

Who Is Franklin D. Roosevelt?

(Continued from yesterday)

A Hypocritical Slogan

In the Democratic Party platform is this slogan: "equal rights for all—special privileges for none." Can you imagine a more hypocritical slogan than that? A party responsible for the jim-crow system in the south has the crust to come before the masses in this country with such a slogan! Never was such a slogan more completely repudiated in practice than this slogan—by the repression of the Negroes in the south. Again: one Party alone fights for the Negro masses and that is the Communist Party. Comrades, our Party puts in the very forefront of its program the defense of the rights of the Negro masses and in order to emphasize these demands we have nominated as one of our national candidates a Negro worker, James W. Ford, vice-president. (Applause).

The Communist Party demands for the Negro masses full economic, political and social equality. We demand for the Negroes the right of self-determination in the black belt. That is: where they constitute the majority they shall have the right to form such government as they please. The Communist Party especially lays stress upon the demand for the right of social equality for the Negro masses. Amongst the white workers of this country there has been cultivated a feeling than in some respect or other they are "superior" to the Negro masses. Where did this idea come from? From the white workers themselves? No. It is an idea planted in the brain of the white worker by the capitalists, who want to isolate the Negro masses and use the white workers as tools to help him isolate, exploit and persecute the Negro masses. The Communist Party fights this conception and we burn out of our ranks tendencies to look down upon the Negro masses; we fight for this principle of equality not only in the North, but down South amongst the lynchers. (Applause).

The Struggle Of The Vets

Another immediate question before the workers of the U. S. is the ex-servicemen and their demand for the bonus. Who are these men? They were drafted by American imperialism and sent to Europe to fight the battles of American imperialism. They were paid \$30 a month, most of which they did not get. And while they were fighting in the imperialist war the capitalists made billions, yes, tens of billions of dollars of profit; cash on the spot; but when the ex-servicemen come back and demand their bonus this capitalist government which has billions for the banks and railroads, tells them "we have nothing for you. If we paid your bonus it would bankrupt the government", and when the ex-servicemen insisted upon their demand, the government turns loose its police and soldiers upon the men who fought its battles in France, and we see three vets and their children murdered in cold blood. All this has exposed more than anything in recent years the capitalist character of the government. And what about Mr. Roosevelt during this period? He and his party in its platform speak vaguely of "justice" to the ex-servicemen. What does that mean in reality? Where does he stand on the bonus? He agrees with Mr. Hoover that the vets shall not get the bonus. Not only does he agree with Hoover but with Mr. Thomas of the Socialist Party.

What did he say about the outrageous shooting down of the veterans, just as of the unemployed and strikers who have been shot down? Well, Roosevelt never opened his damn trap about it. I listened to him today making the blah blah speech but he was careful not to mention the shooting of the ex-servicemen in Washington. Why didn't he protest against the outrage which has re-echoed throughout the world? Because in this, like every other question, he represents the interests of the capitalist class and finds himself in complete agreement with Mr. Hoover. Roosevelt in the White House would have done as much in shooting down the veterans as Hoover. The Communist Party, on the other hand, is the only political party in the U. S. which has come out squarely in the bonus. We supported the ex-servicemen in this demand. Who organized this fight in the first place? The call was issued by the Workers Ex-servicemen's

William Z. Foster, Communist Candidate for President, Unmasks Wall St. Nominee in Columbus, O., Speech

League, a revolutionary organization which receives the full support of the Communist Party. The capitalist terror is growing in this country. When the imperialists force the workers to accept starvation conditions it cannot be done alone by demagoguery: by creating illusions among the workers. Force is also necessary, and all through this crisis we are witnessing the use of the courts, police and troops against demonstrations of the unemployed, against strikers, veterans, etc. There is a fascist spirit developing amongst the ruling class in this country expressed by such movements as Father Cox's blue shirts, Waters' khaki shirts and the demand of Al Smith, the "great Democrat", for a dictator of the U. S.

And what does Mr. Roosevelt say and do about the growing terrorism and the use of force against the workers in this country? In his own state, in the state of New York, the conditions regarding terrorism are no different than the rest of the states in the country. I had the privilege of doing six months in jail in his state because, with thousands of others, we tried to exercise our so-called right of presenting demands to the mayor of New York. But how can we expect Mr. Roosevelt to have any other attitude except one of support towards terrorism? Isn't it a fact that his party finds its main support in the South, the classical land of terror in the U. S.? What is the attitude of this so-called liberal Roosevelt on the Mooney question? Did you hear of his speaking about that? You did not. Everybody in this country knows that Tom Mooney is not guilty but the big imperialists of this country want to keep him in jail, out of the ranks of the working class, to use him as a nexample of terrorism against the workers. And Mr. Roosevelt joins the conspiracy of the capitalists to keep Mooney in jail. Anybody who doesn't demand the release of Mooney is helping to keep him in jail.

I have shown Roosevelt's attitude on Scottsboro, on the veterans. One more illustration. I refer to the wholesale program of deportation now being carried out by the federal government against the foreign-born. Last year 20,000 workers deported to Europe, 50,000 to Mexico; this year probably two or three times as many. What an outrage! Search all over the capitalist world and you will not find a more outrageous attack upon the workers than this deportation campaign—and the purpose is to terrorize the foreign-born so they will not dare fight for relief or to strike, for fear the agents of the Department of Labor, led by Doak, will come in and seize them, deporting them to some fascist country of Europe. What a monstrous thing. Picture a foreign-born worker: like millions of others coming here; created wealth, worked in the industries, created billions of dollars. Now when industry is bankrupt they are sent back to these countries that they have lost contact with for years.

Roosevelt Backs Deportation Drive

A worker who has raised a family of American-born children is suddenly seized and sent to a country he has lost all contact with. Imagine the tragedy in his life, in the life of the family. And this is happening in thousands of cases in the U. S. It may be said conditions are no worse in Europe than here. But that is not the point. The workers, the Communist Party, demands for the working class the right to live in any country they want to. And what does Roosevelt say about this big campaign? Mr. Roosevelt has said nothing; he never breathed a word of it today in his big speech. Nor does the platform of the Democratic Party. Why? Because he is in favor of this policy of Mr. Hoover. It is a tactic of the imperialist class to weaken the fighting ability of the workers at the present time and anything along this line of course gets the support of Mr. Roosevelt, this conspicuous spokesman of the capitalist class of the U. S.

Another point—the most important of all—the question of war. How does Roosevelt stand on this question? We know the war situation is

becoming more intense throughout the world. Between the capitalist countries the antagonisms multiply and sharpen in every direction—one example, the U. S. and Japan. In the past few weeks we have seen where this reached almost the breaking point—and this is symptomatic of what is taking place in many capitalist countries all over the world. And, of course, the biggest antagonism, the growing attack of the imperialist countries upon the Soviet Union.

Roosevelt—Imperialist

What is the attitude of Mr. Roosevelt—the so-called "liberal", who is coming to solve the problems of the world, who besprinkles his speech with "Ts" like Mussolini, does?—his proudest boast is that he was the Assistant Secretary of the Navy during the last war and from that time to this his whole policy has been the support of a maximum navy and army and a militant imperialist policy on every front. The election of Mr. Roosevelt would mean the continuation if not the intensification of the militant imperialism of the U. S. in China, Latin America, Europe—all over the world. His election would mean an intensification of the war danger—the greatest of all problems menacing the workers of the world. (Applause).

And what, specifically, is his attitude towards the Soviet Union? I have indicated the growing attack of the imperialists upon the Soviet Union and one of the leaders in this is the American government. Hoover refuses to recognize the Soviet Union; he has let no opportunity slip to take hostile steps against it. He is ready in any opportunity to join a war coalition against the Soviet Union. And Mr. Roosevelt's attitude towards this new government of socialism, which is the hope of the world. He doesn't speak about that. He and his party say nothing about it in their platform. And we can only conclude that in this basic question, like all the rest I have touched upon tonight, Mr. Roosevelt is opposed to the Soviet Union like Mr. Hoover, and is in agreement with the big capitalists of the country who hate the Soviet Union, who are only awaiting a favorable opportunity to try to destroy it. When we look for a party fighting imperialist war, we must look to the Communist Party. Our brother party in Japan is fighting against imperialist war, and defending the Chinese people and the Soviet Union. The defense of the U.S.S.R. is not the task of the Russian workers and peasants alone; it is a task for the workers of the entire world. Bound up with the success of the Soviet government is the interests of the oppressed masses of the world. The job of defending it is the task of the workers of the world. When the capitalists venture to deliver their attack against the Soviet Union you may be sure that the workers are going to defend the Soviet government. (Loud applause).

No Crisis In Socialist U. S. S. R.

Capitalism is in decay and all of the Roosevelts and Hoovers and their office-boy Thomases will not save the decaying capitalist system. Only a Workers' and Farmers' Government can solve the great problems confronting the tolling masses of the world, can solve the economic crisis. For proof look at the Soviet Union, the only country in the world where there is no economic crisis. Socialism alone solves the problem of unemployment. There is nobody without work in the Soviet Union; everyone has a job and the industries are clamoring for more workers to complete the industrialization program. Under socialism only can the workers achieve a rising standard of living. All over the world conditions of life are being worsened and wages cut, but only in the Soviet Union are wages on the increase and the living standards being improved. We must learn this lesson. The goal of the Communist Party is to do in the U. S. what the Russian workers and peasants have done: to abolish this decaying system which means starvation, unemployment crises, fascism and war and to establish in this country a Soviet government. (Applause).

This is the Communist program that I have briefly touched upon. If you believe in this program support our election ticket. We must gather more signatures in order to get placed on the ballot in various states. You must help in this

old man nicknamed him "Danilo." Danilo was a Ukrainian, and a good-humored chap; he had finished his term of service in the army and immediately taken up work as a stoker on the dredger. Cheerful, straight out-and-out, he was extremely quick and imaginative and lapped up all the dramatic elements of revolution. Having returned from the Japanese War, he himself had been seized up in the great revolutionary wave and thrown on to the shores of the Black Sea. He was always pleased with our talks and introduced an element of liveliness into them, and the old man consequently disliked him; a "loud-speaker," he snarlingly called him.

FORMING A GROUP

Gradually the youth gathered round us. We read the papers during lunch, we commented on events, the echo of which had not yet died down. Then we began to argue after work on the shore, and the youth gradually became interested in politics. From general questions I worked round to questions of life on the fleet.

We worked eleven and a half hours a day on the dredgers, and I chose this point for discussion with the young workers, linking it up with the main struggle of the working-class, with the necessity for becoming politically educated. I told them how the capitalists with the help of the gendarmerie and the police were waging a bitter fight against the workers and persecuting them for the least sign of open dissatisfaction.

These talks in particular called forth many questions and heightened the interest of the young men in the revolution; a certain ele-

cooled Danilo down a bit. "Look at my old man. . . ."

"Why the old man? It's not the old chaps. . . . we must get a move on."

The thought of getting a "move on" themselves caught the interest of the young fellows, and they stuck to this idea.

My first experience of my work among the youth showed that this form of political work was right and that I could boldly rely on the young men and work through them.

I decided to develop my activities in such a way as to keep as much as possible in the shade myself and not to attract too soon the attention of the political gendarmerie and police of my person.

SOME NAIVE IDEAS

With the permission of the Party Committee, I brought some of the young workers into a party circle. Their entry into this circle gave wings to their ambition; they looked upon their participation in the circle with an exaggerated idea of its conspirative nature that was quite naive; they proudly considered themselves members of a secret revolutionary party, waging war on the Tsar, his government and all its supporters. Their heads were in a whirl.

We were now faced with the question as to how to bring in the young workers from other ships.

"We must get them together on shore after work and talk it over with them," suggested Danilo.

"What a fool!" Andrew retorted. "You think everybody's a fool, clever boy!" snapped Danilo, offended.

"Not everybody, only you; you'd be a fool; collect everybody together and they'll shout it all over the town the same day."

(To Be Continued)

Letters from Our Readers

Suggests Articles On "Podolsk" Be Printed In Form of Pamphlet

Bridgeport, Conn.

Editor, Daily Worker:

There is a Singer plant in this town and your article about the Singer plan in Soviet Russia went over big here. If you could reproduce those articles in leaflet form and spread a few thousand around here everyone, into whose hands they would fall, no matter their station in life, would read them. It would be fine propaganda and I think you get enough subscriptions out of it to more than pay for the investment. When people see a thing they like they will want it and when they want it they will get it. The progress being made by the Soviets is the biggest news item in the world.

T. F. McL.

New York City.

Dear Editor:

The beer question is being discussed everywhere. It looks as though

most of the workers are still under the illusion that if beer comes back again the wheels will start turning again, and everything will be hotsy tots.

Therefore, I think that it is very important to expose this fake issue.

— Worker.

Ed. Note:—A new pamphlet, prepared by the National Election Campaign Committee, to be sold for one cent, entitled, "Will Beer Bring Back Prosperity?" will be off the press in a few days. The Daily Worker will announce its appearance when it is available.

LETTERS MUST BE SIGNED

We will not publish unsigned letters, neither can they be answered individually. We urgently request all workers writing to the Daily Worker to sign their names and addresses. We will not publish the name unless they specifically suggest it.

work. You must go into the election not only to cast your votes for us as a matter of principle, but to rally the workers to bring a powerful vote to elect our candidates to the state legislature. A couple of Communists in the state legislature here will give the bosses more fight than they have had for a long time. I ask you do more than vote our ticket. You must build our Party, the unions of the T.U.U.L., minorities in the A. F. of L., to fight against the reactionary leaders for the control of the organizations. Building up Unemployed Councils. Build the Communist Party. Our Party is growing by leaps and bounds. In this election campaign we will take in at least 25,000 new members.

READ THE DAILY WORKER! VOTE COMMUNIST NOV. 8TH!

Read the Daily Worker, maintained by the heroic sacrifice of the workers, in order to know what is going on, to become a real fighter for the defense of your interests. The young workers must join the Young Communist League.

What has the young worker got to look forward to under capitalism? Out of school and on to the bread line. In fact he is lucky to get on the bread line. In most communities they get no relief. He is the male mosquito who is supposed to live without eating at all. And they have for the youths more terrible tasks—the youth will be sent to the battlefields to die by millions to further the interests of the imperialist masters of this and other capitalist countries. The place of the youth is in the Y.C.L. Join shoulder to shoulder with the Communist Party. Be a fighter in the Revolutionary Movement. If you understand that under capitalism you must conduct militant struggle, if you are a class conscious worker who understands that capitalism is decaying, that the workers have the task of abolishing capitalism and building socialism, your place is in the Communist Party, which fights for and is building socialism, which is building socialism in the Soviet Union and will build it in the U. S. (Loud Applause).

THE END.