

Thirteen Years of the Soviet Union

by Jay Lovestone

The thirteenth anniversary of the first victorious working class revolution is being celebrated in a decisive historical moment.

The capitalist world is in the throes of a deepgoing economic crisis. Even the wealthiest and mightiest imperialist countries are oppressed with crushing unemployment, mass misery and starvation. Everywhere the class struggle between the workers and the exploiters is becoming more sharp and bitter. The colonial and semi-colonial countries are becoming more and more estranged from and hostile to the imperialist rulers of every flag and country. Among the giant capitalist powers the conflicts and antagonisms are growing ever more acute, driving the entire world headlong into a new hellish conflagration—a devastating war for profits and plunder.

It is in such a tense atmosphere, it is in such a dynamic, explosive situation, that the working masses of the world are hailing the Soviet fatherland of the international working class. We must be fully aware that the present is fraught with promise and peril for the Workers' and Peasants' Soviet Republic. The very fact that at a moment of acute crisis in capitalist economy the Soviet Union has been making great strides in the building up of its heavy industry, in the social reorganization of its agriculture, in short, towards the construction of Socialism, has indeed proved a great source of inspiration and encouragement to the oppressed toiling masses the world over. But it is precisely this Soviet economic progress which increases manifold the danger of a concerted imperialist onslaught against the Soviet Union. It is just this which is behind the latest international anti-Soviet drive—in the U. S. in France, in Roumania, in England, in China.

Of course, the charge of dumping levelled against the Soviet Union is ridiculous. It is only a smoke screen behind which there is being prepared a financial, chemical, military, aerial and naval war on the Federation of Socialist Soviet Republics. Every one knows that it will take many years of the present rate of economic growth, many more than one five-year plan, for the Soviet Union to be so decisive a factor in the world market as to prove a serious competitor with the giant imperialist powers. And before that time arrives, there will, either be another break in some one or more of the weaker links in the chain of world capitalism or another world war in the form of an outright attack on the Soviet Union or starting as a conflict among the imperialist powers themselves. Only the simplest of fools can believe that the inherent contradictions of capitalism will pause in their tendency towards ever-growing acuteness, that the revolt in the colonial countries will be stilled, that the working masses in the capitalist world will suspend the class war, that the imperialist war danger will abate in the coming years and that instead capitalism will be shaken to its foundation and brought in ruin by the economic prowess of the Soviet Union in the capitalist world market. Capitalism isn't built that way, the capitalists are not such fools, and the historical laws of the class struggle don't work this way.

After thirteen years of working class victory in the Soviet Union and especially in the present world-wide economic crisis, some simple but basic lessons can be brought home even to the most backward workers. It is in the Soviet Union that we have the greatest democracy based on Soviet power. In the capitalist countries Fascism is growing. The Soviet Union is which the base of inspiration and example for the working class and the oppressed colonial masses of the world. Without exception every other country is a fortress of capitalist reaction, is dominated by a ruling class hopelessly hostile to the aspirations and interests of all the exploited and oppressed. Then, in these days of feverish imperialist war preparations, it is more clear than ever that the only effective way to world peace is the road of militant class struggle, is the road of turning the imperialist war into a civil war against the owning class. Last, and above all, in celebrating this greatest

holiday of the world's working class, the thirteenth anniversary of the Soviet Union, we cannot possibly lay too much stress on the all-decisive role of "the organized political lever by means of which the more advanced proletarian masses"—the Communist Party—lead the masses as a whole. It is the Communist Party with correct Leninist policies that was and will remain the absolute prerequisite for working class victory in all countries, even under the most favorable objective conditions.

In the light of these lessons and in the light of the present world objective conditions, the line of the Executive Committee of the Comintern appears painfully false and ruinous.

In the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the most experienced and tried leaders, the very ones who conceived and

initiated the Five Year Plan at the 15th Party Congress (Bukharin, Rykoff), are being hounded, removed, threatened with expulsion and deportation from the Soviet Union because they dare even in the faintest manner criticize the ultra-left and bureaucratic course of the Stalin regime which all too often has been pursuing policies, harmful in the long run, to the best interests of the Soviet and world proletariat. The Stalin leadership deserves the sharpest rebuke for applying the tactics and strategy of factionalism, in which it is unbeaten and unbeatable; to economic policies of the Soviet Union, to the leadership and policies of the Party.

In England where the objective conditions have never before been as favorable for building a mass Communist Party, the Communist movement was

never any weaker. And in Germany, where we still have the greatest Communist Party outside of the Soviet Union, the Fascists have been able to garner the greatest gains from the present very acute economic and political crisis primarily because of the ultra-left, sectarian course of the official line. In India and China the adventurist policies likewise plague the progress of the Communist movement under extremely favorable objective conditions.

Nowhere has the course of the "new line" proved its bankruptcy more painfully clear than in the U. S. Here our Party is only a shadow of its former self. Despite the most favorable conditions in its history for building a mass movement, despite the deep-going economic crisis, despite its being practically alone in the field of working class militancy, the Communist Party membership has declined to about 5000; its influence in the conservative unions of mass character has been wiped out; the new revolutionary unions are shattered; the press on the verge of collapse; a spirit of paralysis and fear grips the Party ranks. Really, whatever successes the Communists have achieved within the last year and a half have come mainly in spite of the new line and only thru the greatest sacrifices of our membership. With a correct line, such sacrifices by the rank and file would bring far greater results.

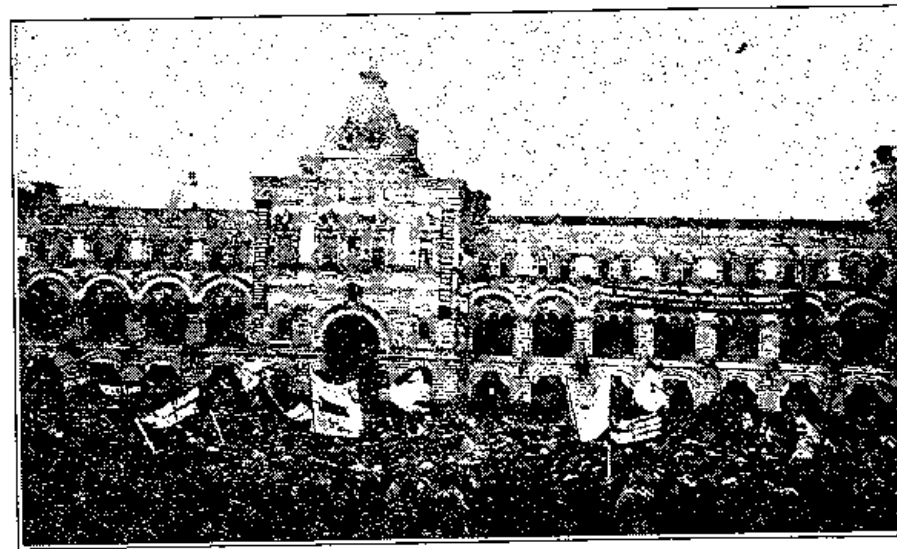
Under these conditions, on the thirteenth anniversary of the Soviet Union, it becomes more necessary than ever for us, fighting for Communism in the most powerful imperialist ruling class in the world, to draw inspiration and learn from the achievements, mistakes, and victory of the Russian Bolsheviks, of the Party of Lenin.

To what nobler revolutionary purpose could we today dedicate ourselves than to the task to which we have many years given our all—the task of building in the United States a mass Communist Party—a mass party with a Leninist line, with correct Communist policies, with mighty roots in the depths of the working class? Than this there can be no more effective weapon for the defense of our revolutionary fatherland, the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. Today, more than at any time since the crisis has broken out in the world Communist movement, can we correctly and energetically reaffirm our adherence to our main aim: "For communist unity in the revolutionary class struggle."

Forward to a united Communist Party in the U. S.!

Forward to a united Communist International, under the banner of Leninism, leading to victory the working class and oppressed colonial masses of the world!

Hail the Soviet Union!



Socialists Save Bruening Regime Big Attacks Against Masses Planned—Communist Opposition Leads Struggle Against Fascism

By a large vote the Reichstag motion to declare lack of confidence in the Bruening government was defeated and the Reichstag, after a one day's session, adjourned to the beginning of December. The vote of lack of confidence was the first to come up after the convening of the Reichstag on October 13, 1930.

The survival of the bitterly anti-labor Bruening government was made possible by the support given to it by the Social-democrat fraction. For the Bruening government voted: the Social-democrat Party, the Center (Catholic) Party, the People's Party, the State Party, and a number of smaller parties. Against the Bruening government voted: the Communist Party, the German National Socialist Labor Party and the German Nationalist Party (both of the latter fascist parties). During the interim between the September-14 elections and the convening of the Reichstag the Bruening government had announced its program: wage cuts for workers, salary cuts for employees, abolition of the whole social insurance system, especially the unemployment benefits. The program met with hearty response from the top circles of trust capital and the Fascists were prompt in endorsing it in general, pointing out, however, that the Bruening government could never carry thru such a program except by fascist means. In spite of this, in spite of the openly anti-labor and semi-fascist character of the Bruening government, the Social-democrat fraction decided to support it on the plea of "saving parliamentarism and democracy!" Such are the fruits of the treacherous coalition policy of Social-democracy!

Great dissatisfaction began to be manifested among tens of thousands of rank and file members of the Social-democratic Party upon the announcement of the decision of the S-D Reichstag fraction to support Bruening. On October 4 there took place a special congress of

the Berlin district of the SPD. Hilferding came as representative of the Reichstag fraction, spokesman of the party leadership. But in spite of all their efforts the congress, with practical unanimity, repudiated the position of the Reichstag fraction and demanded the calling of an extraordinary party congress! In all parts of the country there is deep fermentation among the members of the SPG and among the members of the trade unions.

The Communist Party of Germany is rendered absolutely impotent to profit from this situation by the well-nigh insane policies of its leadership. On the one hand the anti-trade union course of the Party and its rejection of the united front has succeeded in isolating it from the organized workers; on the other hand, it is engaging in an orgy of suicidal self-deception, declaring that the "Communist Party was the only real victor in the elections" and that "the slogan of the day, to-day, is: Soviet Germany!"—and this at a time of the tremendous victory of reaction in the elections. Nor have the vagaries of the Party leadership in the direction of petty bourgeois "national bolshevism"—as manifested in the notorious Program-Declaration—been forgotten.

The only force that has put forward a program capable of meeting the offensive of reaction is the German Communist Opposition. On the basis of a correct estimation of the results of the elections, the Communist Opposition has put forward the slogan: "A workers block against the fascist block." It has issued an Open Letter to the Communist Party, to the Social-democratic Party, to the trade unions and to other labor organizations calling for the establishment of non-partisan anti-fascist cartels, for the calling of a national congress of factory councils, and outlining a program of economic and political demands appropriate to the situation. In spite of the

scanty forces of the Opposition, its campaign of working class unity against fascism has had notable success. The plenary session of the factory councillors of the German Metal Workers Union (DMV) in Opladen (Rhine-land) unanimously passed a resolution calling for the convening of a national factory council congress. The DMV, district Essen-Borbeck, passed the Opposition resolution for anti-fascist cartels and for a struggle against the Bruening government. The DMV of Nuremberg passed the resolution for the calling of a congress of factory councils. The district meeting of the DMV in Sindelfingen (Wuerttemberg) passed similar resolutions. In the DMV, district Stuttgart-Osten, a resolution was adopted endorsing the Open Letter of the Opposition. In Offenbach a session of the Municipal Political Council, a delegate body of all important labor organizations in the city, adopted the resolutions of the Opposition and arranged a tremendous demonstration against fascism. On October 11, the quarterly general meeting of the DMV, Stuttgart, and on the same day, the quarterly meeting of the DMV, Suhl, both adopted Opposition resolutions. Besides a large number of factory meetings have endorsed one or more of the resolutions proposed by the Opposition.