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"Great Debate" Awakens People As Crisis Nears

By The Editors

The "great debate" over foreign policy is without precedent in Twentieth Century America.

Social crisis, that dread virus, threatens to infect the veins of American capitalism.

Uncertainty and consternation gnaw at the self-confidence of the U.S. ruling class and find their way into public pronouncements.

As long as a feeling of well-being and security existed, they did not speak out.

They seek to stop the slaughter of their sons. They search for a way to avert all-out war which threatens to take from them their hard-won working and living standards.

Hammer blows have shattered the illusions of U.S. security. The imperialist dream of an American Century following the Second World War has turned to ashes.

What has happened to the scheme to use the American dollar to patch up the disfigured and broken post-war world?

More billions were poured into the coffers of the dictator-butcher Chiang Kai-shek and his murderous crew in China.

Instead of "containing" the spread of social revolt abroad, the Marshall plan and aid to Chiang Kai-shek succeeded only in weakening the financial, political and social structure of the U.S. itself.

This failure in Asia and Europe, laid bare by the shock of Korean disaster, has undermined the belief of the American people in U.S. invincibility.

The Trumanite labor leadership, which is today so closely associated with the bankrupt policies of imperialism, cannot hope to prevent this great awakening any more than they could sell imperialism to the workers of Europe or halt the Asian revolution.

As American workers break the bonds which tie them to the corrupt and bankrupt political machines of the old capitalist parties, they will forge new bonds — strong bonds of solidarity with the oppressed of all lands.

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For most Americans — the working populace — the building of a huge military machine at home and abroad means "austerity."

Thus, facing the issue of life or death, American workers, farmers, housewives, students, shopkeepers, clerks — the whole people — are thrust onto the field of politics: world politics.

The political awakening of the American people is at hand. They are intervening in the "great debate."

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"Bring Troops Home!" Mail Floods Congress and Press

Engineers Reject 3-Year Railroad Pact

Pressure of the railroad workers, who have fought for nearly two years for a 40-hour week at the present 48-hour week's pay, was reflected in the decision of the general chairman of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers on Dec. 29 to reject the three-year pact which the Truman administration is trying to foist on the four Railroad Brotherhoods operating unions.

Top representatives of the Engineers, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, Brotherhood of Firemen and Enginemen and the Order of Railway Conductors had accepted the government's formula in an agreement with the carriers.

Officials of the various unions expressed "dissatisfaction" with the government-imposed pact. James P. Shields, head of the Engineers, said he did not like the "three-year moratorium on wage movements."

Next Week A Great Human Document

"A Voice from Stalin's Prison Camp"

TOLD FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Militant is privileged to present in our next issue the moving story of the heroic life of a Soviet Trotskyist girl who spent years in and was finally executed in a Stalinist prison camp.

Like thousands of others who did not come to trial, she was defiant to the end. Now her voice will at last be heard.

This Is a True Story Told by an Eye-Witness



Plant Discussions Show Strong Anti-War Feeling

By Emmett Moore FLINT — The latest events in Korea have brought about a sharp change in the political thinking of Flint auto workers.

Workers with sons in Korea are extremely bitter in expressing their sentiments. One worker, whose son has gone through the entire Korean campaign, doesn't hesitate to tell workers around him that he writes to his son every week and warns him, "Don't be a glory-seeker — your life is more important than any medals. This is a war for Wall Street and the big shots, be on your guard and try and come back in one piece."

The rapid change in the political climate brought about by the crisis of American imperialism in Korea has aided class-conscious militants tremendously. Only a few weeks ago they were treated like outcasts. The intense red-baiting campaign forced them to maintain silence.

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For the first time the auto workers here have come to realize that the gigantic war program is going to drive down their standard of living. They don't like the idea of still more taxes, sacrifice for a war they want no part of.

Class-conscious workers who a few weeks ago were interested primarily in union problems are today thirsting for information about America's foreign policy, the colonial uprisings in Asia and the impact of these events on their standard of living at home.

Letters Voice Big Popular Sentiment to Stop War and "Get Boys Out of Korea"

By Art Preis If a poll of the American people were taken today, they would vote overwhelmingly to stop the war now and withdraw all U.S. armed forces from Korea at once.

The Dec. 28 N. Y. Times, a staunch advocate of Truman's war policy, admits that "an independent sampling of Congressional mail showed overwhelming public support for the Hoover approach."

MOTHERS AND HOUSEWIVES The Congressional secretaries "noted also that many of the letter-writers were women whose viewpoint very well could be influenced by menfolk they have or stand to have in the service."

Paralleling the spontaneous barrage of anti-war letters to Congress and the White House is an unprecedented increase all over the country in letters to news paper editors expressing, often in the bitterest terms, opposition to Truman's foreign policy and clamoring for the withdrawal of U.S. troops to this country.

These retreats and place them within their historical context. The alternative for U.S. and Western European capitalism, as Dulles really sees it and rather picturesquely poses, is: Either "to die in their beds, particularly as they grow older"; or to die, like rare generals, with their boots on.

Instead Dulles made an elaborate attempt to inject what he called a "healthy" note into the dispute, which is more and more assuming the character of public factional warfare among the ruling capitalist circles.

But what really has thrown consternation into administration ranks was Dulles' attempt to do something no other capitalist politician has thus far had either the desire, ability or boldness to undertake. And that is, to accept the need for retreat (more accurately, a series of retreats) by American imperialism on the world arena; to try to delimit

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Majority of letters back him. Most newspapers report overwhelming criticism of the Truman-Dulles-MacArthur war. Typical of the tone of these letters is that of a housewife in The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer: "Get the boys out of Korea and then impeach some of the bunglers who caused it to happen."

Up to now the American people have not dared to open their mouths because of the intimidation and witch-hunting by the government. They have seized on Hoover's speech as a means through which they can let their real sentiment be known without being persecuted and denounced as "communists."

This debate is deadly serious. It discloses a profound popular dissatisfaction — indeed a fervid opposition — to the martial course of American imperialism. It reveals Truman's Korean adventure as the most unpopular war in American history.

It is the beginning of a great awakening of the American people which may end not merely in "sounding off," but in actions that will shake this country to its depths.

DULLES SAYS CAPITALISM FACES CHOICE: 'DIE IN BED OR IN BATTLE'

By John G. Wright The Dec. 29 speech of John Foster Dulles, a prominent Republican and a leading official of the State Department, provided little solace and considerable embarrassment for both of the two contending sides in the "great controversy" over foreign policy.

It was promptly repudiated by Guy Gabrielson, Republican national chairman, who declared that "Mr. Dulles did not speak for the Republican Party." For their part, chief administration spokesmen have maintained a studious silence about the speech itself as well as about Dulles' prior telegram to Hoover, denying that this speech was intended as an attack on him as Administration-inspired advance publicity tried to represent.

Dulles assured Hoover that while his own viewpoint is "sometimes different from yours," there was, assuredly, agreement as well as disagreement between them. Indeed, yes. Instead of going down the line for the administration policy, Dulles associated himself with some of Hoover's salient criticisms of the Truman-Acheson course. What must have irked the administration and the Pentagon

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even more was Dulles' refusal to hurl such epithets as "isolationist," "defeatist," "appeaser" and the like at Hoover.

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An Asian Revolutionist Speaks for Labor

A two weeks' session of the ILO (International Labor Office) Plantation Committee was held in December in Indonesia, with delegations of workers, employers and government bodies from Belgium, Ceylon, Cuba, France, India, Indonesia, Liberia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

The Ceylon Workers delegation consisted of P. Velapillai, M.P. of the Ceylon Workers Congress, M. G. Mendis of the All-Ceylon Plantation Workers Union, and Dr. Colvin R. deSilva, of the All-Ceylon Estate Workers Union.

Following is deSilva's speech: Sir, I have asked for the rostrum on this occasion because it is necessary to say categorically and publicly that the operative decisions contained in the reports before us do not represent even the level of advance which could have been won at this Conference

shoulders of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. The activities of the ICFTU at this Conference have proved it to be the organized projection internationally of the most reactionary aspects of European and American trade unionism.

The speeches of its accredited leader, the British trade union representative, have in their approach and content only supplemented the fundamental philistinism of the employers' representatives in respect to working class problems. His tenderness for the rights of private property

has not only matched that of the employers but even at times surpassed that of some governmental representatives. In a word, the ICFTU and its chief representative have in this Conference functioned as an almost open agency of the employers within the workers' group.

class movement. I take the liberty of also warning the ILO that by not taking the necessary precautions against this sort of fake representation of the workers, it can only bring itself into disrepute.

There is a third protest I must publicly lodge. There has been far too much of an effort allround to convert the deliberations of the Plantation Workers' Committee into an anti-communist demonstration. The line was given at the outset, characteristically, by the British trade union representative with his dark hint about "knowing our real enemy."

(Continued on Page 2)



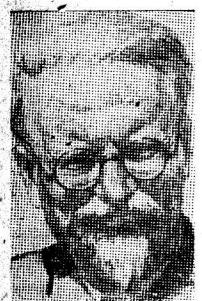
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On Labor's Way to Win Middle Class "In the epoch of the rise, growth and the bloom of capitalism the petty bourgeoisie, despite acute outbreaks of discontent, generally marched obediently in the capitalist harness.



— Leon Trotsky, Political Programs of the Petty Bourgeoisie, 1932

LENIN

No Voice for Labor

We are informed by the daily press that a "new" Congress took over on Jan. 6. The term "new" is misleading, if not false altogether.

Carran-Kilgore police-state bill and the Taft-Hartley Act. It will vote to spend more billions for the military machine.

Who Will Sacrifice?

Gov. Dewey of New York has called upon the American people to prepare for "toil and more toil, sacrifice and more sacrifice."

toil" it means speed-up and more speed-up to the workers. When he and all the other top capitalist spokesmen speak of "sacrifice" they mean the wage-freeze, and a lower standard of living for the masses of people.

Truman's Support for Franco

With Truman's appointment on Dec. 27 of investment banker Stanton Griffis as this country's first ambassador to Spain in five years, Washington has restored full diplomatic relations with the bestial fascist dictatorship of Franco.

Truman withdrew ambassador to Spain, Norman Armour. This action was taken only after the UN, against U.S. resistance, had adopted a resolution to brand Franco's regime as "fascist totalitarianism" and as a partner of Hitler and Mussolini.

U.S. Moves to Restore Japan's Military Power

By Joseph Keller Hard-pressed U.S. imperialism is now moving openly to re-militarize another of its former Axis foes — capitalist Japan.



GEN. MacARTHUR

SEPARATE TREATY This note not only asserted Washington's intention to impose its own separate peace treaty on Japan, but that "irresponsible militarism" would "make it reasonable for Japan to participate with the United States and other nations in arrangements for individual and collective self-defense."

Times military analyst, flatly asserts that "rearmament of Japan actually has started... this is the real meaning of the creation last summer by the Japanese government, under Gen. MacArthur's direction, of a national police reserve in Japan."

DULLES SAYS CAPITALISM FACES CHOICE: 'DIE IN BED OR IN BATTLE'

(Continued from Page 1) that it is "1,000 years old"; adding some 500 years to the genealogy of this social order which first saw the light of day in the Fifteenth Century.

him — and the administration line which in some respects he holds too risky and adventurous. But on the whole Dulles leans to the Truman-Acheson-MacArthur gamble of "limited war" in Asia and the almost equally risky gamble of reviving Nazi German military might in Europe.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS By LEON TROTSKY

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Stalinism and Bolshevism 40 pages .15
Fascism, What It Is—How to Fight It 48 pages .15
Their Morals and Ours 64 pages .25

WHEN THE GIs DECIDED TO COME BACK HOME

By George Breitman It is now five years since the world-wide "we want to go home" demonstrations by American troops put a crimp in the imperialist plans of the White House and the Pentagon. This is an anniversary especially worth observing today, when a similar demand — to withdraw the GIs from Korea — is being raised by broad sections of the American people, and even a section of the capitalist class.

