

McCarthy Redbaiting the Senate

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

EVER SINCE Mussolini and Hitler began to drag their filthy way through history, it has been the practice for red-baiters to throw the workingclass and liberals into one pot and to denounce them all as Communists or Communist "dupes." This is their method of ideological terrorism — of defeating everything progressive — and the effectiveness of their demagoguery has been made all too clear in the past. Senator McCarthy, however, in his aspirations to be the reactionary dictator of the United States, has outdone all his predecessors, in his desperate fight to escape censure by the Senate for his outrageous course during the past few years.

McCarthy not only attacks actual Communists, but he has long since pasted the label of Communists and of Communist sympathizers upon the Socialist Party, the Americans for Democratic Action, and the New Deal Democrats. Now, in his widely published speech, scheduled for delivery in the Senate, he goes the whole hog. He blasts the Watkins Committee as a tool of the Communist Party, and leaves the clear implication that any and all Senators who support the committee's motion of censure are in the same boat. This is carrying red-baiting to the ultimate. Everybody is a Communist except McCarthy's pro-fascist hangers-on.

IN HIS SPEECH McCarthy paints a lurid picture of the Communist Party virtually controlling the United States Senate, so far as opposition to himself is concerned. He bellows that "the Communists have now

managed to have me investigated five times," and that "the Watkins Committee has done the work of the Communist Party." He declares the same of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Dean Acheson. McCarthy shouts also that the Communist Party, despite its small size, has the power to turn the people's "most trusted political servants" into its "attorneys-in-fact," and he ascribes the fully-deserved defeat of American imperialism in Asia, China, Korea, and Indochina to the machinations of the American Communist Party. McCarthy's speech was the most arrogant and fantastic ever aimed at the U.S. Congress.

McCarthy's trash is the wildest political nonsense. One wonders how anyone professing to be sane could spout such stuff before the Senate and the American people. But it is nonetheless dangerous for all that. Those who would laugh off McCarthy as a blathering fool make a serious mistake. For there are lots of political morons to whom his every word is gospel.

We only have to think back to the early days of Mussolini and Hitler, when they also were being ridiculed as harmless addle-pates and demagogues. But mankind later learned at bitter cost how these same political mountebanks and windbags, doing the bidding of monopoly capital, were able to grab control of the governments of many countries and to plunge the world into the worst war in its history. The ideology of fascism is illiterate, absurd, and fantastic; but its deadly danger has nevertheless long since been made manifest.

McCarthy, WITH his wild demagoguery, is trying to terrify and bulldoze the Senate and the American people. His violent speech is designed to stir up his fanatical followers all

over the country and to induce them to bombard the Senate with protests and threats, with the aim of defeating the censure motion altogether.

How will the Senators, in the anti-McCarthy majority, stand up under such pressure? There is the danger that many of them, themselves semi-McCarthyites, would be only too willing to find an easy way out of the situation by watering down the censure or by disregarding it altogether—that is, by again allowing McCarthy to have his way.

It would be folly, therefore, to leave the crack-down upon McCarthy solely to the Senate. The workers and other democratic forces must be on guard and realize that they have a fight ahead of them to push through the Watkins report and to deal a real blow to McCarthyism in the Senate fight. McCarthy is out to grab control of the Republican Party and to use it as an instrument to advance fascism in this country.

SHOULD McARTHUR succeed in either getting or defeating the Watkins censure motion, this would be a real victory for his pro-fascist plans and a dangerous setback for democracy in this country. The present serious trend towards fascism would be speeded up. This must, under no circumstances, be allowed to happen. McCarthy's insulting speech should be answered by the mighty voice of organized labor and its political allies; McCarthy's attempt to mobilize his cohorts and to terrorize the Senate should bring forth a great flood of demands from the masses of the people that he be not only censured by the Senate but expelled from its ranks. In the McCarthy case there is now in the making in Washington either an important victory or a serious defeat for democracy in this country.

