

The Workers Party in Action

Open Letter to the Volkszeitung Conference

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE NEW YORKER VOLKSZEITUNG CONFERENCE.

By the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party.

THE Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party is in receipt of the following communication from the New Yorker Volkszeitung-Conferenz:

"Central Executive Committee, Workers Party,

"Dear Comrades: The above named organization orders me to express its resentment in regard to your attitude in censuring the editor of the 'New Yorker Volkszeitung.' Your position, in our opinion, is detrimental to our organization inasmuch as it is likely to create animosity against some and to discourage active support which is so essential to any working class paper. We mean, under all conditions, to maintain a newspaper built up with tremendous sacrifices.

"We feel that your position in the matter has not been entirely fair. We take the position that anybody, before pronouncing censure upon him, should have the privilege of a hearing and defense a right expressly granted by capitalist court procedure. We do not know if you regard your method as comradely. Permit me to say we do not!!

"I wish to say in re merits of the case that it was the Advertising Department which accepted, without knowledge of the editor, the advertisement of the Hungarian loan bonds. The 'Volkszeitung' has a yearly contract with the banking house for a certain amount of space. It could have been sued for breach of contract at the option of the banking house. The result might have meant financial ruin. The paper has consistently denounced Horthy and his regime. On the next day the advertisement was discontinued. On the same day an editorial appeared stating the editorial position in the matter. Notwithstanding, you seem to feel justified in your action!

"I wish to discuss the question of principle involved because this is the most essential point. Does it help and assist Horthy if the public buys the bonds? Not one scintilla or one continental. The banking syndicate which buys the bonds buys them at a certain rate and pays a stipulated price. It does not matter in the least if the syndicate can foist them on the public or not, Horthy will get his amount. Small bankers buy same and act as retailers as in this case. A small bank inserted the advertisement in the 'Volkszeitung.'

"To boycott the bonds does not mean that Horthy will lose a cent. I may say, in parenthesis, that among the readers of the paper there are exceedingly few bond buyers actual or potential. If you are aware of these facts why did you act so tempestuously? Or is your knowledge of financial matters as deficient as your method of procedure in imposing censure?

"The only effective method of a boycott against Horthy might be not to buy any Hungarian products.

"Hoping that the facts set forth above will convince you of your hasty action, and in the future you will be guided by the old Roman proverb: 'Audiatur et altera pars.' I remain fraternally,

LOUIS BRAUN, Rec. Secy.
163 E. 92nd St.,
New York City."

The Central Executive Committee is glad to be able to say, in opening its comment upon the above letter, that the writer, Louis Braun, is not a Communist and not a member of the Workers Party. It would indeed have caused uneasiness in the minds of the members of the Central Executive Committee if a member of the Workers Party could have been guilty of writing such a non-Communist counter-revolutionary letter as the above.

We hope also that the sentiment expressed in this letter did not represent the views of the members of the New Yorker Volkszeitung-Conferenz, altho the letter is written in the name of this organization

What are the arguments which are advanced in this letter to justify the

appearance in the Volkszeitung of the advertisement offering for sale bonds of the murderous counter-revolutionary Horthy government of Hungary? First we are told that the Volkszeitung had a contract with the banking house selling these bonds and that it might have been sued and ruined financially if it had refused to publish the advertisement. In answer to this writer, we say that we would rather a thousand times have the Volkszeitung ruined financially by a suit than that it would sell its revolutionary honor by consciously publishing an advertisement of bonds of the murderous counter-revolutionary Horthy government. A Communist goes to prison, yes, sacrifices his life, rather than to sacrifice his revolutionary principles. We are glad to be able to say that it was thru gross negligence and carelessness that the Horthy advertisement got into the Volkszeitung and not for such a reason as the writer of this letter assigns. Communist papers depend for their existence upon the support of the workers and not upon the good wishes of banking houses.

The discussion of the question of principle in this communication takes the same counter-revolutionary non-working class attitude. Horthy sells his bonds to the banking houses, we are told. He gets his money whether they are advertised and sold to the public or not. We might answer this argument by stating the fact that banking houses will not purchase bonds which they cannot sell to the public, but such an answer would be on the plane with the argument of the secretary of the New Yorker Volkszeitung-Conferenz.

For us as Communists there is something more at stake than the question of the relationship between the murderous Horthy government, the banking houses, and the public, in connection with the sale of these bonds.

The New Yorker Volkszeitung is an organ of a revolutionary Communist Party, the Workers Party. The Work-

ers Party is a fraternally affiliated section of the Communist International, as is also the Hungarian Communist Party. In other words the Workers Party is a part of the world organization of Communists which established a Soviet Government in Hungary. This government was overthrown by the murderous Horthy white guard regime. This murderous Horthy regime visited its vengeance upon the workers of Hungary by shooting and hanging thousands and casting other tens of thousands into vile prisons, resorting to the extremes of terrorism in order to break and destroy this working class movement.

We here in the United States today are part of the world organization of Communists which is fighting against this murderous Horthy government. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our Hungarian Communist comrades in the struggle to end Horthyism in Hungary—and, yet, one of the organs of our party carries an advertisement offering for sale the bonds of this Horthy government.

No matter how this happened—and the Central Executive Committee has already declared that it was thru gross negligence and not consciously that the advertisement appeared in the Volkszeitung—it is a matter of shame and disgrace to the Workers Party. It should be a matter of shame and disgrace for the New Yorker Volkszeitung-Conferenz.

We hope that the New Yorker Volkszeitung-Conferenz, after reconsideration of the letter of its secretary, will definitely repudiate the discussion of the merits and principles of this matter expressed in that letter and take its stand with the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party on a working class view of this advertisement as expressed in this letter.

Central Executive Committee, Workers Party of America.

WILLIAM Z. FOSTER, Chairman,
C. E. RUTHENBERG, Executive,
Secretary.

WORKERS IN BITUMINOUS MINE FIELDS LISTEN TO FOSTER AND GITLOW FLAY CAPITALIST SYSTEM

The bituminous coal fields of the United States are alive with revolt against capitalism. This is the inevitable conclusion to be drawn from the recent successful, enthusiastic and revolutionary gathering held by the presidential and vice-presidential candidates of the Workers Party in several of the bituminous coal cities.

Foster spoke at Ziegler, Ill., Gitlow in Walkertown, Pa., the heart of the Pennsylvania coal fields and again at Bellaire, O., in the center of District No. 6 of the United Mine Workers of America.

The Bellaire, O., meeting was of especial significance as it is close to the West Virginia line and the miners apparently are intensely interested in the present political struggle. They flocked in full force to the Gitlow meeting in Bellaire from the various surrounding mining camps. Many of them came over the line in West Virginia.

The local fake labor leaders had intentions to rally the miners for a big demonstration on Labor Day, but only succeeded in getting out a bare forty-six miners, most of them under the influence of the "leaders." Consequently, when Gitlow in his campaign speech called attention to May 1st as Labor's real, international holiday, the assembled miners wildly cheered.

Workers Party Is Communist Party

Gitlow's exposure of the labor record of their next-door neighbor, John W. Davis of West Virginia and Wall Street, aroused from the assembled miners loud applause. They repeatedly made the rafters of the hall echo with their hand-clapping and foot-stamping, when Gitlow showed how LaFollette fought and betrayed the Labor Party. "The Workers Party of America is the Communist Party of the United States. The Socialist Party betrayed the possibility of independent, political action. The workers, thru strong, militant, revolutionary unions and thru a powerful revolutionary party, like the Workers Party of America, must overthrow the rule of the capitalists and must, by setting up a workers' government, establish Communism on the ruins of capitalism."

Comrade Gitlow particularly addressed the LaFollette sympathizers when he said: "LaFollette will fail to bust the trusts just like Teddy Roosevelt did. The Standard Oil company is richer today and more powerful in spite of the fact that a few years ago it was dissolved by the United States Supreme Court. The workers have nothing to gain by replacing the exploitation of the workers by the big capitalists with that of the small capitalists."

Home of Rubber Trust.

The rubber plants of Akron are famous for the industrial spies and open shop conditions which prevail. The trade union movement of Akron is weak and poorly organized. Some time ago spies were discovered in the Central Labor Union. They had for a long time occupied prominent positions and have always discouraged attempts to organize the rubber industry. Since the exposure of these spies, the labor movement of Akron has been a little more alive.

The Workers Party, particularly, is playing a major role in building up sentiment for a great concerted drive for organization of the workers in the local rubber industry. Gitlow's successful meeting will stimulate this sentiment tremendously. It was the best meeting ever held under the auspices of the Workers Party in Akron. The enthusiastic applause at the conclusion of Gitlow's speech indicated the revolutionary sentiment developing here and also marked the conver-