

# Destroy the LaFollette Illusion

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

## Workers Party Candidate for President

OUR biggest task today is to combat and destroy the LaFollette illusion. This is the greatest obstacle to the development of a working class conscious of its interests and prepared for serious struggle with American capitalism.

The LaFollette program accepts capitalism as its starting point. It completely ignores the fact that all the ills of the working class spring from the capitalist system and can only be abolished with the system that causes them. LaFollette wants to tinker around the capitalist machine and repair it. He wants to soften some of its more glaring evils and make it more beautiful and palatable to the masses. He wants to extend the democratic forms, and lead the workers to look to their reforms for relief, instead of struggling to establish their own power to control society.

Never, however, does LaFollette or his program touch the vital question of power—which class is to rule. He throws a mask over the brutal and obvious fact that the present system is a dictatorship of the capitalist class. He does not propose a single measure that so much as hints at overthrowing that dictatorship.

### No Blows at Capital

LaFollette's backers boast that 15 out of 18 measures formerly advocated by him have been enacted into law. They were all of the same sort that he advocates now. One would think, from the boasts of the boosters, that these measures had been a blow at the rule of capital. Nothing of the sort. Capitalism is stronger today by a hundred times than it was when LaFollette began his work, and his measures, so far from weakening the capitalist dictatorship have strengthened it.

Take, for example, the direct election of senators. Formerly senators were elected by the legislatures, and the corruption, the open purchase and sale of votes by means of which the capitalists determined who should fill the offices, constituted a festering sore and an incitement to revolt to the masses. LaFolletteism "cured" this sore, but did the capitalist lose their control of the offices? Not a bit of it. With their control of party machinery, of the press, of the schools, of the ideas and the means of spreading ideas to the masses, with their complete and undisputed control of industry—the capitalist class continues its dictatorship undisturbed, while the masses are fooled into thinking that something has been fundamentally changed. But it is the same old capitalist system, fitted out with a new dress by LaFolletteism.

It is a great mistake to suppose because the big capitalists oppose LaFollette now, that this proves LaFollette represents the workers. Capitalism is still arrogant, and thinks it can rule thru a Coolidge. German capitalism also used to oppose the social-democrats of Germany; they hounded and outlawed the socialists; but when their hour of crisis came, and capitalism could have been overthrown in Germany, the ruling class turned to the social-democracy, which deliberately saved capitalism, which shot down revolting workers by the thousands, and turned to patching up the shattered system. The capitalist class of America will similarly turn to LaFollette, and LaFollette will perform the same service for them in America that Ebert and Scheidemann performed for the German capitalist class.

### "War Referendum" is Joke

LaFollette says he is against war, but his program leads directly to war, just the same as that of Coolidge or of Davis. He proposes a referendum on war, but not the slightest move to control and remove the cause of war, capitalism. Such a referendum is more than a ghastly joke; it is designed as an instrument of war itself, for it will become merely a means of more effectively mobilizing the masses for the coming world imperialist war, by fooling them into thinking that they have something to say about the decision.

Even now, so early in the game, the capitalists are quite widely beginning to recognize how valuable LaFollette is to their class interests, and their antagonism to him is being softened a great deal, while a few big ones, like Spreckles and Vanderlip, actually go along and receive decisive voices in LaFollette's councils. But the workers are building up a Frankenstein, by supporting LaFollette, that will turn and devour them, just as did the monster of social-democracy with the German workers in 1918.

Again all this reformism and class collaboration the Workers Party, raises the slogan of the class struggle. We know from history that ruling classes cannot be driven from power by a slow process of reform. In every case that a ruling class has been deposed in the past, it has been thru the open struggle by the rising class. Capitalism itself came into being thru a series of revolutions, that made one world revolution against the prevailing feudal system. American, German, French, Italian and English capitalism were all born in civil war.

We live under the most ruthless,

the best organized, the richest, the most intelligent and militant ruling class that world history has ever recorded. In can be absolutely depended upon that our ruling class will not yield its power without a struggle. Even if the workers should elect their own men to office, the capitalist class would throw aside its mask of democracy and resort to force to maintain its rule. We saw this happen in Italy, where, when the workers threatened the capitalist system, the murderous Fascisti, agents of capitalism, destroyed even the pretense of democratic government and drowned the workers' movement in blood. The same thing is being prepared by the capitalist class of America, behind the protective mask

of "progressivism," and the American working class must prepare itself to meet it.

### Workers Must Take Power

There is but one way in which the workers will ever gain power, and that is thru sufficient organization, intelligence and militancy, to take power from the capitalist class in open struggle.

The world war was a crisis for capitalism. The working class could have won its freedom at this time by a bold and courageous struggle. But the LaFollettes, the Eberts, the Hendersons, the Vanderveldes, were controlling the workers' organizations. Instead of leading the workers to the battle against capitalism, they took

up the battle for capitalism. They betrayed the working class, just as LaFollette will betray the working class. But since that time a new power has arisen in the world. In all countries Communist parties have been organized, and have been crystallized in the Communist International. This is the greatest fact in history. For it means that when the next great war, now definitely in preparation, is launched upon the world by capitalist imperialism, the Communist International will raise the slogan of worldwide proletarian revolt, will lead the working masses against their oppressors, and smash once for all the capitalist dictatorship and the capitalist system, and will establish thruout the world the rule of the workers.

## THE JUDAS KISS



Drawn especially for the DAILY WORKER by K. A. Suvanto.

# Workers Party Alone Fights Labor's Battles

By BENJAMIN GITLOW

## Workers Party Candidate for Vice President

CAPITALISM in the United States is going thru a crisis. The winter of 1925 will see factory after factory shut down. The streets will be full of hungry men looking for jobs. About seven to eight million workers will be unemployed.

As a result of all this situation poverty and untold misery is confronting the workers. The campaign to reduce wages will be pressed with renewed vigor by the capitalist class. Workers in every line of industry will have their wages greatly reduced.

### No Relief for Agriculture

Every attempt on the part of the workers will be brutally suppressed by the capitalists. The crisis in agriculture will not be ended because of the slight increase in the price of wheat because it is based on the economic demoralization of Europe.

The crisis in industry in America coupled with the crisis in agriculture will greatly intensify the class conflicts going on in capitalist society. The producers, that is, the workers and farmers, in desperation and revolt against the intolerable conditions that the crisis will produce, will become factors in big mass struggles against the capitalists who dominate the economic and political life of the country.

### All Power to Workers!

The only party that is organized to battle in the interests of the workers is the Workers Party. It is the only party in the United States in the face of the crisis developing in the United States that has the courage to come out flatfootedly for the working class.

The Workers Party proposes to lead the workers in a struggle against unemployment, wage reductions and the attempt of the capitalists to smash workers' organizations.

The slogan of the Workers Party is work or relief for the unemployed at the union rate of wages. No wage cuts under any price. The solidifica-

tion of the unions thru the organization of the unorganized and the amalgamation of the existing unions as a measure against the open shop war. Against the capitalist dictatorship, a workers' and farmers' government with all power in the hands of the workers and poor farmers.

The Workers Party is also part of the international Communist movement. The Workers Party, the Communist Party, is proud to adhere to the Communist International because the Communist International is more than an expression of international working class solidarity.

### Organize World's Workers

The Communist International is a militant, revolutionary, international organization of the working class. It is preparing and organizing the workers of the world for the final struggle to wrest control of the earth from the capitalist exploiters and butchers of the workers.

The Communist International is that world organization of the proletariat that points out to the workers of the world the lesson of the last

world war.

It shows the workers that war is the final culmination of capitalist glory, that it results in the butchery of the workers, and in the creation of untold misery for them. The Communist International shows the workers of the world how capitalism is leading the workers of the world into another imperialist world slaughter.

### For the World Revolution

And the Communist International is the organization that will turn such a world war into a war against the capitalists. It will help the workers turn the war into a world revolution to abolish capitalism the world over.

### Let the Battle Start.

NEW YORK, Oct. 23. — Sir Esme Howard, British ambassador to the United States, declared in a speech here today that the world's greatest need was an international trade arrangement for the development of "an open door with a fair field and no favor" for all countries to all countries.

Open Forum, Sunday Night, Lodge Room, Ashland Auditorium.

## IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE The DAILY WORKER Magazine Section SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

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2. Forces Making for Imperialism.....By Manuel Gomez
3. The Present World Situation.....By I. Stalin Secy., Russian Communist Party
4. Prepare for the Coming Struggles.....By Alexander Bittelmañ
5. Campaign Notes of a District Organizer.....By Arne Swaback
6. Principles of Communist Propaganda.....By Communist International

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