From Nazism to Stalinism
Fusion and Confusion in Germany

At the beginning of February, 1916, elections for the Federation of Free German T.U.'s of Great Berlin took place. The results were obviously faked—apparently those who did not like the figure had yet to learn from their Russian advisers. The Berlin "Tagespiegel" which is published in the American Zone and thus enjoys more freedom of publication than the other papers, stated that the subsequent conference of T.U.'s was run in a spirit of "reconciliation." (Cleiselschaltung). As for the T.U. electronics sector which traditionally were Social Democrat "returned" only "Communists"—while Berlin's C.P. stronghold, Wedding, delegated only Social Democrats.

Now the Russian authorities hope to force a fusion of the S.D.P., Social Democrats, and the K.P.D. ("Communists").

Let us have a look at the "leaders" of the German Communist. First, there is the President, W. Pieck. He is the same gentleman who, when he was safely in Moscow during the war, stated that they ought to adopt the flag of the old German Empire. Black, White and Red. "In these colours we Communists tender our homage to the Reich which was founded beneath them." New Leaders, less likely to be mistaken for cosmopolitan elements.

The Russians are trying to make a national hero out of Pieck. On his 70th birthday he was presented with a whole trainload of coal, while Berlin workers were freezing.

The Berlin "Deutsche Volkszeitung" (official organ of K.P.D.) declared: "Those who are fortunate enough to participate in the great demonstration realize that this manifestation was the expression of the will and aspiration of the German people's unity."

Pieck is a "revolutionary Marxist" compared with the Vice-President of the German Socialists, Walter Ulbricht, who has served as an agent for Stalin's N.K.V.D. (better known by its former name—O.C.P.U.) since 1932 and was sent to Spain in 1938 to organise a German division of the N.K.V.D. and to spy on the German and Austrian workers fighting there.

He is the famous author of the Ulbricht Letter—the instruction given to the German Socialists working under ground to denounce all social democrats and independent socialists who were opposed to the war, to the Nazis. Of course, that was during the period of the Nazi-German pact. (The letter, in full, can be found in "The Betrayal of the Left." Goebbels.)

On October 12th, 1945, Ulbricht told a German Socialists mass meeting in Berlin that they would never permit "propaganda from behind the K.P.D.'s fusion talks." (London "Tribune," 4/1/46, page 5)

"Berlin newspaper complaint that they have been prevented by Soviet censorship from replying the facts behind the K.P.D.'s fusion talks." (Reuter, 15/1/46)

In spite of this, the German Social Democrats have made some progress. They have not forgotten that the K.P.D. and the Nazis voted together against the Social Democrats in a plebiscite. Thus in spite of the "fusion by May 1st" slogan of the K.P.D. in spite of their favourable position as being the only party endorsed by an occupying power, they have not yet succeeded in their plans for the totalitarian control of the German "Labor" Movement. In a 23,500 roll, 85 per cent of Social Democrats in Berlin District Committees and the Communist Party voted for "no fusion." The Russians stepped voting in their sector at the last minute and the Social Democrats' Central Committee, which is in the Russian sector, accepted an embargo on the plebiscite. (A.A.P., Melbourne "Sun," 2/4/46). Since then Social Democratic delegates have repudiated the Central and District Committees and expected a number of "leaders." (A.A.P., Melbourne "Sun," 9/4/46).

However, whatever the voting in Berlin, the Russian Zone will come out in favor of fusion. And no wonder. "It is to secret Russia is alive—in support of a fusion—let alone the "reorganizing Social Democrats who are most." (Radio, 15/4/46)

As we mentioned, no plebiscite was permitted on the issue in Berlin's Russian Zone. It was banned by the Soviet authorities some 80 minutes before it was due to begin. "In one district of Berlin Zionskirchplatz, where the news of the ban came hardly later, there were found in the ballot box 53 votes against and 9 for the fusion." (Labor Call, 18/4/46).

What of the British Government? As was to be expected, they have started to back the anti-fusionists. Not because the British Labor Party has any interest in the issue as such, but rather because they hope to use them as pawns in the game of power-politics, just as the Russians are using the anti-fusionists.

The Social Democratic Congress, a message of 27 M.P.'s supporting the fusion was read. Signatories were the usual fellow-travellers of the Socialists.

(Continued on page 4 col. 1)
"Work to Win Security"  
UNCERTAIN LABOR ECONOMICS  

In the earlier "Socialist Comment and Review," we reported on the decision of the workers at the "M" factory to take direct action against the capitalist system. We now present a detailed analysis of the events that led to this decision. The "M" factory is located in a highly industrialized area, and the workers there are faced with severe economic problems. The management has been cutting wages and benefits, and the workers have been forced to take more and more work for less pay. This has led to a breakdown of the union, and the workers are now forced to take direct action to protect their interests.

The workers have decided to join the "Socialist Labor" party, which is fighting for a workers' government. The party has organized a number of strikes in the area, and the workers at the "M" factory are planning to join in. The workers are determined to fight for a better life, and they are not afraid to take direct action to achieve their goals.

Socialist Labor is the only political party that represents the workers' interests. The party is fighting for a workers' government, which will put an end to the exploitation of workers by capitalists. The party is fighting for a society in which workers can control the means of production and plan their own lives. The workers at the "M" factory are determined to join the party and fight for a better world.

WORK HARDER — FOR LESS PAY!  

In connection with the "Socialist Comment and Review," we would like to make a few comments about the current economic situation. The capitalist system is in crisis, and the workers are being forced to accept lower wages and benefits. This is unfair, and the workers must fight to reverse this trend.

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Day of May  

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"Banned Books, Free Press and a Lot of Hooey"  

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"The World and the Workers"  

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"The Political Aspect of the World"  

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FROM NAZISM TO STALINISM

(Continued from page 1)

After the message was read, a senior officer of the British Military Government issued an inspired statement denying that the Labor Party supported the Tushu policy. He said that the 27 M.P.'s represent 7 per cent of the total of Labor members. Herald, 22nd and 23rd April, 1941.

The latter ends, for the time being, with the formal fusion of the S.P.D. and K.P.D. into a 'Socialist Unity Party' on April 22nd. The Executive is recruited on a 50:50 basis. This party has been established in the Russian Zone. (24/4/46). Its programme is no different from any other reformist hodgepodge, including 'State or Municipal ownership of public utilities, equal rights for all citizens,' and, best of all, 'Freedom of spoken and written opinion and of religion.' (Labor News [Kiev], March, 1946, page 8.) We are told whether the last point will also be applied in Russia?

We hold no brief for the Social Democrats. We have constantly pointed out their weaknesses as a reformist, reformist organization. But our readers should be informed of the trickery that is being used by German Stalinists and self-appointed Social Democratic leaders to build up the prestige of the rank and file.

The situation is indeed gloomy. Workers have become pawns in the hands of their 'liberators.' Naturally, neither the British capitalist class nor the Russian imperialists are likely to allow an independent Socialist movement in Germany. Thus, for the moment, there seems little hope that those German workers who have earned their lesson, will be able to start a party on the lines of the S.P.D. and Communist Parties. Opposition against the policy of one power seems to lead inevitably into the camp of another.

But the work of Marx, Engels and Luxemburg cannot be in vain. In the British and American Zones, at least a chance for independent political activity exists. The moment will come when a real Socialist Party of Germany will be created—a party based neither on the myth of Russian 'Socialism,' nor on Reformism, but on principles and understanding.

Then and then only, will the German workers have something to unite for—Socialism.

Henry Holmes

COMPANION PARTIES

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA—P.O. Box 1751, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.


SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND—P.O. Box 39, Petone, New Zealand.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND—P.O. Box 296, Auckland.

PETRO GROUP—P.O. Box 37, Petone, Discussion Group, Room 12, 37 Courtenay Place, Wellington.

AKLUND—P.O. Box 1929 Economic and Discussion Class. Every Monday, 7.30 p.m., Carisbrook, Union Rooms, Auckland.

WORKERS SOCIALIST PARTY OF U.S.—12 Hayward Place, Boston, Mass.

OBJECT—The establishment of a system of society based on the common ownership of the means of living (i.e., land, factories, railways, etc.) by the capitalist or master class, and the consequent domination and slavery of the working class, by whose labour alone wealth is produced.

2. That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a class struggle, between those who produce but do not possess, and those who possess but do not produce.

3. That this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working class from the domination of the master class, by the conversion into the common property of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the whole people.

4. That as in the order of social evolution the working class is the last class to achieve its freedom, the emancipation of the working class will involve the emancipation of all mankind without distinction of race or sex.

5. That this emancipation must be the work of the working class itself.

6. That as the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth and power of the worker that is in fact produced by the working class must organise consciously and politically for the conquest of the power of government, national and local, in order that this machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of privilige, aristocratic & capitalist reaction.

7. That all political parties are but the expression of class interests, and as the interest of the working class is diametrically opposed to the interests of all sections of the master class, any party seeking the emancipation of the working class must be hostile to every other party.

8. THE SOCIALIST PARTIES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND therefore enter the field of political action determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged labour or supposedly capitalist, and call upon the members of the working class of this country to muster under their banner to the end that a speedy termination may be brought to the system which deprives them of the fruits of their labour; and that poverty may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

Those agreeing with the above principles and desiring enrolment apply to nearest address.

THE GOLDEN RULE

WAY OUT WASN'T

Henry Addison (31), grey and crippled, told an Essex court: 'At my age I am left with three choices—stealing, the workhouse or suicide. I shan't go into the workhouse and I don't want to die.'

Instead he went to goal for nine months.

Sydney Sun, 9/5/46.

Spurred by the pinch of poverty, he gazes in the shops; The emptiness of hunger grips his guts, And in his pockets, nought but knotted bands. Pencilled of all and in that hopeless state That leaves to him no choice but one of three;

To steal—the workhouse—or to die.

And driven thus, to hunger and despair, Crippled and grey—a menace to his kind. Oblivious to the import of his act.

And knowing not the wherefore or the why, One thing is clear—he does not want to DIE.

And so he steals—a crime within the Law Maintained by Misions of a Master Class Who hold him to a Court whose very Soul Is fashioned out of Yellow Glittering GOLD.

Stamped with the Hall Mark of a hellish greed;

Emblazoned with the scribbled "Dieu et Mon Droit";

Translated into law 'Thou shalt not steal.'

The Lion and the Unicorn look down
Upon a Bench where Justice wears a frown;

And so arraigned, this outcast, gaunt and pale
Is sentenced to a full nine months' in gaol.

It calls to mind a case of similar kind
In which a man who stole a loaf of bread
When bailed before the Misions of the Law
Plead, with solemn mien, "A man must live."

"Tut, tut," the Bench replied, in accent merely;

"Tut, tut, my man, tut, tut, not necessarily."

—W.J.C. Published by W. J. Corker, Box 2391, G.P.O., Sydney, and printed by Premier Printers, 82 Arthur Street, North Sydney.