

OUR FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM

By Dave Lyon

IV.

HOW FASCISM TRIES TO SPLIT THE WORKERS.

We have seen that the capitalist class, to maintain its profits and power, must carry on an offensive against the living conditions and rights of the workers, and must prepare the ground for a new imperialist war and intervention to partition the Soviet Union. Therefore, the outspokenly Fascist elements must strengthen their attempts to split the growing international solidarity of the workers by trying to drive the wedges of race hatred, the Red Scare, anti-alien prejudices, and nationalism into their ranks.

The program of the American Legion in California as announced last week by State Commander Homer Chailleaux, is an excellent example of the Fascist maneuver of pitting foreign-born workers against the native-born workers. Chailleaux declares that the California strikes have not been caused by low wages, but by "Alien agitators," and proposes that Congress enact laws to:

- 1.—Prohibit employment of more than five per cent aliens on ANY job in the United States.
- 2.—For immediate compulsory registration and finger-printing of all aliens.
- 3.—Immediate deportation of every alien convicted of any felony at the end of his prison term.
- 4.—Deportation of every alien who goes upon the charity rolls of any community of the United States.

And this program will be submitted, not to the rank and file of the Legion but to the meeting of Commanders at Marysville on March 31st!

SILVER SHIRTS.

The American Legion is an example of an organization which has TURNED Fascist with its program of nationalism and preparedness. The Silver Shirts are perhaps the best example of an organization CREATED as a Fascist body; using the ancient maneuver of anti-Semitism to distract the attention of the masses from their class enemies. The full flower of their position is stated in the February 3 issue of "Liberation", where, commenting on the milk strikes of Los Angeles, they claim:

"The low wages and the strike were caused by the same people—the identical people—the same Jews."

This one sentence is a perfect example of Fascist ideology; it attempts to blame some section of the working class for the plight of all the workers, and

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thus to divert the onslaught of the workers from the capitalist class to some race or group. It attempts to pit the rear guard of the working class against its vanguard, instead of its enemy.

SLANDERS AGAINST U. S. S. R.

The Silver Shirt program of slander towards the Soviet Union, their efforts to whip up intervention into the USSR, indicate whose interests they are serving, for in the Soviet Union alone the workers rule, in the Soviet Union alone there is no unemployment or insecurity, there alone are the workers' wages, insurance benefits, and cultural life on the up-grade, not on the down. But what do the Silver Shirts say?

"Russia is ruled by Jews, The non-Jews are slaves and serfs. As soon as any trouble starts, every Jew will be killed. The Jews have been murdering Christians in Russia by the millions since the revolution. Jewish Russia of today is a pest-house of bankruptcy and starvation."

In the "Liberation" of Feb. 10, 1934, they declare:

"... We shall aid with all means in our power the restoration of the legitimate Russian monarchy, the liberation of the pure-bred Russian people from the present autocracy of Jewish slaughterers."

While slandering the USSR and preparing to support the imperialists and White Guard interventionists who want to destroy and partition the Workers' Fatherland, the Silver Shirts also attempt to blame all the worst features of capitalism upon



underground Soviet control of the American imperialist government! The NRA, they declare,

was "engineered by Jews through Gentile satarps". The concentration of wealth in the hands of finance capitalists is "changing from Gentile into Jewish hands". Everything which oppresses the workers has been engineered by an "invisible government of Jews". Even plagues which affect the undernourished masses are blamed on the Jews who, the Silver Shirts declare, first inoculate themselves against these dread and mysterious diseases and then put poison into the food of the workers!

It is obvious that such an ideology cannot be defended upon any common sense, any materialist basis. So the Silver Shirts, the American Legion, and the other Fascist groups call in the aid of mystic and supernatural explanations. The Silver Shirts frankly declare that their program is handed down to them by God.

V.

WHAT ARE THESE "PROTOCOLS"?

The "authority" for most of the Silver Shirt propaganda comes from certain notorious forgeries known as the "Protocols", which are alleged to uncover a secret Jewish plot to dominate the governments of the entire world through an "invisible government"—a plot originally conceived of over 3000 years ago, and which, it is now charged, is being carried out through the agency of the USSR.

What are the facts about these protocols? Their alleged author is one Sergius Nilus, member of the Czarist secret police. Nobody has ever seen the original documents—Nilus claims that he obtained a "copy of the originals." In 1905, when they were first published, he declared that he obtained the copy from a deceased friend, un-named, who received them from a woman, also un-named, who stole them from an influential leader of Freemasonry. According to the next story, there was no woman intermediary, no despoiled Russian Freemason, but the whole business was done by the deceased friend himself, who rifled the safe of the Headquarters office of the Society of Zion in France. In the third and enlarged edition of his work, published in 1917, he declares that the documents came not from France but from Switzerland, that they were not Judeo-Masonic but Zionist, and that they were the secret protocols of the Zionist Congress, held in Basle in 1897. In this 1917 edition, he declared that the documents came into his possession, not in 1897 but in 1901.

STOLEN FROM NOVEL.

The only proof of their authenticity which Nilus required was his opinion that it was just the sort of a thing a Jew would be likely to do. In the preface of his 1917 edition, he says "But when I first became acquainted with the contents of the manuscript, I was convinced that its terrible cruel and straightforward truth is witness of its true origin from the Zionist Men of Wisdom, and, THAT NO OTHER EVIDENCE OF ITS ORIGIN IS NEEDED."

Where did these "protocols" originate? Between the years of 1866 and 1870, one Herman Goedsche, writing under the name of Sir John Retcliffe, published a series of anti-Semitic novels entitled "Biarritz-Rome". One of the chapters of this, containing A.J.L. the material of the Protocols, was published in Russia in 1872. Nilus stole these protocols, not from an international Jewish Conspiracy, but from a cheap Anti-Semitic fiction writer.

Let us look at the significant facts about these protocols.

They were first published in 1905, although Nilus claims to have possessed them since either 1897 or 1901, and in 1903 published as anti-Semitic book in which they were not included. Why were they brought out at that particular time? Obviously, because the Russian Revolution of 1905 was brewing, and the Czarist police were making every effort to substitute a pogrom for a revolution.

EVEN SPARGO CAN'T SWALLOW THEM.

Perhaps this is a co-incidence? Then let us look at this fact—the second time that these protocols were published was in January, 1917, again, just before the overthrow of the Czarist regime by the revolting workers. This should make it clear to any worker the purpose of these protocols — to divert the workers from their historical task of overthrowing the exploiters.

John Spargo, in his book "The Jew and American Ideals", published in 1921, has the following to say about the protocols:

"These protocols are either preposterous forgeries deliberately wrought for the purpose of fostering anti-semitism, or they are the pitiable ravings of a familiar type of monomaniac." Further along, he declares "It is surely not less than ridiculous to attempt to make Bolshevism appear as a phase of a worldwide Jewish conspiracy." Spargo's bitter hatred of Communism has led him to abandon the Social Fascist position which he occupied in 1921, along with Kerensky, Lieber, Dan, and Co., and he has gone openly over to the Silver Shirts as the most effective way of combatting the Communist Party and the workers' revolution. But his judgement of the document upon which the Silver Shirts are founded still stands!

FASCIST TERROR IN CALIFORNIA.

Fascism is developed not only through organizations like the American Legion, which take on its characteristics, and through outfits like the Silver Shirts, which were created for the specific purpose of aiding Fascism.

The capitalist government itself takes on more openly the character of Fascist terror as democratic and liberal pretenses no longer suffice to maintain the power and profits of the boss class.

The last year has seen an immense sweep of lynch terror throughout the South and West. At the same time, the close association between boss court law and these lynchings has been emphasized, not only by Rolph's notorious provocation to lynching, not only by the continued attempt to legally lynch the Scottsboro boys, but by such an open act as the law, recently passed in the upper house of the State of Mississippi, which would permit the father of a girl allegedly murdered by five Negroes to himself spring the trap which hung them!

This lynch terror is a maneuver primarily to crush and split the workers. But Fascism must go still further—it must try to crush their struggles. The strikes of the past year have been accompanied by an unprecedented use of police terror, particularly in the California agricultural fields. The judicial white-wash of the Pixley murderers, the brutal use of tear-gas bombs by "officers of the law" in driving the Imperial Valley pea-pickers from their strike camp, the open participation of state officials in Vigilante groups which frankly defy bourgeois law in their terrorizing of militant workers, the fact that Silver Shirts were officially deputized to help Red Hynes break the Los Angeles milk strike—all these point to an increasing turn towards Fascism in the GOVERNMENT of California.

PICKETING LAWS; A FASCIST STEP.

The latest and boldest step has been the new anti-picketing ordinances passed in all agricultural counties. These new laws are frankly designed to crush all strike struggles and protest demonstrations. The laws which formerly sufficed—vagrancy, in-

cluding to riot, and the notorious Criminal Syndicalism law—no longer will do because of the mass protest mobilized around the trials of these framed-up workers. A new law which could railroad ALL militant workers to jail was necessary to the bosses' interest.

These new attacks upon the workers' conditions and rights must be met with united struggle and protest. To retreat, step by step, against these attacks is to pave the way for outright Fascism, as the Social Democrats of Austria and Germany did, and as the Socialist party now does by refusing to fight these ordinances. But we must not retreat—we must advance. Instead of accepting a restriction of workers' rights, we must start a counter-offensive for MORE rights for workers. Instead of accepting a lowering of living standards, we must force an INCREASE.

Fascism must be fought by the broadest United Front of workers, intellectuals, professionals, and the de-classed middle class. In place of race prejudice and nationalism, we must substitute proletarian internationalism. We must combat the Fascist's false notion of the "organic state", with its "identity of interest of worker and boss", by raising the issues of the class struggle in a still sharper manner. We must combat the Fascization of the American Federation of Labor through Government control of it, by building up militant opposition groups within it to force the AF of L to struggle for the needs of the workers. We must build the Trade Union Unity League and its class struggle unions. We must root out remnants of race chauvinism from our own movement. We must popularize the tremendous accomplishments of the workers' dictatorship in the USSR, and show how only the program of the Communist Party has been able to win steadily better conditions for the workers. We must mobilize mass support for the American League Against War and Fascism, and lead that organization into taking a direct offensive against the campaign of terror and oppression which Fascism is attempting to direct against the workers. We must smash the lynch terror, the Vigilantes, the Silver Shirts, the American Legion, the Criminal Syndicalism law, and the Fascist anti-picketing ordinance!