

Woll, Pal of Hoover, Fears Allied Labor

By Rose Wortis
III

Woll's demagogic, insincere expressions of admiration for the courage, skill and tenacity of the Russian Army will fool no one, for in the very same breath that he supposedly pays tribute to the Red Army, he makes a sneaking attack on the Soviet Union.

"If the United States had furnished Germany with oil, fuel and supplies as Russia did in the time of the Nazi-Soviet pact, the Russians might conceivably now be a vassal state of the Third Reich," says Woll.

Thus he repeats the slanders about Soviet aid to the Nazis, the Soviet's failure to recognize the aid given by Britain and the United States. He makes the discovery that but for the failure of Germany to get supplies of fuel—though it is yet to be discovered where the Nazis lacked any fuel or war supplies to carry forward their attack against the Soviet Union—the resistance of the Soviet Union to the Nazi invasion would have been impossible. Thus it is not the Red Army but lack of fuel that, according to Woll, is responsible for the present rout of the fascists.

"MANIPULATIONS"

Woll waxes indignant at the impudence of the Soviet Union in proposing the extension of the Anglo-Soviet Committee to include the labor movements of 38 nations. He questions their motives and says:

"Walter Citrine, like ourselves, balked at this, undoubtedly out of knowledge of Communist skill in the manipulation of paper organizations."

How can the Soviet trade unions pack a committee in which Britain and the United States have equal representation?

Why this hysteric fear of the Soviet Union? Doesn't it rather show a lack of confidence in the "sound" policies of Mr. Woll? Why should he be afraid that the Soviet Union would exert greater influence on the representatives of the conquered countries than the British and American? Surely, the excuse of the "Soviet manipulations" doesn't sound convincing, for anyone who has seen Woll at work knows that he is no novice in this respect. When it comes to manipulations, Woll is at his best.

MORE FEARS

Are all these flimsy arguments not an admission on his part that the Soviet trade unions will be ready to offer greater assistances to the representatives of the conquered nations in the form of help and cooperation in freeing their countries from fascism and in rebuilding their unions, than the representatives of the ALP?

The mass of the workers in America and Britain do not fear and have no reason to doubt the motives of the Soviet trade unions. These unions have given ample proof by their supreme sacrifices during the past two years that they have but one aim, common to all of us—to defeat the Axis and to help liberate bleeding humanity from the clutches of fascism.

The decision of the British Congress over which Matthew Woll gloats so much does not at all uphold his position against international labor unity. While the decision was not entirely satisfactory, and leaves room for delay, it is nevertheless a fact that the British Trades Union Congress officially went on record for convening a

world labor conference which Matthew Woll fears so much.

The report of the AFL greets the change of name of the American-British committee to an AFL-British Committee, so that there should be no mistaking of the fact that the CIO is not represented. The record, as Mr. Woll would say, shows that the CIO never gave the AFL any right to speak for that organization. Philip Murray has made it known that, shortly, at the National CIO Convention, the voice of the CIO will be heard on the question of international labor unity. The CIO will issue a call for a world labor conference.

As to Sir Walter Citrine, who—according to Mr. Woll—was disappointed because the CIO did not initiate discussions with the AFL to make concrete suggestions for collaboration, there is certainly no ground for that, since the contrary is the case. The CIO made very concrete suggestions, namely, to be taken into the Anglo-Soviet Committee on an equal basis with the AFL and Railroad Brotherhood. The CIO has time and again expressed its desire for unity, but it is not in the habit of knocking at the door of the AFL, of Matthew Woll, in the manner of a poor relation.

Dramatic as are the appeals of President Green for "the wayward to abandon their false, unsound experiment and to return home to the house of labor," any realistic approach to labor unity demands the recognition of the CIO as an organization of 5,000,000 workers representing the most important mass production industries in the country.

MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

(It is well for the thousands of AFL workers in the country, who have the greatest admiration for the CIO, that as far as the AFL leadership is concerned, the CIO is still in the category of a "false, unsound experiment," a "rebel group.")

As to the veracity of the membership figures of the CIO, they certainly carry as much weight as those of the AFL, since none other than the fifth vice-president, Daniel Tobin, placed the AFL figures in question at the recent convention. He introduced a constitutional amendment for the right of the President of the AFL to examine the membership figures of the affiliated unions. This amendment was opposed and defeated through the pressure of Bill Hutcheson and with good reason. People in the know place a big question mark before the reputed 600,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters, and Hutcheson openly admitted on the floor that the membership was inflated (though he tried to justify it on the ground of helping the Executive Council financially).

Matthew Woll paid glowing tribute to "the skill and statesmanship of Citrine." What a satisfaction it must be for the Socialist Sir Walter to receive such glowing praise from the Republican pal of Herbert Hoover.

(Concluded Tomorrow)