

Differing Estimates of the U. S. Communists' Convention

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

Alan Max (Daily Worker, June 4) takes sharp issue with numerous Communist journals—Pravda, L'Humanite, World News, International Affairs, and several Latin-American papers — because in their reviews and analyses they signalize and center their attention upon the defeat of revisionism that took place at the recent convention of the CPUSA. Max claims that in doing this they had been misled and that they have failed to grasp the real significance of the convention. But the reality shows that it is Max who is in error.



The 16th Convention, while not without flaws, was generally a constructive one. Among its main achievements, it struck hard blows at the Party's traditional narrow and dogmatic applications of Marxist theory and its uncritical attitude towards other Communist Parties and the countries of Socialism it pointed out many other left-sectarian errors and it warned against the Right danger in the Party; it developed a strong position against Party bureaucracy, and it outlined a sound program of mass work.

This was all to the good; but it would have amounted to very little if the convention had not at the same time dealt a sharp reverse to the strong revisionist attempts being made in the Party to transform the nature of the Communist Party and to castrate its basic theory, to weaken its international spirit, and to undermine its struggle against American imperialism.

It is therefore understandable, and correct, that the Communist journals which Max complains of singled out for key emphasis the basic facts of the convention's rejection of revisionism, as well as dogmatism, including its specific repudiation of the proposed political action association, and endorsement of the continuation and upbuilding of the Communist Party; its rejection of incorrect theoretical formulations and its correct outlining of a basic endorsement of Marxism-Leninism; its strong declaration for proletarian internationalism, and its sustained attack upon aggressive American imperialism and its aspirations

for world domination. Thus the convention saved and reinforced the very spirit and structure of Communism in the United States. The weakness of Max's article is that he brushes aside lightly this basic development.

IF THESE Communist journals, with which Max disagrees, have not specifically stressed emphatically such decisions of the convention as those calling for a less dogmatic approach to applying and developing Marxism-Leninism, for a more critical attitude towards other Communist parties and the countries of socialism, and for an all-out struggle against bureaucracy, evidently it is not because they underestimate the value of these achievements, but rather because they do not consider them as peculiarly American nor as specifically distinctive of the CPUSA convention. On the contrary, similar constructive developments are now to be found in all Communist parties in varying degrees, whether these parties hold political power or not, as a universal reaction to the shocking excesses and abuses of the Stalin cult of the

individual—although some of our comrades appear to believe, incorrectly, that these important innovations are primarily American in origin.

T. Timofeyev (International Affairs, March, 1957) states correctly:

"While overcoming past mistakes of a dogmatic and Left-sectarian nature, the Communists of the Western countries (including those of the United States) are at the same time vigorously opposing revisionist and liquidationist tendencies."

So far as the 16th Convention of the CPUSA was concerned, however, the difference was that it did not do as thorough a job in this general respect as did, say, the recent conventions of the British and Canadian Communist Parties, where revisionism was overwhelmingly defeated.

The big job before us now is to put the mass-work decisions of the convention into effect energetically. This is the broad road along which the CPUSA, emerging from its present crisis, can unify itself and again become a potent factor in the American class struggle.

Midwest Shop Talk

CHICAGO.

One of the largest union representation elections in the midwest during the past year was won by the Textile Workers Union, when the Olson Rug Co. workers voted for the union in an N.L.R.B. election. By a vote of 466 to 413 the Textile union won bargaining rights for the largest textile plant in the mid-west. The rotten publicity given to the trade unions in the McClellan Committee hearings has played havoc with some unions in recent elections. Hope that the Olson Rug election begins to turn the tide.

The garbage backwash of red baiting and the informer system resulted in the death of Dominic Jacomaro, a worker at the Automatic Electric Co. Joseph Graziano, who works for the same company and who was a schoolmate of Jacomaro, shot down and killed his co-worker in the plant parking lot. Nine bullets from a .22 automatic were fired. The reason given by Graziano to the police was, Jacomaro, kept "talking about me all the time . . . he called me a Communist and said he told the FBI that I was a Communist."

Wonder what the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that has been so busy visiting and intimidating people, has got to say for itself. We are told that the glamor boys are supposed to protect life and limb, not destroy it.

The Air Line Pilots Association announced last week that it had refunded \$314,000 to its members because the dues paid in the organization exceeded expenses last year by that amount. The constitution of that union provides that the union treasury shall not exceed \$2½ million. The seven thousand members of the union, which is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, consists of the crews of fifty-one airlines.