capitalism will continue to provide future historians with material for wondering why that system was not abolished generations ago.

SLIM PICKINGS

The capitalist program of guns instead of butter will continue to make it difficult for working class families to secure a sufficient quantity of proper nourishment. The Dept. of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Economics has predicted "somewhat higher food prices" during the year 1952, in what will probably turn out to be the prize understatement of the year. The only commonly used food that is not expected to go up is rice. Is it a coincidence that rice is also one of the least nourishing items on the shopping list? Meat, butter, canned fish, grapefruit and fresh vegetables are among the items expected to increase in price. As of December 1951 the nation's food \$ purchased only 43% of what it did in 1939. How much will it be purchasing by the time December 1952 rolls around?

HOW ASSISTING IS "OLD AGE ASSISTANCE"?

The Hudson County Welfare Board in New Jersey has decreed that a 79 year-old woman who, in nine years managed to save \$3223 out of \$4648 paid her as old age assistance must give back her nest egg. The woman, now in a hospital where she is being treated for malnutrition, had skimmed on food in order to pay off her debts and the undertaker when she dies. To that end she lived on an average of \$158.33 per year instead of enjoying the "luxuries" she might have had if she had spent all of the \$516.44 per year which the Board, in a mood of mad extravagance, showered upon her. When she gets out of the hospital she will be confined in a "public institution", from which she will emerge when she is dead but never shile alive. Such is the assistance capitalism provides the aged.

UNDER THE SKIN

As if to prove that rising young indian capitalism could be just as penny-pinching and malicious as its older Western counterparts, the New Delhi Statesman reports the case of a family which was discovered living in a well. The municipal authorities promptly affixed a number plate to the well thereby making its inhabitants subject to the housing tax. Kipling's bon mot about Judy O'Grady and the Colonel's Lady applies to capitalisms.

THE SHOW IS OVER

Rudolph Halley, in his testimony at Frank Costello's trial in Federal Court, surprised spectators who had anticipated a dramatic performance such as he staged over TV last spring. This time there were no plays to the grandstand, none of the postured tableaux supposed to indicate The Plumed Knight Fearlessly Challenges The Dragon which

not so long ago had the eyes of entranced video fans glued to their sets. In fact, the glamor of the stellar attraction was dissipated in the sleep-inducing dullness of courtroom routine. But why should that be a cause for surprise? The show is over because the election is over. Until the next election, Halley's Grand Crusade, like his campaign pictures (skillfully retouched to make him look like LaGuardia) has been tucked away on the shelf.

LOSS OF PROFITS VS. LOSS OF LIFE

Hans Isbrandtsen, owner of the Flying Enterprise who marked the foundering of his ship by tolling a bell in his office and putting on a display of blubbering unmatched since Junior dropped his lollipop, shed no tears and tolled no bell when one of his seamen was murdered. The seaman was coldbloodedly shot while in handcuffs by the captain of another Isbrandtsen ship. The contrast between doleful Hans's reaction to the loss of a ship and to the death of an employee is all the more emphatic since early reports of the vast loss incurred by the Isbrandtsen firm have been mitigated by the action of the government in turning over a chartered replacement to the ship-owner. It is typical of the sentiments capitalism instills in its devotees that even the mere appearance of a loss of profits is cause for lamentation while the actual murder of one of the workers whose labor produced those profits is not deemed worthy of mourning.

* * *

Since the Stalinists claim they're such great inventors, why don't they invent a medicine to cure senility and send it to the Dean of Canterbury?

* * *

L . S . L . D I R E C T O R Y

BRANCH NEW YORK CITY meets first Saturday of the month at its headquarters, 115 West 25th Street, New York 1, N. Y. Interested people are welcome. Mail may be addressed to above.

BRANCH CHICAGO: For information, contact Bert Rosen, Organizer, 1328 East 57th Street, Chicago 37, Ill.

BRANCH LOS ANGELES: For information, contact Charles G. Doehrer, 1256 Grande Vista, Los Angeles 23 Cal.

The League also has members-at-large in several other cities. Locations of these members and requests for information should be addressed to P.O. Box 770, G.P.O. New York 1, N.Y.

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LSL publishes the following publications:

SOCIALIST VIEWS (quarterly) theoretical organ; \$1 a year.

SOCIALIST MONTHLY (monthly) propaganda organ; \$1 a year.

Sample copies mailed in plain envelope, on request.

INTERNAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN, issued as required; free.

L.S.L. 3rd National Conference

The Third National Conference of the LIBERTARIAN SOCIALIST LEAGUE was held in the headquarters of the New York Branch from December 28-31. Opening on Friday night, sessions were held morning, afternoon and evening of the following days.

Representatives from all sections of the country with members, except the Pacific Coast, participated.

Re-emphasizing their conviction that only Socialism can eliminate the social evils that capitalism imposes upon the world, the delegates occupied themselves with plans to build the League and for an extension of its activities.

One of its most important acts was the decision to send a representative to Europe to contact groups there with the objective of launching a Socialist Third Camp International. (Further reference to this matter may be found elsewhere in this issue.)

This publication becomes the propaganda organ of the national organization instead of that of Branch New York. "Socialist Views" is now our theoretical organ and an Internal Discussion Bulletin will be issued as required.

Standing committees were elected whose duty it is to supervise the publication of pamphlets and leaflets on topics of interest to workers and to promote the Socialist Movement on college campuses.

There were, of course, many other decisions which space limitations do not permit us to elaborate on here, but Conference minutes and documents are being reproduced and you may have a copy by sending the request with 6¢ postage to cover mailing to P. O. Box 770, G.P.O., New York 1, N.Y. U.S.A. Copies will be mailed in sealed envelopes bearing only the above identification.

"Nowhere do the politicians form a more distinct and more powerful subdivision of the nation than in the United States. Here both the great parties, to which the predominance alternately falls, are in their turn ruled by people who make a business of politics, who speculate upon seats in the legislative bodies of the Union and the separate States, or who live by agitation for their party and are rewarded with offices after its victory. It is well known how the Americans have tried for 30 years to throw off this yoke, which has become intolerable, and how, notwithstanding, they sink ever deeper in the mire of corruption. It is just in the United States that we can most clearly see the process thru which the State acquires a position of independent power over against society, for which it was originally designed as a mere tool. There exist here no dynasty, no aristocracy, no standing army, with the exception of a few men to guard against the Indians, no bureaucracy permanently installed and pensioned. Nevertheless, we have here two great rings of political speculators, that alternately take possession of the power of the State and exploit it with the most corrupt purposes. And the nation is powerless against these men, who nominally are its servants, but in reality are its two overruling and plundering hordes of politicians."

--Engels in 1891: Introduction to German edition, "Paris Commune"

INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS

By John Leeb

An AP dispatch says the world Moslem conference to be held in Tehran in the spring will "discuss creation of a "third force" aloof from both the Soviet bloc and the West." The Indian Socialist Party often has called for an Asian bloc of nations opposed to both the Stalinist and Wall Street war camps. An Asian Third Camp could inspire workers thruout the world to take a position against both war camps. Mass pressure is forcing the existing reactionary Moslem governments to take a line independent of the imperialist power blocs--and if the Moslem peoples get rid of the native ruling classes and governments, as well as the foreign imperialists, the peoples will be better able to oppose both war camps...

PARADISE WASN'T: More than 4,000 Singapore Chinese recently went to Stalinist China thinking it a glorious place with happiness for all. But now they have applied for visas to get out of China and return to Singapore. And many Chinese students and teachers formerly sympathetic to Stalinism are fleeing China for Hong Kong...

The average Italian's income is \$260 a year. And 10 million homeless people and near-starvation conditions are reported in Italy...

The assembly steering committee of the capitalist United Nations has pigeon-holed Egypt's complaint about French denial of civil liberty in North Africa. Regardless of what the East Side Debating Society does, independence movements are growing stronger in Tunisia and Morocco. 4 nationalist parties in Morocco are united in a National Front. French police recently killed 5 and wounded 70 Moroccans who were demonstrating against voting in local elections for puppet councils. In Tangier, Moroccan International Zone, workers went on strike to protest French expulsion of a Tunisian nationalist leader. 6 new U.S. air bases are almost completed in Morocco, so French imperialism's possession of the country is important to Wall St. imperialism...

Working class protest demonstrations were partly responsible for the Syrian premier's resignation, after he supported Wall St.'s Middle East Defense Command.

WAR-IS-PEACE-AND-HATE-IS-LOVE-DEPARTMENT: The writer of a book, "Poems of Hatred," has received a Stalinist "peace" prize, the Cominform newspaper announces...

Anti-Stalinist underground forces in Bulgaria report that 85 % of the CP members in one village have deserted the party, so unpopular has it become...

Stalinist secret police discovered an anti-Stalinist underground group among Soviet Air Force officers and enlisted men in Wittenberg, East Germany, according to West German newspapers, and the MVD police executed 6 men...

An example of Polish workers' sabotage of Stalinist industry recently was reported. Shortly after the dedication of the new million-ton steel mill at Czestochowa, inspection revealed sand and refuse had been thrown into machines...

And the workers in Czechoslovakia's biggest sugar factory near Prague started a fire which destroyed the plant. The arson was a protest against slave-like working conditions.

British workers oppose the government's desire to appease Malan's South Africa allowing racist South Africa to grab Negro-inhabited territory...

Lybia's recently-granted "independence" brought out these facts: Disease and poverty are so widespread that 10 % of the population are totally blind and 20 % blind in one eye. In the first year of life mortality is more than 30 %. \$30 is the average yearly income. So poor are some Lybians that they live in caves. The poverty of Lybia is being exploited by Wall Street and British imperialists, who have promised economic aid in return for bases. The Lybian government will stooge for the Wall Street war camp. Wall Street imperialists, and the British-- who occupied the country since taking it from Mussolini in 1943-- hand-picked the new king..

GUNS OR BREAD-- That's the choice now, not guns or butter, say the British "Socialist Leader" in commenting on a pro-disarmament statement of the paper's publisher, the Independent Labor Party...

R.H.S. Crossman, left Labor MP, writing in the Glasgow "Forward", predicts a big fight in parliament this April over the Tory rearmament budget. Crossman and

other Bevanites are expected to oppose the big budget. But they haven't yet developed a clearcut policy of opposing both war camps. Ideological appeals to the Stalinist-enslaved nations to overthrow the Kremlin could be combined with a real Socialist policy that would, by its example, inspire the Iron Curtain nations to establish real Socialism, too...

The British "Socialist Leader", which editorially gave critical support to the Labor Party during the recent election, except in three areas where the Independent Labor Party ran its own candidates, has a column by Don Bateman saying: "The British people can be aroused" on the issue of opposing both war camps "for there is a genuine desire to see Britain free from the domination of either Russia or the United States." He adds that the Labor Party can "revive its fortunes" if it takes a Third Camp position against the Stalinist and Wall Street war camps. Fred Barton, national chairman of the British ILP, declares: "If, in its period of opposition, the Labor Party returns to a socialist foreign policy, removes those of its present leaders who continue to support rearmament, opposes conscription, and fights for the defense of working class living standards against the attacks of the capitalists--and if it really means to accept this program as an essential part of its policy when it again become the Government of the country-- there is a basis for working class unity with the Labor Party so far as the ILP is concerned..."

Editorially the "Socialist Leader" says: "What must be understood is that the offensive against capitalism cannot be successfully launched until the Labor movement realizes that armaments building has no part in a socialist program. The Tories will always put guns before butter, but there is still a chance-- a faint one, perhaps-- that the Labor Party will not. That is why we shall support those within the Labor Party who seek to mould the policy of the party along these lines".

FOR THE THIRD CAMP: Ha 'Iton Ha' Democrati, the Israeli socialist paper, says: "The way to prevent involvement with either the U.S. or Russia in a war is not 'neutrality' but opposition to both. He who has a choice of two alternatives--be hanged or be burned-- will not choose neutrality toward both, but as long as he has sense will seek a third alternative". The Tel Aviv paper, soon to be a daily, is independent of the major parties...

The organization of a new Socialist Party of Egypt is reported. Not much is known of this group. The party has elected a member of parliament, is allied with a peasant senator and is making swift progress among both workers and peasants, reports say. However, a recent broadcast said the leader demanded the government sign treaties with Iron Curtain countries if Britain refuses to leave the Suez. The broadcast added that he demanded the Egyptian government also threaten to break all diplomatic and commercial relations with Britain unless the imperialists left the canal within 30 days...

Hundreds of India peasants in Bengal staged hunger marches to protest unusually high rice prices...

German workers who once were prisoners in Russian concentration camps held rites in Berlin for all victims of Stalinism...

Japan's left socialist unions threatened a general strike-- forcing the reactionary government to abandon witch hunting repressive legislation at the recent special session of parliament. But the legislation may be introduced at parliament's regular session-- so the unions are maintaining a special committee to prepare for future industrial action against the proposed undemocratic measures...

Tunisian nationalists held a 3-day general strike to protest French imperialist rule...

Re 100,000 American Casualties in Korea and Mr. Truman: "A politician is a man who gives your life for his country", according to a quote in "Freedom".

Fight for Freedom—Home Front.

(This feature, which will appear regularly, will record the insidious attacks on our civil liberties by the capitalist reaction parading as 100% Americanism and the struggle to retain them.)

F.B.I. SOCKED

The F.B.I. got a fitting reply when it asked Chicago Local 347, United Packing-house Workers, to display on its bulletin boards photos and details of the Communists who jumped bail after being convicted under the Smith Act.

The Union sent a stinging letter to FBI Chief Hoover, excoriating him for his agency's failure to protect workers' rights. "As long as your agency and our organization have been in existence", the letter said, "We have never received similar material from you on any criminals, be they murderers, horse-thieves, embozzlers, strike-breakers, or what not...We have yet to receive your request for help in apprehending any of the perpetrators of participants in the thousands of lynchings which have disgraced our nation, nor have we been called upon to find those guilty of the disgraceful Cicero anti-Negro riot".

TAFT-HARTLEY AGAIN HITS THE WORKERS

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld a \$750,000 judgment against the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, (independent) violating what the Union called a "booby trap" provision in the Taft-Hartley Act.

The suit grew out of a dispute between ILWU and Juneau Spruce Corp. over an alleged violation of an agreement by the company which resulted in a strike, shutting down the plant, after which the damage suit was filed. The NLRB held that the Union engaged in an unfair labor practice in striking, furnishing the basis for the Court decision.

FLORIDA

Growing indignation over the bomb slayings of NAACP official, Harry T. Moore and his wife resulted in resolutions by NAACP branches and many local Unions, urging the launching of a large protest movement.

NEW YORK

Wiretapping by NYC police will be challenged in court by the ACLU, in behalf of Harold Black, an artist.

NY University students charged that questions about race and religion asked on registration cards are used for discrimination. The Registrar denied it, maintaining their use is solely for "survey purposes" and are treated in a "highly confidential manner".

The Empire State is not lagging in the war on freedom. Assemblyman Jack, who in 1949 was one of the few to vote against the notorious Feinberg Law empowering the Board of Regents to bar from teaching in public schools members of "subversive organizations", found it politically expedient not only to get on the pa(y)triotic bandwagon but to get at the head of the parade. His bill authorizes the Attorney General to file a complaint in the State Supreme Court against any organization or individual he considers "subversive". A jury trial is provided for. If the accused is found guilty, anyone remaining a member, supporting it financially, or destroying its records would be guilty of a felony and upon conviction could be fined \$1,000 and jailed for 3 years. In presenting the bill, Jack said, "In this period of world tension an emergency exists. It is imperative that we enact appropriate laws to protect our democratic way of life". His bill, Jack informs us, is part of the legislative program of the New York Democratic leader and head of Tammany Hall, De Sapio. With the stench of graft and corruption issuing from every pore of NY City government which Tammany dominates, with former Mayor (now by grace of Truman Mexican Ambassador) O'Dwyer and every present City official implicated, excepting Halley, who held no office, with gambler Costello whispered as the real "boss" of Tammany, and with rumors of payoffs for permitting the sale of dope to school children, Samuel Johnson's remark, "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel" should be altered to read "first refuge".

The Republicans are not to be outdone. They control the Legislature, so one of

their "specimen" proposed creation of a 7-man joint legislative committee to conduct a year-long survey into subversive activities, estimated to cost about \$100,000. It pays to be patriotic.

The 3rd Annual Conference of LSL adopted a resolution denouncing the outrage and demanding immediate action to find and punish the guilty, which was ordered sent to Pres. Truman and Atty. Gen. McGrath. Altho McGrath told a delegation that the Justice Dept. was taking steps to apprehend the terrorists, no progress has been reported. The Atty. Gen. and the FBI have been singularly unsuccessful in the past in similar matters and, mindful that this is an election year and that Southern Democrats have votes, are not likely to spoil their records.

NEW JERSEY

The Jersey City Board of Education has restored to public school libraries the works of Prof. Mark Van Doren, banned on the insistence of a former board member who said Van Doren was "too far left".

MASSACHUSETTS

The State Legislature banned the Communist Party, the first state to take such action. Prof. Dirk Struik, suspended MIT professor, branded as "untrue", "studip" and an intellectual insult the State's charge that he advocated the violent overthrow of the State of Massachusetts.

OHIO

After vigorous protest by students and outside groups, Ohio State Univ, relaxed its gag rule, screening all visiting speakers.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Pechan Loyalty Oath Bill, which reaches a new high in witch-hunting, is scheduled for final vote in the Legislature. Its adoption would (1) permit the dismissal of any state, city, village or school employee if their superiors have "reasonable doubt" of their loyalty; (2) Bans the use of the courts in appeal hearings, and (3) Protects accusers against having their identity revealed and giving officials authority to withhold from dismissed persons the details of charges against them.

* * *

The cases cited above are by no means a complete picture, nor are they unusual, being the product of the nationwide campaign to destroy all liberty. Larger issues than civil liberties are involved, as may be seen in the growing tendency toward conformity, in the reluctance of decent-minded citizens to act against the fast-spreading reaction and in the ready compliance of the politicians to the spoken and unspoken demands of organized reaction. More and more the Socialist Movement becomes the only champion of freedom and Socialists must fully participate in the struggles for civil liberties.

end

"We are free today substantially, but the day will come when our Republic will be an impossibility. It will be an impossibility because wealth will be concentrated in the hands of a few. A republic cannot stand upon bayonets, and when that day comes, when the wealth of the nation will be in the hands of a few, then we must rely upon the wisdom of the best elements in the country to readjust the laws of the nation to the changed conditions."

James Madison

J O I N T H E L S L N O W ! ! !

C O N T R I B U T E T O T H I S G R O W I N G

R E V O L U T I O N A R Y S O C I A L I S T O R G A N I Z A T I O N ! ! !