

REDBAITING: A NATIONAL MENACE

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER / REDBAITING is the ideological terrorism of reaction, and whoever engages in it—be he labor leader, phony liberal, or just plain reactionary—contributes to the growth of fascism. This elementary truth, which was demonstrated in the rise of Hitler and Mussolini—is now being dramatically emphasized by the poisonous spread of McCarthyite fascist redbaiting. This has reached a point of malignancy where it is now a national danger to our freedom and peace.



When, following World War II, the warmongers and would-

be world conquerors opened up their high-speed campaign of redbaiting by jailing Communists under the Smith and Sedition Acts, the Communist Party warned repeatedly that redbaiting would not be directed solely against the Communists but would eventually involve everybody and everything even pretendedly progressive. But little or no attention was paid to our warnings by the Trumanites and Social Democrats, who were at that time the leaders of the redbaiters.

But what the Communist Party warned against has now come to pass in the most drastic manner. Not only are progressive trade unionists, left liberals, and such people as Service and Lattimore being blasted; but the whole body of the Truman Democratic leaders are now under

fire. They are virtually being accused of peddling away the national interest to their "cronies," the Russian Communists, as well as "coddling" the Communists in this country.

"Twenty years of treason" shrieks McCarthy in his nationwide redbaiting characterization of the Roosevelt and Truman Administration. "Treason" is a very serious charge, and those guilty of it in wartime, as McCarthy would have the country believe Roosevelt, Truman, Marshall, and their co-workers were, can be shot. The aim is to condemn as "reds" or near-reds, all those who in any way collaborated with the USSR as a wartime ally.

THE REDBAITING campaign, of course, will not stop with the Democratic leaders. It will also increasingly be directed

against Eisenhower and all those Republicans who went along with the bi-partisan policies of the Roosevelt and Truman Administrations. And the reactionary heads of the AFL, CIO, Railroad Unions, and Miners—themselves star red-baiters—are fools if they think they can escape the redbaiting blasts of the McCarthyites. They, too, are "vulnerable," as Walter Reuther is now learning to his amazement.

The significance of all this is that the McCarthy fascist gang, heavily backed by certain big capitalist groups, are now trying to fight their way to political domination of the country, and sinister red-baiting is their chief ideological weapon. Any group that fails to recognize the leadership of these fascists can ex-

(Continued on Page 6)

FOSTER

(Continued from Page 3)

pect to be blasted as "reds", or "pinks", or "fellow travellers." That was Hitler's method; it is likewise the way of McCarthy.

It would be a national disaster if the McCarthy gang should secure control of this country. It would introduce fascism, American-style. This would constitute a most dangerous assault upon the liberties and living standards of the workers, Negro people, and other toilers. It also would be the gravest menace to world peace.

THE BIGGEST DANGER in this situation is the cowardly and stupid way that most liberal leaders and conservative labor leaders are retrating before the McCarthy menace. Instead of taking a courageous stand, blasting McCarthyism as fascism, and exposing the whole big lie of the "red menace" upon which it is based, they supinely try to prove that they are even bigger Communist fighters than McCarthy himself. This asininity simply feeds McCarthy fascism.

Nevertheless, there is a vast anti-McCarthy spirit growing among among the masses, who sense the deadly menace of this fascism. To encourage and organize this anti-McCarthyism is of the greatest importance to the future of our country.

But this can only be done, not by trying to out-McCarthy McCarthy, but by meeting it head-on, as Communists and other leftwingers do; by exposing McCarthyism for the deadly fascism that it is. And one of the strongest blows that can be struck against this plague would be to get amnesty for Gene Dennis, Ben Davis, and all the other victims of the Smith, McCarran, and other pro-fascist laws.

McCarthyism is the very spearhead of the attack of organized reaction against democratic freedom and world peace.