

ON THE RESULTS OF THE BRIDLINGTON T. U. C. Article by Harry Pollitt

In an article published in the “Daily Worker” on September 10, Harry Pollitt, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Great Britain, sums up the work of the British Trades Union Congress. Pollitt writes:

“The Bridlington Trades Union Congress has been blazoned in the newspaper headlines, and on the B. B.C. as a ‘defeat for the Communists’ “ in an effort to conceal the fact that Bridlington was a defeat for the rank and file of the trade union movement. Not only the Communists, writes Pollitt, but all workers will pay for this treacherous policy of the Right wing leaders. Comrade Pollitt points out that no matter how far the reactionary leaders go in their readiness to support capitalist policies they will never be able to go far enough for the capitalists, who will increase their pressure on the workers to the extent that the Communist are attacked. Proof of this is seen in the capitalist press which, while praising the General Council for “courage” and “realism” has followed this up by demanding support for “drastic cuts in the social services” and lengthening of the working day.

A year from now, unless a real mass fight is made against

the disastrous policies adopted at Bridlington, many delegates who have clapped their hands with joy over alleged "Communist defeats" will be wringing them in anger because they "never thought that things would turn out like this".

Harry Pollitt writes that the Bridlington decisions are reminiscent of the shameful Swansea Congress in 1928 when the General Council called upon the workers to collaborate with capitalism. He recalls that the failure of this policy was fully revealed in 1930-31 when wages were reduced by millions of pounds. This policy prepared the way for three million unemployed, for the great industrial centres becoming known as "the Depressed Areas", for the cutting of the social services by ten per cent, for the split in the Labour Party in 1931. Finally, it helped to unleash war in 1939.

Denouncing the shameful withdrawal from the World Federation of Trade Unions, Pollitt says: "The British working class will soon need international solidarity more than any other workers in the world. What a price will have to be paid for that withdrawal."

Commenting on Attlee's speech at the Congress, Pollitt noted that Attlee made it plain to every employer and to the National Arbitration Tribunal that they can now refuse any wage advances.

Pollitt denounced as a downright falsehood Attlee's statement that the Communists would welcome the return of a Tory Government. He writes that the present Labour leaders and their government are the best friends the Tories have. It is the Labour leaders' betrayal of the class struggle and all that follows from that which helps the Tories. It is the unprincipled alliance and subservience to American Big Business in its war aims against the Soviet Union that helps to disillusion people about what ought to be the real aims of labour.

Comrade Pollitt calls on the Communist Party to make the

Bridlington decisions known everywhere, to explain and expose them in the factories, trade unions, clubs, and so on. He calls on all workers to help the Communist Party in the struggle to defend working class conditions, avert dependence on the U.S. and prevent mass misery, unemployment and war.

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