

A Statement on 2¹/₂ Internationalism

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In view of the present situation in the party, we find it necessary to make a statement regarding our struggle to eradicate the 2 1-2 international tendencies in our party.

In its recent decision on the Farmer-Labor party, the Comintern pointed out the existence in our party of remnants of the ideology of the 2 1-2 international, as exemplified by some of the writings of Comrade Lore. The C. I. called upon us to wage a sharp ideological struggle against these tendencies. This the C. E. C. has done and will continue to do until the entire party is completely won over to the point of view of Leninism and the C. I. These efforts of the C. E. C. to defeat ideologically the 2 1-2 international tendencies were hampered and weakened by the tactics of minority opposition.

Our tactics for combatting the remnants of the ideology of the 2 1-2 international in our party were the same as the tactics applied by the C. I. in other Communist parties, notably in the cases of Serratti in Italy and Smeral in Czecho-Slovakia. These tactics can be grouped under the following three heads: 1) to defeat ideologically and politically these tendencies, to prove them wrong in the eyes of our membership and followers. (2) to strengthen in our party the ideology and prestige of Leninism and of the C. I. (3) to compel under all circumstances full execution of every party member and every party unit of all decisions of the C. I. and

of the C. E. C., even by means of disciplinary measures. These principles have been successfully applied by the Comintern.

In pursuit of these aims the present C. E. C. took sharp issue with the remnants of the ideology of the Two-and-a-Half International when these manifested themselves in the activities of some of our comrades in the industrial field in the printers' union, in the needle trades, in the miners' union, and in several other labor organizations. In all instances the C. E. C. immediately sent its representatives to instruct and direct these comrades to the Leninist point of view. The C. E. C. took prompt action in every single instance when the Volkszeitung or any other party organ manifested deviations from the C. I. line of policy.

Thru its educational department the C. E. C. laid the basis for spreading Leninist ideology among our membership. Our party schools, study classes, and our press have been utilized in every possible way, thru articles by Comrades Zinoviev, Stalin, Kamenev, and others to strengthen the Bolshevik ideology of our party. By a recent decision of the C. E. C. the powerful speeches by Comrades Kamenev and Stalin against Trotskyism were ordered printed in pamphlet form.

It was also by a decision of the C. E. C. that Comrade Olgin wrote his series of three articles explaining the decision of the C. I. regarding the deviations of Comrade Lore. All these

efforts have contributed greatly towards the Bolshevization of our party.

In this ideological campaign we have been persistently hampered by the minority opposition. The tactics proposed by the minority always tended to crystallize the tendency of the Two-and-a-Half International and not to dissolve it or break it up. Every move of the minority strengthened the position of this tendency. The minority carried on a senseless campaign of petty personal persecution, going to the extent of furnishing misinformation to the C. E. C. on two important occasions, whose only effect was to create sympathy for and strengthen the prestige of those who have been charged by the C. I. as manifesting remnants of the ideology of the Two-and-a-Half International.

Not in a single instance did the leaders of the minority under their own names take issue publicly in the party press with any individual of this tendency inside or outside of our party. This was done, however, by members of the majority, as witness the above mentioned articles by Olgin, the debate of Foster against Nearing, Cannon's speech in the Workers' School in New York on the Bolshevization of our party which was ordered published in the Workers Monthly, and the articles by Bittelmann against Salutsky and Boudin.

The minority felt no responsibility for the welfare of the party. For this reason they were continually

trying to provoke the C. E. C. to such action as would create a crisis in the party, if not an actual split, and thereby strengthen the very tendencies which it is our duty to combat. All thru the year the minority by their foolish tactics have been building up the Two-and-a-Half International tendency. Now they are strengthening the right wing of the party generally by their advocacy of an opportunistic farmer-labor party policy.

The minority showed its utter disregard for the C. I. decisions by maintaining a permanent caucus thruout the country at the very time when the C. I. was fighting militantly against such manifestations of Trotskyism in the Russian and other parties.

The inevitable result of such a reckless policy as the minority proposes would be a disastrous split, which would cost the party large numbers of valuable proletarian elements, and which would strengthen the Two-and-a-Half International tendencies. On the other hand, the policy of the C. E. C., which is the policy of the Comintern, will Bolshevize these proletarian elements and stamp out anti-Leninistic deviations.

Ours is a young party, it has many unripe elements within it, and the task of Bolshevizing them is a difficult one. It can only be accomplished along the lines now being followed by the C. E. C., that is by a patient, persistent, intelligent, strategical, determined, relentless application of the principles of Leninism.