

# The Socialist Party and the Second and 2½ Internationals

By ISRAEL AMTER

One year ago, the Socialist Party declared it to be its supreme task to build up an organization, which could be considered as most of international affiliation.

It is true that to have affiliated would have meant merely to add the organization to a list of membership. It was surely the task of the "S. P." to build up its organization; but how could any working class organization really reconstruct its forces when it abjured international relations, which alone will enable a labor organization to exist and fight! Similarly to the Federation of Labor, the "S. P." decided to remain aloof from "international complications," and build up the revolution alone.

The last convention of the "S. P." however, recognized the untenability of such an attitude. The matter of relations was reconsidered and a desire to affiliate with the 2½ International, expressed. Good friends Hillquit, Lee and Fankin were despatched to the conference of the 2½ International in Vienna to join up the party with that body. And thus the "S. P." of America became an integral part of the 2½ International, with good friends Hillquit and Lee on the Executive Committee of that august body.

"But alas and alack! The "S. P." wanted to be a real revolutionary party. It did not want to have anything to do with the reactionaries, with the yellows who betrayed the masses. No! The "S. P." had held up the banner of opposition to the war, and, altho Berger had bought Liberty Bonds, London had continually failed to vote against the War Budget. Lee had voted for a memorial arch in American soldiers who shot down Russian workers who defended their Soviet Republic, altho the Party had done nothing to resist the war, except to expel those who demanded that the act and not talk so much—still the Party was a "revolutionary" party.

When Kerensky took office, the "S. P." was jubilant. When Kerensky went out and the workers under the Bolsheviks took power, the "S. P." hoisted, became critical—At had not been done in the orthodox socialist fashion—a la "S. P. of America.

with any international organization ciphers of a practically non-existent

When the war broke out the "S. P." first criticized then excused the Social Democrats of Germany for their betrayal of the working masses. The "S. P." excused the socialists of every country for becoming nationalists of the rankst order and outdoing their capitalist masters in patriotism.

But what ising worker could excuse the criminal conduct of the German Social Democratic leaders, who handed over the party body and soul, to German militarism! What ising worker would excuse the active co-operation of the socialists of Belgium and France who entered the governments of their masters and carried on the most intense war activity? The ten million dead are the accusers of these betrayers of the working class!

Vanderselde, royal minister of Belgium, Troelsista, aide to Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina of Holland, Branding, Premier of Sweden, the socialist cooperation in France, the honors had been too great for the socialists of the world. They succumbed in the embrace of working-class prostitution to capitalist desires!

When the German revolution occurred, the Socialists again jubilated. At last a socialist party would succeed to power, to rule in the orthodox socialist fashion, according to the books! The socialists of Germany did rule; a socialist president acting for and in behalf of the capitalists of Germany! Ebert and Stinnesse the eight-hour day for the workers and unlimited control and profits for the capitalists! The German workers began to see the betrayal of the revolution, Liebknecht, Luxemburg, Mehring! Leaders of the workers who began to rebel against the conditions that the socialists were imposing upon them in behalf of the capitalists! Ever worse conditions resulted, more exploitation under the lash of the socialist-bourgeois gov-

ernment with a socialist president and a socialist minister of war! Ebert, Noske, Scheidemann! These names represent the most hateful that the workers of any country can conceive.

The murder of Liebknecht and Luxemburg by the socialist butchers who sat in governmental office was followed by the shooting down of thousands of striking workers in the streets of Berlin, in Saxony and Bavaria. Ever greater tyranny, more exploitation in behalf of capitalist profit and to-day the workers of Germany stand face to face with the probable loss of the eight-hour day, the last relic of the revolution that the socialists brought them.

And the socialists of Italy! Betrayers of the uprising in 1920! Since then, one of their leaders, Mussolini, has become the head of the Fascist, the Kluks Klan of Italy, killing the workers, destroying their buildings and plants and disrupting their organizations. The socialists of Poland, with Pilsudski at their head, who accepted French gold to make war on the Russian Soviet Government. A single line of treachery to the working class of the world!

The Social-Democrats of Germany, to be sure, belong to the Second International—in fact they are the leading spirits of that body. The Independent Socialists of Germany, the Independent Labor Party of England, the Socialists of France and the Social-Democrats of Austria are far more "revolutionary." They belong to the Second-and-a-Half International. They believe in the dictatorship of the proletariat, but it must come ever so mildly, sweetly, with as little disturbance to the present order of things as possible. They are sympathetic to Soviet Russia, without promoting any action in support of her. The grand vacillators whom time was bound to eliminate!

And time is eliminating them, Kautsky, Bernstein, Crispian, Breitachied, "theorists" and "revolutionists" of the 2½ International, have clasped hands with the butchers of Berlin, Scheidemann, Ebert and Noske! The Social-Democrats and Independents have united into the United Social-Democratic Party of Germany. This is but the prelude to the unity of the Second and the Second-and-a-Half International!

Thus, the affiliation to the 2½ International, the Socialists of America will return to the fold of the Second International. The murder of Liebk-

necht and Luxemburg, the slaughter of the German workers, yes, even the betrayal of the eight-hour day will be forgiven. In the name of unity—for the war and against the war—for the dictatorship (the official stand of the 2½ International), against the dictatorship (the American Socialists and the German Social-Democrats)! What are the odds? The war has been over long enough for the workers to forget.

But the workers will not forget. The call of the Third International is reaching the workers. Unity of the 2nd and the 2½ International reveals the ferment that this call has caused. Neither the 2nd nor the 2½ International can stand alone. The capitalist governments recognize that the 2nd International is the best support of the counter-revolution. Thru the bodies affiliated to the 2nd International and thru the Amsterdam Trade Union International, which stands in close relation to it, the capitalists have built up power in Europe since the war.

The workers who have had faith in these two Internationals, and especially the American workers who still believe in the Socialist Party will at last have their eyes opened. The murderers of the working class, royal ministers and premiers are hardly fit leaders for the workers. Ebert, Scheidemann, Hillquit, Schlesinger, Kautsky, Adger, Noske, Lee, Pilsudski, Bernstein, Daszynski—what lovely Communists of America welcome this unity of the 2nd and 2½ Internationals and congratulate the leaders of the Socialist Party on their open embrace of the counter-revolution.

## Tobacco Workers Hold Meeting.

An enthusiastic meeting was held by the Amalgamated Tobacco Workers Tuesday night at Manhattan Lyceum. Plans are being considered for the holding of an inter-shop convention to develop the organization drive.

Among the speakers Tuesday night were Hectorie Davidson, Secretary of the Executive Board, Sam Sussman, J. Louis Engdahl, editor of The Worker, Carlo Tresca, in Italian, and Pedro Esteve, in Spanish.

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