

*Passing the Word — Whose Word?*

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By GUS HALL

ONE IS INCLINED to pass up idiotic drives without comment. When asinine and fraudulent statements are made by public figures, then it is necessary to speak up. The column by Joseph Curran, president of the National Maritime Union, in the December issue of "The Pilot" calls for an answer.

The only truthful word in the whole piece is the title "Passing the Word." The CIA's propaganda department has a large stable of professional falsifiers who, for cash, grind out filthy redbaiting fiction by the ton. In the trade union movement this odious bilge is pumped for publication by a Jay Lovestone who holds down a CIA desk in the front office of the AFL-CIO. This drive is published in the trade union press under the name of any official who can be convinced, paid off or forced into the use of his name.

Redbaiting has always been a camouflage for the crimes and misdeeds of demagogues and scoundrels of all types. It took a lot of redbaiting to cover for the crimes of Hitler and Mussolini. Senator McCarthy's redbaiting (not Eugene, but Joe) was the cover for the crimes of the Korean War and an attempt to discredit our democratic institutions, including our trade union movement. And in retrospect one must say that the damage to the trade union movement was inestimable.

It takes a lot of redbaiting to cover for the crimes of the U.S. aggression against Vietnam. And it took a wave of fanatical redbaiting for the Meany-Lovestone-Dubinsky clique to put over an endorsement of these crimes of the Johnson administration at the recent AFL-CIO convention.

Curran's column, entitled "The War in Vietnam—Part of America's Defensive Freedom," and his redbaiting speeches at the convention are also a part of this camouflage.

The column by Curran is a rehashing of all the fraudulent filth that was ever peddled by any anti-labor, anti-democratic demagogue from Hitler to Hoover, from Eastland to Welch. It must have been the same stable that shoveled out the swill for the Administration spokesmen at the AFL-CIO convention, because it is difficult to say where Rusk's speech ended and Curran's began.

The ugly imperialist aggression against Vietnam, that is more unanimously condemned by the world than any in history, is defended by Curran. The demagoguery he uses is that this is a continuation of the struggle against fascism. This will fool no one. U.S. imperialism is doing today what German imperialism did under Hitler. The forces who fought fascism are today fighting against U.S. imperialism. The forces who defended fascism are today defending U.S. imperialism. Curran tries to cover up for this brutal imperialist aggression by saying, "All Communist countries act as if there were no such things as national boundaries." Such idiocy cannot cover up the undeniable facts that it is U.S. imperialism that has crossed the boundaries in Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, Taiwan and was instrumental in the crossing of the boundaries of Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

Curran's column talks about the danger of "Communist global take-over." This is a threadbare defense of the greatest "take-over" the world has ever known. U.S. imperialism is now

the largest colonial power in history; it exploits more human beings than any power in history. It has more war bases around the world than any government in history. U.S. capitalism controls more industries, banks and utilities overseas than any class in history. All the rebaiting in the world will not cover up this banditry.

Curran says, "Our hopes of worldwide solidarity of workers through the World Federation of Trade Unions were torpedoed by the Communists."

It is too late for this big lie. Since the public exposure of some of the operations of the CIA no one will buy this hogwash. Because it is now common knowledge based on exposure and open confessions that it was U.S. big business through the CIA, through Lovestone, Meany and Dubinsky, that set out to split the trade union movement. It is now common knowledge that they spent sums running into hundreds of millions to buy, to corrupt trade union officials around the world to split the trade unions. The very latest of these exposes and confessions by labor leaders comes from Finland where trade union leaders admitted being on the CIA payroll for the specific purpose of splitting the trade unions of Finland.

No amount of redbaiting is going to cover up the fact that, because of boot licking subservience to big business by the AFL-CIO leadership, the labor federation has become more isolated from the trade unions of the world than at any time in history. The trade union movement of the world has rejected the very redbaiting filth that Curran now peddles.

In this column Curran trots out all of the old ultra-Right fascist garbage such as "Moscow gold," "subversion," etc.

It takes a lot to cover up an ugly unjust war of imperialist aggression. The Lovestone stables pulled out all stops so Curran could say, "In Vietnam it requires full scale war." And in his speech at the convention, to add a call for, and a prediction of an armed U.S. aggression against the Republic of Cuba.

The redbaiting at the AFL-CIO convention became the cover for the reactionary policies of its top leadership. But in spite of this, it took five members of the President's Cabinet, army brass and dozens of other government officials and the prepared redbaiting trash to keep down the voices of revolt even within a convention whose delegates were largely hand-picked.

Curran is not "passing the word" of the seamen. They will blush with anger and shame because the name of this great union is being used as an instrument of the most reactionary anti-labor forces in the world. Curran is "passing the word" of the CIA, of big business. He has become an instrument of a new wave of McCarthyism. But he is an instrument of a lost cause. Americans and American workers will draw from their lessons gained in the struggle against McCarthyism of the fifties. They know that redbaiting is an instrument of splitting and weakening of the trade unions. They know from their own experience that workers can not win by cringing and grovelling before the employers or their spokesman in government.

Why Curran has fallen for this ultra-Right swill is not the most important question. That he has, is important and it cannot be denied or ignored.

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