

will have his measure taken by the tangled food situation with which he will cope both as Secretary of Agriculture and as War Food Administrator, a post held by the unlamented Marvin Jones. As chairman of the House committee investigating food rationing and pricing he will be equipped with the technical knowledge, at least, to handle this critical task.

All those who fought through the stormy years that brought the National

Labor Relations Act, social security provisions and the whole apparatus which established the administrative machinery for solving labor's problems, will wish Frances Perkins godspeed. Miss Perkins took double punishment as a proponent of labor's rights to a fair share of the national good and as a woman, meeting vicious attacks on both counts with dignity and wisdom. The new secretary, Lewis Schwellenbach of Washington state, takes up a thorny job with the

promise of being an excellent and militant addition to the cabinet. Once a labor attorney, he comes well thought of in both CIO and AFL ranks—no mean test—and with the strongest pro-Roosevelt record of all the new appointees. During his term in the Senate (1935-1941) he campaigned alongside Mr. Truman for the National Labor Relations Act, the TVA, the reciprocal trade agreements and the Roosevelt farm program.

Duclos on the American Communists

CONSIDERABLE interest has been aroused by an article by Jacques Duclos, one of the leaders of the French Communist Party, criticizing the policies of the Communist Political Association and the dissolution last year of the Communist Party of the United States. A translation of this article appears in the *Daily Worker* of May 24, and we suggest that our readers study its full text rather than depend on the garbled versions in the commercial press.

Duclos' article was published in the April issue of *Cahiers du Communisme*, theoretical organ of the French Communist Party. The greater part of it is devoted to a resume of the approach to the postwar world adopted by the American Communists on the basis of the Teheran accord. This approach held up the perspective of collaboration of the capitalist countries and the Soviet Union in the postwar period to assure a durable peace and economic well-being; at home it projected the necessity of continuing the cooperation of capital and labor for the achievement of full production and full employment, with conflicts between them reduced to a minimum. Largely as a result of this approach, the convention of the Communist Party in May 1944 decided to dissolve that organization and to create the Communist Political Association.

After stating that he does not attempt to analyze "in detail [Earl] Browder's full position" or to make "a developed critique of this position," Duclos draws a number of conclusions. Among them are:

"Despite declarations regarding recognition of the principles of Marxism, one is witnessing a notorious revision of Marxism on the part of Browder and his supporters, a revision which is expressed in the concept of a long-term class peace in the United States, of the possibility of the suppression of the class struggle in the postwar period and of establishment of harmony between capital and labor.

"By transforming the Teheran declaration of the Allied governments, which is a document of a diplomatic character, into a political platform of class peace in the United States in the postwar period, the American Communists are deforming in a radical way the meaning of the Teheran declaration and are sowing dangerous opportunist illusions which will exercise a negative

influence on the American labor movement if they are not met with the necessary reply."

Duclos also sharply criticizes what he calls "liquidation of the independent political party of the working class in the United States." He approves of the Communist support of President Roosevelt in the last election, but insists this was no reason for dissolving the Party. He also criticises the American Communist attitude toward trusts.

In a foreword to the translation of the Duclos article, Browder, who is president of the CPA, states that "while this is the personal article of Jacques Duclos, it reflects the general trend of opinion of European Marxists in relation to America, and thus demands our most respectful consideration." "It has been clear at all times," he writes, "that the end of the war in Europe would require a fundamental review of all problems by American Marxists. We must estimate our past work, and face the tasks of the future. We must make the most careful inventory, balance our political books, and know clearly how we stand as we enter a new period of sharpening struggles, crises and profound changes. The article of Duclos may conveniently provide a starting point for this fundamental review, which the CPA leadership had independently begun some time ago on the basis of accumulating threats against the unity of the great coalition." Browder proposes a discussion of these problems in the CPA, "conducted through its own established channels and according to its own rules. The CPA will make its own decisions after its own discussions, taking into account all available information and opinions that seem pertinent." He expresses faith that such discussions will, as in the past, "lead to clarity, to agreement, and to unity of purpose and action." He suggests that there be no speculation about the outcome of the discussion and urges that "all practical work now under way in the labor and progressive movement should continue along established lines."

NEW MASSES believes that, contrary to the cacklers, panic-mongers and pontificators of certain publications, such a discussion is evidence of the fundamental health and soundness of the Communist movement and will be productive of fruitful results. We shall comment on this discussion in future issues.