

IS THERE A WAR PARTY?

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THIS ELEMENTARY question, which is now agitating the country, must be answered categorically in the affirmative. There is most definitely a war party in the United States. In fact, there are two war parties among the agents of monopoly capital.



KNOWLAND



McCARTHY



RADFORD

It's most dangerous expression is the "War Now" group represented by fire-eaters like Vice-President Nixon, Senators Knowland, McCarthy and Bridges, the Pentagon Chiefs of Staffs Radford and Carney and other pro-fascist elements whose main stronghold is in the Republican Party.

The second group is the "War When We Are Ready" crowd, typified by Eisenhower and Dulles, Truman and Stevenson, and by the main top leaders of the AFL and CIO.

The strategical differences between these two pro-war groups is that the Eisenhower group, although now trying to intimidate the Chinese with threats of war in the Formosa Straits, generally proceeds upon the assumption that in a war the United States must needs have the strongest possible group of allies—Great Britain, Germany, Japan, France, Italy, and all possible others. Whereas the "War Now," looking pessimistically upon most of this country's supposed allies, would plunge us into war forthwith and trust to luck to drag in with us a lot of other capitalist countries as allies. Upon every occasion the war hawks are pressing for an immediate policy.

IN ANOTHER SENSE there are also two parties in that the

Republican and Democratic parties nationally, both dominated by warlike big capital, have been committed to war-breeding policies. Both parties have been working upon the assumption that war is inevitable, and both have followed policies calculated to make this awful assumption come true.

The indisputable truth is that all the war-like policies of the United States during the post-war period have been carried through on a bi-partisan basis—the enormous military establishment at home, the hundreds of war bases abroad, the atom-bomb diplomacy and H-bomb menace, the rearming of Germany, and all the rest of the war threats and preparations.

But saying all this, however, is a very different thing from saying that the American people as such are for war. Quite the contrary is the case. Although the great majority of the American people—the workers, farmers, middle class elements, and large numbers of businessmen—have been much confused by the oceans of war hysteria and lies with which they have been deluged during the past several years, nevertheless they manifestly do not want war. This they have demonstrated upon

many occasions, among them, their powerful resistance to the hated Korean war, their opposition to this country becoming involved in the "dirty" war in Indo-China. Especially is their strong peace sentiment shown by their current hostility to the attempts being made to involve the United States in a war over Quemoy and Matsu.

UNDER THIS MASS pressure, a group of Democratic Senators—especially those backed by labor—are speaking out against the "War Now" crowd and how embodied the Quit-Quemoy demand in the Morse-Lehman resolution. The biggest difficulty, however, is that the mass peace forces are largely unorganized and virtually leaderless. The great bulk of their official leaders, especially the top figures in the trade union movement, are supporting war policies.

Just now the two war factions—the "War When We Are Ready" group and "War Now" crowd—are at each other's throat, many of the former denouncing the latter as warmongers. This is all to the good. It definitely breaks the deadly conspiracy to stifle all criticism which in any way raises the war question in

connection with Washington's policies. To paraphrase an old saying: When war fire-brands fall out, the supporters of peace get their due. Let the people take advantage of this opportunity, presented by their enemies, the proponents of war.

President Eisenhower is particularly alarmed that various Republican spokesmen, forgetting the tactical need for a thick screen of peace talk in order to deceive "our allies" abroad and the American people at home, recently have been giving forth with the most open threats of war. An expert on peace demagoguery himself, President Eisenhower has been planning to walk into the Presidency in 1956 under the false pretense of being a champion of peace. No doubt he figured also that the Democratic leadership would help this election strategy by appearing as the advocates of the most aggressive foreign policy, as they stupidly did in 1952.

But now this whole election strategy is seriously threatened. By creating the Quemoy-Matsu issue Eisenhower has raised the question of war and peace in a very sharp manner. Not only are the British, Indians, Russians, and other people impelled to discuss (and condemn) the Eis-

enhower war strategy, but so are great masses of the American people. A number of Democratic leaders like Kefauver, Lehman and Morse—and even Humphrey—have grasped the fact that the War-Now group have left themselves wide open on the war question.

CONSEQUENTLY, we now see, of all people, no one less than the ultra-warmonger, Vice-President Nixon, the would-be fascist President of the United States, forced to come rushing out to assure us (and to save the Republican Party from defeat in 1956) by declaring that "There is no war party in the United States." Nixon says the whole agitation is a plot of the "reds."

What he is trying to accomplish with his ideological intimidation, is to have every expression of peace sentiment condemned as subversive.

Now that the bars are down on the peace-war question the workers and other democratic peace-loving elements of the population, with redoubled energy, should press on with the fight for peace. They should direct their main fire against the war-now group and prove to the hilt that the Nixons, Knowlands, McCarthys, MacArthurs, and their ilk, are indeed dangerous warmongers and a menace to world peace.

But the peace forces must not stop there. They must also make clear to the American people that the Eisenhower foreign policy, despite its triplicate layers of hypocrisy and demagoguery, is also a policy that is heading towards war. As never before during the cold war, the forces of peace now have an opportunity to deal real blows against the forces of fascism and war in this country. This opportunity must not be missed.