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Problems of Building a Labor Party

By Harry Ring

Last week we reported Clifford P. McAvoy's appeal to the ranks of the Progressive Party to retain their independence from the Democratic and Republican machines...

From the most immediate practical viewpoint, the first question posed is what can the independent tendency in the PP now do in the 1956 elections?

Such a program, that of the SWP. To actively assist the SWP in meeting the rigorous ballot requirements in the various states...

labor party perspective for two reasons. First, as a sop to those of their supporters who genuinely want to help build such a movement...

BRITISH LABOR PARTY The present situation of the British Labor Party is an instructive example of what this means...

Friend of the Jailer and the Jailed

An article by Norman Thomas in the New York Times Magazine of Oct. 30 begins as follows: "Toward the end of 1955 I find myself on two committees..."

Internationalism meant advocating solidarity of the workers of all countries and preventing one's own fellow workers from falling for the boss propaganda that "enemy" workers were "Huns..."

The artlessness with which Thomas reveals that he is equally honoring Debs and Wilson, the prisoner and the jailer, the militant socialist leader and the sanctimonious capitalist politician...

If internationalism meant only interest in, or military intervention in, other countries, then every imperialist, who ever carved out colonies, fought another country or participated in an alliance with foreign governments is an internationalist...

This confusion on the meaning of words isn't confined to Thomas' definition of "socialist," it holds for the meaning of "internationalist," too.

Despite his years of presiding over the now practically defunct Socialist Party, Norman Thomas' standing in the country is not primarily as a socialist, certainly not as a Marxist...

Thomas writes: "Both Debs and Wilson were internationalists, each after his own fashion." This is like saying that a picket, who was shot at outside the Perfect Circle plant...

This is his prerogative and no one can much object unless he belongs to the loose, programless party which is misnamed "socialist." But when the historical waters are muddied on what Debs and Wilson were...

In the vocabulary of the working class in 1917 "internationalist" meant a follower of the revolutionary socialist policy of telling the truth about the war — that it was an imperialist war...

Perfect Circle Formula -- Stage 2

With all the solemnity of law three locals of the CIO United Auto Workers are about to be busted. The corporation involved will not have to use guns to do the job...

Eisenhower has served three years of his term but no serious move to junk or revise the T-H Law has come from the White House. What about the supposed "friends of labor" — the Democrats?

The company is the Perfect Circle Corporation whose labor policy revealed itself in flashes of rifle fire a few weeks ago in New Castle, Indiana. Now it is about to demonstrate its legal strikebreaking...

If anyone thinks that the Democrats were too busy in the last session of Congress to get around to Taft-Hartley and that they will remedy this little oversight...

Decertification elections are to be held at two Perfect Circle plants in Richmond, Indiana, and at one Perfect Circle plant in Hagerstown in the same state.

Top Democratic Party leaders in Congress have held a confab and agreed on the party's legislative program for the coming session. The program is more notable for what it plans not to do...

The gimmick is that under the T-H Slave Labor Law the strikebreakers can vote in the election but the strikers can't. The National Labor Relations Board simply declares them ineligible...

The Democratic Party is selling its Negro and labor supporters down the river again in order not to offend the open-shop Dixiecrats with bills for civil rights or repeal of Taft-Hartley.

This strikebreaking provision of the Taft-Hartley law is so crass that when Eisenhower was chasing votes in the 1952 presidential campaign, he declared: "That must be changed. America wants no law licensing union-busting. Neither do I."

The Workers Will Unify Germany

How to unify Germany? That is the question that preoccupies the German people who profoundly desire the unity and independence of their country.

united Germany in which state-owned property would be retained in the East and capitalism in the West and in which the East Zone government would have substantial power in the united regime.

It is becoming clear that the Big Four will not bring about unification. The U.S. government has succeeded in imposing the rearmament of West Germany and its adherence to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization over the opposition of the West German working people.

Neither side will give in to the other, nor will either side permit the German people freely to determine its own fate. The German people can win unity and independence for their country only through revolutionary struggle against imperialism and the Soviet bureaucracy.

The U.S. warmakers will refuse any unification that interferes with these plans. Their proposal for unification of Germany would place virtually the whole of Germany under NATO. In exchange for agreeing to this arrangement, the Soviet bloc would get a non-aggression promise from French, English and German governments.

This was understood by the two million workers who in June 1953 rose against the East German Stalinist regime and the Soviet occupation troops.

The Kremlin, on the other hand, will not agree to German unity unless it can use its control of East Germany — to prevent German rearmament. The Stalinist plan envisages a neutral Germany jointly controlled by imperialism and the Kremlin.

They viewed the struggle against the Stalinist bureaucrats as part of an overall struggle for a united Socialist Germany. Their aspirations were stated by Ella Sarre, young strike leader, as quoted in The Explosion, a recent book about the East German uprising.

Concretely the Stalinists propose a

For Eisenhower



Henry Wallace, candidate for President of the Progressive Party ticket in 1948, called for support of Eisenhower as the best Presidential choice in 1956...

PHILA. MILITANT READER ANSWERS STALINIST LIES

Editor: I think the Militant readers would like to hear the true story of what happened at the debate sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, held here in Philadelphia...

eventually got the floor and asked if she could make a comment. She presented the revolutionary socialist viewpoint on war and peace. She spoke for four minutes. The audience was very attentive except for the Stalinists...

The Pennsylvania editor of the Sunday Worker of Oct. 16, 1955, in an article about the debate between A. J. Muste — leader of the Fellowship, and Norman Blumberg, National Legislative Director of the Communist Party...

When Ethel sat down Muste was unable to say anything. Blumberg, his face distorted, did not attempt to deal with anything Ethel had said, but instead let loose with various typical Stalinist slanders...

Actually, nothing is further from the truth. This could have been a rare instance in the history of Philadelphia meetings on peace, in that Philadelphians would have been able to hear, openly debated, sharply different conceptions of this problem.

One student invited us to address his student club, and another promised to bring his club members to our meeting to hear Myra Tanner Weiss speak on Geneva.

During the question and discussion period, Ethel Peterson

It was most gratifying to the Militant salesmen, who were at this meeting, that we received such a warm response as a result of presenting a Leninist position to the public. More and more people will hear our voice, neither the Stalinists nor the witch hunters can silence it with slander.

Pearl Spangler, Phila., Pa.

An Exchange of Letters Between Buffalo SWP and Smith Act Victim

[We are publishing for the information of our readers an exchange of letters between Mrs. Noto, whose husband has been recently arrested on a Smith Act charge, and the Buffalo branch of the Socialist Workers Party.]

to enter this fight and see that justice is done. If the conscience of our people is sufficiently aroused to act now, it CAN be done. While the return of my husband is important to me and our child, of much greater importance is the fact that his release and vindication will strike a blow against thought control and further strengthen everyone's rights.

Mrs. Noto's Letter

Dear Friend, While driving with my husband and child on the night of Aug. 31, three carloads of FBI agents forced us to the curb, and arrested my husband without a warrant. He is now in the Erie County Jail. His alleged "offense" — being a member of a legal political party. His bail has been set at the impossible sum of \$30,000.

There is much that you can do to help defend the Constitution, and any assistance that you can render will be deeply appreciated. Our first task should be to get a drastic reduction in bail so that my husband can be released to prepare his defense. I am asking for your help. Won't you please write to:

By these acts the Department of Justice has turned the Constitution upside-down and posed a grave threat to the rights of EVERY American. Since when is it a crime to belong to a legal political party, expressly guaranteed in the First Amendment of our Constitution.

Attorney-General Herbert Brownell, Dept. of Justice, Washington, D.C., protesting John Noto's arrest and requesting reasonable bail. We urgently need loans to furnish bail. The money will be refunded in full. Please send such loans to Mrs. Sarah Noto Farash, 645 Delavan Ave., Buffalo 22, N.Y.

Setting excessive bail, in violation of the Eighth Amendment, is equivalent to sentencing my husband to a long jail term before trial. A poor working couple like us, (with one child and another on the way) can't raise that kind of money. My husband never committed any crime; he is not even charged with any. The charge against him is merely "association."

Then in 1948 the CP saw our predictions come true in the Foley Square trial of their own leadership. At that time, it will be recalled, the Socialist Workers Party publicly offered the Communist Party a united front for the defense of their leaders. But like our previous warnings seven years before, this offer also was ignored.

Little concern was shown a few years ago when some Communist leaders were sentenced to long prison terms on the perjured evidence of paid stool pigeons, (many of whom have since confessed to their lying). But recently, when a number of outstanding people were discriminated against because of their sound principles, or their choice of "wrong" parents, (Prof. Oppenheimer, Dr. U. Condon, Eugene Landy) an increasing number of Americans became alarmed at the "erosion" of civil rights in America. They now realize that the curbing of the rights of one small political party was the trick whereby the war crowd in Washington hoped to gag ALL Americans. The defense of my husband is, in reality, the defense of the rights of ALL THE PEOPLE.

SWP Reply

Dear Mrs. Noto: The Buffalo Branch of the Socialist Workers Party has received your communication requesting financial aid for the defense of your husband, John Noto, who is being victimized not only under the infamous Smith Act but also by the exorbitant bail punatively set by a federal judge. Once again we are treated to the spectacle of witch hunters ignoring those constitutional safeguards which were set up to protect the rights of the American people. The Eighth Amendment is explicit: "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments be inflicted." And it is obvious that \$30,000 while not excessive for a Morgan or a Rockefeller, is most definitely excessive for a workingman.

tion of free speech and civil rights in the United States. The very existence of the Smith Act with its broad interpretations is a deadly menace, primarily to the labor movement, and even to the mildest form of liberal thought.

We of the Socialist Workers Party are well acquainted with the Smith Act, since 18 of our members and leaders were its first victims. They were indicted on July 15, 1941, tried during December 31, 1943, after all appeals had been brushed aside.

It is only fair to state that virtually the entire American labor movement came to our defense with one notable exception: the Communist Party. The CP hailed the conviction of our comrades and did their utmost to sabotage the support which the rest of the labor movement was giving us. At that time we warned the Communist Party that this very Smith Act, which they were so gleefully applauding while it was being applied against the Trotskyists, would one day be used as a weapon against themselves. But the Communist Party ignored our warnings.

Then in 1948 the CP saw our predictions come true in the Foley Square trial of their own leadership. At that time, it will be recalled, the Socialist Workers Party publicly offered the Communist Party a united front for the defense of their leaders. But like our previous warnings seven years before, this offer also was ignored.

We are therefore pleased to be invited to contribute to the defense of John Noto, the Smith Act's latest victim. The Socialist Workers Party is and always has been eager to join in the defense of any victim of the witch hunt. This is simply working class solidarity, and it flows inevitably from our Marxist principles. While it is not within our power to advance a large loan for the purpose of meeting John Noto's exorbitant bail, we nevertheless wish to make an initial contribution toward his defense. Enclosed you will find a money order for twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). We would like very much to participate in any defense committee that may be set up for John Noto. Sincerely, Sam Ballan Socialist Workers Party Buffalo Branch

THE MILITANT ARMY

The subscription campaign has now reached the halfway point. Our representatives and agents find that as they get more subs they also need more papers. Tom Johnson writes from Detroit: "We find that our present Militant bundle is insufficient and therefore request that it be increased by twenty copies..."

colored. Characteristic responses were: "We can't trust any of the old parties any more. Maybe the Socialists can do something from a Negro woman; from a trade unionist: 'We need a labor government to stop murders like Emmett Till's.' The Minnesota Federation of Labor and the Central Labor Union in Minneapolis passed resolutions urging a federal investigation of the Till murder."

"Coverage by the Militant on the Till case has been unequalled anywhere else in the press, and the UAW coverage on the front page is something no other labor paper has done."

"The railroad non-operating shop crafts held a big meeting in the St. Paul Auditorium last week. Larry Andrews, Jack Barry and I sold 14 Militants at the state NAACP conference in St. Paul. Reception on both occasions was very good. Some people returned to buy another paper for a friend at the union meeting, and at the NAACP meeting we sold in the midst of a blinding snowstorm. It is only because the Militant has some really important news for the Negro people that they stopped in the wind and snow and dug down into their pockets for a dime. The Militant does a wonderful job of selling itself, but it needs us to carry it around. Hats off to the Militant writers who know how to, and do, present real workers' news."

Chicago sent in another big batch of subs as that city gets into its stride. Paul Rollant reports that "Loretta Zellan, Bea Andrews and I sold Militants on the campus of the Wisconsin State College in Milwaukee to a number of interested students."

Winifred Nelson writes that in the Twin Cities "Work in the campaign continues good, especially in single sales. Please increase our bundle by fifty copies. Each week we find ourselves sold out several days before the next issue arrives..."

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