

Dobbs on TV Explains Need for Labor Party

Flays GOP and Democrats for Atom War Plans

(Text of acceptance speech by Farrell Dobbs, SWP candidate for U.S. President, given over CBS-TV on Sept. 8. It will be repeated over CBS-Radio, Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 10:45-11 P.M. EDT.)

The key issue in national politics today is the need for the unions to launch an independent labor party in opposition to both the Democratic and Republican parties. This political step is urgently needed to prevent the capitalists from plunging the country into an atomic war.

In accepting nomination as the Presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, I will undertake to explain why the class realities of American society require the workers to take the road of independent political action.

There are two basic social classes, the capitalists and the workers. The nation's industries and banking system have been made the private property of the capitalist class. Through their stranglehold on the national economy the capitalists run the government, regulate public information, control public education and dominate cultural life.

Politically they impose their basic policies on both the Republican and Democratic parties, permitting them to disagree only on side issues where vital capitalist interests are not at stake. These minor issues are used by the two capitalist parties to run a political sideshow to delude people into thinking they have some actual voice in shaping the government.

The Road of Liberals

The capitalists are now using their monopoly control over the major parties to prepare a war of world conquest. They are conducting a witch hunt against all who oppose the imperialist foreign policy. They are preparing to make the working people finance the war through ultimate cuts in real wages and social benefits.

In contrast to the capitalists, the workers are virtually propertyless as a class, owning at most a home, an automobile or other necessities. Their class ties arise from mutual dependence on wage labor to earn a livelihood. Potentially the workers are more powerful than the capitalists. They are stronger numerically and are capable of dynamic action because of their concentration into compact bodies within industry. Once they break with capitalist ideas in politics the workers will emerge as the greatest social force in the nation.

The class struggle in industry has taught the workers to look upon the capitalists as an enemy class at the union level. But they have yet to realize that the capitalist politicians they confront in government are all class agents of the very capitalists against whom they must struggle on the job. Above all they are deceived by the liberal politicians who cleverly pose as friends of labor.

Liberalism is a capitalist reform tendency arising out of the middle class. Included in this class formation are managers, professional people, small businessmen and similar elements. They seek political reforms to curb the power of the big monopolies but basically they support the capitalist system. As a class they are incapable of opposing Big Business rule without political leadership from the workers.

Such are the class origins of the liberal politicians who attract labor support by proposing capitalist reforms. Their chief characteristic, however, is their fundamental support of capitalism on all vital issues. Let us examine their record.

Henry Wallace is a liberal, a former New Dealer who headed the Progressive Party ticket in the 1948 elections. Although Wallace is no longer prominent in politics, his record is instructive. In 1948 he campaigned for office on a promise to oppose war. When Truman launched the



FARRELL DOBBS
SWP Candidate for President

THE MILITANT

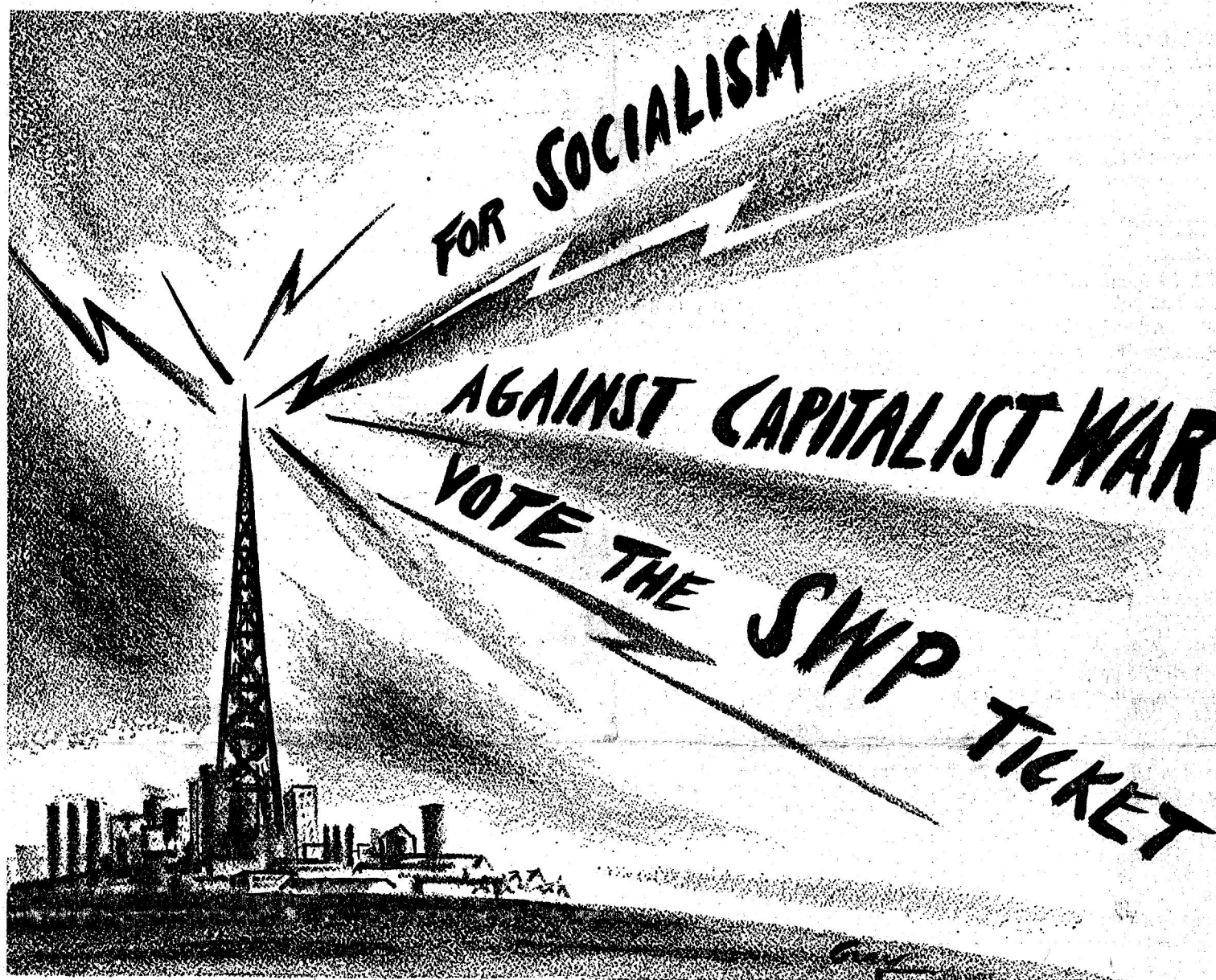
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Democrats Blamed by SWP Slate for Racist Atrocities



invasion of Korea, Wallace showed his fundamental loyalty to capitalism by supporting what proved to be the most unpopular war our country has seen.

Senator Hubert Humphrey is a liberal Democrat. In 1954 he joined with Senator Butler, a right-wing Republican, to push through a measure against the Communist Party which outlawed a political party for the first time in American history. The same Humphrey-Butler law set the stage for a witch hunt against the unions. Two unions have already been attacked as "subversive," the United Electrical Workers and the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

The liberal politicians voted as a body in support of the Humphrey-Butler law.

They backed Truman in the Korean war and all of them support the present foreign policy of the capitalist government. As defenders of private property rights in industry and finance, the liberals wind up on the side of monopoly capitalism on all vital issues.

The union officials go along with the liberals in supporting the imperialist foreign policy. They hope to get in return a few capitalist concessions to appease the union membership. Their policy, which fails completely to meet the needs of the workers, flows from their social position as privileged bureaucrats.

What Road for Labor Faction?

As every worker knows, the union officials enjoy living standards superior to those of the union rank and file. They draw salaries well above the workers take-home pay. They lead a soft life compared to the strain and exhaustion of labor on the production lines.

These special privileges have given the union heads a middle class mentality. Not living under conditions like those the workers face, they fail to think like workers. Instead they think more like liberal capitalists. To help them see things straight, the union bureaucrats need to be put back on the production lines for a refresher course in the facts of working class life.

The workers find themselves in a contradictory political position. The capitalist assault on labor has been deepening ever since the beginning of the cold war. It becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish any difference between Republican and Democratic policies on important issues. Yet the labor leaders continue to stimulate hope that the unions can act through the Democratic Party to reverse the anti-labor trend.

This contradiction is giving rise to a new political development among the workers. They show a tendency to vote as a class in choosing between capitalist politicians and to intervene in capitalist politics as a labor faction. This signifies they are beginning to understand their own social power if they act politically as a class. It also marks

a growing realization of the need to use their class power politically if they are to secure favorable action at the government level.

These things the workers are learning for themselves despite the false policies of the union officials. If they were given class-struggle leadership, as their fundamental interests require, the way could soon be prepared for a political advance to an independent labor party.

Yet it is precisely at this moment that the Communist Party leaders have gone all-out to help the union officials keep the workers tied to capitalist politics. In the name of "co-existence" they aim to push for a deal between the Kremlin bureaucrats and the capitalist government in Washington. Their chief bargaining point is to demonstrate that the Communist Party will sabotage anti-capitalist political trends. Their method is to promote illusions that war can be prevented through the Democratic Party if mass pressure is exerted to influence its policy.

The recent Democratic convention put the line of the union officials and Communist Party leaders to the acid test of political reality. Some 200 union bureaucrats went to the convention as delegates. They operated in a bloc with Negro delegates and liberal politicians in an attempt to shape the election platform.

Since this bloc joined with the right wing in support of the imperialist foreign policy, it is not surprising that the Democratic platform called for stepping up the war preparations. On other key issues the labor-Negro-liberal bloc was run over by the right-wing steamroller. They got little more than a meaningless renewal of the long-standing pledge to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act, a promise the Democrats promptly forget after each election.

The Stevenson forces laughed at Walter Reuther's threat that they couldn't have both labor and Senator Eastland, the Dixiecrat leader. They lined up with the Dixiecrats in opposition to any promise to enforce the Supreme Court decision against segregation. Reuther responded by helping to maneuver the Presidential nomination for Stevenson.

People who work for a living can't solve their problems in a capitalist swamp like the Democratic Party. The Negro people can't win their civil rights; nor can the capitalist drive toward war be stopped through the Democrats or Republicans.

If war is to be prevented, living standards protected, democracy safeguarded and civil rights won by the Negro people, a labor party must be formed—a party based on the unions and embracing the Negro people and working farmers. Its aim must be to replace the capitalist government with a workers and farmers government.

In the coming elections you will have a chance to serve notice on the union officials to get out of capitalist politics and organize a labor party. You can serve such notice by voting for the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party,

Stevenson Scored For His Silence While in the South

The following statement was issued jointly on Labor Day by Farrell Dobbs and Myra Tanner Weiss, the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party for President and Vice-President:

Stevenson and Kefauver drove through Clinton, Tennessee, in a motorcade on the third day of the racist rioting aimed at driving the Negro school children out of the newly-integrated high school. The failure of the Democratic candidates for President and Vice-President to make any gesture or utter any word in Clinton or anywhere else during their trip below the Mason-Dixon line in condemnation of the white supremacists or in support of the Negro students shows, not only their own lack of devotion to the principle of human equality, but the iron grip of the Dixiecrats on the Democratic Party.

The reactionary leaders of the Southern Democratic Party who, led by the Governor of Mississippi, had gathered in Tennessee to honor Stevenson and Kefauver and promise them "a solid South" on election day are no less guilty than the racist hoodlums in Clinton, Tenn. and Mansfield, Texas.

NO THREAT TO THEM

What sort of work did the Southern Democratic leaders temporarily leave when they went to Knoxville to greet Stevenson and his running mate? In Alabama they have just pushed through amendments to the state constitution to evade desegregation in schools or public parks. Similar legislation is being prepared in Virginia and North Carolina.

The Southern Democratic leaders know that Stevenson and Kefauver are no threat to their white-supremacy rule either as leaders of the Democratic Party or as President and Vice-President of the U.S. That is why they are solidly behind the Democratic ticket.

The pitifully small amount of school desegregation being undertaken on this third school opening since the Supreme Court decision, as well as the increasing boldness and self-confidence

of the white-supremacist mobs, shows that much of the original legal and moral advantage of the Supreme Court decision has already been lost by advocates of desegregation.

The fault lies not with the Negro people, whose heroic young students in Clinton, Tenn., symbolize, no less than do the adults of Montgomery, their courage in this fight. The fault lies with the leaders of the Negro and labor organizations. Their policy of subservience to Big Business rule in America has led them to let things drift, hoping the school decision would enforce itself through the courts. They refused to mobilize the

(See Editorial on Eisenhower's role, page 3, and story on page 4.)

power inherent in the organized labor movement and the Negro masses for a bold strategy and militant tactics equal to the task of desegregation.

Most treacherous of all, the labor bureaucracy has bound the labor movement in a political coalition with the Democratic Party liberals, who in turn — as Stevenson and Kefauver's behavior so amply demonstrates — are bound in coalition with the Dixiecrats.

The first point in a program that can organize and desegregate the South is for labor and the Negro people to break out of the Democratic Party prison house into which their leaders have led them and where they are under the political control of the Southern white-supremacists and labor-haters.

We are campaigning in this election for such a program of working class independence from the Big Business parties as the only means of realizing the complete economic and political equality of all peoples. In November, Vote SWP!

SWP Candidates On Radio and TV

Farrell Dobbs and Myra Tanner Weiss, SWP Candidates for President and Vice-President, will give their acceptance speeches over the following radio and TV national networks:

Farrell Dobbs Schedule

CBS-TV: Saturday, September 8 — 6:45 to 7 P.M.
CBS-Radio: Tuesday, September 11 — 10:45 to 11 P.M.
(Except in New York State where the broadcast will be heard, September 15, 10:45 to 11 P.M.)
NBC-TV: Saturday, September 15 — 5 to 5:15 P.M.
NBC-Radio: Tuesday, September 11 — 10:15 to 10:30 P.M.

Myra Tanner Weiss Schedule

CBS-TV: Saturday, September 15 — 6:30 to 6:45 P.M.
CBS-Radio: Saturday, September 15 — 10:45 to 11 P.M.

Farrell Dobbs and Myra T. Weiss Schedule

ABC-Radio: Thursday, September 13 — 9 to 9:25 P.M.
ABC-TV: Thursday, September 20 — 10 to 10:30 P.M.

— All times given are Eastern Daylight Time —

Check Station and time in your locality
Watch for announcements of other broadcasts

