LATEST STALINIST ASSAULT UPON THE AUTO UNION

By JAY LOVESTONE

IF THE Communist Party had gone to school and had taken a post-graduate course in the art and science of disrupting labor organizations, it could not have learned as much and could not do as well in this nefarious job as it is doing today.

Today, the Communist Party is primarily dedicated to two tasks: (1) to defend Soviet foreign policy as malpractised by Stalin; and (2) to defend the bloody Stalin regime, especially the so-called "trials" in the Soviet Union. In line with these aims, it is determined to establish a stranglehold over every labor organization. Its policy is outright "rule or ruin"!

What Stalinism Is Out For

All objectives of the American Communist Party, which is now a million-dollar corporation, judging by the financial report of its New York State Convention, are tied up with these aims. Its work in the trade unions, its general political propaganda, its slander technique and everything that consumes its energy, are all organically bound up with and subsidiary to these main objectives. Nowhere is this revealed with more painful clarity than in the activities of the Stalinites in the United Automobile Workers. This is confirmed beyond the slightest measure of doubt by the official document of the Cleveland Communist Party, by the instructions sent out by its organizer, John Williamson, to all shop and industrial branches in that territory. This document is published elsewhere on this page.

Here is a brazen document which declares unblushingly: (1) "The only constructive forces in the U. A.W. are the communists and their followers." (2) "Were it not for the Lovestoneite Fox and other Martin stooges, the U.A.W. in Cleveland would be completely in the hands of constructive union forces."

Really, what Williamson tells his buddies here is that, if it were not for the followers and members of the I.C.L.L. in the U.A.W., the C.P. would have complete control of the Cleveland district of the union. We must not forget that, in this document we are told that "the only constructive forces in the U. A.W. are the communists."

If there is any worker who has any doubt as to what the C.P. is after in the unions, this document should be an eye-opener. Mind you, official union classes must be broken up. Why? Because the C.P. wants it so. Why? Because these official union classes interfere with the C.P. getting control of the union.

And, then, the crime of crimes! The president of the union, unanimously elected by the convention of the organization, dares to exercise his leadership in that union! If any member of the union cooperates with him in carrying out union policies, he is "a Martin stooge." This Stalinist document even talks the language of the espionage agents of the employers. It says, for instance, "Martin operates thru that office in Cleveland" (Regional Office) and rants that, "despite the actions taken by the C.P., Fox (the official union educational director.—J. L.) still has some thirteen classes (official union classes.—J. L.) going and this must be stopped." We wonder whether this "must" grows out of a telegram or a cable.

"Bad Agreements" Or None!

Yes, I confess (I hope I am not shot right away) to the theory and—to the best of my strength and ability—the practise based on the fact that "often bad agreements are better than no agreements." For instance, I think that in August 1937, the U.A.W. could have gotten a better agreement from G.M. than in November 1937. I believe that, in November 1937, the union was offered a better agreement than the one recently signed by U.A.W., known as the Supplementary Agreement. That is why I am today—as I was yesterday—of the opinion that the union should have signed the November agreement. That is why I believe today, as I believed then, that Martin and the entire progressive leadership of the U.A.W. seriously erred in not accepting the advice offered by John L. Lewis at that time to sign that agreement —"to take the locals out of the rain," as Lewis said. That is why I am in full agreement with the advice given by John L. Lewis to sign the Supplementary Agreement with G.M., denounced by Mr. Williamson in this document.

But this C.P. document has a sinister sound in other respects. The four C.P. members (or three followers) on the International Executive Board of the U.A.W. all of them joined the rest of the Board members to endorse unanimously the signing of the Supplementary Agreement! Why does Mr. Williamson order his party members in the ranks to do one thing when his party comrades in the Board of the union do the exact opposite? Is this a division of labor or deliberately planned piece of unprincipledness, a deliberately planned sowing of confusion, factionalism, dissension and demoralization in the ranks of the automobile workers? Merely to pose such questions is to answer them!

Where Soviet Foreign Policy Comes In

But what does all this have to do with Soviet foreign policy and Stalinist butchery masquerading as trials? Well, here is the answer. The instructions to the rank and file of the C.P., as revealed in this document, declare: "The reactionaries in the U.A.W. have taken a stand against collective security and lined up with the isolationists in this country. The isolationists are in open and brazen alliance with the fascist agents in this country . . . the workers are very easily persuaded into believing that the Ludlow referendum is a good thing . . . exposing the hidden fascist alliance which presses for such legislation as the Ludlow Amendment."

Truly the curse of duplicity and the disease of political degeneration know no bounds insofar as the C.P. is concerned. In the session of the U.A.W. Board just adjourned, Mr. Mortimer and the other three C.P. members or followers voted willingly, uninvited, unencouraged, uninspired and unconvinced (but not uninstructed) for the Ludlow Amendment, against collective security, for the position of the U.A.W. in supporting the Keep America Out of War movement! Never in the history of the American labor movement has such hypocrisy and double-dealing been elevated to the status of principles the way the C.P. is doing now.

No member of the United Automobile Workers—with the possible exception of those still taking instructions from Weinstone, Gebert, Williamson, Browder and their clique—has the slightest confidence, believes to the slighest extent, that the C.P. members on the Board of the union or the C.P. followers in the union really believe in what they voted for or that they plan to abide faithfully even by those decisions that they helped to make thru their affirmative votes in the Board.

The latest cry of the Stalinites in the U.A.W. has been: "No factionalism." This Cleveland document shows clearly what "no factionalism" really means to them—factionalism of, by and for the Stalinites against the auto union!

Stalinism Menaces Labor

It is an unchallengeable fact that such practises are the essence of Stalinism; they are a corrupting influence in the life of the American working class, a serious menace to the labor movement. This is a toxin of which the American labor movement must rid itself, if it is to grow healthy and become an increasingly powerful and finally victorious force over all capitalist reaction—over capitalism as a social and economic system.

"How to Smash a Union"

The Stalinist Platform

(This is the document issued by the Cleveland office of the Communist Party to which Jay Lovestone refers in the accompanying article.

—Editor.)

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THE U.A.W. is a new union. Because it is a relatively young organization, all sorts of reactionary groups are in a mad scramble to gobble it up. THE ONLY CONSTRUCTIVE FORCES IN THE U.A.W.A. ARE THE COMMUNISTS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS! Recently, it has become clear that we cannot depend on the Socialist Party to continue in a constructive path. Homer Martin, with his Lovestonite cohorts, has maintained whatever power he has thru alliances and deals with other reactionaries of the House-Peiper brand. If the union is to make any headway, these forces will have to be deposed and destroyed.

WHY WE FIGHT THE MARTIN-LOVESTONEITE REACTIONARIES!

1. The reactionaries in the U.A.W.A. have taken a stand against collective security and lined up with the isolationists in this country. The isolationists are in open and brazen alliance with the fascist agents in this country. What greater help would Japanese fascism want than a movement to keep the hands of our democratic government tied in case of attack. The workers are very easily persuaded into believing that the Ludlow referendum is a good thing. We have to expose the whole connection between such measures and the war-mongering desires of the fascist nations. We must remember that the Soviet Union is in constant danger and, unless the democratic nations can be gotten to band together against the fascist aggressors, the fatherland of the international working class will be in danger of destruction. EXPOSE THE HIDDEN FASCIST ALLIANCES WHICH PRESS FOR SUCH LEGISLATION AS THE LUDLOW AMENDMENT.

2. The new Supplementary Agreement with the General Motors Corp., which was presented as an accepted fact by the Martin-Dowell-Munger clique, is precisely what the Communist Party has warned the membership of the U.A.W.A. against. We must utilize this opportunity to expose the weakness of the leadership of the union, the dictatorship methods of Martin, who refused to submit the agreement to the membership for ratification. Our comrades should be in the forefront fighting against this Supplement. The workers will see how bad it is and won't like it. This supplement proves conclusively that Martin is stooging for Lovestone who invented the theory that "bad agreements are better than no agreements."

3. In Cleveland, the comrades have done a good job in the recent elections, particularly at Fisher Body. However, the so-called progressives have succeeded in establishing a dual headquarters to the Regional Office and constantly harass our comrades there with their activities. All the laid-off organizers, with Elmer Davis, F. Evans, Bishop, Bates and such people as Wentling, Turner and others, have made it their home. They hold meetings there and plan their destructive work from that office. Workers come to the Regional Office, stay a minute, and rush upstairs. Martin operates thru that office in Cleveland. Despite the actions taken by the Communist Party, Fox still has some 13 classes going and this must be stopped! Were it not for the Lovestoneite, Fox and the other Martin stooges, the U.A.W.A. in Cleveland would be completely in the hands of constructive union forces. This, therefore, makes our task very clear. WE MUST GET RID OF FOX!

HOW TO FIGHT THE MARTIN-LOVESTONEITE REACTIONARIES!

1. Expose their tactics and policies thru the shop papers and bulletins.

2. Continue to make more effective the boycott against Fox and his classes. (The comrades in Fisher Body will have to make special efforts in view of his putting across his program at their Executive Board meeting.)

3. Comrades should be on the look-out for charges against Fox and should contact the office or Comrade Onda for "what constitute charges."

4. We must try to influence some so-called progressives to help us in this fight and the comrades should be sure that they sound out the workers about Fox, whose popularity could be easily demolished.

5. Expose Lovestoneite activities in the department. How do we know that the meetings of the progressive group are not Lovestoneite meetings?

6. Fight against the acceptance of the Supplementary Agreement, expose it thru the local meetings and individual contacts.

7. Fight against participation in any "peace" movements other than the American League for Peace and Democracy. Fight against and expose the fascist meaning of the Ludlow Referendum.

Fight for the elimination of factionalism in the U.A.W.A.!

BUILD THE PARTY IN THE UNION AS THE BEST ANSWER TO THE REACTIONARIES!

I.L.G.W.U. REMAINS IN C.I.O., URGES UNITY

The General Executive Board of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union decided at its quarterly session at Minneapolis last week to continue in affiliation with the C.I.O. and to continue also to exert its influence in the direction of labor unity. It appointed a committee of three which was instructed to use every opportunity to achieve the reopening of conferences between the C.I.O. and the A. F. of L.

The whole question arose because of the recent decision of the C.I.O. to call a constitutional convention to establish itself on a permanent basis. Mr. Dubinsky, president of the I.L.G.W.U., at that time declared that this created a "new situation" and that his union would have to consider anew its relations with the C.I.O.

The I.L.G.W.U., a strong advocate of industrial unionism and the organization of the mass-production workers along industrial lines, is one of the original members of the C.I.O. At the same time, it has consistently urged peace and unity with the A. F. of L., differing considerably with the C.I.O. leadership on how these objectives might best be achieved. The resolution of the G.E.B. expresses "deep regret over failure on the part of the labor movement to compose its differences." "The policies, traditions and decisions of the I.L.G.W.U.," the resolution continues, "have always been against a divided labor movement and against dual unionism. The experience of the past year both on the economic and political fields . . . presents burning evidence that labor unity is paramount. . . . "

The I.L.G.W.U. is in a strategic position to take the initiative for unity—Mr. Dubinsky pointed out—because it is the only C.I.O. union still holding membership in the A. F. of L.

The decision of the Minneapolis G.E.B. session to continue affiliation with the C.I.O. does not, of course, altogether settle the question of relations to a permanent C.I.O.; when and if a constitutional convention of the latter is called, the I.L.G.W.U. will make a final decision of its policy on this point.

C.C.N.Y. Students Fight the R.O.T.C.

Very much against its will, the American Students Union was forced, at the last moment, by the C.C.N.Y. Anti-War Club to go thru the motions of opposing the R.O.T.C. review on "Jingo Day" (May 20). Negotiations for a united meeting fell thru because the Stalinist dominated A.S.U. wanted complete control of the speaking arrangements, while a proposal for a picket line around Lewisohn Stadium was summarily rejected. The Anti-War Club, in which members of the I.C.L.L. participate, carried out militant picketing and held an effective street-corner meeting, next to the stadium, which attracted some A.S.U. members in spite of their leaders instructions. Half an hour later, the A.S.U. held a small dispirited meeting and dispersed, after refusing a final offer for a unified picket line. The day-to-day struggle of the Y.C.L. and the A.S.U. against war and militarism seems to be vanishing as their new line leads them into the ranks of the war makers.

J. Symonds

IFTU DECIDES TO BAN USSR UNIONS

After two days of debate, the general council of the International Federation of Trade Unions recently decided by a vote of 16 to 4 to reject the conditions laid down by the Russian trade unions for affiliation. The four votes came one each from Spain and Mexico and two from France. Norway did not vote. Then the conference passed a resolution terminating negotiations, this time 14 to 7, with Spain, France, Mexico, Norway and Czechoslovakia in the minority.

The opposition to Russian affiliation was led by the English unions, the Dutch, Belgian, Swedish and American (A. F. of L.) organizations strongly supporting this stand.