

Foster Administers Crushing Defeat to Muste in Lively Debate; Exposes Demagoguery

Audience Raises \$464 for Scottsboro Defense

While a thousand workers were turned away from the New Star Casino Sunday, unable to get in 3,000 who packed the hall, heard one of the liveliest debates of recent years in which William Z. Foster for the Trade Union Unity League administered a crushing defeat to A. J. Muste, social fascist chairman of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action. The debate was held under the auspices of the John Reed Club upon the question of the merits and demerits of the respective organizations.

As a subject of no less interest, however, Richard B. Moore of the International Labor Defense led off with an appeal for the Scottsboro prisoners and a collection was made of \$464. After which Frank Palmer of the Federated Press, acting as chairman, introduced Comrade Foster as the first speaker. An ovation was immediately given the TUUL spokesman.

While space forbids any detailed account of the speeches, the whole affair was a merciless unmasking of the shameless demagoguery of the Muste group and its chieftain on the part of Foster, and on the part of Muste

FIREMEN AID FIRE IN RED QUARTERS

Brownsville Hall Is Destroyed

NEW YORK.—The Section Headquarters of the Brownsville section of the Communist Party was completely demolished by fire. The firemen, contrary to the usual procedure of saving everything possible, helped to destroy those things that the fire did not touch. These firemen, getting their instructions from those that are very much interested in destroying the movement of the workers and everything that belongs to them, took particular pains to tear up, and pour water on, all the revolutionary pictures and literature. All the furniture, chairs, benches, tables, etc., near which the fire did not even come, were broken.

The Communist Party is now confronted with the problem of setting up a new headquarters. Until such a place is secured, the Party will temporarily make its headquarters in the Workers Youth Center, 112 Osborne St. The Workers Youth Center, upon discovering that the Party headquarters was burned down, immediately offered the use of their headquarters, as did the other working class organizations, clearly illustrating their loyalty to the Party.

The Communist Party, having no other resources but that of the

an exemplary illustration of this demagoguery in which the voice was the voice of Muste, but the policy was the policy of Matthew Woll and the Communist renegades. Lovestone, Cannon and Weisbord. Indeed, some of these latter worthies' followers were fervent applauders of Muste's remarks.

Foster led off by explaining the TUUL organization and policies as opposed to those of the A. F. of L. The A. F. of L. bureaucracy has made it an organization of strike-breakers, of class collaboration. The A. F. of L. leads in the war propaganda against the Soviet Union, its leaders are fascists, crooks and racketeers.

Forced to Organize Revolutionary Unions.

The TUUL for some years did not build independent unions. But the workers were forced to do so. The A. F. of L. unions cannot be captured by their members through democratic means and many instances were shown. The unorganized—the vast majority of the workers—have to form new unions. The organized, too, are forced by the reactionaries to split from the A. F. of L. in order to fight the employers. The TUUL in its two years has been in dozens of struggles and in them has faced not only the terror of the bosses, and the betrayal of the A. F. of L., but also the support of this terror and betrayal by the Musteites.

"Radical talk and conservative or reactionary action," said Foster, "is the policy of Muste and his group." Foster proceeded to explain the world role of social fascism as an auxiliary of such fascists as Green, Woll and Fish. Muste puts on "a bright red dress" in this crisis just as Fitzpatrick and Nockels did in the first post-war crisis, just as Hillman once wanted to represent the Red International of Labor Unions.

Muste and his group talk of "planned economy" and Muste was quoted on this as in agreement with Hilquit, Woll and Hoover, as a way out of the crisis.

Musteites Take Capitalist Path.

Foster explained that this is the capitalists' way, the fascist way. The TUUL denies this and says that only the revolutionary working class can solve the crisis to the benefit of the working class. The A. F. of L. leaders, as Lenin said, are the agents of the capitalists, in the ranks of the workers. Muste tries to picture them as "erring brothers" and their betrayal of the Southern workers, Muste has said is merely "just another grave short-coming," while the A. F. of L. opposition to unemployment insurance, Muste describes merely as "amazing inconsistency." In short, the Muste policy is a defense of labor treachery, where it is not an open complicity with this treachery. And Foster explained the instance of Muste treachery. The sell-out of the Illinois miners by Far-

ington, Muste had defended by saying that "selling out to the operators is not so serious to the miners." Still quoting from the Muste organ, Labor Age, Foster quoted Muste's writing that the B. & O. plan was only "collective bargaining" and there was "no use to fight against it."

Muste "Excuses" A.F.L. Treachery.

Every treachery and betrayal of the A. F. of L. leaders, Muste had hailed as a "great victory." In the Illinois mine strike Muste said, "We are as unwilling to cooperate with Communists, as is the A. F. of L. itself." Every renegade from Communism is immediately embraced by Muste, who while pretending to be a friend of the Soviet Union, supports the counter-revolutionary social party in the elections. Muste talks against wage cuts, but the Muste controlled Full Fashion Hosiery Union was the first to accept a wage cut. Muste supports the Social Heywood Brown, who openly opposed the enforcement of the Constitutional Rights of Negroes, while Muste's union in the south Jim Crow Negroes. The TUUL organization and policy is indispensable to the working class.

Again there was a stormy ovation as Foster closed, Muste took the floor and, as Foster pointed out in his devastating rebuttal devoted 40 minutes to attacking revolutionary unionism without so much as one word of attack against the A. F. of L. and its policy and practice of treason to labor.

Repeats Renegades Slurs.

The chief points of Muste were that the TUUL is in "collapse" chiefly because of "dual unionism and abandonment of work in old unions." This had brought about "isolation" and so on. Muste made copious use of the quotations from Lenin's "Left Wing Communism" and the Communist and TUUL press where mistakes of "abandonment of work in old unions," of "bureaucracy" and "ignoring of the rank and file" were criticized.

A general horse laugh greeted Muste's last remarks which were to the effect that the Communists were really counter-revolutionists, a falsehood which Foster pointed out. Muste had adopted from the counter-revolutionary renegades from Communism. Muste quotes from the Communist and TUUL press where revolutionary workers are criticized for their mistakes in building revolutionary unions. Foster stated, "and one would think: who listened to Muste that his greatest worry was how to build the revolutionary unions!"

Muste quotes from Lenin against dual unionism. Foster stated, without stating that Lenin would discriminate between concrete conditions and had himself approved the formation of dual unions in France. "In fact," said Foster, "Muste's quotations from

Lenin are a piece of social fascist hypocrisy, as can be seen from his writing in the Labor Age where he sneers at 'the high priests of Moscow.' Lenin is one of these 'high priests' whom Muste attacks and every Leninist in the Communist International fully supports the TUUL and firmly condemns Muste."

"Muste says we are isolated! We ask Muste, 'Did you happen to be at Union Square on May First?' Muste pretends to be for the rank and file, but he supports Broach in the Electrical Workers Union, who says, 'Anybody who leaves it to the rank and file is a fool.'"

The attack of Foster drove Muste deeper into demagoguery. It was not surprising that this awoke derisive outcries from the audience. Some of his remarks were: "I want to see capitalism destroyed." "The only alternative are fascism or a world war that will wreck civilization." "I believe in the class struggle." "Not in putting ballots in the box." "The workers face a choice of submitting to fascist dictatorship or establishing a proletarian dictatorship." "I hope they will have the courage and strength to choose the latter."

Support TUUL.

But where this demagoguery led to was evident when, after saying that "a Communist movement is inevitable," and that "every honest worker must commit himself to the establishment of a revolutionary movement on every field,"—Muste proposed his social fascist program as this "revolutionary movement." Foster smashed this astounding hypocrisy in his summary and closed the debate with an appeal for the TUUL, while the audience again gave him an ovation that proved which side had won the debate.

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