

# How Not To Fight Loreism

By Rebecca Grecht.

The Communist International, in its recent decision on the controversy within our party, has been clear and definite in its determined stand against Lore and Loreism. It has called upon both leading groups in the party to unite to combat this tendency and its leaders. The Parity Commission has reiterated the statements and demands of the Comintern. The struggle against Lore and Loreism becomes therefore the task of all leading elements in the party, and must be undertaken by the membership in every section of the party. In our young movement, first hewing out its leadership and cementing its ranks on the basis of Leninism, this is a vitally necessary task. The Bolshevikization and unification of our party depends upon it. No compromise on this issue can be tolerated.

The problem of the struggle against Lore and Loreism, while it exists for the entire party, is particularly important in New York. This is the seat of Loreism in the party, manifesting itself in the Volkszeitung and the German Bureau, in the Jewish Federation, in the needle trades group, and in some important English branches. It is here, where the leading figures of the Lore group carry on their activity, that the fight is concentrated. It is here that the sincerity, firmness, and determination of the majority and minority groups in the struggle against Loreism can best be tested.

The minority in New York have been loud in their verbal protestations of opposition to Loreism. With great oratory, they have declared their intention, in speeches, of rooting out all remnants of the 2½ International tendency in our party. An examination of their recent activity, however,

establishes the fact that the minority is not sincere in its struggle, and is in actuality tending to sabotage the attempts of the party to eradicate Loreism from our ranks.

We had several instances of this before the decision of the Parity Commission was made. Comrade Gitlow's needle trades resolution, by which the opportunist group in the needle trades was given indirect support and encouraged in their fight against the C. E. C., is a case in point. Equally so is the defense of Comrade Poyntz by the minority, their attempts to shield her from the attacks of the C. E. C. as a militant leader of Loreism, shown by their introduction of resolutions turning the attack against Poyntz into an attack against the C. E. C. But the most conclusive proof has been given in the elections for delegates to the New York District Convention, just concluded. Here was the acid test of the good faith of both majority and minority groups in their struggle against Loreism. And while the majority group has in several instances repudiated such action, the minority of New York has made deals with the Lore group for election purposes in important branches, has actively furthered such alliances wherever possible in order to obtain support for their candidates.

The aim of the minority is to capture the party convention at all costs. As one young comrade of the minority stated—and he was merely expressing the views of the leadership he follows—"We have one object—to defeat the majority. All means are justified to that end." In pursuit of this aim, the minority have demonstrated in New York their readiness to compromise with Loreism, to conveniently ignore Loreism where it suits their ends, to consummate or wink at alli-

ances with outstanding Loreites where such guarantees the election of their delegates to the convention.

A number of cases can be cited. In the Jewish Harlem branch the minority and Lore groups had a common slate, and the votes of minority leaders of that branch elected Salzman, the leader of the Lore group in the Jewish Federation. Comrade Lifshitz local minority leader, was present at the meeting, supervising the alliance.

In the English Harlem branch, Comrade Amter, minority leader, entered into an alliance with Comrade Poyntz, designated by the Parity Commission as a Loreite to be combatted, resulting in the election, by the common votes of both groups, of two minority comrades and one Loreite, the latter of whom has severely criticized the C. E. C. for its fight against Poyntz and Lore.

In the Jewish Bronx branch No. 1, the minority and Lore groups brought in a common slate, including three representatives of each faction. One of the Loreites on the slate has been consistently fighting the C. E. C. policy in the needle trades and supports the opportunism of our comrades there. But she received the vote of every minority comrade in the branch.

These instances of election deals—and others can be given—definitely demonstrate that the minority in New York is not carrying out the decision of the Comintern and the Parity Commission to wage an organizational and ideological struggle against Loreism. The minority, who have been put on the defensive by these acts, seek to justify themselves by giving the Loreites with whom they have united clean bills of health, declaring them to be "good communists" because they stated they were no longer Loreites and were ready to support the minority.

Here we must point out a special problem faced by Communist parties in their struggle against the right wing. When the Communist International attacks the social democratic groups in the Communist movement, when it begins a campaign against the right wing forces within our ranks, that is a signal for a sudden wholesale desertion of this group by some of its leading followers. Those who have for years, perhaps, been consistent supporters of the right wing tendencies are overnight changed into "Comintern Bolsheviks." Communists, however, must beware of "paper" and "speech" desertions from the ranks of the right wing, must guard against such lightning changes brought about under the stress of special circumstances. We must carefully search beneath superficial declarations. Such changes, a more disciplined and conscious acceptance of the Communist line, must always be welcomed; but they are to be seen, not in eleventh hour election statements, but in actions, in policies.

When, on the eve of election of delegates to the party convention, statements repudiating their former connection are made by such comrades as Salzman and Poyntz, who have been among the staunchest supporters of Loreism, these cannot be accepted as made in good faith. And when the minority in New York accepts such statements as justification for their alliances, we must declare this to be an evasion of the decision of the Comintern.

Nor can the boasted fight of the minority against Lore himself be their defense. For the struggle against the Two-and-One-Half International ideology in our party is not a struggle against Lore only. It is a struggle against Lore and Loreism—against

not only the leading representative of this group, but against the tendencies represented by this comrade wherever they manifest themselves in the party. Were Lore alone the danger in the party, the whole matter could be easily settled. But the grave danger to our movement lies in the penetration of Loreism into the various sections of the party, in our political and industrial work, and in the activity of leading followers of Lore throughout our ranks. Not only Lore himself must be combatted, but Loreism and the followers of Lore. Any attempt to whitewash the leading Loreites means to give Loreism a new lease of life in the party.

We cannot conveniently shove the entire question of Loreism into the office of the Volkszeitung and the German Bureau, and then proceed to make deals with prominent Loreites in other sections of the party. The struggle against Lore must proceed on all fronts. The election alliance made by the minority group in New York with the Lore group carries with it a dangerous significance. In effect, it means a denial of the existence of the Lore tendency and the Lore group in the party. It spells the liquidation of the struggle against Loreism in our ranks.

This must be unequivocally condemned as against the decision of the Communist International. The New York membership must repudiate such deals, must emphatically declare them to be acts of disloyalty to the Comintern. They must declare to the minority that oratory at membership meetings and articles in the press are not in themselves indications of determination to wage the struggle against Loreism, but that concrete actions will be considered, and upon them final judgement will rest.