

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

As McCarthy stands before the United States Senate on trial for his misdoings, he carries the condemnation of the overwhelming mass of the American people. This pro-fascist blabbermouth and would-be dictator is guilty of a whole series of political crimes which should have long since caused his expulsion from the Senate.



His whole course has been a violent attack upon the Bill of Rights and American democracy. For this purpose he has shamelessly misused the government committee he heads and also his prestige as a high government official.

Never in the history of the United States have the American people been subjected to such an ideological terrorism as this political interloper was able to set up as a result of his abuse of his official position. McCarthy long ago forfeited any formal right that he may once have had to sit in the top legislative

body of this country. He and those associated with him are a political menace.

Yet the charges that McCarthy is facing call only for censure. The Watkins Committee, by-passing the real danger and political crimes of McCarthyism, proposes a formal censure of the culprit on trial. It wants him rebuked for his contempt of a committee of the Senate, for abusing several Senators, and for his hooligan-like attack upon General Ralph W. Zwicker. Other serious charges, such as encouraging federal employes to spy for him and his illegal use of stolen FBI documents, the committee leaves quite aside.

In short, the committee has condemned McCarthy not for the political crimes he is guilty of, but for the crude and uncouth manner in which he committed them.

ORGANIZED LABOR and other democratic forces should support the adoption of the Watkins report (which is by no means guaranteed), but at the same time they should fight to

The McCarthy Trial

have the action of the Senate go far beyond the formal rebuke contained in this report.

The American people would be justified in demanding that McCarthy not only be censured but fired outright from the Senate—as the forerunner of later criminal action by the Department of Justice in his case. Anything short of this drastic action will not fit the problem of dealing a real blow to the menace of McCarthyism in this country.

Together with firing McCarthy, the American people would also do well to look carefully to the political elements who criticize McCarthy for his methods, but who refuse to condemn him for his objective—which is fascism. The reason for this stand is that many of these elements also believe in the general course that McCarthy represents. They are in substantial agreement with his big lie that the countries of socialism are a military menace to this country and the world; they endorse his system of thought-control through inquisitorial governmental committees, and they

share his determination to make war upon the USSR, People's China, and other Socialist countries. The fascist menace in this country far outruns the personality of the junior Senator from Wisconsin.

OBVIOUSLY, the Administration planned on using McCarthy to stave off defeat in the November elections, but his crude political brutalities made this impossible. He lacks the finesse of the other reactionaries, who know how to cover up their warmongering and anti-labor, anti-Negro policies with a thick smear of hypocrisy about peace and democracy. The people were able to see through the gangster-like activities of McCarthy and to recognize their fascist content. Hence McCarthy had to be dropped and even censured.

This action did not, however, prevent the hard-pressed Republicans from having recourse to McCarthy tactics, especially in the closing days of the campaign. Senator Ives' mudslinging campaign was only equalled by the pro-fascist demagoguery of

Vice President Nixon. And President Eisenhower himself, although he had said that the "Communist question" would not be an issue in the campaign, went out of his way to praise the mud-gutter campaigning of Nixon and to try, himself, by waving the red flag, to frighten the American people into the Republican camp. Such dangerous tendencies explain why the Administration proposes to censure McCarthy only for his "methods" and not for the political content of his fascist activities.

ORGANIZED LABOR, the Negro people, and other democratic forces would do well to keep a close eye upon the trial now opening in the Senate and to do all possible to have their own strong anti-McCarthyism sentiments register there. The Senate, full to overflowing with the crassest reactionaries of both parties, must not be left to its own devices in this matter. The McCarthy trial is an important political affair. It can and must be developed into a smashing blow, not only against Senator McCarthy personally, but also against the entire dangerous fascist trend in this country.