

said that America was being completely neglected by the Congress, which was a serious matter, in view of the fact that the Dawes' Report had been finally decided, not by British finance, but by American imperialism. For this reason alone the question of American imperialism should have been more in the foreground, but he would point out a few more facts with regard to this imperialism. It was spreading not only to South America and Canada but to the West Indies and Central America. It played its part in the stopping of recognition of Soviet Russia by China. It was invading Europe and the East and had reached its climax in Germany. All these things meant that we were facing a war, instigated by American imperialism.

The American question had been neglected not only externally, but internally. In the American Party, as in other parties there were opportunists. Comrade Amter read extracts from articles by Comrade Lore to show that he represented opportunistic tendencies which had not been suppressed by the Central Executive Committee.

Turning to the agrarian crisis, Comrade Amter recalled Comrade Dunne's statement that this was growing less important, and that it was therefore not necessary to form a united front with the farmers. This he declared to be a complete misconception. The two countries most affected by the world agrarian crisis were Soviet Russia and America, and realisation of this fact put them in a position to see what was the task of the Communist Party. It was a Leninist method to make concessions to those farmers who were fighting against capitalism in order that they might be drawn closely into co-operation with the workers, and thus with the communists. The official pamphlet of the American Party dealing with the growth of the Labour Party, stated that it would be a mistake of the greatest magnitude to exclude the working farmers from the Labour Party. The co-operation of the farmers and workers had become traditional in America. Comrade Amter quoted figures to show that in many States the Farmer Labour Party contained large groups of industrial workers which held the Party completely under their control. There were other States in which the membership was composed predominately of farmers, notably the state of Montana, which, he pointed out, was organised by Comrade Dunne, who now repudiated the farmers. They recognised clearly that the workers must predominate over the farmers, and keep the leadership in their hands.

With regard to the economic crisis, Comrade Amter declared that Comrade Dunne ignored one of the most important features for the future activity of the American Party. At the Party convention last January, Comrade Pepper had stated that the Party must face the issue of unemployment. Again in February Comrade Pepper introduced a thesis on unemployment which was rejected by the majority of the Party. The next month the majority issued a thesis, and Comrade Amter agreed with Comrade Varga that in this the Central Executive not only shared the illusions of the bourgeoisie, but went further and did not even believe their admissions. The majority thesis declared that it was certain that unemployment on a large scale would face the working class in the near future. But it might not occur until the summer of 1925. In view of the fact that even Gompers had recognised that unemployment was becoming serious, the failure of the Central Executive to see the issue was the failure to recognise the duties of a Communist Party. Comrade Amter quoted statistics to show the widespread nature of the present crisis, and added that the latest issue he had received of the "Daily Worker" contained no word of a campaign by the Party against unemployment or for organising the unemployed. He said that the American Communist Party had failed to see the two most important issues facing it.