World Socialism

'AND WE SHALL ALL ADORE HIM ...'

By HERBERT ZAM

In every well-balanced circus, the clowning comes first. It puts the audience in a receptive mood. It prepares them for the juggling, the feats of strength and dexterity, the rapid shifting from position to position that comes in the more serious performance.

The organizers of the Seventh Congress of the Communist International adhered strictly to this rule and did a good job of circus organization. The serious work of the Congress was devoted to juggling with the question of national defense, lifting the enormous weights of coalitionism and rapid swinging from extreme left to extreme right on the questions of the united front, bourgeois democracy, etc. But this serious work was preceded by the clowning acts in which almost the entire Congress participated, and which was a fitting opening to this political circus.

Let us follow the reports on the Congress as mirrored in the Russian press (Quotations are from the TASS reports in the Moscow "Emes" of July 26, 1935).

"Fifteen minutes before the opening of the Congress, there appeared in the hall Comrade Stalin and the Comrades Andreyer, Zhdanor and Ezhov. The entire audience springs to its feet and the beloved leader of the world proletariat, Comrade Stalin, is greeted by a stormy ovation. For a long time the cries of greeting in all languages continue. Continually beginning anew, the ovation lasts for almost fifteen minutes."

Then Pieck opens the Congress and calls for the election of a presidium. The first demonstration of love was not enough, for "when Comrade Kopleny mentions the name of Comrade Stalin, the applause again grows into a stormy and long-lasting ovation, which demonstrates the warm love of the many millions of the working masses of the entire world for the leader of the working class."

These formalities accomplished, the Congress proceeds peacefully for a while. The further business requires no mention of Stalin's name. Then the greetings begin. The first to greet the Congress is a Chinese representative, Chow Cho Sin. He concludes with the following peroration:

"For the victories of Socialism in the Soviet Union we are indebted to the Bolshevik cohorts who are led by a man whose name is written on the pages of history, by the immortal Comrade Stalin." ("Ovation. The entire audience stands up.")

But Chow Cho Sin hasn't reached his apex yet.

"Let the entire work of the Seventh Congress be permeated with Stalinist practicality, with Stalinist wisdom, with Stalinist belief in the justice of our own course and with Stalinist will to win. Long live the Comintern. Long live the world revolution. Long live our leader and teacher Comrade Stalin."

Of course, "The last words of Comrade Chow Cho Sin are echoed and re-echoed by a stormy ovation in the entire hall."

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After this immortal effort of the Chinese Comrade all subsequent ones are bound to appear pale. But they tried manfully. There appears a representative of the Moscow proletariat, a factory worker Sokolov.

"The embittered enemies of the working class, the Trotskyists, the Zinovievists, the opportunists of all colors, made special efforts to pull the Party and the working class backwards," he orated.

"Thanks to the fact," thunders Comrade Sokolov, "that in the leadership of the Party there stood the greatest leader of the toilers, Comrade Stalin, who armed the Party to shatter the Trotskyists, Zinovievists and all enemies of the working class, we achieved colossal success in our land.

"Long live our great, powerful and beloved Comrade Stalin. Hoorah!" ("Stormy applause throughout the hall and cries of Hoorah!")

Finally someone did rival the Chinese oratory—a delegation of parachute jumpers! Their spokesman, Pankin, makes a flaming speech and ends:

"We will win, because we have been brought up in the traditions of struggle of the Bolshevik Party, because we are convinced of the justice of our cause, because we are children of our party, children of our fearless leader and unconquerable hero Stalin!"

This brought down the house!

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The Congress itself was taking no chances of being accused of disloyalty to "the leader." It adopted a special resolution addressed

"To the leader, teacher and friend of the proletarians and oppressed of the entire world

"To Comrade Stalin."

Here are some of the gems of servility of this resolution.

"Under your leadership, Socialism was victorious in the Soviet Union . . ."

"The nations of the world do not want war, they do not want fascism. With continually more hope and love they look to the Soviet Union, to you Comrade Stalin as the leader of the toilers of all countries."

"Our heroic soldiers in Germany, China, Japan, Spain, Poland, Italy and in other lands are leading the masses to struggle, with your name deep in their hearts, a name which gives them faith in the victory of our cause."

"In the struggle against the counter-revolutionary Trotskyists-Zinovievists, in the struggle against the right and 'left' opportunists, you, Comrade Stalin, have defended the Marxist-Leninist teaching and developed it in the new epoch of the world revolution, *which will remain for the generations to come as the Stalin epoch.*"

"The Seventh World Congress of the Communist International assures you, Comrade Stalin, in the name of the Communist Parties of 65 countries, that the Communists will always and everywhere be faithful to the end to the great unconquerable flag of Marx and Engels, Lenin and Stalin."

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Thus the Congress which will go down in labor history as a great tragedy rivalling only that of August, 1914, started out as an enormous revivalist gathering, a gathering whose purpose was to enthrone a new god. The well-organized and well-timed outbursts of enthusiasm, far from arousing admiration, can arouse but contempt for a "revolutionary" organization which engages in such disgusting sycophancy, such aping of the Nazis. Any movement which resorts to such methods to arouse enthusiasm, confidence and faith in "The Leader" is rotten to the core, is suffering from an incurable disease.