

McCarthy's Charge of 20-Year Treason

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

FOR THE PAST several weeks the blatherskite, Senator McCarthy, has been going up and down the country shouting that the Democrats, all and sundry, have been guilty of "20 years of treason." There are two things of special note about this blatant agitation: The first is that McCarthy never gives a bill of particulars outlining just what the Democratic treason was, and the second thing is that the Democrats never demand that he produce such a detailed accusation. They just deny his charge and let matters go at that.

In this peculiar situation there is a lot of political dynamite, which McCarthy will surely explode if and when he deems the situation ripe. He will duly provide the Democrats with a bill of particulars as to their "20 years of treason." And the heart of this will be the wartime cooperation between the U.S.A. and the USSR, set up by Roosevelt, to beat Nazi Germany and its allies. To denounce the Democrats for this "treason" is the big weapon that McCarthy has concealed in his political sleeve.

In his recent speech in Milwaukee, McCarthy produced a 20-point indictment of the Democrats, including a number of happenings in wartime Soviet-American relations, but he stayed carefully away from the main issue — the anti-Hitler war alliance itself. This will come later, when McCarthy thinks the opportune moment has arrived.

McCarthy's charge of treason, in this respect, is also broad enough to catch Eisenhower and other Republicans who supported the Roosevelt bi-partisan anti-Hitler war policy. McCarthy's withholding of his bill of particulars regarding the "20 years of treason" is more because he considers the situation in the Republican Party is not yet ripe for an all-out fight, than for any other consideration.

WHEN McCARTHY finally decides to explode this political bomb, no doubt he will find lots of supporters. For in bourgeois circles there is a wide-spread belief that it was a major mistake to smash Hitler so badly in World War II. This, they believe, should have been avoided at all costs.

During the war the bourgeoisie of the United States and Great Britain did all they could to have their forces avoid the heavy fighting themselves and to see to it that the USSR was devastated as badly as possible in the struggle. This is why they gave the USSR such relatively small amounts of lend-lease, while pouring vastly greater masses of munitions into Britain, which did very little fighting. This is why, too, they held up the second front for two extra years, until they could not postpone it any longer, with the



Red Army smashing Hitler's army and marching swiftly all over Eastern Europe. And who does not remember how men like Hoover and Truman brazenly hoped during the war that Germany and Russia would shoot each other to pieces?

But in spite of such treachery, the Soviet Union pulled through, destroying Nazi Germany's army and saving the world from fascism. This victory, bemoan the capitalists, was what literally "made" the Soviet Union. It gave that country an enormous boost politically, and it put it on the map as one of the two great world powers. This was because the masses of the people came to understand the role of the USSR in this fight. All of which, the reactionaries consider to be due to a tragic blunder of theirs — or rather, in McCarthy's language, to a great treason.

A STRIKING FEATURE of this situation is that the Democrats, for their part, are nursing a guilty conscience for engineering the U.S.A.-USSR anti-Hitler war alliance. That is why they do not call for a bill of particulars when the fascist from Wisconsin howls about "20 years of treason." Many of them, too, think it was all a great mistake, especially Roosevelt's slogan of "unconditional surrender." There should have been a negotiated peace, they believe, one that would have saved Hitler and put handcuffs on the USSR. The tendency is to forget or to ignore the fact that the alliance with the USSR was a life and death question for the United States, as well as for Britain, and that neither of these powers had really a deciding vote as to the unconditional surrender slogan.

A basic lesson stands out from all this: It is that if McCarthyism is to be fought successfully, two elementary things are necessary: the first is, to defend the U.S.A.-USSR anti-Hitler war alliance as a tremendous progressive move which saved the democratic life of America and the world. The second is that the only way for the United States to escape the devastating A-bomb war that the Washington atomaniacs are preparing for it is to orientate the country on the basis of a friendly live-and-let-live co-existence with the Soviet Union.

This is one of the major points of emphasis in the Draft Program now before the Communist Party for adoption and application.

Letters from Readers

Wesley Wells
'Appeal Book'

San Francisco

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