

TURN OUT THE CORRUPT POLITICIANS!

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE.

The tide of corruption rises higher and higher in Washington, and reveals that the whole Washington government adds to its guilt before the American masses as a strike-breaking machine, as an instrument of imperialist aggression, and as a docile tool of Wall Street.

The last eight years have been a period of unparalleled corruption which eclipses even the regimes of Grant and McKinley.

Wall Street is willing to pay high prices for big "favors" that it expects from its tools in Washington. As the business of American government grows greater and the size of the favors it is prepared to deliver grows along with it, the high cost of bribery and corruption goes up with the price of other commodities. It is not because the capitalist politician's virtue is esteemed more dearly to him personally as a "use-value," but because the "exchange-value" of that particular commodity is rising with the magnitude of the labors he is expected to perform.

Harding's First Act.

The character of the Harding-Coolidge administration was disclosed immediately upon Harding's taking office. Within a month after he had taken a "solemn" oath to "uphold and defend," etc., he had signed an executive order transferring the nation's oil reserves from the navy department to the interior, involving at least Denby and Fall and himself in the guilty knowledge of the oil scandal.

The investigation that was started for the political purposes of the democratic party and of the so-called progressive bloc in the republican party, was suddenly stopped when it revealed only too clearly that the president himself was over his ears in the oily mud of the Teapot Dome graft, and that key members of the cabinet were involved. Another motive for suppression of the facts was the rising tide of the movement for a Labor Party, and yet another the discovery that Standard Oil was just as much involved as Sinclair and Doheny, who, in spite of their size, are relatively small potatoes when compared with the Standard.

Closely following on the oil scandal, came the necessity for the Harding administration to cover up the war grafts, to save Newberry, and to defend Daugherty. Then scandal followed scandal with such rapidity that only the suspiciously sudden death of Harding saved him from open and public disgrace.

A new presidential election campaign is on, and the lid is again being lifted just a trifle from the pot of Washington politics. Already the unsavory stench is so strong that many a politician of the capitalist parties is wishing that it had never been raised, and official Washington is worrying as to how they can jam the lid down again.

Now that the pot is being stirred again, it is perceived that Will Hays, president, thought-controller and censor of the movie industry and former chairman of the republican national committee and postmaster-general, bathed both arms in the mud; that the former secretary of war, Weeks, was the recipient of \$60,000 worth of the Sinclair bonds; that Dupont, the big financier of the munitions industry and other chemical industries, already involved in the Dye Trust scandal, received \$75,000 of the Sinclair bonds; that \$50,000 went to

Fred W. Upham, while he was treasurer of the republican national committee; and above all that Andy Mellon, the so-called master mind of the last eight years of Wall Street administration, is involved along with the other cabinet officers previously exposed. As for Hays, he has already acknowledged disposing of \$160,000 worth of the bribe.

Mellon "Washes His Hands."

Andrew W. Mellon, who has been a sort of sacred cow of the last administration, has offered the peculiar alibi that when he received the \$50,000 in Liberty Bonds, for which he was to send a fake campaign contribution of \$50,000 to the republican national committee, he returned the bonds, but sent his check for \$50,000 anyhow. A likely story! And suppose it is true—what difference does it make? It reveals without a shadow of a doubt that he knew how the republican campaign fund was being made up, and that he knew of the bribe by Sinclair in return for Teapot Dome and that he knew of the purchase of the president and the secretaries of various departments of the cabinet, and that as a good republican, he not only accepted it, but hushed it up. If his story were true, all it would prove is that he was glad to profit by the dirty deal, but pre-

ferred to let the others do the dirty work for him.

A little further lifting of the lid reveals that there were \$3,000,000



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worth of Liberty Bonds bought in the "mysterious" re-sale of oil by the no less "mysterious" Continental Trading Company. Another shake of the investigation spoon will bespatter additional dignitaries with huge and sticky spots of oil graft.

Buying a Presidency.

All told, the republican national committee acknowledges the expenditure of over eight million dollars in the campaign of 1920, and over six million in the campaign of 1924. This does not include the much larger state and local expenditures nor the secret campaign contributions and expenditures which have not been uncovered and are not likely to be. All told, a conservative estimate puts the cost of electing a president at anywhere from twenty to thirty million dollars, and this is probably too low. Most of this comes in big chunks from Wall Street financiers. What they get for it will be the subject of future articles.

The Workers (Communist) Party is also entering into the presidential campaign. It is also planning to raise a campaign fund. It is estimated that this will amount to \$100,000 only, but the Communists expect to sell no oil. None of this will come in \$50,000-chunk contributions. It will come in the main in \$1, \$5 and

\$10 bills from individual workers all over the United States. A few labor organizations may make contributions in a bloc of \$25 or \$50 or \$100. It is a pitifully small fund to measure against the billions of dollars spent by the capitalist parties. But the Communists have other ways of spending electoral campaign funds and know how to make a little go a long way.

One of the issues of the presidential campaign—a dramatic although not a central issue—has already been provided by the latest exposures of the Washington government. It is a government of crooks and grafters, in the pay and at the direct service of Wall Street, and one of the issues of the campaign will be summed up in this slogan: Turn the grafters out!

The Minority Movement in Great Britain

WHAT IS THIS MINORITY MOVEMENT? Published by the N. M. M. Great Ormond Street, London. COMPRESSED though it is into sixteen pages of reading matter the latest M. M. pamphlet effectively answers the question of its title, "What Is This Minority Movement?"

It answers in detail the charges fashioned by capitalism for the service of our opportunist trade union bureaucracy, such as that of disruption. It proves by facts and figures that not the M. M. but the "clever" statesmen of trade unionism are responsible for splitting and disruptive tactics. The likeness between the bosses and their labor lackeys is neatly ticked off by quotations from those "friends" of the labor movement, Joynson-Hicks, Winston Churchill and The Economist.

The decline of wages, the growth of unemployment, the tragedy of Poor Law relief, the catastrophic drop in trade union membership are shown as the fruits of the vicious alliance now more open and unconcealed between the Monks and the Mondite T. U. leaders.

The contrast between the highly centralized machinery of the bosses and the splintered sectionalism of British trade unionism with its consequence of a multitude of petty interests squabbled over by a horde of petty officials (lick-spitting now to the boss and now to his much-advertised full-time lackeys) is clearly shown and the remedy of speedy amalgamation by industry, factory and workshop committees and the cleansing of the trade union ship of the barnacles impeding its progress are set forth.

The program of the N. M. M. concludes this brilliant answer to the question, "What Is This Minority Movement?" An appeal to all militant trade unionists to join up and get busy is on the inside cover. The frontispiece shows a dogged worker bearing the working class banner aloft. I think it a pity that no list of the secretaries of the various M. M. sections is given so that readers could easily make contact and also realize the extent to which the M. M. is fast establishing itself as the militant leader of the many and varied trade unions that make up the British trade union movement. Keep it moving. —R. S.

The South Slav Section Gets to Work

By WILLIAM W. WEINSTONE.

The plenum of the bureau of the South Slavic section which was held in Chicago March 10 and 11, attended by over 25 members and by Comrade Weinstone and Comrade Bedacht for the Central Executive Committee, made marked progress in the unification of the South Slavic section and in seriously getting down to work to carry on the tasks of building up the influence of our Party in the South Slavic movement under the present favorable objective conditions.

Overcome Faction Struggle.

The plenum took place after a factional struggle of over two years which did great harm to our section and its influence in the various organizations. But the plenum was permeated by a desire on the part of all leading comrades to overcome the factional struggle and to start afresh with united efforts, raising the prestige of the Party and the section among the workers. Unanimous agreement was reached on the composition of the bureau, upon the personnel of the sub-bureau and upon the division of leadership among the former groups by unanimously electing the small bureau and the functionaries.

The plenum unanimously adopted the thesis of the Central Executive Committee, the stand of the Party on the Russian opposition and unanimously adopted the resolution on the next tasks of the section that had been previously worked out by the bureau. This resolution pointed out that the situation among the South Slavic workers was becoming more favorable because of the objective conditions in the country.

Activities Increased.

On the basis of the February plenum of the Central Executive Committee, the resolution of the South Slavic section pointed out the need for increasing the activities of the Party members in the basic industries in

which South Slavic workers are engaged in order to better prepare for the struggle against the war. It pointed out the need for conducting a campaign within the fraternal organizations in favor of the miners and to fight the reactionaries that are supporting Lewis against the rank and file of the miners.

The resolution also emphasized the need for utilizing the fraternal organizations in helping to organize the unorganized, as was recently done in Detroit among the automobile workers. The resolution furthermore emphasized the need for increasing the activities of South Slavic members in building shop nuclei, issuing shop papers and establishing shop committees in unorganized plants. It pointed out that there are good prospects for increasing activity among the women workers, bringing the idea of class struggle into the women's or-

ganizations among the South Slavs as well as drawing more of the women South Slav members into greater activity within the Party.

Discuss Unemployment.

The unemployment situation was also considered, and the need for specially getting the South Slavic workers active against unemployment was prominently emphasized. It was pointed out in the conference that the I. L. D. has a strong section among South Slavic workers but there is a need for giving still further support by the South Slav fractions to the building up of this organization.

The resolution and the discussion pointed out the favorable prospects of building up united fronts with progressives in the various fraternal organizations, that the leadership of these organizations were growing more reactionary while the rank and file are becoming more militant. The possibility of building progressive blocs as means of struggling against reactionary leadership on behalf of the workers is more favorable than ever before.

Workers' Correspondence.

Consideration was given to the building up of the circulation of the Radnik and of the Slovenian paper by undertaking good propaganda, increasing workers' correspondence and enlivening the paper as a whole, at the same time that the section works for the building up of the circulation of The Daily Worker. The plenum pledged its support for the building up of a strong Balkan Federation to counteract the efforts of the imperialists in the Balkan states. Youth and Pioneer work also received attention.

With the help of the Central Executive Committee, the South Slavic Section was able to adopt these resolutions and to take an important step away from factionalism for a real merging of the various groups and for a real, solid unification of the section.



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