

BRONX CP EXPELS 11 FOR ANTI-PARTY ACTIVITIES

The Bronx County Committee of the Communist Party yesterday issued the following statement on the expulsion from the party of Sylvia Price, Jerry Schwartz and others of the P.R. Club, Bronx, N. Y.:

The Prospect Section Committee of the Communist Party, at its meeting on Oct. 28, unanimously expelled Sylvia Price, her two sisters, Eileen Rechtman and Bea Rechtman, Jerry Schwartz and seven others for organizing and maintaining a faction within the P.R. club and carrying on disruptive anti-party activities of a left-wing sectarian, semi-Trotskyist nature in opposition to the line of the Communist Party.

This faction was organized several months ago. The center of this faction are members of the Price family, headed by Earl Price, who was expelled by the party several months ago as a petty bourgeois individualist who propagated semi-Trotskyist views and maintained connections with an outside anti-party group. The faction tried to enlist new members of the party into its ranks, carried on a campaign of hostility and enmity to the party

leadership, sowing demoralization and confusion among the members, kept the club in a state of factional turmoil, and tried to provoke fights and disorder whenever it appeared that the membership would vote down its anti-party proposals which the club did repeatedly. It used the club paper to spread its own line as against that of the party.

When charges of breaches of discipline were preferred against them, the members of this faction, seeing that the club was opposed to them and that their goose was cooked, refused to come to hearings and face the charges. Instead, it rushed into the open and on Oct. 24 issued and distributed publicly a long printed circular. This circular slanderously distorts the party policy of struggle against American imperialism and its political representatives, the GOP and the Truman Administration. Speaking in the language of outsiders, even before their expulsion took place, they not only denounced the party's policy but sank to the low level of accusing the party itself of "betraying the working class to the bourgeoisie," and also betraying "its brother parties and peoples throughout the world."

They disavow the elections of our last national convention and appeal to members to organize an opposition in the party, promised further publications, and call for names, funds and supporters for its miserable attempt to organize what it calls a "Marxist" party. Thus we are dealing here with a little clique of outright disrupters and factionalists. The publication and spreading of this circular is not only an attack upon the party, but also provides slanderous material to reaction—the desperate and criminal act of irresponsible people who are alien to the interests of the working class and the Communist movement.

Stripped of its camouflage, evasiveness and double meanings—the program of this faction, as expressed in its club discussions, private talks and its published circular, amounts to the following:

This faction opposes the Party line of struggle against American imperialism, which is to defeat the

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aims of American imperialism to dominate the world and to impose an imperialist peace. The Party fights for a democratic and long-term peace. This faction, however, abandons the fight for peace, regarding war as immediately inevitable. It overestimates the power of American imperialism and underestimates the possibilities of a broad and successful fight for peace. As a result, it fell victim to the war scares of extreme reaction and has been spreading a spirit of defeatism calculated to narrow and weaken the fight against American imperialist reaction.

In combatting reaction and the danger of fascism, the Party has been resolutely fighting against the reactionary trend of the Truman Administration, its reactionary anti-labor actions, its surrender of the Roosevelt policies, its bipartisan imperialist foreign policy, at the same time conducting a vigorous struggle against the spearhead of reaction represented by the GOP and tory Democrats. This faction, however, has made the Truman Administration the exclusive and main center of attack. It has exaggerated the degree of fascist development in the U.S.A. erroneously considering the Truman Administration as virtually a fascist government.

By its exaggeration that the Truman Administration is virtually a fascist government, and by its one-sided attacks on the Democratic Party, this faction diverts attention from the danger of the main centers of reaction, represented by the Hoover-Dewey Republicans, lessens the fight against this camp and thus, despite all its shouting about the fascist danger, in fact weakens the fight against this danger. On the basis of a false and alarmist analysis of the situation, it denounced the National Committee during the summer for failure to call for a nationwide political strike against the Case Bill—a tactic which could lead only to the isolation of the Party from the progressive labor movement.

It is not at all accidental that despite the Party's criticism made at the club, this grouplet in the election campaign kept silent about the dangers of a Dewey Republican victory, did nothing to arouse the people against it, paid little attention to the building up of an ALP vote while contenting itself with attacks upon the Mcad-Lehman Democrats as the chief feature of its activities.

In the same way it opposes the policy of the Party of building a broad anti-monopoly and anti-imperialist coalition, which is directed to achieving a political realignment and the establishment of a people's third party. Instead it advocates a course calculated to lead to narrow splinter groupings which under the false label of a third party would in fact doom the possibility of unity of the advanced forces in the labor and progressive movement fighting for a third party with other progressive forces moving in this direction today.

While pretending to advance the vanguard role of the Party and talking big about "action," this faction made not the slightest effort in its neighborhood, which consist overwhelmingly of proletarians, to develop any action around mass issues, including that of the struggle against the high cost of living.

It fights against the principle of democratic centralism by means of which the party achieves the greatest degree of democracy, united action and discipline. Under cover of the right to criticize, this group has been attempting to establish in the party the right to build factions, the right to disrupt and the right to destroy the discipline of the

party.

Thus this faction is essentially the same as the anti-party elements recently expelled from the party—an opportunist faction of a pseudo-leftist variety—that is, one that covers its policy of capitulation to reaction with revolutionary sounding phrases. It is a group that is frightened by the drive of reaction and which utilizes certain weaknesses of the party, inherited from the Browder period, and not yet fully overcome, as an excuse to desert the battle, at the same time trying to conceal its desertion by loud "revolutionary" noise-making. It is the twin brother of the right

opportunist deviations who capitulate openly to imperialism as in the case of Browder revisionism. It is obvious that the party must carry on the fight on two fronts against these "left" opportunists as well as the right influences and remnants of Browderism.

The present expulsion takes place after months of struggle and discussion within the club. In the beginning the Section and County committees paid insufficient attention to the activities of this group and failed to combat and expose them politically. As a result they were able to deceive many members of the club. Subsequently, the party leadership took up a vigorous struggle against them. Notwithstanding the fact that it was known

at the time of the Earl Price expulsion that this faction was operating in the club, the section leadership abstained from further disciplinary action. It wished to afford every opportunity to the members of the club to realize the harmfulness of this faction and to give even the members of the faction a chance to change their views and conduct.

The State Committee members, at various times, spoke to club meetings and to groups of members welcoming proper criticisms of the party work, while at the same time combatting anti-party views and conduct of this faction. It was able in this way to convince all sincere members of the club of the anti-party nature of this faction, to win over the overwhelming ma-

majority of the members of the club and to isolate and expose this little group of ingrained factionalists. The experience of the struggle with this group serves to show that all party members and party leadership must pay closer attention to club life and the necessity of mass struggle, to pay greater heed to the need for education in party principles and tactics, and while zealously maintaining and developing the democratic right of criticism, relentlessly oppose all factionalists and disruptors, exposing them in good time in order to strengthen and build a powerful Communist Party.

Executive Committee,
Bronx County Communist Party,
I. BEGUN, Chairman.

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