

# Comment

## The C.I.O. and Reds

SOCIAL JUSTICE — not facetiously — again asks the question: "Where are those gentlemen who campaigned for their followers to join the C.I.O.?"

Their silence is ominous — or something.

At least, they should be out in front courageously trying to rid the C.I.O. of its Red-headed leaders.

Or, if they are satisfied that such a cause is hopeless, they should be pointing out to their flocks in the same stentorian voice used on previous occasions, that the excesses of the C.I.O. are not to be condoned.

Possibly, they know more about the whole situation than does Martin Dies.

Possibly, Mr Dies' findings might be of use to them.

Thus, we reprint a speech made by the Honorable Representative from Texas in the House of Representatives on Thursday, March 27th.

Said he:

Communist Leadership in Labor Unions  
Speech of  
HON. MARTIN DIES  
of Texas  
in the House of Representatives  
Thursday, March 27, 1941

Mr. DIES: "Mr. Speaker, the shocking revelation that the strike at the Allis-Chalmers plant was called as a result of a fraudulent ballot should occasion no surprise. We have been calling the attention of this House to the Communist leadership in that strike. We have informed the House that Harold Christoffel, president of the Allis-Chalmers striking local of the Automobile Workers Union, has a record of Communist affiliation. There was nothing extraordinary in the fact that a trade-union local under such leadership cast 2,200 fraudulent ballots when the strike vote was taken. That sort of thing will continue to occur as long as Communist leadership is tolerated in labor unions. Fraud is one of the methods frequently employed by the Communist Party to attain its ends.

"We have also called attention to the fact that the Communist Party is bent upon a course of obstruction to defeat the national defense program for which this House is appropriating billions of dollars. We may expect a mounting wave of strikes in our key industries. We may expect a mounting wave of violence in connection with these strikes. We may expect repeated instances of fraud. These things are the natural fruit of Communist leadership in labor unions. For almost 3 years the C.I.O. has refused to take any action looking toward the removal of Communists from its leadership. On the contrary, the C.I.O. has defended its Communist leadership in a dozen of its constituent unions.

"In this connection, it is pertinent to call attention once more to an organization which calls itself the American Peace Mobilization. A recent investigation by our staff convinces me that the peace mobilization is simply a front for the Communist Party. It is more completely Communist in its complexion and control than was the American League for Peace and Democracy. The American League flourished in the period of the People's

Front, and was able, therefore, to conceal its Communist control more successfully than is the case with the American Peace Mobilization. This latter organization belongs to the period of collaboration between Stalin and Hitler, and this fact stamps it more clearly as an instrument of the foreign policy of the 'red' dictator. The American Peace Mobilization has a single aim, and that aim is to defeat the program of national defense. That is likewise the aim of the Communist Party.

"The thousands of innocents who were hoodwinked into aiding the American League for Peace and Democracy are not to be found in the American Peace Mobilization. The Peace Mobilization's objectives are too plain on the surface to allow innocents to be misled.

"The outstanding facts about the American Peace Mobilization is the support which it receives from the Communist-dominated unions in the C.I.O. It is this C.I.O. support which makes the American Peace Mobilization a sinister force in the country today.

"A few weeks ago the Daily Worker listed the names of the C.I.O. leaders who are backing the American Peace Mobilization. Those names belong in the *Record*. They go a long way toward explaining the wave of strikes and violence that now jeopardizes our national defense program. Here are the C.I.O. leaders who are, according to the Daily Worker, behind the program of the American Peace Mobilization:

"Reid Robinson, president of the Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers of America, a man with a very long record of affiliation with the front organizations of the Communist Party. Robinson is a vice president of the C.I.O.

"Michael J. Quill, president of the Transport Workers Union, about whose membership in the Communist Party there can be little doubt.

"George C. Peacock, president of the National Association of Die Casters, whose union carried on the strike at the Harvill plant in Inglewood, Calif., under the leadership of Kenneth Eggert and Ralph Dawson, two Communist Party members of public record.

"Lewis Alan Berne, president of the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists, and Technicians, a union whose national organizer, Marcel Scherer, ran for office on the Communist Party ticket.

"E. F. Burke, secretary of the National Marine Cooks' and Stewards' Association, a union under the complete control of Harry Bridges.

"Abraham Flaxer, president of the State, County, and Municipal Workers of America, a man with a long record of affiliation with Communist Party front organizations.

"Ben Gold, president of the International Fur and Leather Workers Union, an avowed member of the Communist Party.

"Donald Henderson, president of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing, and Allied Workers of America, an avowed member of the Communist Party.

"J. F. Jurich, president of the International Union of Fishermen and Allied Workers of America, another Bridges' union.

"Mat Meehan, secretary of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, Bridges' own union.

"Lewis Merrill, president of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, a union which our committee found to be under Communist control.

"Frederick N. Myers, general organizer of the National Maritime Union, about whose Communist Party membership there can be no doubt, and a man with a serious criminal record under another name.

"Grant W. Oakes, chairman of the Farm Equipment Workers Organizing Committee and leader of the strike at the plants of International Harvester, the man who so recently threatened wholesale violence in this strike.

"O. M. Ortin, president of the Woodworkers of America.

"Joseph Selly, president of the American Communications Association. Selly has under his supervision at least half a dozen short-wave radio stations operated by members of his union. Selly has recently been appointed a member of the Labor Advisory Board for Defense Communications.

"All of the foregoing prominent leaders of the C.I.O. are announced as supporters of the American Peace Mobilization. I reiterate the question: What are you, Mr. Philip Murray, going to do about this Communist leadership in the C.I.O.?"

The foregoing speech is a strong indictment of those fabulous leaders and gentlemen who were famous for joining popular front movements such as the American League for Peace and Democracy.

We who stand for peace mobilization do not approve of the Communist infiltration into its ranks — an infiltration designed to capture the leadership of the movement.

The Dies speech which we reproduced is worthwhile re-reading, if for no other purpose than to learn the litany of names associated with the radicalism operating under the banner of the C.I.O.

## Canada's Prime Minister Speaks

ACCORDING to the *New York Times* (April 7), Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King warned his fellow countrymen against "facile optimism and exaggerated expectations."

He foresaw the possibility of Germany's becoming the arsenal of a consolidated Europe.

He foresaw the possibility of America's becoming isolated by the rest of the world.

He foresaw the possibility of America's being forced to adopt totalitarian methods in order to survive.

And he foresaw the possibility of Britain's not winning the battle of the Atlantic.

Well, the Prime Minister is realistic. He is simply voicing what SOCIAL JUSTICE foresaw months ago — years ago — when it pleaded with this Government to stay out of the European war.

History will recognize that Chamberlain's appeasement policy was perfectly sound under the circumstances of unpreparedness on the part of France and England.

France and England, like the United States, were infested by Communists and Communist supporters who were responsible for unpreparedness because they loved Joe Stalin more than they did either John Bull or Uncle Sam.

When the Anthony Edens abroad and the Bullitts at home campaigned for "war now," they were campaigning for Karl Marx.

And history will vindicate this assertion.



# Comment

## Legislating Bigotry

### Phelps Bill Dead; Wire From Author

SOCIAL JUSTICE is in receipt of the following telegram from Phelps Phelps, state senator from the 13th district of New York, and author of the Phelps Bill discussed in the April 7 issue of this publication:

"Editor, SOCIAL JUSTICE:

"Let me assure you that the sole purpose of the bill I introduced at this session (of the New York legislature) and which you discuss in SOCIAL JUSTICE of April 7, had but one purpose—the frustration and defeat of the disloyalists active in the German Bund, the Communistic organizations and other disruptive, hate-promoting subversive societies.

"Your interpretation of the section penalizing the dissemination of 'any picture, photograph, emblem, representation, sign or token which in any way incites, counsels, promotes, advocates or symbolizes hatred, violence or hostility against any group or groups of persons residing or being in this state, by reason of race, color, religion or manner of worship' as a prohibition of the use of prayer beads or other holy Catholic relics astonished me.

"How could these blessed representations of the Church promote anything but brotherly love as taught by Christ Himself?

"Every sector of the bill is directed against ugly hate and un-American activity.

"The proposal in its entirety was patterned after a New Jersey statute under which nine Bundists were convicted, a law held constitutional in that state.

"My surprise was heightened by the fact that my record in voting for every Catholic proposal directed at Nazis, Communists and Kluxers and others is absolutely without a blemish. Moreover, I voted for the bill providing bus transportation for Catholic children, which Governor Lehman vetoed, and the measure which he subsequently signed; against the so-called 'Youth Control Bill,' which the Catholic organizations opposed; in favor of the welfare law providing care for crippled Catholic children; every other measure supported by the Church organizations.

"Opposition arising largely from misconception and misinterpretation of the bill, which I assure you was motivated by a determination to counteract the forces of subversion and disunity, has persuaded me that education is the one effective means by which we can accomplish such a result.

"So persuaded, I permitted the bill to die in committee.

"I agree with you that we can hardly legislate tolerance. Enlightenment, truly, is the only effective means, and that only through education such as the Church provides, in contrast to so many institutions countenancing the spread of anti-Americanism from the classroom.

"I assure you my motives were wholly American, assertively anti-radical.

(signed) "Phelps Phelps,  
State Senator, 13th District,  
New York."

If SOCIAL JUSTICE has done Mr. Phelps an injustice the editors offer their sincere apologies.

The criticism of the measure which appeared in the April 7 issue was based upon the loopholes in the proposal, not necessarily upon the intent of the author.

SOCIAL JUSTICE readily concedes Mr. Phelps' point that rosary beads and other "blessed representations of the Church" could not possibly promote racial hatred. The April 7 comment took this into consideration, declaring that "while every informed person knows that nothing in the liturgy of the Christian faith is intended to incite hatred of any race, non-Christians might construe certain statements in religious prayerbooks as 'tending to incite hostility' against them."

Witness, for example, the recent articles in Jewish publications, denouncing the "anti-Semitism" of the New Testament, and calling for Christian abandonment of Lent because of its "tragic implications."

However, Mr. Phelps cites a splendid record to prove his good faith in the matter. It appears, therefore, that the fault of the bill lay in its loose construction, which the author inferentially admits bred "opposition arising largely from misconception and misinterpretation."

No fair-minded person, Jew or Gentile, approves of bigotry.

But legislators must recognize the dangers of attempting to outlaw bigotry by statutes which infringe on freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly.

Smart lawyers can twist the meaning of laws to suit their own purposes and courts frequently are forced to rule in accordance with specious arguments which have enough legal support to be binding.

Commenting on an "anti-bigotry" bill introduced recently in Maryland, the cradle of America's traditional religious tolerance, the *Baltimore Sun* recalls, "It has been said that Fascism would come to America, if at all, in the guise of anti-Fascism."

Asserting that "it is silly to expect Fascism in any form in America," the *Sun* observes nevertheless that there is a kernel of truth in that "flippant paradox" about Fascism appearing in the guise of anti-Fascism.

That kernel of truth, the *Sun* declares, "is indicated by a bill just introduced into the General Assembly."

"H. B. 291 would prohibit propaganda or acts inciting to racial or religious hatred. It would make it illegal in any way to 'set up and make legible in any language' any book, speech, statement or pamphlet advocating discrimination on grounds of race, color, religion or form of worship.

"The bill would outlaw organizations having constitutions or by-laws which promoted religious or racial hostility. It would forbid meetings for such purposes, and a meeting would be any coming together of three or more persons. Signs, emblems and photographs tending to foment hostility would come under the ban.

"Owners of halls, theaters or broadcasting stations or distributing agents which lent themselves to the dissemination of the forbidden doctrines would be liable to punishment. And, just to plug up any remaining loopholes, *H. B. 291 would make it illegal to voice in private conversation any of the thoughts laid out in the statute as dangerous to the public safety.*

"No one will deny that thoughts tending to generate racial or religious hatred are dangerous. No one will deny that statements and organizations devoted to such ends can be a peril to the public peace. But no one can argue that present laws of libel, present State and Federal statutes for the control of subversion, the registration of organizations suspected of having foreign

ties, etc., leave the country altogether unprotected against the evils of bigotry.

"Bigotry is an evil. But all men do not agree on what constitutes bigotry, and while *H. B. 291* couldn't possibly suppress bigotry it could impair free speech. No one sensitive to the American and to the Maryland tradition of free speech and of free assembly can deny that *H. B. 291* offends against both. Doubtful in constitutionality, if passed, *H. B. 291* is so doubtful on the wider and more obvious ground of public policy that it ought not to be considered."

### Hoover's Mercy Plan— And the Bishops

EX-PRESIDENT Herbert Hoover devised a plan to feed the hungry, starving multitudes of Europe.

It was a plan not agreeable to the British Government.

Consequently, it was a plan not agreeable to its New Deal partners.

Mr. Hoover explored the Catholic hierarchy to discover those who would support the Hoover plan.

Heading the list of 20 Catholic prelates who agreed publicly to support it and thereby help swing American public opinion to the Hoover mercy plan at the risk of affronting Great Britain and its New Deal subservients, were William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, the Most Rev. John A. Floersch of Louisville, Kentucky, and the Most Rev. John T. McNicholas of Cincinnati.

These prelates signed a document which reads, in part, as follows:

"As individual American citizens—in co-operation with religious leaders of every denomination, who have publicly expressed their support and approval of Herbert Hoover's plan to relieve starvation within the occupied countries of Europe—we join in giving expression to our strong belief that the exigencies of even a just war do not require that millions of innocent children, women and noncombatants be made to endure famine.

"A victory built on the dead bodies of starving women and children, innocent victims of the war over which they have no control, will destroy human sentiments that must necessarily enter into any form of enduring peace.

"The proposals of the National Committee on Food for the Small Democracies, of which former President Herbert Hoover is honorary chairman, are humanitarian and should be carried out in the name of Christian charity. Conditions set up by this committee specifically provide that none of the food, directly or indirectly, shall reach or benefit Germany. As long as this condition is maintained we cannot see why such a humanitarian and Christian proposal should be rejected.

"We hope and pray that those who guide the destinies of nations will be conscious of their obligation to protect the innocent, and not lay obstacles in the path of a movement whose sole object is to alleviate dire distress without affording aid to those who have invaded the lands of these many millions of starving and helpless fellow humans.

"With the Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, we believe that 'we can desire nothing more in such a convulsion of things than to help the bodies and raise the spirits' of the innocent victims of war."

Mr. Hoover received letters from other members of the hierarchy either favoring or disfavoring his plan. One member of the hierarchy was reluctant to have his name published lest its publication might be construed as embarrassing to the Government.