

A Few Necessary Statements

(An Editorial in the Volkszeitung, by Ludwlg Lore.)

IN ACCORDANCE with the decision of the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party, to correct the misunderstandings created by our article on the Fifth Anniversary of the Third International, which was written as an honest and enthusiastic tribute to Communism and its international organization, the Communist International, the following statement is made. The article in question contained the following passage, which has regrettably led to misunderstandings:

"In the five years of its existence the Third has gone thru many an infantile disease. It swung from the strict denial of parliamentarism on the one hand to its use, always with the same reaffirmation of its importance. It condemned the creation of dual labor organizations, in spite of the fact that it had, at first, supported the splitting of the existing labor union movement. It shook off the utopian conception that a small, determined minority can bring about a revolution in every country, and taught that a majority of the proletariat must feel at least a sympathetic alliance with the idea of the necessity of such an upheaval. It led Communism thru the secret society tactic of underground conspiracy, and proclaimed the right of revolution and revolutionary propaganda. And after each sickness it grew stronger and more virile."

Our conception of the Third Interna-

tional, when this article was written, was a union of parties in all countries which had come together for revolutionary action. And the above quotation refers to some of these parties at certain stages of their development, not to the Executive Committee of the C. I. or to the congresses. The Communist International itself, as represented by the congresses and the Executive Committee, never made these mistakes, but corrected them when they were made by some of the affiliated parties.

In this period of storm and stress in the Communist movement there were at times differences between the theoretical position taken by the congresses and their Executive Committee on these questions, and the practice of some of the national organizations. The endeavors to tear down the old conceptions of the Second International to build up a new psychology in the masses had led some of the more important parties to adopt tactical measures which had not received the sanction of the International. So dangerous had this tendency to become that Nicolai Lenin felt the necessity of combatting it in his "Leftism—an infantile disease of Communism," which appeared two years after the formation of the Communist International. That it was possible for these parties, in the few short years of their existence, to put sound theory into practice, was—and this is what our article wished to convey—the greatest achievement of the first five years of our International.

In his first annual report to the Sec-

ond Congress, Zinoviev, president of the Third International, declared that "the Executive Committee has had, from the very beginning, to wage a determined struggle against the tendency of small groups of 'left' Communists, who were propagating the boycott of the trade union movement. The Executive Committee insisted and insists that the Communists must not leave the trade unions, but that to the contrary they must double their efforts inside of the unions; that they must organize Communist groups therein in order to conquer the trade unions for the Communist International in a persistent and systematic struggle."

Altho the first Congress emphasized that the parliaments must be used for revolutionary propaganda, it became necessary for the Second Congress and the C. I. to force a number of parties to take part in election campaigns. Similarly the widespread conception that a small minority of the proletariat of a country could bring about a successful proletarian revolution was fought by the leaders of the International. Here again it was Lenin who battled against this misconception in his "Leftism."

It has not always been easy for the Executive Committee of the Third to adjust the practical application of its theoretical position to the needs of the various countries. Particularly because it is difficult to judge true conditions thousands of miles away. In our "Wochen-Rundschau," of March 2, we quoted from a cabled excerpt of a "Pravda" article by Zinoviev and remarked that Comrade Zinoviev, who does not know American conditions at first hand, was evidently not always receiving reliable reports. The American Labor Monthly, in referring to this remark, intimates that these reports emanate from responsible American party circles, or from the representatives of the W. P. to the C. I.

We repudiate this "interpretation" of our remark, for we know that the comrades in charge of this task report with great care. What we wanted to express was that the exaggerations that appear in the capitalist press of this country—which is attentively read in the C. I.—concerning the growth and influence of the revolutionary American movement, for the purpose of terrorizing its bourgeois readers, to pave the way for reactionary measures of suppression, are at times given too serious consideration.

"Save Your Money And Buy A Judge!"

By I. D. McFadden.

The Wage Slave humbly begged the boss, a job, to give him, in the Mine. A Worker had been killed. The loss a place created for this fine, Proud Soldier of The U. S. A.—A Patriot who sought to earn Three dollars for his daily pay, but would not learn. The Boss had learned (Not so, this Drudge) "Save your Money and buy a Judge."

They put the new man on a tram. The Drift was crooked, rough and steep. The owners did not care a D—n for worker's lives, but, sought to keep An income high and outgo low. No Trammer might ride in that mine. But, one who walked would take so much time, he would get sent down the line!

Against this System, bear no Grudge. "Save your money and buy a Judge."

The Car they gave him, had no brakes. (Brakes cost too Much.) The Speed increased.

Such is the risk, the workers take. The Track gave way. His Journey