

850 Hear Views Exchanged At Los Angeles Symposium

By Louise Manning

LOS ANGELES, March 29 — About 850 people attended a symposium on the subject, "Is There a Future for American Socialism," held tonight at the Embassy Auditorium. This is the largest audience in Los Angeles so far to take part in the discussion of conflicting tendencies in the radical movement and the first time that the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Party appeared on the same platform in this area.

Participating in the discussion were the following: Bert Cochran, editor of American Socialist; Vincent Hallinan, 1952 Progressive Party candidate for President; Dorothy Healey, L. A. County Chairman of the Communist Party; Carl Marzani,

writer and lecturer; and William F. Warde, L. A. Chairman of the Socialist Workers Party. The moderator was Reuben Borough.

All the speakers affirmed their confidence in the future of American Socialism. Carl Marzani, the first speaker, however, stated that he was not going to deal with the American road to socialism, but with the need for and inevitability of socialism on a world scale, asserting that "America as one state cannot stand aloof from the rest of the world where the idea for socialism has become triumphant."

ALTERNATIVES FOR U.S.

Hallinan, who followed gave an economic analysis of some of the results of Big Business control of the country. In the field of banking, for instance, he showed that the capitalist propaganda would have us believe that the Federal Reserve system, which can print and distribute money, is a government agency, but that in reality it is an organization of the private banks which manipulate the monetary policies in the interests of their own profits. Later, in reply to a question from the audience, he stated that there were just two roads America could travel — to socialism or to fascism.

In his presentation, Warde stressed the need of a class-struggle program — including a break with the Democratic and Republican parties — and of a revolutionary-socialist party for the realization of socialism. (See complete text of Warde's speech on this page.) Borough, the moderator, remarked after the speech that he had predicted the meeting would produce sharp political differences, and was glad that Warde had presented issues of a controversial nature.

CP STAND

As spokesman for the Communist Party, Dorothy Healey criticized the "dogmatism of sectarian groups, and the spouting of ultra revolutionary slogans which dealt with abstract rather than concrete life in all its manifestations." Claiming that the reality of American life indicated that the two-party system was dominant, she labeled the call for a break with capitalist parties as sectarian and unrealistic. Instead she called upon the radical workers to cooperate

with the liberals to try to reform the Democratic Party. Maintaining that the central objective is the curbing of monopoly, she urged the formation of an anti-monopoly coalition as a transition towards a united front of labor. She concluded with an attack on the Congressional "investigation" of unions. This was greeted with applause from the entire audience.

Cochran, the last speaker characterized the entire "left" as dominated by "pettifogging, dogmatism and soul-destroying factionalism." He said that what was needed was a genuine American radical movement that understood this country. "The day of the organization of a radical movement in this country as a branch of the Russian course is over, gone and dead, and thank God for it," he stated. He included the course of Lenin and Trotsky as well as of Stalin and Khrushchev in his ban. The task for radicals today, he asserted was limited to the continuation of local forums and discussion.

RECORD OF DEMOCRATS

A debate between Warde and Dorothy Healey over the issue of the CP's support to the Democratic Party dominated the discussion period. Emphasizing that we cannot change the Democratic Party into an anti-monopoly party, Warde showed that this has been tried over a whole period, but that the party is now more reactionary than ever. He pointed to the three world wars conducted when the Democratic Party was in power with liberals Wilson, Roosevelt, and Truman in the leadership. The fight against monopolies, he stated, must be conducted under working-class leadership.

At the conclusion, the moderator commended the good work of the joint committee which organized the meeting and said that he hoped there would be many more to come.

As representative of the Liberty Book Club, Marzani, offered as a special inducement to those who signed up, a one-year free subscription to either the *The People's World*, the *American Socialist*, or the *Militant*.



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