

Defeatists Wisconsin

'Heil Gang' Mocks Our War Effort

10/18/44
By Milton Howard

(The Worker Staff Correspondent)

MILWAUKEE, Wisc.— Judged by his own statements, and by his deeds, the Republican governor of Wisconsin, Julius P. Heil, candidate for re-election, is giving tongue-in-cheek support to the country's war against Nazi Germany and its Axis.

Before the state convention of the Republicans here in March, Heil excited his fellow-disrupters with the sneering challenge to the war administration of President Roosevelt:

"Is this a dollar sign war or this a dollar sign war?"

This incautious remark revealed the true soul of the "Wisconsin Axis" inside the Heil-dominated Republican Party.

Heil, behind whose political career, stand some of the most reactionary pro-fascist industrialists in the state (he himself is a wealthy manufacturer), signalled his mockery of the war with the recent crack:

"If Roosevelt were not the Commander-in-Chief, I would knock hell out of him."

The friends of Hitler and of negotiated peace treason in Wisconsin don't need any dictionaries to tell

them what Heil is getting at in cracks like this.

NEVER GOT MAJORITY

Heil has never been able to get more than 40 per cent of the vote. Only disunity of his enemies has permitted him to win and disgrace the state.

Heil's Republican Party henchmen upon whom the patriotic people of the state are centering their fire include:

Rep. Lewis D. Thill, Republican candidate for re-election in the Milwaukee Fifth District. Thill is a Congressional specimen who pleaded for America not to halt the aggression of Nazi Germany in the following words:

"If Hitler wins the war, will it promote friendly relations for him to know that we aided his enemies and sought to ruin him and his country with our war equipment?"

DISGRACE TO STATE

Thill is getting the fight of his life at the hands of the pro-Roosevelt Democratic Party candidate, Howard J. McMurray, who squarely facing the issue of Thill's Quislingism, denounces his squirming opponent as "Nazi minded."

McMurray charges:

"Thill belongs to that group of Munich minded Americans like Wheeler, Nye and Brooks, and Congressman Ham Fish who did everything in their power to divide and confuse the people."

It is unfortunate that the other candidates opposing Thill on the Progressive and Socialist tickets, would not withdraw for the sake of unity to oust Thill once and for all.

In the Fourth Milwaukee District, the "Heil Gang" is represented by ex-Congressman John C. Shafer who is trying to defeat the incumbent pro-Roosevelt Democrat Rep. Thad Wasiliewski. Shafer is supported by the America Firsters and Coughlinites, all of whom admire the way Shafer copies the vocabulary of Berlin when he rants against the war leadership of President Roosevelt as "New Deal Marxism."

DISRUPTIVE STRATEGY

It is a serious weakness of the fight to oust the "Heil gang" that there is no unity among the enemies of the Republican Party appeasers.

The Progressive Party has a candidate for Governor Orland S. Loomis, who has pledged complete support to the President. The Democratic Party, which adopted a strong pro-war platform, has its own candidate, Dr. W. C. Sullivan.

The Communist Party, through its platform, and its candidate, Fred Basset Blair, has been urging that party lines be ignored for the sake of unity among the win-the-war forces and to insure the defeat of the defeatists both in the state government and in the Congressional fights.

OTHER DEFEATISTS

Other members of the "Heil gang," whose records and activities prove them to be dangerous men to send to Washington where they would find ways of blocking victory, include:

Rep. Frank Keefe (Republican) of the Oshkosh district, a northern Martin Dies speaker at America First rallies, opposed by pro-war Eugene Schallern, Mayor of Ripon.

Rep. Joshua L. Johns (Rep.) hater of the New Deal and violent isolationist who is opposed by the Democratic candidate, LaVern Dilweg.

Alvin Okonski, a fascist who supported Franco, Mannerheim; opposed in the north state Tenth District by the Progressive Party candidate, B. J. Gehrman, who has revised his previous isolationist position.

The key fights are against Governor Heil and against Thill and Shafer in Milwaukee.

The hesitations of Loomis to carry the fight to the enemy on the war issue has hampered his campaign, in the opinion of observers here.

Only McMurray, in the fight against Thill has thus far revealed the sole issue in the campaign—the outright defeatist character of his Republican Party opponent.

It is an unusual thing that the "Heil gang" has been able, thus far, to disguise its Munichite position. Heil has not been attacked as an appeaser who sponsors such pro-fascists as Thill.

Loomis, observers say, is making the error of hesitating to break completely with the influence of LaFolletteism inside the Progressive Party. As a result, he permits LaFollette influence to continue to divide the strength of the win-the-war vote.

The AFL unions have endorsed Wasiliewski and McMurray, but have not entered the Governorship fight.

The CIO unions have taken the most advanced and most constructive position. They have denounced Heil as a defeatist candidate and not merely as a spendthrift and incompetent as Loomis has thus far done, unfortunately. Effective unity is being established, however, by CIO, AFL, for the victory of McMurray and Wasiliewski, the outstanding enemies of the "Heil gang" and its Congressional Quisling candidates who disgrace the state of Wisconsin.