

STUDENT SOCIALIST

February 14, 1951

Vol. III No. 5

EDITORIAL

The Third Camp

What's happening in Asia? On that traditionally static continent a metamorphosis is occurring. First the British imperial lion backed out of India. Then the Indonesians wrested national destiny from their Dutch overlords. The sweep of the Chinese Stalinist armies brushed Chiang Kai Shek into the Pacific. Now U.S. armed forces in Korea face a prolonged stalemate. These add up to the collapse of western Capitalism in Asia! And all the military troops and all the military propaganda can't restore that power again.

The battle over Asia between Capitalism and Stalinism foreshadows the coming struggle over the world at large and poses the question, "whom to support?" Using demagoguery and force, Stalinism has already rallied many Asian peoples against Capitalism, whose decadent socio-economic system offers them nothing. In reality Stalinism offers no more. Neither has the ability to organize economic

Published by the BERKELEY UNIT of the SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE, 466 10th St., Oakland, Cal. Tel: T 3-7346
Office hrs.: Tu, Th. 7:30-10:00 PM; Wed; 1:00-4:00.

production and distribution on the rational basis demanded by human needs. Both are exploitative, venal and coercive.

However, the key to understanding the relationship between Stalinism and Capitalism lies not in similarities, but in differences. Stalinism with its own economics, laws, ideology and dynamics of development imposes a new social system. It feeds on the decay of Capitalism, which has reached the high level of technology where social production and private enterprise have become incompatible. Russian totalitarianism thus eats through the capitalist world in areas of weakness. Asia today with its backward colonial economy and its dissident masses constitutes that weak point.

For different reasons the two systems, driven to expand, find war essential. But win, lose or draw militarily, the fate of capitalism is decided. War only speeds up the process of Western disintegration. Similarly war shows up Stalinism for the unpopular, unviable social order it is. Each new victory confronts the Kremlin with new potential titos and nationalist defections.

Between these two militarized camps - Russia and the United States - stand the millions of the under-classes who are expected to sacrifice, to fight and to die without stint--- for what? Totalitarian barbarism

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sat. Feb. 17, 8:30 PM. SYL Movie-Social. Norway Hall, 3829 Piedmont Ave., Oakl. "With These Hands," full length feature produced by ILCWU. Dancing also.
Mon. Feb. 19, noon. SYL Open Air Meeting at Sather Gate. Bob Martinson, speaker.#

or bankrupt capitalism! Little wonder that most of these millions are convinced of the futility of war, desiring peace and freedom. Their common aspirations cut across national boundaries and economic systems. With these masses lies the hope of a third camp against both Washington and Moscow.

Today, of course, this third camp exists only as a potential. It needs consciousness, hope, organization and leadership. Once aroused the working classes have shown a relentless determination and courage. They have suffered innumerable defeats only to rise up and fight again with renewed fury. It is precisely this invincibility among the oppressed and downtrodden that assures the goal of the third camp.

On the campus, in the labor movement and in the middle classes the political task of our times cries out:

"Weld the Third Camp forces into a unified organization!"

"Pose democratic, progressive alternatives to Stalinism and Capitalism!"

To such organization and to such ends the Socialist Youth League dedicates itself. It calls upon all others to join with it to achieve a world of peace and plenty for all.

THE EDITORS

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THE

SYL?

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SYL Movie-Social

"With These Hands," a full length feature film produced by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, will receive its first public East Bay showing at Norway Hall, 3829 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, Saturday February 17, 8:30 PM. For the second time in a month the Socialist Youth League is making available for the general public a top ranking labor film. Dancing and refreshments will follow the movie.

This film, praised by labor leaders all over the country, stars Sam Levene, Hollywood feature actor. It is a factual story of the growth of American labor, and presents the courageous life of "Alexander Brody," rank-and-file unionist. It depicts the great strike of the ILGWU of 1910, and illustrates the struggle and growth of that union into one of the significant American labor organizations.

First
East Bay Showing!
Norway Hall
3829 Piedmont Ave
Oakl.

Saturday,
February 17,
8:30 P.M.
Sharp



starting
SAM LEVENE

FRANCIS BIDDLE, CIVIL LIBERTARIAN WHO SPEAKS WITH A FORKED TONGUE

The Cal chapter of the SDA started off the semester with a backfire instead of a bang by having Francis J. Biddle, national chairman of the Americans for Democratic Action, speak on civil liberties at Stiles Hall, February 12.

Biddle, former attorney general of the U.S., enforced the Smith Gag Act against the SWP Trotskyists in 1940. The Smith Act was the first peacetime sedition law since the equally notorious Alien and Sedition Acts of the 18th Century. Any audience could look forward to an address on civil liberties by the enforcer of sedition acts directed against advocacy and belief alone.

The qualities that made Biddle successful as a lawyer for the Pennsylvania Railroad and enabled him to try so many times to deport Harry Bridges while attorney general, served him well when he parried the questions thrown at him by the audience. He was witty, sarcastic, ambiguous, insinuating, and above all unctuous. If this is liberalism, as opposed to candid replies to honest questions, then Biddle's liberalism is irreproachable. The audience, however, thought otherwise.

Although displeased with the subversive list because the presidential order excluded hearings for those accused, Biddle stated that being labeled subversive "did not hurt anyone." This unhurt individual is merely denied a government job, blacklisted in private industry and subject to imprisonment and fine under the Smith Act. He faces no other difficulties.

Biddle also accepted the MacCarran Bill, contend-

ing that the country would not permit dangerous elements to run around in time of national emergency. The fact that people will be detained in concentration camps without having committed any crime didn't disturb Biddle. Nor did he recognize the existence of present legislation against spies and saboteurs. He apparently favors coercing dissenters, as well as those committing criminal acts. If this is civil liberties, what is totalitarianism?

On FBI wire tapping Biddle stands forth as a real legal eagle. When questioned about the Smith Act, the ADA leader had answered that he didn't make the law, he only carried it out. When interrogated about FBI wire tapping for informational leads, Biddle upheld its legality. Can it be that the former attorney general never heard of the 1934 law prohibiting this, and the Supreme Court decision of 1937 reiterating that law? Moreover, because the court specifically declared FBI agents liable for criminal prosecution under the wire tapping law, Biddle should have indicted his friend, J. Edgar Hoover, "a man of integrity." What an enforcer of the law!

When Biddle was confronted with the massive 112,000,000-card dossier section inaugurated by the FBI under Hoover, he dismissed this as the ordinary desire of a bureau to "file information" coming across its desks. That this filing system has extended its tentacles to include Army service records and industrial personnel files, and was only forcibly restrained from encompassing the 1940 Census records, Biddle's disparaging tones, shoulder shrugs and facial gestures could not refute. Once more a liberal plays ostrich when evidence of growing totalitarianism is presented.

How can the campus SDA stomach this Biddle tripe? Is his the kind of liberalism they champion? If not, it's about time they refuted such national leaders who speak of civil liberties with a forked tongue.#

SUCCESS & FAILURE AT ASILOMAR

It is significant of the period we live in that the recently concluded conference of the National Student YMCA-YWCA at Asilomar had for its theme: The Struggle for Power!

Two tasks confronted the conference. First, to appraise the current political scene arising out of the interplay of national and international events, and second, to prescribe a course of action in line with such an appraisal. Although Asilomar successfully analyzed the situation, it failed to find a solution for its students in this world crisis.

The decline of civil liberties, the presence of economic and social injustice, and the advances of the Garrison State in the United States were compared to the totalitarian regime of Russia. In a seminar on "Roots of the World Conflict" the discussion showed that the foreign policies of the U.S. and Russia are both based primarily on power politics and national advantage. This power politics precludes an ideological struggle between the so-called free peoples of the world and Stalinist dictatorship. Moreover, there are as many totalitarian states on the "free" side as there are democracies.

The analysis concluded that a third world war would not solve any of the problems making wars necessary to today's nations and governments, for neither side has been able to eliminate the causes of strife in its own camp. In short, this war that has begun is but one of the many foreseeable wars that must be accepted in the near future.

Reflecting its liberal character in the face of such an analysis, Asilomar offered no solution to the

problem of a third world war. The liberal today-- pacifist, world federalist, Christian socialist and ADA Fair Dealer--no longer seeks to draw conclusions from what he sees. Each new catastrophe is approached by liberals as though it were a supernatural occurrence before which man stands an impotent, paralytic victim.

The Berkeley Socialist Youth League, also participating at Asilomar, presented the socialist answer to the problems of the day. It traced the history of the current political crisis to the decline of world capitalism on the one hand and the rise of Stalinism on the other. Stalinism, the SYL pointed out, arose out of the failure to establish a democratic socialist society on an international basis.

The SYL proposed a program of transforming the governments of the U.S. and other major countries so that democratic solutions to the social, political and economic problems could be attained. This was counterposed to the slave psychology of submission implicitly and explicitly preached by liberalism. By building on the existent sentiment in the trade unions and among the middle classes, the young Socialists projected the formation of a Labor Party as the first step. This was followed by a series of realistic proposals all directed to organize effectively to win the struggle against disaster. The wholesome and widespread response to the SYL's program justified participation in the conference.

This above all else is the lesson of Asilomar: those who do not act will pay the penalty of inaction for many generations to come, provided they are not physically destroyed in the process. In line with this lesson the SYL came away from Asilomar with mixed feelings. As a place to discuss important issues free from restrictions, the conference was a success. But in terms of over-all effects on the future of the students attending, Asilomar was a failure. One should learn from his failures. #