

Before the Conventions of Our Enemies

The New Leader--Open Enemy of the U.S.S.R.

By I. AMTER

I.

DAVID SHUB, a writer for the "New Leader" (organ of the Socialist Party of New York) recently had some articles in the issues of February 6 and 13 of that periodical, entitled, "Unemployment In Soviet Russia". These articles are filled with the worst malice and viciousness against the only Workers' Republic.

They deal not only with the alleged situation of the unemployed workers of the Soviet Union, but also with the function of the trade unions in the Soviet Union. Shub paints a gruesome picture of the situation of the workers and peasants in the Soviet Union, seeing only hunger, misery and slavery. He does not make any effort to understand the life of the peasantry of the Soviet Union; of the rationalization that has taken place, as a result of the introduction of tractors and electric power; of the freeing of millions of peasants from the land for the use of industry in the cities, and that in the passage from the land to the city there is a temporary unemployment. He does not believe that Socialism is being built in the Soviet Union, and declares that the Five-Year Plan is a failure. He denies the need of two million men in the factories of the Soviet Union. He therefore comes to conclusions that fit beautifully into the program of the imperialists and counter-revolutionary Social-Democratic International and the Socialist leaders the world over.

1. Shub declares: "Nowhere is the situation as tragic as it was in Russia in the years 1919-1921, when more people succumbed to the Communist experiment than to the World War". Any novice in history knows that the years 1919-1921 were the years of struggle against the counter-revolutionary invasion of the Soviet Union, which was aided by the Social-Democrats all over the world and the imperialist governments. During these years, a famine took place, and the Soviet government had to struggle on two fronts--against hunger, and imperialist intervention. Shub knows this, or should know, and lies about it.

2. Again, he says, "At the present time, the position of the Russian people is much worse than in all other countries". This is a lie, as even capitalists who have been in the Soviet Union attest, since they recognize that the Soviet Union has unlimited markets for capitalist supplies, and that the Soviet Union is the only government which meets its obligations promptly. This, Shub, who pretends to be an expert on Soviet matters, knows and lies about it to the workers.

There are 50 million unemployed workers in capitalist countries, who together with their dependents represent a mass of 200 million people. In every capitalist and colonial country wages are being slashed, and the standard of living is being brought down almost to the starvation level, while in the Soviet Union, on the other hand, wages are continually increasing.

3. "As poorly organized as was Russian capitalism before the Revolution, it was better able to assure the populace of the living necessities than is the Soviet Government". This is another deliberate lie of Shub, who knows of the starvation and famines in the cities and on the land under Czarist Russia, and that the peasants and workers were "shot down when they rebelled. There is no hunger in the Soviet Union at the present time, because on the basis of collectivization and of state planning of agriculture and industry, food is not only produced, but is stored up for any period of drought. Compare the situation of unemployment in the U. S. with 12 million unemployed, and even in the period before the crisis in the mining and textile centers--in fact, throughout the South, where families are continually undernourished--with that of the Soviet Union where every worker and his family is provided for.

4. "It is a mistake," says Shub, "to believe that with the completion of the Five-Year Plan, the situation will improve. As the Five-Year Plan progresses, we are treated to the spectacle of increasing hunger, and find in the country, while the enslavement of the populace grows, the land is becoming more impoverished daily. The Five-Year Plan sucks the marrow from the bones of the entire Russian people, and transforms the workers into virtual slaves."

Workers' delegations have gone from all capitalist countries of the world to the Soviet Union, members of the sister-Parties of the Socialist Party of the U. S., from the Social-Democratic Parties of Germany, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, etc., have gone to the Soviet Union; have freely gone about from factory to factory, from collective to collective, and have

witnessed what is taking place there, and when these workers returned to their respective countries, they were expelled by their Social-Democratic parties, for telling the truth about the Soviet Union.

Capitalists recognize the growing production of the Soviet Union. American engineers, like Hugh Cooper and John Calder, and many others who are occupied in directing the construction of the big factories and plants in the Soviet Union, and who know the difficulties that the Russian workers face because many of them were recently recruited from the ranks of the peasantry, declare that Socialism is being realized in the Soviet Union.

But David Shub, a counter-revolutionary "socialist", declares that "with the completion of the Five-Year Plan, the situation will not improve". So fearful are the imperialists of the success of the first Five-Year Plan and the program of the second Five-Year Plan, and of the rapid, unheard-of development of industry in the Soviet Union, that they are preparing to destroy the Soviet government in order to destroy one of the greatest hopes of the working class of the world.

5. "When the Five-Year Plan is completed, a real and terrible unemployment situation will arise in Soviet Russia. No sooner will these plants be built than many of them will be compelled to cease operations, for they will have no internal market". Shub makes this statement because he misrepresents Socialism as merely another name for state capitalism, just as the Socialists all over the world do. Production in the Soviet Union is for the benefit of the workers and peasants. Production is being increased and will be intensified to cover the growing needs and desires of the workers and peasants. As production increases, the amount

of necessary labor power expended will be reduced in conformity with the needs of the population, not as in the U. S., where, with the increase of production and rationalization, the workers are fired, thereby further limiting markets, and industry slows down. In the U. S. at the present time new inventions are not being installed, because there is no market for increased production. On the contrary, there is a tendency to return to primitive and obsolete methods, particularly in relief work with the use of the hoe and shovel, etc. In the Soviet Union, on the other hand, all science, industry and technique are reaching an ever higher level, because every new invention decreases waste, and lightens the labor of the workers, which results in a general heightening of the well-being of the workers.

To what final conclusions does Shub come? "Capitalism, it is true," he says, "has not solved the problem of unemployment. Still less, however, has Russian Bolshevism contributed to the solution". If Russian Bolshevism has not contributed to its solution, then Socialism, which means the control by the workers of the means of production and distribution, is a Utopia. Production and distribution are completely in the hands of the workers and peasants in the Soviet Union. This is supposedly the aim of the Socialists the world over. This is the method whereby Socialists declare that capitalism and all its evils will be wiped out. If this is no solution for capitalism, then why does Shub call himself a Socialist? He calls himself a Socialist because he is against Socialism, because he is against Revolution, and therefore is a fit member and representative of the Socialist Party, and clearly unmasks the Socialist Party and the Socialist International before the working class of the world.

HOW TO BEGIN WORK AMONG FARMERS

HOW to begin to organize farmers for the class struggle still remains a mystery for most of Party districts. These districts usually "solve" the problem by forgetting it.

The time will come when the proletariat will find itself face to face with the question of allies in the struggles for the seizure of power. The natural allies of the proletariat are the terribly impoverished small and middle farmers, the tenant farmers and share croppers and above all, the agricultural wage workers. These various categories of agrarian masses make up the overwhelmingly majority of the 27,000,000 farm population in the United States.

With the deepening of the economic crisis and the sharpening of the class struggle, these masses will either be won over by us to the program of class struggle, or they will form the mass base for a Fascist movement, the effect of whose demagogic we see well demonstrated in Finland, Germany, Italy, Hungary, etc. They can be won over to the program of class struggle only to the degree in which the vanguard of the proletariat, the Communist Party, organizes and gives them leadership in their efforts to better their increasingly miserable living conditions, only to the degree in which the Communist Party systematically and energetically points out to them the correct road in their struggles against the increasing exploitation and oppression of finance capital.

Below are outlined some practical steps that all districts should take at once to properly begin agrarian work.

Minimum Steps

1. Every district should have at least one comrade in charge of agrarian work, and if possible, a small committee to work with him. Comrades assigned for this work should be willing to devote their full time and serious attention to it and must be interested in it.

2. Every section and street nucleus in whose territory there are farms must likewise assign a comrade for agrarian work. On the basis of a preliminary survey of local agricultural conditions made by this comrade, together with our general agrarian program, the nucleus should have a thorough discussion of the question. Plenty of material for this can be secured from the Agrarian Department of the Central Committee.

3. All District training schools should include

some agricultural wage workers or small farmers, the number to depend on the extent of farming in the district. In these schools the agrarian question should be taken up, particularly with reference to local conditions.

The above are absolute minimum steps. There can be no excuse for not carrying them out.

Some Further Steps

The best way for the units to begin work among farmers is to send out comrades on Sundays to make personal contacts with farmers. From these farmers that they visit they should try to find out their main grievances.

On the basis of their grievances a meeting of small and middle farmers can be called to discuss ways and means of improving their conditions. The meeting should result in the formulation of a short list of demands which answer the burning needs of the small farmers, and a Committee of Action should be elected by the farmers to present these demands to the county government.

A further and the main task of the Committee of Action is to organize additional masses of farmers around the demands which the farmers themselves put forward.

We must warn the small and middle farmers to beware of rich farmer elements who may try to take over the leadership of a militant movement, particularly when it is directed against taxes. Such elements can be fought only by presenting the tax fight, as well as the entire struggle of the small and middle farmers for better conditions as a class struggle against the capitalist class and its representatives in the countryside, the rich farmer and the local banker who are very often one and the same person. Comrades must not hesitate to expose such elements who will try, under the guise of "sympathy," to divert any militant mass movement into reformist channels, and utilize it for their own selfish class interests. As examples of this we can cite the history of farm movements at present under such leadership, the Farmers Union, Grange, Farm Bureau, Farmer-Labor Party, Non-Partisan League, the Cooperatives, etc.

For further information on agrarian problems, write to the Agrarian Department, Central Committee, P. O. Box 87, Station D, New York City.