

PARTY LIFE

Lovestone's Pacific 'Hopes' Glimmering

By A. JAKIRA.

The Pacific Coast is becoming of more and more importance to the revolutionary labor movement of this country in view of the present period of feverish preparations for a new imperialist war, in which the Orient and South America will play a most important role. The Pacific Coast is the center of the lumber and oil industries, both of greatest importance in the present preparations for the imperialist war. Many new industries are springing up on the Western Coast from day to day.

The results of rationalization of the industries, wage cuts, speed-ups and unemployment, are felt here at least just as much as in any other part of the country. In this situation the Communist Party has an important role to perform both in the California and Seattle Districts.

Our Party, however, while the only revolutionary working class organization on the coast fighting for the interests of the workers, has failed up to the present time to play the role that it must play and failed to fully utilize the favorable situation existing in that region. This was due to many errors made in our work in the past and to a wrong orientation on our part. These errors were sharply brought to light prior and immediately after the Sixth National Convention of our Party. Due to the factional situation that existed in the Party and the factional approach to the question the errors, however, were not and could not be corrected.

For example, it was pointed out, prior to our Sixth Convention, that the social composition of the Party in Los Angeles was far from satisfactory, that the Los Angeles organization had no contact with the various industries existing in that section (Oil, Marine Transport, Rubber, Canning, etc., etc.), that we had no contacts with the Mexican or Negro workers who play a most important part there. These errors were pointed out and severely criticized, but we failed to correct them.

In San Francisco we had practically no contact with the Marine Transport Industry, no shop nuclei, whatsoever. This was pointed out, but no steps were taken to correct these as well as the numerous other shortcomings which were justly criticized sharply during the preconvention period.

In Seattle, likewise, we had very little contact with the main and most important industry—the Marine Transport Industry—no contacts with the Oriental workers, no shop nuclei. These shortcomings were even not criticized by the Party and surely no steps were taken to correct them.

In California the factional situation reached its climax shortly after the Party National Convention and an open split took place. Some comrades, led by Manus and Glickson, have developed an anti-Communist theory—which is now being defended by Lovestone, Gitlow and Wolfe—that they can be better Communists outside of the Communist Party and the Comintern. They have shown, as the Lovestonites are doing at present, lack of faith in the Comintern and the Communist Party as the revolutionary leader of the working class.

In Seattle, likewise, things did not run smoothly since the Party Convention. Sorenson, the district organizer, apparently influenced by the rotten anti-Comintern campaign which was carried on at the Party Convention, lost faith in the Communist Party and the Comintern and proceeded to break up and liquidate the Party. He shortly found himself isolated and repudiated by the vast majority of the proletarian membership.

Under these conditions, it surely was not an accident that it was precisely in the California District where the Comintern Address was misunderstood and misinterpreted and that as late as in the month of August we found the two old groups existing as solid groups as in the good old preconvention days, as though nothing had happened since then. The minority comrades claimed to be for the Comintern Address but failed to see that one of the main instructions of the Address was the liquidation of the old groups, the abolition of factionalism, and the application of severe self criticism. The comrades of the former majority claimed to be fighting against Manus and Glickson because of their anti-Party, anti-Comintern stand. But these same comrades found it permissible to line up with Lovestone, who was following the same path as Manus and Glickson, who was openly fighting the Comintern and the Communist Party of the United States. These comrades have failed to realize that Lovestone was leading them into a ditch of opportunism and counter-revolution.

Likewise, it was not an accident that Sorenson first secretly, then openly, lined up with the Lovestone group and succeeded at one meeting of the District Bureau to get a majority for the Lovestone so-called appeal to the Comintern. This is the same Sorenson who refused to call a meeting of the Bureau when requested to do so by the majority of the secretariat on the grounds that "the Party Constitution provides for but one Bureau meeting a month." It is no accident that a young comrade, a member of the District Bureau of the Young Communist League of Seattle District and a follower of Sorenson makes a statement against the Comintern Address which begins with this interesting sentence, "I am for the Comintern Address, but am opposed to its decision on the American question."

The sharpening of the class struggle throughout the country, including the Western Coast, the attack of China on the Soviet Union, the open anti-Communist nature of the Lovestone group and the assistance given the Western Coast by the Central Committee opened the eyes of the comrades in the two districts. In California the old split was liquidated, the leading committees strengthened, a new policy for future work adopted—all important steps in the direction of proletarianization and Bolshevization of the Party in this district.

Both of the former groups were definitely broken up. The Lovestone anti-Comintern group was repudiated by the entire membership, with the exception of a few isolated cases here and there. California district is now on the road of recovery and promises to grow and develop into a real mass Communist Party. In Seattle District, also, Sorenson and his sole supporter in the Party, was repudiated in such a decisive manner that he dared not show up at the membership meeting where the writer of these lines was reporting for the Central Committee and where he, together with his entire Lovestone group, could not muster a single vote. The district bureau of the Party which was strengthened by the addition of several new proletarian elements and a Negro comrade is proceeding with its task of building and strengthening the Party, especially among the lumber and marine transport workers and is trying to make up for the damage done by Sorenson since his return from the Party Convention.

The Party on the Western Coast has done well in smashing the old factional situation and laying the foundation for real Communist work. The membership and the leading committees must continue this work and build the Party in line with the Comintern Address. The first task in California is to wipe out all remnants of factionalism which still may be hidden here and there. In Los Angeles the Party must, thru intensified Communist work, clear its ranks of the non-proletarian elements who still compose a too high percentage of the organization, it must instead proceed with an intensive organization campaign to recruit new members from the main industries—rubber, oil, marine transport, canning, etc. All along the coast special attention must be paid to the formation of shop nuclei in the main shops. The Party must intensify its work for the organization of the unorganized, especially the lumber workers, the auto workers, the marine transport workers. Attention must be paid to the Mexican, Oriental and Negro workers who compose a large percentage of the exploited workers all along the Western Coast. More discipline, more education in order to raise the ideological level of our members. The struggle against the Right danger must be intensified, but it must be done in an absolute non-factional manner.

There are yet many problems to be solved in the two districts on the Western Coast. These will be solved much easier now with the factional situation crushed and with the Communist forces working as a united body. With the cooperation of the Central Executive Committee California and Seattle Districts will soon play the role in the labor movement that a Communist Party really must play.

Denounces Provocative Acts of Lovestone Gang

Unit No. 2, Section 4, District 2, unanimously adopted a resolution at its regular meeting Tuesday denouncing the political line of the Lovestone right wingers, branded them as having placed themselves at the service of the bourgeoisie and social reformists and having acted as provocateurs in raiding the national office and stealing important political documents. Pledging its full support to the Central Executive Committee and the District Executive Committee for their fight against the enemies of the Party, the unit approved unanimously the expulsions of Saby Nahama, Fillia Kean, Will Herberg, Dr. Eugene Kseinin and Dr. Wm. Burton from the ranks of the Party.