

REKINDLING THE COLD WAR

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

JOHN FOSTER DULLES, a days ago, announced that "the cold war is on again," and he emphasized this sinister statement by resuming his erstwhile discredited threats of "instant massive retaliation." To show that these were not vagaries of the sabre-rattling Secretary of State, President Eisenhower is proposing to boost military appropriations for the coming year by a billion dollars and also to double foreign military aid to five billion.



In the same bellicose spirit, professional warmongers such as Sen. Knowland, temporarily muted by the Geneva conference, are crawling out of the woodwork again and are making their customary noises. The press, radio, and television are also harping again upon the stale theme of the need of "the free world" to arm itself against the so-called Russian menace. Characteristically, also, George Meany, grossly violating the most basic interests of the working class, is blatantly demanding a sharpening up of Wall Street's aggressive foreign policies generally—and the worst of this situation is that, so far at least, not even one leading trade union leader has said him nay.

All this, of course, is in direct conflict with the "spirit of Geneva," with its background of "peaceful co-existence," created by world mass peace pressure.

Eisenhower and Dulles instinctively feared Geneva, and they had to be pushed into it. Likewise, no sooner had the conference taken place than they set out to put brakes upon the broad mass enthusiasm which it evoked. And now they like Geneva still less, seeing as they do, in its aftermath, the weakened militarism of their allies, the crumbling of their economic blockade against the countries of Socialism and people's democracy, and the soaring of Soviet prestige on a world scale, especially among the colonial and semi-colonial peoples of Asia and Africa.

Hence, in an effort to change all these, to them, frightening developments, the Wall Street imperialists, whose spokesmen Eisenhower and Dulles are, are seeking to re-heat the cold war. And there are many powerful elements in our country who would be only too happy to again hang a deadly war fear over the world.

THIS DELIBERATE sharpening of international tensions, with its huge new military appropriations and its first outburst of jingoism, will work a hardship upon all the world's peoples, and it is a blow against

every progressive movement in the world. In the United States it will cut into the workers' living standards, make more difficult the struggle for civil rights, and generally play into the hands of reaction.

Re-kindling the cold war will re-awaken mass war fears, and there is also in it a potential increase in the danger of war. As the spokesmen of the Soviet Union and People's China have repeatedly said, the gigantic American military machine and its super-aggressive foreign policies are a continuing war danger, and sharpening the cold war can only increase this danger. As Lenin said, this danger of war will last as long as imperialism does.

THE REACTIONARIES are shouting that the spirit of Geneva is dead and that the peoples must renew the cold war for protection. But this is a monstrous lie. Geneva is vigorously alive, as reaction may well soon learn to its cost. Something basic happened at Geneva, which Wall Street, with all its money and arms cannot undo. Then the peoples of the world, aroused by the looming war danger, halted the Wall Street warmongers and let them know decisively that they would not tolerate a world war such as the latter were obviously organizing.

If Wall Street's agents dare to push aggressively this new program of re-kindling the cold war, we may be sure that they will again be isolated and stopped by an even more powerful and aggressive world peace movement than that which dealt them such a blow at Geneva.

THE FIGHT to ease world tensions and to consolidate world peace will be a central issue in the 1956 elections. This becomes all the more certain with the support of the Eisenhower Administration, with its characteristic double-dealing, to re-inflame the cold war while at the same time pretending to be the party of peace. The sabre-rattlers will learn that the American people, after their experience with several months of an approach to peaceful co-existence, will not relish an intensified cold war.

Every issue that the workers now have to face—to elect progressive candidates wherever possible in the coming elections, the fight for wages and civil rights, for a re-building of the educational system and for Negro equality; and against approaching economic crisis—must be tied in directly with the struggle against increased military appropriations and against the re-energization of the cold war. In the coming elections the workers, acting in the spirit of Geneva, should give the super-militarists a defeat that will really set them back on their heels.