

CANNON RECITES HISTORY

By ABRAHAM JAKIRA

THE right wing never has any courage to stand up and fight directly for its policy, but tries by devious ways, by indirection and by shifting issues, to advance its influence and smuggle in its policy," says Comrade Cannon in the **DAILY WORKER** of Dec. 11th. We are not going to discuss the validity of this statement, but will try to show that it applies to the majority fully one hundred per cent.

What Are the Issues?

The theses of both groups deal with several important issues. The farmer-labor party, undoubtedly, occupies the outstanding place among these, but each of the other issues are at least of sufficient importance as to be discussed by the party membership. We must not try to smuggle in these issues just because we are discussing the farmer-labor party. The issue of the Second-and-half International tendency was important enough to be seriously considered by the enlarged session of the Communist International last spring. So why all the excitement of Comrade Cannon when Comrade Ruthenberg raises "the issue of the opportunistic errors of Comrade Lore"? Before the discussion is over many other issues will undoubtedly be given consideration whether Comrade Cannon likes it or not.

What Is Not the Issue

The majority on the other hand raises quite a number of "shifting issues" which have little to do with the present discussion. An active comrade here suggested to me that an article be written entitled—"What is not the issue." This was after he participated in the discussion in one of the party branches where another comrade reported for the majority side. The majority spends considerable time to "prove" that the amalgamation slogan is good, that the trade unions are important factors in the class struggle, that there many issues which can serve as basis for our united front campaigns etc. Are these the issues involved in the present discussion? And in order to further befog and confuse the issue the cry of "opportunism" and "right wing" is raised by the majority against the minority. "Stop Thief," Comrade Cannon, will not do at this later hour. It

is the right wing that is resorting to shifting issues."

No Courage to Stand Up

Comrade Cannon tells us that it was not before "the August meeting of the C. E. C." that "Comrades Foster, Bittelman and myself began to ask a few questions." It was only after the August meeting that Comrade Foster "was beginning to assert his right and duty to participate actively in the party leadership." What does it mean? Does it mean that Comrade Foster while a leading member of the C. E. C. until August did not assert his right and duty as a member of the C. E. C? Does it mean that he did not have the "courage to stand up and fight directly for his policies?"

History

Now, as to "history" quoted by Comrade Cannon. He rightly reminds us that the former C. E. C. was in disagreement with him on a number of occasions. We can add, we also opposed the expulsion of the "right wing" led by Comrade Olgin from the Jewish Federation despite of the bitter opposition of the Comrade Bittelman. But we also did something else. We split the "right wing" (and not the federation) of the Jewish federation, we broke the open alliance between Salutsky and Lore and between Lore and Cannon. For Comrade Cannon has always occupied the extreme side of the right wing in the party.

The present minority never had any illusions about Lore and if he "was carried around," to use Comrade Cannon's expression, it was just as a nurse carries around a sick child. (But the moment Comrade Lore made an effort to make the F. F. L. an individual membership organization he was called to order.) At the same time serious efforts were made to centralize both the party machinery and the party press and with considerable success. There was no danger of the right wing exerting his influence as long as the party was controlled by the left elements. The fight against the Second-and-half International tendency in the party becomes imperative when it is openly encouraged by the ruling centrist group of the C. E. C.

As to Comrade Foster. The present minority never had any illusions about

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his Marxism. The open fight against him became necessary not when "he began to assert his right and duty," but when he began to show a complete misunderstanding of the united front tactic, and when he began to apply the united front in Chicago in the wrong way.

The Majority and Lore

Comrade Cannon denies that the majority had any alliance with any other group. I shall leave this to the C. E. C. members and to the comrades of New York to answer. Just a few facts about the last party convention. Comrade Cannon claims that his group had a clear cut majority at the last convention. The true of the matter is that the Foster-Cannon group had at most 20 delegates solidly on their side. The Finnish block of 13 and the Lore group had the balance of power which helped to elect the present C. E. C.

Since the convention the alliance continued both on the C. E. C. and way down the line and this helped not so much the Foster-Cannon group as it did the Lore group. Suffice it to point to New York City to show that since last convention the Lore group has grown in strength and in influence and now represents a real danger to the party.

We welcome any attempt to take up openly the issues involved instead of trying to invent "shifting issues" as the majority was doing up to now.