

WHOSE FAULT?

By JAY LOVESTONE.

THE Minneapolis Labor Review is taken to task by the new LaFollette organ, the Milwaukee Leader, for charging the Conference for Progressive Political Action with the guilt for whatever division exists in the political ranks of the workers in the coming campaign.

Of course the Minneapolis Labor Review is correct. The labor bureaucrats and the socialists, who are now kneeling at the feet of LaFollette, are responsible for the splitting up of the labor forces on the political front. It is these men, it is these forces that have prevented the workingmen and poor farmers from presenting a united front of the exploited against the exploiters in the elections. It is the Stones, the Hillquits, the Bergers who have dedicated themselves to delivering the labor and farm vote to the LaFollettes, the Hearsts and other disgruntled members of the capitalist political parties.

But if more proof was wanted to substantiate the correctness of the contentions of the Minneapolis Labor Review, then the balance is surely offered in the contrary arguments of the Milwaukee socialist mouthpiece of the republican senator from Wisconsin. The Milwaukee Leader declares that the Communists cannot be trusted. Well, there has never been a radical, progressive or reactionary body in American politics that has been so frank and aboveboard in its advocacies and plans. It is precisely the Communist open admissions as to their being unreservedly committed to the establishment of the rule of the working class that has brought all the wrath of the sundry defenders of capitalism—from Hillquit to John W. Davis and General Dawes—on their

heads.

Then, indeed, it comes with malodorous grace from the poisoned pen of the Milwaukee LaFollette Leader to talk of its love for democracy. Why, it has been the rule of Berger's bosom friend, Ebert in Germany, that has foisted upon the workers of that unfortunate country a regime of capitalist-Junker blood and thunder. When the workers of Berlin and the Ruhr struck for the preservation of the eight-hour day, and when the workers of Bavaria demanded their right of suffrage, it was the helmeted bloodhounds of the Ebert government that swooped down upon them and drowned their protests in blood.

And all the dishonest balderdash of the LaFollette organ about the Communists being for force and violence will not hold an ounce of clean water. Police power has been employed with frequency to break strikes in the Berger-LaFollette province of Wisconsin, just as it has been done in the Cossack-ridden state of Pennsylvania, in the capitalist-ruled Germany of Ebert and Severing.

It is just because the Communists have been openly and honestly proclaiming their unswerving loyalty to the interests of the workers as a class against the capitalists; it is precisely because the Communists are for the supplanting of the present capitalist dictatorship parading as pure democracy with a system of working class democracy, and it is primarily because of the committee's insistence of the workers and poor farmers organizing themselves to do away with the present capitalist system based on force and violence that the LaFollettes, the Bergers, the Hillquits, the Stones, the Keatings and the others of their coterie have been fighting the Workers Party tooth and toenail.