United States Government on Trial in Borah Hearing for Recognition of Soviet Russia

By JAY LOVESTONE.

WASHINGTON.—The United States Government is now on trial in the Senate hearings on the Borah resolution for the recognition of Soviet Russia.

Listening to the presentation of evidence, considering the examination of the witnesses, analyzing the methods pursued by the sub-committee, and above all examining the pivotal point of the whole survey, one is compelled by the very weight of the evidence to conclude that this is a class investigation.

On this Committee are represented the various layers of our present ruling class. There is Senator Pepper, of Pennsylvania, who speaks for the powerful railway and coal interests of the Keystone State, tho he usually manages to hide his invaluable services behind a dense smoke screen of the finest, of the thinnest juridical sophistries.

There is Senator Swanson, of Virginia, who personifies that hybrid combination of the dying Southern land baron and the rising anti-union Southern coal magnate.

In Lenroot, of Wisconsin, there is crystallized that renegade type of petty bourgeois progressive spokesman, who prefers the whole cake of the big capitalists with all its filth to the stray crumbs of the small fry owners struggling to hold their own between the rising capitalist industrialism and atrophying small scale agriculture.

Finally Senator Borah, of Idaho, the Chairman of the Committee, speaks, and in a rather effective, clear cut voice, for the small owners, for the middle class vised in between the devouring jaw of big capitalism and the ever-more threatening jaw of the exploited, dispossessed working and farming masses.

Private Property the Issue

Property, capitalist private property, is the central point of the whole investigation. Whatever information or misinformation that is given about Soviet Russia which, in the opinion of the senators, is conducive to the perpetuation of our present capitalist system of the exploitation of the workers, is judged by all the committee members to be a point in favor of the Soviet Republic.

The only defender of the Soviet Government on the Commitee, Senator Borah, plays as his trump card the facts arising out of the conditions which have compelled Soviet Russia to adopt policies which he can show as not hostile to the system of capitalist private property.

Hence, the difficult position in which Senator Borah finds himself surrounded by the spokesmen of the biggest capitalist interests.

United States Is On Trial

Under these circumstances it is obvious that the decisions of this Committee and the disposition of these decisions by the Senate, will be largely determined by the economic class interests of the capitalists dominating the Government.

The United States Government is on trial in the whole Russian question. It is openly appearing as the centralized defense agency of the capitalist private property interests the world over. The workers and farmers of America will judge it in its true role.

Kelly Not So Selfish

Robert E. Kelly, of the eastern European division of the state department, who is representing Secretary Hughes in the fight against recognition of Soviet Russia before the senate foreign relations' subcommittee, had a peculiar theory as to why England had resumed trade relations with Russia, when quizzed by Senator Borah.

"England recognized Russia because she was selfish and wanted trade," elucidated the state department's expert.

Nine Countries Recognize Russia

Nine countries have recognized the Russian government and six others have established trade relations, Kelly admitted. But, the anti-soviet pinch hitter pleaded, in response to a leading question by Senator Pepper, five of the nine recognized Russia only to save their own independence and Germany, because of the Brest-Litovsk treaty. Borah forced Kelly to concede that no country had withdrawn recognition, once granted.

Kelly opened his argument by reading from Trotsky's speech to the Tenth Congress of the All-Russian Soviets the statement that:

"Soviet boundary is front line beyond which no counter-revolution can go."

What this attempted to prove was not made clear. He also read a letter to Claude McKay, regarding work among negroes. Senator Borah countered by proving that McKay had never used the letter here. Kelly then read portions of speeches by Zinovief, Radek, Bukarin, Steklov and the Red International of Labor Unions greeting the Industrial Workers of the World and the California Seamen's strike and the Comintern proclamation on the Vorovsky murder.

Shudders at Workers' Hopes

Russian hopes for world soviet republics were voiced in extracts which Kelly read from the Federated Soviet constitution regarding the division of the world into imperialistic and proletarian camps. This was emphasized by the state department's representative as showing a policy from which the American government should shrink.

In another reading he showed that Russia is a country whose supreme court is not so omnipotent as in America. Appeals can be taken from the Soviet Supreme Court to the Central Executive Union of Soviets, consisting of 371 delegates elected at National Soviet Congress and functioning between the latter's sessions.

Borah made the point the Kelly simply proved supreme court responsible to legislative executive body. Borah forced Kelly to admit that in the United States it is the same as appeals to congress against Supreme Court Decisions. Pepper assisted Kelly by claiming that the Communist Party is the only legal party, therefore, communist party believes supreme court case is still good.

Lectures on Communist History

A. W. Clayton, next State Department witness, described history of the first, second and third Internationals, and gave the development of the American communist movement from expulsion of 40,000 members of Socialist Party. Answering Borah regarding difference in American party's principles before and after affiliation with the International he said the American party subsequently advocated force and violence. He said the American party was driven underground and subjected to raids and deportations but he would not give Borah any figures of the numbers convicted and deported.

Clayton read from Secretary of Labor Wilson's deportation ruling and asserted that all courts and state departments since have decided against communists and the Soviet Government. The statement ignored the fact that Superior Court Judge Anderson of Massachusetts ruled that membership in the communist party was not ground for deportation.

Post's Book Put in Record

Borah compelled Clayton to admit that Ludwig Martens had not been sent from the country because of any anti-government activities on his part. During the afternoon session Borah inserted sections of Louis F. Post's book on the "Deportations' Delirium of 1920," proving that Martens was not deported because of his activities.

Borah forced Clayton to admit that force and violence literature and propagandists in this country existed twenty years before the establishment of the Comintern. Clayton continued reading documents and minutes of the Comintern about organization of the Workers Party and the struggle in the party regarding the same. Followed exact method of Michigan prosecution. Swanson occasionally interrupted Clayton with request to insert in record the names of the Comintern officials giving these instructions who are also soviet officials.

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CALL HUGHES' BLUFF.

By LAURENCE TODD

(Staff Correspondent of the Federated Press)

WASHINGTON. — Secretary of State Hughes' bluff was called, on the opening day of Senator Borah's subcommittee investigation into reasons why the American government refuses to recognize Russia, and Hughes' reply was a suggestion of "confidential" information, to be

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ESSEN.—Charles M. Schwab, A reportedly for the purpose of negotiati refused to disclose the purpose of his v it was merely for the purpose of inf

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J. LOUIS ENGDAHL will spea PARTY, THURSDAY NIGHT, Workers Lyceum, 2733 Hirsch Branch, Young Workers Leagu