

# The Open Letter and the New Party Line

By HERBERT ZAM.

The open letter which the American Party has received from the Communist International is not an isolated incident in the activities of the Comintern in the last year, and particularly in connection with the Sixth Congress. The policy received in the open letter flows directly from the present world position of capitalism which has been characterized as the third period of post-war capitalism. Only if we view the line in the open letter and relate it properly to the analysis of the third period, will we really understand what the new line is, which this letter formulates for the American Party.

The present period represents for us a perspective for greater, more intensified struggles, struggles not confined to the boundary of one country, but reverberating thruout the system of capitalism.

In recent years we have already seen some indication of these struggles, and if we relate them and classify them, we will see that there has been a tendency for these struggles to repeat themselves on a world scale and to constitute a general international conflict and sharpening contradiction within the capitalist system as such. For example, if we examine the coal mining industry, we find there a whole series of gigantic class conflicts such as we have not been accustomed to in the period following the period of severe, acute outbreaks. We had a mining strike in England which, for duration and intensity, set a new mark in the class struggle in England and which resulted in the first general strike in any important country in the present period.

But this conflict in the mining industry was not confined to England. We have seen similar struggles, not of the same duration, not of the same intensity, not involving equally large numbers of masses, but conflicts of the same general character, in Czechoslovakia, in Germany, in Poland and in the United States. Therefore we see that the line of the open letter means for our Party, means for the Communist movement in the United States the mobilization of the Party and its preparation for leadership of the workers in the struggles which the third period is bringing out, against the war danger and for the struggle for the interests of the working class.

## The New Line and Youth Work.

This new line has significance not only for the Party, but also for our youth movement which follows the same general policy as the Party. And we will have to understand the problems and tasks of the youth movement in the light of the open letter and the line formulated therein. Any other analysis would not only fall short but would actually miss a correct understanding of the role of the young workers in the present period and of the tasks that confront the Communist movement in this connection.

This matter was discussed at the Sixth Congress of the Communist International and at the Fifth Congress of the Communist Youth International, and at these two congresses the analysis resulted in the general formulation that in the present period one of the outstanding features in all the struggles in which we will engage will be the struggle between the revolutionary movement and imperialism for the youth. This is not based on any sentimental appeal to the young workers or to the youth because of the youth, but is based on the requirements of the present situation.

The Sixth Congress gave more detailed and firmer instructions on the question of winning the youth to the Parties than any previous congress or plenum of the C. I. has done. The problem of winning the youth follows directly from the war danger and the process of rationalization bound up with it. We know that no talk of preparing for the war danger and against the bourgeoisie on the part of the working class is possible unless the factors which will be engaged in the coming war are analyzed and the preparations made to align those factors on the side of the working class against imperialism.

## War Danger, Rationalization and the Youth

The bourgeoisie knows very well that in the war of the future as well as of the present, it will be the youth, the young workers, who will fight that war. Their efforts are in the direction of preparing the young workers for participation in this war as efficient soldiers for capitalism. Our efforts are in the direction of preparing the young workers for participating in the war as efficient soldiers for the working class. And therefore there is this fundamental conflict over the youth.

In the processes of rationalization it is required that the workers, the labor forces shall be well trained, efficient and docile. Capitalist rationalization cannot be successful

unless the resistance of the working class to the reduction of their standard of living and the speed-up and the intensification of labor, is overcome. The capitalist class realizes full well that if the training of the young workers as participators in capitalist rationalization, in the rationalized factories is begun early, if this process is carried on systematically, their hopes are that they will train such a labor force, such a working class as to permit the rationalization plans being carried out successfully.

Furthermore, we know that one of the consequences of rationalization is substitution of youth labor and of child labor for adult labor. I have seen some of the proofs from a book in the auto industry, that I believe that the International Publishers will soon put out, and there the process of replacement of the adult workers by the young workers is recounted in great detail, and it is a very interesting study. The auto industry in this respect is a pioneer in capitalist rationalization insofar as measures the capitalist class is already putting in. Young workers, young girls, are being drawn into the factories in all departments, replacing the adult workers, replacing even formerly skilled and semi-skilled workers. We can, therefore, see that in the present period, in every direction in which we turn, we find the young workers playing a tremendous role. The question that our movement will have to answer, which we are answering already at this minute, is whether that role will be for the workers, for freeing the workers from the capitalist system, or for the capitalist class. As Marxists, we know that it is inevitable that the working class, and consequently also the young workers, shall eventually align themselves in the struggle against capitalism. But we are not fatalists. We know that this process must be accompanied by conscious action of the most advanced section of the working class organized in the Communist Party. We know that it is possible, thru proper mobilization of the working class, to accelerate certain processes in the capitalist system. And our business is to organize and to so direct our efforts as actually to accelerate this process and to ensure winning over the young workers for the working class, for the revolutionary movement.

## Rationalization Draws Youth Into Industry.

Comrades, the process of rationalization itself creates the basis for the winning of the young workers to the class struggle. That is one of the inevitable contradictions of capitalism in the present period. The efforts of capitalism to strengthen its position—and even a success in the economic strengthening of capitalism, increase in production, etc.,—this is leading to an extension of the general crisis, to the general crisis, to the general contradictions in the capitalist system. And we see that the rationalization in its effect on the young workers actually accelerates the process of winning the young workers to class struggle and provides the objective basis for us to win the young workers to the Communist movement. Let us state very briefly what these results are.

First of all, large masses of young workers are being drawn into industry from various categories, from among the youth which pre-

Chairman O'Connor of the shipping board stated flatly a few weeks ago that the U. S. regarded trade with Cuba as a U. S. field, and would not permit British competition to win anything there. The British shipowners association has decreed that no old British ships shall be sold to the U. S., but scrapped instead, no matter what the expense.

Comment among interested officials of "neutral" legations here runs to speculation as to whether, law or no law, the I'm Alone would have sunk if she had flown the U. S. flag.

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## "England's Another."

Representative Hamilton Fish of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs stated today:

"If the boat was outside the 12-mile limit when first ordered to heave to, our coast guard officers in their zeal may have exceeded their powers, but at that no serious objection could be raised by Great Britain, which during the world war seized neutral ships on the high seas on the very suspicion of the ultimate destination of cargoes."

## Epstein, Olgin, Abrams to Speak from WKBQ

Milech Epstein, labor editor of the Freiheit, will speak over Station W. K. B. Q. at 10 o'clock tonight. William Abrams, also of the Freiheit, will give an address from the same station on Thursday at 5 p. m., and on Saturday, at 2, Moissaye Olgin, editor of the Hammer, Yiddish Communist magazine, will speak.

## Hold District Pioneer Conference Saturday

Tasks of the Pioneer movement will be discussed at a conference arranged by the District Bureau of the Young Pioneers of America on Saturday, 2 p. m., at the Workers Center, 26 Union Sq. The conference will be continued Sunday.

Representatives of Pioneer groups, Young Communist League and Communist Party units, Women's Councils and language bureaus are asked to send representatives.

viously did not engage in industry, from agricultural youth, clerical occupations, etc., and also from youth which was engaged in various non-industrial occupations. Consequently, the young workers are being drawn into the heaviest, most basic industries in the country, precisely those industries where the contradictions of capitalism express themselves in the sharpest form, as in the textile, and in mining, where the proportion of young workers is already very large.

New industries are being established with youth labor as the main source of labor. In connection with this we notice various other processes which working together with the processes of rationalization bring about the same general result, (the shifting of industries to the south for example), the industrialization of the south, the attempt of industry to move from the large into small cities, the establishment of new industries, the agrarian crisis, the shut-down in immigration cutting off large supplies of unskilled labor. All these have the same general effect as the rationalization process.

(To Be Continued)

Of all the classes that stand face to face with the bourgeoisie today the proletariat alone is a really revolutionary class.—Karl Marx (Communist Manifesto).

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