

A Capitalist Dictatorship -

By JAY LOVESTONE

AN UNDERGROUND CONVENTION

Today the American government seeks to drive the most advanced spokesmen of the working class, the Communists, underground. Then it persecutes and hounds these very workmen for having been underground. Yet the Federal Convention at which the American Government was founded was a completely underground convention—hidden from the masses. Utmost secrecy characterized the sessions which were held behind closed doors. The delegates were not allowed to communicate with any one outside. No one could make any copy from the record without special permission from the body. These steps were taken in order to facilitate realization of the aims of the Convention—a strongly centralized government possessing great immunity from change.

A reading of the proceedings, which were not made public until fifty years after the Convention, will disillusion anyone as to the faith that body had in the masses. Such honest spokesmen for popular rule as Paine and Jefferson were not to be found in that gathering.

Delegate Elbridge Gerry, later Vice-President, saw in democracy the worst of all political evils. He

realized, however, that it was unwise to make public such sentiments.

This "Father" of our country believed "that the people should at least appoint one branch of the government in order to inspire them with the necessary confidence."

HARTFORD, Conn.—The faculty of the Yale university law school, in a letter to a committee of the Connecticut legislature, has protested against the passage of a so-called anti-Communist bill.