

The McCarthy Censure

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

ON THE BASIS that "half a loaf is better than no bread," the American people can be glad that the Senate, by its formal condemnation of Senator McCarthy, has rebuked the political thuggery which this gentleman carries on as his regular line of activity. It is no



small political matter that the Senate could be moved to condemn him.

But while celebrating this victory it cannot be ignored that the Wisconsin Senator nevertheless got off lightly. The Senate dropped the Zwicker insult altogether, and likewise the charge that McCarthy misused secret documents of the FBI. The meaning of the latter action is that henceforth McCarthy, with the help of his stooges scattered throughout the government, will feel free to help himself to such classified material as he sees fit.

The most dangerous weakness on the part of the Senate, however, is its tempered rebuke of McCarthy, was its failure to characterize his activities for what they really are, a systematic attempt to bulldoze the American people and to organize a pro-war, anti-labor, anti-Negro, fascist movement in this country. It was simply absurd to confine the charges, as the Senate did, to merely a violation of Senatorial ethics. The effect of this was to obscure the fascist danger of McCarthyism.

It is deplorable that there was not a single Senator with democratic guts and principles enough to expose and denounce McCar-

thy and his following in terms of reality, as a deadly menace to the peace and democracy not only of this country but the world. This is because, with few exceptions, the Senate is made up of reactionaries. Only Senators Fulbright and Lehman even approached a real attack on McCarthyism. Had the Senate handled the McCarthy issue as it was needed, McCarthy would have been expelled forthwith from the Senate for his outrageous activities.

THE FAILURE of the Senate to deal with McCarthyism as it should have done is bad enough, but far worse was the inactivity shown by the leaders of organized labor. It's an undeniable fact that the bulk of the American people are definitely opposed to McCarthy—that's why the Eisenhower government had to censure him—that, and the wide hatred of McCarthyism among the masses of this country's "allies" abroad. Nevertheless, the bureaucratic top leadership of both of AFL and the CIO sat mum, like bumps on a log, and said nothing all through the critical fight.

Had these labor leaders been truly the representatives of the workers, instead of, in fact, pals of the employers, they would have taken a most active part in this fight against fascism. They even disregarded their own conventions, which have condemned McCarthyism. If they had undertaken to arouse and mobilize the working class and its allies, undoubtedly the Senate could have been compelled to take decisive disciplinary action against McCarthy, instead of the half-hearted measure that it did. The passivity of the big brass of the labor movement in this key strug-

gle against fascist McCarthyism was a flagrant betrayal of basic working class interests.

NEVER IN THE HISTORY of the modern labor movement have the top leaders of organized labor shown such inactivity in the face of the danger of war and fascism as is now being seen in the U. S. They demonstrated their reactionary passivity not only in the case of the McCarthy censure, but also in many other issues. Example: the present demand of McCarthy's side-kick, Senator Knowland, for a war blockade against People's China. This could lead to a real disaster for the American people; but again the top leaders of organized labor are standing silent, as though the question of a possible world war were of no concern of the working class.

Such attitudes, repeated again and again, express the deep leadership crisis now afflicting the trade union movement of the United States.

The workers and their allies should make the most of the Senate censure resolution weak as it is and use it to combat McCarthyism. In doing this, however, they must realize that the fascist danger in this country is not even scotched, much less killed, by the Senate's action. The danger of McCarthyism, should be obvious when one sees half of the Republican delegation, 25 percent of the whole Senate, voting to spare McCarthy from even this partial rebuke. The job of killing McCarthyism rests with the great mass of the American people, especially the workers, the Negro people, the working farmers, and other democratic elements, and the growing fascist danger demands their urgent and immediate attention.