

Foster Brands Dies as War Monger; Assails 'Visit' by Agents in Chicago

By Sender Garlin

"The 'visit' of Communist Party headquarters in Chicago by agents of the Dies Committee shows that this un-American group is losing no time in attempting to carry out its threat to legalize the Communist Party of the United States," William Z. Foster, national chairman of the Party declared yesterday.

Foster, who had just returned from Washington, provided some illuminating footnotes and colorful sidelights on the Dies Committee before which he appeared as an all-day witness last Friday.

Returning with him was Joseph R. Brodsky, outstanding New York labor attorney, who acted as Foster's counsel at the hearings.

"None but those blinded by hatred of the Communist Party and all that it represents," Mr. Brodsky observed, "could fall but be impressed by the militant, straightforward and intelligent stand of Foster before the Committee. His countless friends throughout the country must have been gratified at the strength and vigor which Foster displayed in the face of the grueling examination to which his inquisitors subjected him." Brodsky had in mind the heart attack which Foster suffered during his Presidential campaign in 1932, the after-effects of which he suffered for several years.

"The Dies Committee," Foster declared, "is supposed to be an impartial board of inquiry, a fact-finding committee. As a matter of fact—certainly as far as the Communists are concerned—it acted as a lynching party. And Dies of Texas, of course, ought to know something about lynch tactics."

"The whole manner and method of the Dies Committee," Foster added, "showed that it did not want to find out the truth about Communist policy or Communist activity. On the contrary, it used



WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

every means in its power to prevent—if possible—bringing out the real facts as to what the Communist Party is and what it is doing."

Foster added that the only way he could get in specific statements about "the realities of the Party" was in the face of the chairman's gavel.

It is instructive, Foster asserted, to contrast this treatment with the caring attitude toward Gitlow, Zack, Dubrowsky and other such characters who were not only permitted but encouraged to make every kind of malicious and fantastic charge against the Soviet Government and the Communist Party of the United States—at great length and without any responsibility for what they were saying.

Foster was emphatic in denying and repudiating the preposterous claims of Gitlow before the Dies Committee that he was at one time Secretary of the CPUSA. "That lying assertion," the Communist leader stated, "was on par with scores of other fictitious statements made before the Dies Committee."

"One of their central points," said Foster, "was to try to make it appear that the Communist Interna-

tional was a super-centralized organization, and that the Communist Party of the United States simply jumped at its command.

"The Dies Committee tried the police court method of the 'yes' or 'no' answer on this, too. After battling against the chairman's gavel I was finally permitted to explain the real relationship between our Party and the other Parties affiliated with the Communist International, and show the malicious stupidity of the 'Moscow orders legend.'"

Foster added that the Dies Committee was very anxious to discredit the Party on the Soviet-German non-aggression pact. They thought they'd have a field day shooting into me on this issue. Someone on the Committee—I don't recall at the moment just who it was—made the claim that Stalin was cooperating with Hitler. I denied this and said that the Russians had stopped Hitler in the East and had broken up the fascist axis. And I added that even conservative British statesmen are being forced to recognize this as a fact, an observation, incidentally, which was borne out a day or two later by Winston Churchill's radio speech."

By all accounts, one of the high points of the session at which Foster testified was the Committee's almost fanatical interest in the subject of Revolution.

Says Foster:

"They asked me if I believed in the program of the C.I., and when I replied in the affirmative, they produced—with a great air of triumph—my book published in 1932, 'Toward a Soviet America. Once again they demanded 'yes' or 'no' answers to questions of revolution, violence, etc. I refused to answer the questions in this way. I declared that I was perfectly willing to answer any and all of their questions—but that I insisted on

(Continued on Page 1)

Foster, in Interview, Calls Dies War Monger

(Continued From Page 6)

stating my position in detail on such fundamental political questions. Finally, after much jockeying around, they agreed to let me make a statement.

"I made it clear that revolutions were not invented by Marx, Engels or Lenin, but that they were social processes which manifested themselves long before these great thinkers were even born. I said, furthermore, that revolutions could not be artificially organized or cultivated, that they develop particularly as a result of profound economic changes at the base of society.

"I used the American Revolution of 1776 and the election of Lincoln 1860 to illustrate this point. Referring to the latter, I said that this was a genuine revolution because political power was transferred from one class to another: from the southern landowning class to the northern industrial class, and that what actually happened was that the masses of people democratically and peacefully voted the revolutionary Republican Party into power. Whereupon the violence (the Civil War) occurred because the reactionary landowners refused to accept the democratic decision of the people; that's where the violence came in."

DIES DROPS QUIZ

Foster said that at this point the Committee decided to drop the subject "like a hot coal." Evidently in dealing with the subject of Revolution, the Dies Committee members found it highly distasteful to hear replies to their questions based on the experiences of the American Revolutions of 1776 and 1860.

The Dies Committee has a specific "technique," Foster pointed out. "They have a little trap in mind, they try to lead you on; they seize on some point that seems to stress something they want to prove; they give you a whole string of questions to try to get you to say something 'contradictory' to the statement they have in mind; then they suddenly spring their trap. Every line of questioning had some kind of trap they planned to spring on you in this way. Obviously, with such a method no attempt is made to get at the truth."

Foster charges that the Dies Committee is out to destroy the Communist Party while covering up and protecting the really subversive groups in this country. That is why, he says, he demanded that the Committee probe the activities of Father Coughlin, Henry Ford, Tom Girdler, the Associated Farmers, the Chicago Tribune and other reactionary and anti-democratic forces that are trying to lead America into fascism and war.

"They are attempting to destroy or cripple our Party," the Communist leader charged, "because they know that we are in the front-line

trenches in the fight for American democracy. Their attack upon the Communist Party is an attempt to strangle the whole progressive movement which—in this situation—amounts to an attempt to embroil the United States in the imperialist war."

Conclusive proof of this charge is seen in the question put to Foster as to his stand in the event the U. S. went into the war on the side of Great Britain and France.

"Here was a representative of the American Congress," Foster exclaimed, "who dared ask such a question!"

"The manner in which Dies seized upon my answer—that I would not support the U. S. if it joined such an imperialist war—indicated to the press that this was the story to play up. It revealed clearly that back of his mind was the determination to bring America into the war. The policy of the U. S. government is a neutral policy and the line of questioning and approach was a definitely un-neutral act on the part of the Committee and brands it for what it is—a war-mongering agency."

Foster made it clear in his interview that it was only by the most insistent demands on his part that he succeeded in presenting the viewpoint of the Party of which he is national chairman.

"Always when Communist witnesses appeared they met any attempt to present the real position, aims and methods of work of our organization with the banging of the gavel and the announcement by Dies or one of his committee-members that they 'wanted no speech-making'."

"The Dies Committee," Foster concluded, "is organized on the basis of the Ku Klux Klan idea of democracy. This Committee is one of the principal agencies for organizing un-American activities in the United States.

"That is why it has the backing of every reactionary in the country."

Courses Still Open At Workers School

In spite of an unusually heavy registration which has resulted in closing a large number of the classes offered by the Workers School, some classes are still open, and registration continues throughout this week, according to an announcement made today by Edward Smith, the school's assistant director.

Courses which are still open, and are of special interest, include Public Speaking, Trade Unionism, the Negro Question, the Symposium on the Negro in the Modern World, Soviet Democracy, Women and Society, History of the American Labor Movement, Labor and the Law, European History, and Economic Geography.