

Amter, Devine and Tallentire Endorse Expulsion of Lovestone

THREE OF THE LEADING MEMBERS of the Communist Party of America, who have for years held most important posts in the Party and are now district organizers in principal districts have dissociated themselves from the line of Lovestone and approved his expulsion. Comrade Amter is one of the founders of the Party and has been a supporter of the former majority group in the Party since it came into existence. The same is true of Comrade Tallentire, who has been district organizer in a number of districts during the past several years. Comrade Devine has supported the majority leadership during the last four years. These comrades express the sentiment of the overwhelming majority of the membership, which is loyal to the Communist International, when they denounce in such sharp terms the attempts of Lovestone to split the Party and organize against the Communist International. The following is the letter of Comrade Amter:

* * *

DENOUNCES LIP SERVICE TO COMINTERN.

"The Communist International in its cable to the American Party—the one of recent date—calls upon the associates of Lovestone to dissociate themselves from him.

"As one who had faith in Lovestone, who considered him one of the most capable, efficient leaders that the Party has had, I recognize that the Party has lost a man who might have been valuable for the Party. Such ability becomes a serious menace to the Party when it is turned to the uses to which Lovestone has turned it: namely—to splitting the Party. Others in the Communist International—able men—have turned from the line of the Comintern and have been expelled.

"Lovestone has suffered the fate of all such traitors. His action in attempting to split the Party is an act of treason that the Party cannot and will not tolerate. No sincere member of the Party will hesitate to condemn him and anybody who associates himself with one who plots to split the Party, is aiding in the destruction of the Party.

"There may be and there are some members of the Party who deplore this act of treason on the part of Lovestone and who minimize its seriousness; some who openly side with him. The Party and the Communist Youth League must not hesitate to expose these comrades. They cannot be left in a position of influence. They must make their choice: either with the Communist International and the Party or against them.

"The Party cannot afford to be weak in approaching this question. In this crisis, the Party must know clearly and unequivocally whom it may count on. No lip service to the decisions of the Comintern. No open acceptance and undercover resistance. The Party is going through a purging process—one forced on the Party by the Address of the CI and the actions of Lovestone. If Wolfe and Gitlow resist the decisions of the CI, then there is no place in the Communist Party for them. We do not want to lose these comrades—as we did not wish to lose Lovestone. But if it is a choice between the unity and integrity of the Party and of the Comintern and comrades whose relation to the Party and the Comintern is dubious, then no comrade will hesitate. The Party and the Comintern a thousand times first.

"Lovestone is out of the Party—Gitlow and Wolfe apparently are not supporting the Party and CI against the renegade Lovestone. Members of the National Bureau of the CYL are supporting Lovestone. There can be no comrade of this character in a leading position in the Party or League. A continuation of their opposition—which unquestionably will take on organizational aspects—can only meet with expulsion from the Party.

"This is no time to temporize. The Party must be firm. The crisis can be overcome only by stern measures. To some comrades it may appear to be too severe. Every surgical operation is distasteful. But poison in the Party can only eat into the heart and finally destroy.

"The Party must cleanse itself. Elements that put themselves above the needs of the movement, that do not see the great danger facing the working class—the danger of war, the danger of social reformism; elements that believe that these two dangers are of little consequence, are dangerous opportunists that will vacillate and collapse when the test comes.

"Unity of the Party must be upheld—but unity only with Communist elements. The crisis came now—but it is better now than in the midst of struggle. If the Chinese Communist Party could overcome the crisis in the midst of revolution, then the American Communist Party will overcome this crisis, and will come forth healthier and stronger, for having sloughed off non-Communist elements within its midst.

—ISRAEL AMTER, District Organizer, Cleveland District.

* * *

NO MIDDLE ROAD.

Following is the letter of Comrade Tallentire:

"As a former associate and supporter of Jay Lovestone's leadership in the Party during the past seven years, it is imperative for me to declare my dissociation with his present political line and disruptive tactics within the Party and the Comintern. I am compelled to make this statement of my position because of Lovestone's open defiance of the Comintern in leaving the Soviet Union against the decisions of the Polsecretariat, which is but the final step in a cumulative series of actions that lead inevitably outside the Comintern, to an open fight against the Communist International and the principles and policies for which it stands.

"In my opinion, it is necessary for every former supporter of Lovestone to declare as I do that the fight against the Comintern decisions and the application of the Comintern policies in the American Party can only result in a series of progressive steps which lead to an open fight against the revolutionary principles the Comintern has stood for since its foundation, and to an alliance with all the renegade and traitorous elements now fighting the Communist International.

"There is no middle road in the present period, and since Lovestone now wishes to fight the Comintern, I, as one who has fought to build the Comintern both before and since its inception, must break decisively with him and with all those who support him.

"In making this declaration, I would call upon both Comrades Gitlow and Wolfe to break their associations with Lovestone, to break with all elements whoever they may be who are fighting the Comintern openly or surreptitiously, and align themselves with the Comintern and the Party.—NORMAN H. TALLENTIRE, District Organizer, District Seven (Detroit) and Candidate to Polbureau of the CEC.

* * *

WILL STRENGTHEN THE PARTY.

The telegram from Comrade Devine follows:

"Prompt Bolshevik action of the Polcom in the expulsion of Lovestone is valuable contribution to the strengthening of the Party. Opposition to this action or Open Address of the Comintern automatically becomes anti-Communist. Party membership must firmly reject splitting tactics and march forward united under Comintern leadership. As District Organizer I unhesitatingly endorse Lovestone's expulsion and will carry on an ideological campaign for full acceptance by the membership.—PAT DEVINE, District Organizer, Minnesota District.