

IN DEFENSE OF SOCIALIZED MEDICINE

By Harry Braverman

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Special Report From China on The Civil War

(The following is a report by the Political Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, Chinese section of the Fourth International.)

SOMEWHERE IN SOUTHERN CHINA, April 5 — The present situation in China is dominated by three outstanding facts:

- 1. The spectacular victories of the Stalinist-controlled peasant armies.
2. The bottomless bankruptcy, corruption and disintegration of the Kuomintang regime.
3. The political indifference, demoralization, paralysis and disorganization of the city working class.

It is universally recognized among the Chinese people that the surprising victories of the Stalinist peasant armies are a tribute not so much to its own strength as to the abysmal corruption of Chiang's arch-reactionary rule.

The fatal turning point came with the rout of the Kuomintang campaign in the Suchow campaign where all the military advantages were on Chiang's side. But his army was corroded through and through, the top command pervaded with corruption and the ranks undermined by the deepest demoralization.

CHIANG'S WITHDRAWAL

Confronted by internal collapse and by rising rebellion in the southwestern provinces, Chiang for a brief moment assumed the role of dove of peace. But the five conditions he offered as a basis for negotiations were a transparent effort to gain a breathing spell and were deservedly rejected by Yen-an.

he will be able to make a comeback a la De Gaulle. At this most critical juncture, when the Kuomintang reshuffled its cabinet in the hope of getting a breathing spell, Mao Tse-tung proclaimed his eight-point program, the basis for another rotten compromise.

Tito Says Czech Government Abets Despots in Greece

The Belgrade newspaper Politika carried on April 21 a detailed account of how the Stalinist-dominated Czech government since August 1947 has been supplying large quantities of strategic materials to the Greek monarchists and thus aiding and abetting them in the Greek civil war.

Under the original 1947 trade agreement, the Czechs supplied the Athens government with machinery, textiles, chemical and timber. When this pact was extended to August 1949, the Czech Stalinists agreed to add to the list aluminum, automobiles and trucks.

The Communist press and the Czechs in particular had previously denounced Tito's regime for engaging in trade negotiations with the Athens government. Belgrade has flatly denied this and capped its denial by the foregoing exposure, which has yet to be disproved.

It is nothing new for the Kremlin to accuse its opponents of the crimes it commits itself. Stalin did not hesitate to slip oil to Mussolini when the Italian fascists were engaged in the rape of Ethiopia.

Attacks on Democratic Rights Arouse Increasing Opposition

Make Yourself at Home



'Model' Repressive Law Adopted by Maryland

The most repressive law against "subversives" yet enacted by any state government was signed on April 22 by Governor Lane and went into effect the same day. Maryland was once known as the Free State.

This new law, entitled "Sedition and Subversive Activities," is of especial significance not merely because of its severity and semi-fascist content, but because it is being hailed by anti-labor and reactionary elements as a "model" for the other states and the federal government.

The Ober Act, named after Frank B. Ober, a Baltimore lawyer who headed the governor's commission that drafted the bill, was drawn up with the aid of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the FBI.

Its principal provisions are patterned on the Smith "Gag" Act of 1940, which Roosevelt signed and first used in 1941 against the Socialist Workers Party and the CIO truckdrivers in Minneapolis; Truman's "loyalty" purge order; and the Mundt-Nixon Bill which was reintroduced into Congress several weeks ago.

Just before the signing of the North Atlantic Pact last month, Winston Churchill visited these shores. His host was Bernard M. Baruch, whom the capitalist press calls "America's Elder Statesman." Their meeting at that precise moment in history—the conclusion of the greatest military alliance of all time—was no mere coincidence.

Any organization is defined as "subversive" which advocates the "alteration" of the existing form of government by "revolution," force or violence. The law also defines a "foreign subversive organization." This is "one which is controlled either directly or "indirectly" by a foreign government and which advocates the "alteration" of the existing government by any means whatever.

Anyone convicted of advocating or "teaching" such views or knowingly "supporting" in any way either a domestic or foreign "subversive" organization is liable to a \$20,000 fine and 20 years in prison. These are the harshest penalties of any law of its type—there are now more than 150 on state and federal statute books—except the federal espionage and treason law, whose penalties range from a \$10,000 fine to death.

These conclusions are embodied in a programmatic article by Bernard M. Baruch — "What of Our Future?" — in the April 23 Saturday Evening Post. In his article, under the guise of posing the problem of the future of our society, Baruch indicates the course American capitalism proposes to travel.

The law requires loyalty oaths of all candidates for elective office, and all public employees, including teachers, are subject to mandatory "loyalty" investigations. Teachers and other public employees may be fired, without their guilt being proved, merely if there are "reasonable grounds" to "believe" they are "subversive."

GI Jobless Benefits To End on July 25

Most of the 15,000,000 veterans will lose their eligibility for unemployment benefits under the GI Bill of Rights after July 25. After that date — unless Congress changes the law — only veterans discharged since July 25, 1947, will be eligible for GI jobless aid.

Largest Branches In NMU Condemn Purge Amendm'ts

Membership meetings of the CIO National Maritime Union in the largest ports on the east coast have gone on record against the proposal of the union's National Council to scuttle the non-discrimination clause in the NMU constitution.

In the port of New York, the largest shipping center in the country, the NMU membership adopted a resolution condemning the National Council proposals by a vote of 1,535 to 97. This was followed by similar action in Philadelphia which voted 325 to 3; Boston, 351 to 0; and Baltimore, 197 to 64.

The proposals of the National Council in the form of amendments to be submitted to a 30-day referendum vote of the entire membership beginning on May 2. These amendments would require that all members "affirm, in writing, that they are not members of the Communist Party or of any other subversive totalitarian organization."

SWEEPING AND DECEPTIVE

In addition to the yellow-dog affidavit the amendments would subject to expulsion "any persons who subscribe to, support, sponsor or otherwise follow a course of action consistent with and demonstrating membership in or adherence to the policy and program of the Communist Party or any other subversive or totalitarian doctrine."

It was disclosed at the membership meetings that the National Council resolution and amendments had been drawn up by the union's attorney and were so full of lawyers' double-talk, provisions so sweeping and all-inclusive, language so deceptive and ambiguous, that any critic or opponent could be summarily expelled as a "subversive."

OPPOSING AMENDMENTS

The revulsion against this attempt to establish a totalitarian police regime under the pretext of combating "totalitarian subversives" was immediate and effective. Twenty-four officials in the port of New York who were elected on the Rank & File Caucus slate which ousted the Stalinists in the last election, signed and circulated a statement opposing the yellow dog amendments.

Under the union constitution the National Council proposals must go to a referendum vote, but the opposition expressed in the largest and most decisive ports indicates that the NMU membership is prepared to resist the red-baiting hysteria.

Chicago Educators Challenge Witch-Hunt; 105 Aid Kutcher

One hundred and five University of Chicago faculty members joined in a public statement this week protesting the denial of genuine freedom of association and thought to the legless veteran James Kutcher.

Almost every department of this leading Midwest university was represented among the signers to an appeal on Kutcher's behalf sponsored by Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize winner and director of the War Research Atomic Bomb Project, with four other famous scientists and scholars on the Chicago campus.

The 105 educators declared that "administrative agencies, using procedures which lend themselves to arbitrary action, should be subject to control both by public criticism and by judicial review." They demanded that Kutcher be granted the full and fair public hearing he asked, and record their agreement with the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee.

This forthright affirmation of the democratic rights involved in Kutcher's case by so large and distinguished a group of professors is especially noteworthy in view of attempts being made by Illinois witch-hunters to stifle free speech and ban progressive ideas from the universities in that state. This past week the State Legislature's Seditious Activities Investigation Commission held hearings in Springfield on alleged subversive activities at the University of Chicago and at Roosevelt College.

One of the Commission witnesses, Howard Rushmore, ex-Daily Worker reporter and now red-hunting specialist for the Hearst press, demanded that Professor Urey be barred from further work on atomic projects because of connections with organizations arbitrarily designated by the U. S. Attorney General as subversive. He also attacked two other well-known initiators of the Kutcher statement, Prof. Malcolm P. Sharp and Prof. Anton J. Carlson. Their statement on the Kutcher case answers the witch-hunters by pointing out that the doctrines of "guilt by association" and "subversion," arbitrarily defined by administrative officials, "create a frightening atmosphere that cuts the nerve of independent thinking."

Testifying before the Commission on April 21, Chancellor Robert M. Hutchins of the University of Chicago staunchly defended academic freedom against the witch-hunters. He said the university did not believe in "the doctrine of guilt by association" and declared that "the policy of repression of ideas cannot work and never has worked."

The following day Dr. E. J. Sparling, President of Roosevelt College, Chicago, upheld the right of Albert Einstein and Thomas Mann, members of his college advisory board, "to join, as their conscience dictates, organizations the purpose of which their understanding leads them to accept," despite their blacklisting by the Attorney General. When one of the hired inquisitors, J. B. Matthews, asked: "Does freedom of speech mean you must provide a man (like Gerhart Eisler, the Stalinist) with a platform or a radio microphone?"

Heartening Signs In the Fight for Civil Liberties

An Editorial

Heartening signs of growing resistance to the witch-hunt are beginning to appear. This past week has seen two significant challenges raised against those who would stifle free speech and free thought in America.

At one of the great institutions of higher learning, the University of Chicago, 105 leading professors and educators have dared to stand up and be counted among the true defenders of civil liberties. They have attached their names publicly, in the midst of a "subversive" probe of their own institution, to a statement in defense of James Kutcher, the legless veteran fired from his government job for membership in the Socialist Workers Party. At the same time, the heads of the University of Chicago and Roosevelt College have courageously upheld academic freedom against the Illinois witch-hunters.

And in the trade unions, a new fresh wind has begun to blow. By an overwhelming majority, the rank and file members of the National Maritime Union in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, have condemned the proposal of their National Council to introduce the witch-hunt and "loyalty" purge into the NMU by constitutional amendment. This action by the members of the NMU is especially significant because they are so strongly anti-Stalinist. They have shown they know the difference between fighting Stalinism as an anti-labor tendency and giving support to policies aimed at destroying the principles of trade union democracy.

These two events are a welcome beginning—but they must not remain only a beginning. The forces of reaction are driving unceasingly on every front, in every sphere of American life, to reduce all thought and expression to the level of the police-state mind. The defense of democratic rights must likewise be waged relentlessly on every front by the united efforts of all to whom civil liberties means more than a catch-word.

VIDEO STATION CUTS OFF WEISS CIVIL RIGHTS DEBATE

LOS ANGELES, April 23 — The television broadcast "Viewpoint Unlimited" was abruptly cut off after sixteen lively minutes last Sunday. The debate in which Myra T. Weiss, Chairman of the Los Angeles Local of the Socialist Workers Party, participated apparently was not proceeding to the liking of the management of KFI-TV.

Next Week:

Another exclusive dispatch from China, presenting the program and perspectives of the Chinese Trotskyists.

Colvin R. De Silva, member of the Ceylon Parliament and leader of the Ceylon Trotskyists, tells why he was barred from being a delegate at the Stalinist-dominated "World Peace Congress" in Paris.

Art Preis continues his analysis of Bernard Baruch's extremely revealing article on Washington's plans for permanent regimentation of the American people.

And coming soon will be the first of a series of articles by Grace Carlson on the health plans being offered by various groups.

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Baruch's Plan for Permanent Regimentation

By Art Preis

Just before the signing of the North Atlantic Pact last month, Winston Churchill visited these shores. His host was Bernard M. Baruch, whom the capitalist press calls "America's Elder Statesman." Their meeting at that precise moment in history—the conclusion of the greatest military alliance of all time—was no mere coincidence.

No man has freer access to the White House, for he is the master strategist of American imperialism.

We may never know the exact words exchanged between Churchill, who formally is merely a leader of the Tory opposition in Parliament, and Baruch, whom the press represents as a mellowed political philosopher holding office on park benches. But we do know the general conclusions and decisions at which they arrived—decisions which are now the guiding line of American and British imperialism.

DECISION MADE

These conclusions are embodied in a programmatic article by Bernard M. Baruch — "What of Our Future?" — in the April 23 Saturday Evening Post. In his article, under the guise of posing the problem of the future of our society, Baruch indicates the course American capitalism proposes to travel.

"Decision, decision, decision — I cannot stress its necessity too strongly. All business is now on a fear-to-fear basis," exclaims Baruch. That decision is a definitive answer to the all-dominant question: War or peace? and that decision has been made, Baruch's article makes clear as crystal. It is war.

The purpose of the Baruch statement is not to argue in favor of this decision, nor even to make explicit that this decision has already been made, for war preparations must ever be masked in "peace" phraseology. It is his purpose to lay out the line of propaganda to prepare the American people to accept the inevitable consequences of a decision already arrived at in the secret councils of American and British imperialism.



BERNARD M. BARUCH

First of all, Baruch defines "the cause of the jitters spreading through the country" as "the absence of peace." It is not "generally appreciated" by the American people "what revolutionary changes in our habitual ways are being forced by our

being neither at war nor at peace."

We are, in fact, in "a continuous state of near-war" and "the cold war has thrust us into an around-the-clock twilight, with no telling where peace begins, where war ends." The United States is "trying to spend its way out" of this "twilight" state with a huge military budget and enormous foreign expenditures. "Yet, although taxes exact one out of every four dollars Americans' earn, and grave domestic needs in health, education and housing are neglected, nowhere have we achieved a decision in the peace-making," says Baruch. "How much can we do—and for how long — without wrecking ourselves and taking the world with us?"

There is no peace, Baruch informs us, in an echo of The Militant's first headline after V-J (Continued on Page 2)





