

Polish Communists To Fight For Bourgeois Republic

It is well known that during the last crisis the Communist Party of France urged the formation of a "left" cabinet inclusive of the Radical Socialist Party and declared its readiness to support such a government inside and outside of parliament provided it carried out certain immediate demands of the working class and the petty bourgeoisie. This policy has now been extended to Poland.

The Central Committee of the Polish Communist Party has just published a "declaration" called "the platform of struggle for the overthrow of the Sanacja clique government (the successors of Pilsudsky), of the oppressors of the people and war adventurers—for freedom, bread, work and peace." In this declaration the C.P. proposes to the Bund, the Social Democratic Party and the Executive Committee of the Left Peasant Party, the joint organization of mass struggles and strikes; the preparation of a general strike on a national scale including peasants and other petty bourgeois elements.

PROPOSE TO SET UP A "PEOPLE'S FRONT"

The C.P. proposes the following as the basis for the joint struggle:

"An uncompromising struggle for the overthrow of the Sanacja regime, the jingoistic oppressors of the people, for the overthrow of the fascist constitution and electoral system; for freedom of the press, assembly; for the right to strike; for the liquidation of the concentration camp Beresa Kartuska; for the liberation of all political prisoners; elimination of national oppression; guarantee of all rights for oppressed nationalities; elimination of anti-Soviet alliances with Japan and Germany; for a mutual assistance pact (Eastern Pact) with the U.S.S.R.; restitution of social legislation—unemployment relief thru state funds and thru the building of public works and taxation of capitalists and big peasants for this purpose.

"The C.P. of Poland declares that in placing in the forefront the struggle to overthrow the regime of Sanacja, IT STANDS READY TO SUPPORT THE SLOGAN OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, i.e., a constitutional assembly elected on the basis of the five-fold electoral sys-

tem (general, equal, direct, secret and proportional) whose task it shall be to realize the above program. The C.P. of Poland, in fighting for a workers and peasants government, for proletarian, soviet democracy as the only genuine democracy for workers, is ready to support the democratic activities of any anti-fascist government which promises to carry out the above program. We are convinced that this platform serves the interests and the will of the broad masses and that this platform can serve as the basis for an agreement between all anti-fascist forces in Poland. We appeal to all workers organizations, to all peasant organizations to take a stand on the proposed platform." (July 1935).

RECALLING THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

This policy is an almost literal transference of that proposed by the C.P. of France during the recent cabinet crises. France is still a bourgeois republic so that grave as the error of the C.P. may be it is much worse in Poland—a fascist dictatorship which supplanted the bourgeois democratic republic. The C.P. now proposes to replace the fascist dictatorship with a bourgeois parliamentary republic—the constituent assembly. In other words the reestablishment of the bourgeois republic.

How long ago is it that Trotzky proposed the struggle for the reestablishment of the Weimar Republic, as a means of uniting all anti-fascist forces? His proposal was then rejected by the C.P. (as also by us) as rank opportunism. Now the C.P. of Poland returns to precisely this proposal.

C.P. TO SUPPORT CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Perhaps it will be said that the policy of the Polish Party is an application of Lenin's tactics in 1917. Did not Lenin and the Bolsheviks support the call for the Constituent Assembly in Russia? Do we need to point out that the Constituent Assembly was the slogan of the bourgeois democratic stage of the revolution and that the Bolsheviks pushed forward the slogan of "All Power To The Soviets." Do we need to point out

that in Poland the bourgeois democratic revolution is over and that not the former but the latter slogan applies?

Perhaps some one will ask: is it not possible to reestablish the bourgeois republic in Poland? That possibility exists with all fascist dictatorships. It will depend on whether Social Democracy regains its hold over the proletariat at the time of the break-up of the Fascist regime. If it does bourgeois democracy will result. If on the other hand the Communists were to win the masses then proletarian dictatorship would result. It is therefore the duty of the Communists not to play with such dangerous slogans as Constituent Assembly but at every stage of the struggle to advance the slogan of soviet power and proletarian dictatorship.

NEW DEFEATS IF OPPORTUNISM CONTINUES

The policy of the Polish Party is in reality nothing but the extension of the reformist policies of bourgeois coalition and the theory of the "lesser evil" which have brought defeat upon the working class of Germany and Austria. These policies, proved bankrupt in Austria and Germany, are all the more dangerous now that they have found their way into the hands of the C.P.

The Communist Parties are committing these errors because they have never really assimilated the lessons of 1923 in Germany. One of the most important lessons to be drawn from 1923 is that the united front is not applicable in the struggle for power, that the united front tactics are applied only in struggles for partial demands or for revolutionary transition slogans and that beyond that the united front leads to opportunism and defeat.

The Polish Party may continue to speak of Soviet Power but it becomes merely a propaganda slogan pure and simple while the slogan of Constituent Assembly becomes the practical slogan for which the masses are being mobilized.

We of the C.P.O. must vigorously fight against this opportunist course which will surely lead to the victory of fascism in France. If transferred to countries where fascism is in power it will either strengthen fascism or play right into the hands of Social Democracy.