

NOT FOR AMERICA ALONE

By ISRAEL AMTER

"Are you really going to have an English Communist Daily in the United States?" is what they ask on all sides. Leading comrades and workers of the rank and file ask the same question. Comrades and workers who have returned from the United States and who are still tremendously interested in the American movement, are filled with pleasure when they hear that at last the American Communist movement and the working class of the United States are to have an organ of their own.

But it is not only pleasure in the realization of a dream that the Communist of the United States have had for several years, that animates these workers. The Communist International expressed its enthusiasm not merely because it meant that the American Communist movement has grown so powerful and has acquired such influence that it can contemplate the establishment of a daily. For the Communist International and the comrades realize that the maintenance of a daily in the United States is a serious matter. They know that it will mean endless sacrifices on the part of the comrades, gigantic efforts to permeate the working class and to induce the workers and farmers to give up their yellow, anti-labor sheets, and support a genuine organ of the workers and farmers. The Communist Daily cannot and should not hope to compete with the capitalist press. To have that in mind is to kill the paper at its birth. It must be the expression of the dynamic force of the workers and oppressed farmers. It must furnish them not only with general news—with Communist interpretation of events—but also supply that endless fund of information that the capitalist news service suppresses. That this latter is a fact need not be argued any further—the facts of the suppression of every kind of news during the war are too well known. And the capitalist class, in its own interests, is bound to continue this action.

The Communist press will have to give the facts about labor troubles—facts that even the socialist press refuses to furnish, because of the coalition of the socialist and the reactionary trade union leaders. The American workers have had sufficient experience in this respect. The stockyard strike, the steel strike of 1919,

the miners and shopmen's strike of 1922, should have proven to them clearly enough that the capitalist press is their greatest enemy and that only a working class organ can represent their interests. Will the DAILY WORKER be able to supply dials, adultery cases, murders and attempt to pollute the minds of the workers with a flow of divorce scandals, adultery cases, murders and suicides; if it takes the mind of the workers to the REAL issues—which the capitalist press deliberately evades by feeding the worker such nauseating matter as shrieks out of their yellow sheets.

It will be a big task for the Communists of America to get the workers and farmers to read articles and reports on the FACTS of life. The workers are so exhausted, so enervated by the daily work, that they seek emotional and sexual excitement in every kind of social scandal. It will be the biggest task that the American Communists have set themselves to awaken the interest of the workers and to make them fighters for the support and extension of the Communist press. This task comes before all others. It should be the MAIN task of the party—exceeding all others. For without the DAILY WORKER, the movement cannot grow properly. With it, the Workers Party will become a power in the country. The capitalists recognize this fact, hence their loud lamentations and complaints that the Communists are allowed to establish a daily. They know the power of the press; they know that the enthusiasm of the Communists and the following they have acquired among the workers and farmers will ensure the growth of the movement. As they cannot meet us with argument, they will use governmental power and official intrigue in order to keep us from reaching the working class. So much the more need of the Communist daily.

There are other problems—almost of equal importance—that the Communist Daily must face. American imperialism is marching forward rough-shod. It uses no soft phrases, it only knows wild west methods. It is not adept in diplomatic matters, like British imperialism. One has only to look at Central and South America, at Mexico and the Philippines. China and the Near East demonstrate American methods. What power can prevent the American bourgeoisie from embarking upon ad-

ventures whose aim is the exploitation of foreign sphere and whose result will be fearful wars? Only the power of the workers. Despite the hard blows that the American workers have received from the American government, they will believe in it. They still believe, in its democracy and in the possibility of putting "good" men into office so that the workers will benefit by it. When their "democratic" government calls to war, they will go. Perhaps not so readily as large numbers went in the last war; but, when the capitalist press spreads the stars and stripes, when it talks about the barbarous enemy, the American boys will still respond to the "call of civilization."

They will—provided there is not the workers' own press to carry on the campaign of propaganda and education, not fearing to tell the truth. Only the Communist press can do this. The labor and the socialist press either yields to the war mania, or obeys the orders of the government. It surrenders to the censor, for fear of being suppressed altogether. Rather diluted or perverted truth, than complete wiping out, they argue.

America is the biggest imperialist power in the world. Secretary of State Hughes might talk about disarmament. Coolidge also believes in peace, but he also believes in war. "We want no more competitive armaments. We want no more war. But we want no weakness that invites disposition. A people who neglect their national defence are putting in jeopardy their national honor" . . . For "we are no longer a weak nation thinking mainly of defense, dreading foreign imposition. We are great and powerful. New powers bring new responsibilities. Our duty now is to help give stability to the world." Thus in his message to Congress. A new devastating war faces the working class and farmers, not of America alone but of the whole world. Who are to mass the workers against the war? Who are to help the workers and peasants of other countries to oppose the coming imperialist war? None but the Communists and the Communist press.

Hence the workers of Soviet Russia, the leaders and the Comrades of the rank and file, who understand history, who know very much about America, rejoice that the American Communists have been able to establish an English Daily to reach the masses. The comrades of all coun-

tries who, looking ahead at the coming war, see a militant daily in the United States preparing to carry on the fight against the war from which the workers and farmers the world over will suffer. Hence the American Communist Daily is of importance, not to the American Party alone, but to the working class movement of the world.

The DAILY WORKER will and must tell the truth, unflinchingly. It must copy the press of Soviet Russia. Altho the Soviet government is in power, it recognizes that there are serious defects in the organization. It has to combat the bourgeois sabotage. It has to deal with inefficiency. Theft and embezzlement must be rooted out. The press does not hesitate to reveal the crimes of leading Communists. Workers in the factories write about bad conditions and the tyranny of the managers. This publicity puts an end to this unsocial attitude. Discussions on government plans reach the workers, who know what their government intends to do. Where else does this occur?

The Communist Party is at present conducting a heated discussion in innumerable meetings in factories, universities, clubs and in the press. The discussion has taken the form of a polemic. And like all polemics, personalities are indulged in. The whole world learns of it—the Communists have nothing to conceal. What comes out of these discussions? Clarity of purpose and will. Only clear-minded Communists, working in the interests of the working class, can act in this fashion. Only the Communist press can dare to enter into such discussions. Secret diplomacy is the very nature of the capitalist system—secrecy is one of the sources of capitalist power. Openness of discussion, with nothing to hide, is the strength of the proletarian press.

The DAILY WORKER will have this as its motto—and will be one of the powerful weapons of the American workers and farmers against the American bourgeoisie, and of the standard bearers of the workers and peasants of the world in the violent struggle that they must conduct in order to put an end to bourgeois rule, and capitalist governments with their bloody exploitation and destructive way. "We are really going to have an English Communist Daily in the United States," we can now say. "It is another armament of the American workers in their struggle and in yours."