

Who is George Papcun?

A Statement by J. Shaffer

February 5, 1931.
San Antonio, Texas.

I regret that I was not able to reply to the statement of George Papcun, which appeared in the *Daily Worker* on January 10, but due to my illness I could not answer any sooner. Altho I am still confined in my bed at the hospital, I feel the importance of immediately replying to the lies of George Papcun's statement.

George J. Papcun in his statement said that he cut off relationship with the "Lovestonites." I want to state that George Papcun was never connected with our group—neither nationally nor locally.

As a leader of the unemployment demonstration held April 7, 1930, my name and address appeared in the local capitalist press. At that time, George Papcun was a soldier in the United States Army stationed in San Antonio, Texas. He came to my house introducing himself as a member of the Communist Party, but he was unable to offer proof because for some reason or other he could not get any replies from the national headquarters, to any of his communications referring to his status in the Communist Party. From our conversation, I learned that he was well acquainted with the Party and the comrades. Therefore, I referred him to the local unit of the Communist Party.

After visiting them, he came back and made the statement that he had never seen such a "degenerate and rotten" unit. Also, that he does not want to have anything to do with them. I then gave him our literature and *Daily Workers* so that he might acquaint himself with the situation existing in the Party. He returned later and stated that he had studied both sides of the question, and that he was in full accordance with our policy. He, therefore, wanted to become a member of our group as he considered the line of the Party to be entirely incorrect.

We told him that if the reply from our national headquarters concerning him was a favorable one, we would admit him. Since we did not have a favorable impression of him, we had inquired about him at the headquarters of the Communist Party and of our group.

Comrade Gitlow's reply was that George Papcun was a degenerate character who was both unreliable and untrustworthy. That, therefore, we should have nothing to do with him. The Party's reply confirmed Comrade Gitlow's opinion concerning George Papcun and also brought more definite charges in their statement that Papcun had misappropriated money secured for the Bonito Defence, while he was in the anthracite region.

When the Communist Party demanded an account, he disappeared and joined the United States Army. We confronted him with these charges with a request that he should clear himself of these serious charges before we would have anything to do with him.

George Papcun, realizing his inability to answer these serious charges, decided to work on his old acquaintances to obtain another hearing so that he might be reinstated in the Party. Comrade Jakira, one of his main assistants, endeavored to obtain a hearing, but to no avail. Therefore, he decided to use the only effective method which was to pretend he had been a "Lovestonite" and was repudiating them. The Party, as a reward for doing this, promised Papcun his readmission to the Party.

The Party membership can thus see to what degradation the present Party bureaucratic leadership has come to when they are ready to associate with any degenerate and irresponsible character in order to combat "Lovestonism." Despite the fact that many times and long ago our group warned the party of the composition of the local unit, no action was ever taken. Seeing that we are doing such great constructive work among the Mexican workers, the Party now attempts to combat our influence among the workers by cleaning up the unit of all undesirable elements. However, the fault lies not only in the bad composition of the Party unit, but also in the wrong line of the Party, which they are trying to blame on scapegoats.

The workers are beginning to realize that Papcun is irresponsible, un-

principled, undesirable person whose ambition is to climb the ladder for personal benefits. At a meeting called for the preparing of the February 10 unemployment demonstration, the Mexicans demanded that the Comrades Shaffer and Lifshutz should speak. Papcun attacked us as being "renegades" and "opportunists". Many of the Mexicans immediately left the meeting in disgust, seeing that the work of Papcun was of a destructive character.

—J. Shaffer

OFFER 5-YR. PLAN FOR BRITAIN

Scheme To Save British Empire From Collapse; Soviet Success Felt

LONDON.—"Reconstruction of the British economic system from the top to bottom" is proposed in a "Five-Year Plan" for Great Britain just made public as a special supplement to the influential *Week End Review* and understood to be the collective work of a large number of experts in various fields.

It is declared that the purpose of this proposal is to "transform the British economic system so as to enable it to keep pace with the United States and Russia and to save Britain from economic decline." Already it has the general support of J. B. S. Haldane, the scientist; of Sir Oswald Mosley, the Laborite; of A. Duff Cooper, the Conservative; and of Sir Robert Donald, Liberal.

The plan proposes the transformation of all industry, transport and commerce of Britain into "a series of great amalgamations or federations." Provisions are made for the "representation" of "workers" and "consumers" within each industry and competition is to be "restricted, even eliminated." "Self-government in industry" is proposed, altho this is not clearly explained.

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The "Five-Year Plan" ties up directly with the dictatorship proposal of Sir Oswald Mosley some time ago. It proposes what is in all essentials a system of "planned" state capitalism as the only way to pull Great Britain out of its present hopeless crisis. At the same time it reflects the growing prestige of the Soviet Five-Year Plan and the desperate attempts of the British capitalists to emulate it. But the hopes of the British bourgeoisie for planned economy under capitalism will turn out to be vain hopes indeed, as they well realize already. It is proposed to "transform the British economic system"—but capitalist private property is to remain. And as long as capitalism remains there can be no order, no plan—only chaos and decline.

FASCIST ELECTED AS FINNISH PRESIDENT

Swinhufvud Wins; Another Drive On Labor Coming

HELSINGFORS. — The Finnish presidential election on February 16 resulted in a victory for Premier Pehr Edwin Swinhufvud, the Fascist candidate, who got 151 electoral votes against 149 for former President Kaarlo Juho Stahlberg, supported by the Liberals and the Social-democrats.

The victory of the Lapua (Fascist) candidate will give a big impetus to the bitter reactionary offensive against the labor movement that has been raging in Finland in the last year.

HEAD OF FARM BOARD RETURNS TO TRUST

Legge Becomes Head of the Int'l Harvester Trust

CHICAGO. — Alexander Legge, chairman of the Federal Farm Board will retire from that body after March 4, to resume the presidency of the International Harvester Co. from which he resigned in 1929 to head the Farm Board.

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