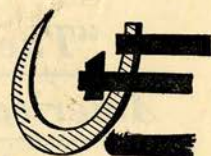




10 Years



of

Communist Control

of

UE

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELECTRICAL,
RADIO AND MACHINE WORKERS (CIO)**

**734 FIFTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.**



“The hold of the Communists on America’s electrical industry is the hold of Soviet Russia. It is Communism in action---now. It is not an historical danger; it is a present danger!”

* * *

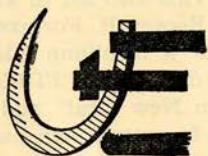
“The Communist Party has gained a strong foothold in one of the Nation’s most strategic industries: the electrical industry. It dominates the largest labor union in that industry: the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America. It has seized control of its national office, the executive board, the paid staff, the union newspapers, and a number of its district councils and locals.”

—From the report to Congress by a special subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor, December 14, 1948.

COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

Up to August 1939 the Comintern and its affiliated Communist parties attacked Hitler as a warmonger and Nazism as barbarism. The American Communist Party, among others, demanded international boycotts and blockades.

President Roosevelt during this period was a great democratic leader who had singlehandedly won United States recognition for Russia.



But in August 1939 the Hitler-Stalin Pact was signed, and Molotov on that occasion remarked that "Fascism, after all, is a matter of taste." World War II began just one week later with the Nazi invasion of Poland. The American Communist Party line quickly reversed itself along with the Communist Parties of all other countries. For the next year and a half—until June 22, 1941—the Communist Press of all nations

UE LINE

The UE's attitude toward Hitlerism up to August 1939 was the same as the Communist Party's. UE News in its first issue of 1939 praised the idea of an embargo on Germany and told readers to write their Congressmen about it. On January 14 the paper carried a critical story on forced labor in Germany, and on March 25 it reviewed Hitler's promises of non-aggression and deplored the rape of Czechoslovakia the week before. On May 13 it vigorously attacked the Japanese invasion of China.

The attitude of UE toward FDR was also identical with the Communist Party's. On January 21 the UE News praised him for rejecting Republican attempts to cut relief appropriations. On March 4, an editorial proclaimed him as "labor's friend" and as "one of the chief defenders of our democratic institutions."

The wholesale approval of FDR was climaxed on July 8 with a full-page editorial demanding a third term. The editorial declared that the President's foreign policy and national defense program "meets with the approval of the great majority of Americans."

The UE line also flip-flopped following the August Hitler-Stalin Pact. UE quickly took the position that it is not our war, but a profiteers' war. UE News found that "Labor in America, watching the sorry sight, is watchful lest our own Tories involve us in the conflict." (September 23.) On September 30 the UE News in a full-page editorial, titled "Let's Do Our Fighting Here," declared that "The war that is going on is no ex-

COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

was filled with attacks on British and American leaders. The war was denounced as an "imperialist war" and Roosevelt became a "warmonger." Aid to Britain and the other allies was violently opposed, as were proposed amendments to the neutrality law which would permit England to purchase munitions.

UE LINE

ception to the rule that wars are fought for money. American labor wants no part of this fishy war. The first war was phoney, too. . . ." For the rest of the year the UE News praised the fight of the isolationists in Congress and on November 11 attacked Congress for making the U. S. "the arsenal of the world." The administration was condemned by UE News as "Bomb Peddlers" and an editorial on November 25 contended that it was still a "phoney war."

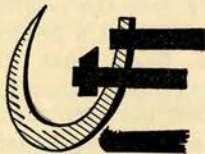
1940

COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

The Communist Party's anti-war and isolationist line was continued and intensified during 1940. The vilification of President Roosevelt as a warmonger and dupe of British imperialism reached new lows. Throughout the country the Communist Party held countless "peace rallies" and "keep America out of war" meetings. There were "Marches on Washington" and numerous petition campaigns. Lend-lease plans were denounced as were moves to modify the neutrality act. Aid to Britain of any kind was opposed. One piece of propaganda was particularly pushed by the Communist Party, a pamphlet titled "The Yanks Are Not Coming" written by Mike Quin, a west coast Communist.

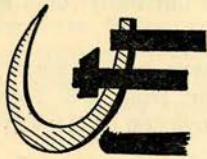
UE LINE

All through 1940 the UE's line on the war and on aid to the Allies was a strict echo of the Communist Party position. This also led to attacks on President Roosevelt. For example, on January 13 a 5-column editorial in UE News denounced "FDR's Budget as Blow to New Deal" and charged that "The forgotten man has yielded to the man in uniform as the chief object of concern on the national Administration." On January 20, UE News said that "national defense" is a "gag." On January 20 UE officials in District 6 signed a proclamation declaring that "The Yanks Are Positively Not Coming." The only voice in the UE News raised against isolationism was James Carey's column which assailed appeasement. Throughout the year, in numerous news stories and editorials UE News denounced U. S. foreign policy and aid to the Allies. The theme of this campaign can be found in an editorial on May 18 which discussed the war and decided, "All this talk about saving democracy is the bunk." Isolationists in Congress were praised by UE News even though they had antilabor records. On February 24 UE News devoted a full page to the Communist pamphlet, "The Yanks



COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

UE LINE



Are Not Coming" and praised it as a "history-making publication."

On May 25, a 3-column UE News editorial noted that the Congressional program of aid to the Allies was called "a defense of democracy." The editorial concluded, "Except for its name there is nothing of democracy in it." Another editorial on June 8 called it "artificially induced war hysteria" and praised Senator Burton Wheeler for his opposition to the "war party."

On June 8, McLeish, president of District 4, and Dermody, secretary, issued a statement which claimed that "A war hysteria is being developed with terrific speed in the U. S. The entire federal administration, including the President, is giving leadership to this campaign."

Conscription legislation was attacked by UE News on July 20 and on other occasions and after it was enacted the paper (on September 21 and other occasions) demanded its repeal.

The Communist Party violently opposed Roosevelt's plan to lend U. S. arms to England, and also FDR's proposal to transfer the group of over-age destroyers in return for Atlantic Bases.

UE also opposed the transfer of over-age destroyers to England on September 14, and on other occasions. And on December 28 it attacked FDR's proposal to lend England a quantity of American arms.

During 1940 (with the Hitler-Stalin Pact still in effect) the Communists had hardly a word of criticism for Hitler and Nazism.

Reflecting the Daily Worker, UE News during 1940 printed no more than one or two small items speaking harshly about Hitler and Nazism.

The Communist Party and the Daily Worker repeatedly attacked Sidney Hillman and his work in OPM and WPB.

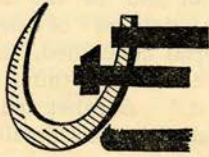
On October 19, UE News attacked Sidney Hillman's work in the national defense agencies—despite the fact that Hillman was the president of a sister CIO union.

The Communist Party, frantically opposed to Roosevelt in 1940, ran its own presidential candidate, Earl

Throughout the year, the UE News attacked FDR despite its endorsement the previous year of a third

COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

Browder. (In 1944, after the change in line, the Party did not run a candidate against FDR.)



On April 8 and 9, 1940, Germany invaded Norway and Denmark. The Communists defended this invasion on the grounds that Norway and Denmark were provoking Hitler.

On June 15, 1940, Russia invaded Latvia, Esthonia and Lithuania and occupied these Baltic countries. Communist Parties throughout the world hailed this as a great military victory for Stalin.

On September 27, 1940, Germany, Italy and Japan signed the "Axis Pact." The Communist line was that this was justified because of the imperialist designs of England and the U. S.

The most active Communist front during the first seven months of 1940 was the American League for Peace and Democracy. But with the signing of the Hitler-Stalin Pact in August, the League was quickly killed. To replace it in terms of the new Party line, the Communists created the American Peace Mobilization. Thereafter the White House was picketed with signs declaring "The Yanks Are Not Coming" and the American Peace Mobilization sent numerous delegations to Washington to exert pressure on congressmen who agreed with Roosevelt on aid to England and the Allies.

UE LINE

term. As early as May 18, 1940, the UE couldn't make up its mind whether to go along with John L. Lewis' opposition to a third term, but James Carey, in his column in the paper, made an outright attack on the Republican Party and its program. Although UE's September convention did not endorse Roosevelt for re-election, Carey in his column came out flatly for a third term.

There was no criticism from UE officials or from UE News of the German invasion of Norway and Denmark.

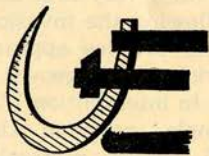
There was no comment from UE officials or from the UE News on the Soviet occupation of the Baltic countries. The Hitler-Stalin Pact was still on.

UE News and UE officers at no time criticized the formation of the Fascist "Axis."

UE Officials were prominent in the American League for Peace and Democracy. When the League was dissolved they promptly switched to the new Communist creation; American Peace Mobilization. Emspak, for example, became a member of the national council of the American Peace Mobilization which was declared subversive by the U. S. Attorney General.

COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

Up to June 22, 1941, the Communist Party line on the war and on President Roosevelt was a continuation of its 1940 position. The national defense program was damned incessantly. FDR was denounced for leading the country into war, and aid to England was violently opposed. The Communist Party and all its front organizations lobbied against lend-lease, against the loan of arms to England and every other move in or out of Congress designed to assist England and stop the Nazi world conquest.

**UE LINE**

The UE line carefully followed the Communist Party line up to June 22, 1941, and when the Party line somersaulted on that date the UE line somersaulted with it.

On Jan. 11, UE News attacked FDR's message to Congress asking for increased defense funds and aid to the Allies. On January 18 an editorial assailed legislation giving the President authority to lend U. S. materials to England. On January 11 Emspak attacked Sidney Hillman for serving as a member of the National Defense Advisory Committee.

On January 25, UE News devoted a full page to the American Peace Mobilization, the Communist front which had Emspak on its national council. The American Peace Mobilization was picketing the White House up to the very day that Hitler attacked Russia—on which date the pickets were hurriedly called off.

On March 8 an editorial in UE News condemned Lend-Lease legislation. Ironically within four months this lend-lease legislation was to prove the salvation of Soviet Russia.

On May 17, UE News editorially criticized President Roosevelt for allegedly betraying his own pledges to the people. On June 17, just five days before Hitler's invasion of Russia, McLeish attacked the Defense Mediation Board and assailed Carey for defending it.

On June 7, the UE District 6 Council declared, "It is becoming clearer every day that the heat is on to wind up a drive to push us into war, being conducted by big business interests who stand to profit and by the Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Republican and Democratic parties."

COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

The Communists, as might be expected, were heartily in favor of strikes in defense industries all during this period. When Wyndham Mortimer, a known Communist, called a strike at the crucial North American Aviation plant at Inglewood, Calif., the Communist Party and its press gave it their full support. President Roosevelt eventually ordered Government seizure of the plant which provoked the Communist press to hysteria. This was outright Fascism, the Communists contended, and meant the end of civil liberties in this country.

On June 22, 1941, the roof fell in on Communist Parties all over the world and on their isolationist, anti-war line. Without warning on June 22 Hitler invaded Russia. The Party line, within the space of two hours, was completely reversed. From that moment onward it ceased to be an "imperialist" war; it became a "people's war," and a "great democratic crusade." Hitler, for whom the Communists had no harsh words for the past year and a half, became a raving beast.

President Roosevelt, who was revealed as a warmonger on June 21, suddenly on June 22 became a great democratic leader. The Communist opposition to aid for England and the Allies was transformed into a tremendous campaign for all-out assistance to every nation lined up against Hitler.

The class struggle was suspended by the Comintern and Earl Browder publicly declared that he was willing to work with J. P. Morgan and the NAM.

UE LINE

Despite the fact that Philip Murray instructed the strikers to return to work, the UE supported the North American strike. On June 14 the UE News condemned government intervention and declared editorially, "As war fever reaches a new high, more and more openly the forces of the government are being turned to the suppression of the people's democratic liberties for the announced purpose of 'defending democracy.' And Julius Emspak proclaimed that the government action "has parallel only in the blackest pages of history in this country."

The Nazi invasion of Russia upturned the UE exactly as it did the American Communist Party. The UE line had been violently anti-war and against any help to the Allies. With almost the same speed with which the Communist Party reversed itself UE did too. Communist fronts, like the American Peace Mobilization, supported by UE, halted their picketing of the White House and jumped on the war bandwagon.

In the very, very first issue of UE News, following the invasion of Russia, several articles appeared showing the violent changeover from isolationism to intervention. This issue, for example, reported that Local 1224 had passed a resolution demanding immediate aid to the Soviet Union.

District 4 went quickly on record "demanding that the Soviet Union, Great Britain and all others sincerely fighting the Fascist Axis be accorded the fullest assistance, to avail themselves of our industrial or material resources."

The UE News revealed no embarrassment or self-consciousness at its quick flip-flop. Only James Carey's column pointed out the absurdity of

COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

UE LINE

the Communist shift. Carey first reviewed all of Hitler's conquests and showed that despite all these conquests the war did not really start for the Communists until June 22, 1941.

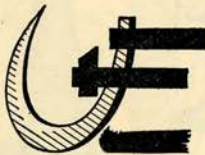
Said Carey (in his July 12 column) "A back flip with a full twist and presto—Great Britain is purged of all her sins. Hitler is to be hated even more than Roosevelt. The 'imperialistic blood bath' becomes a peoples' war for freedom:

"Sumner Welles becomes a progressive and Wheeler an enemy of the people. The performance of a trapeze artist in a circus is entertainment, but political acrobats in pink tights posing as labor leaders are a disgrace to the union and insult the intelligence of the membership."

In a later column (July 26) Carey declared that "The Communists who appeased Hitler for two years and shared his plunder are no different from the Communists who are now the victims of his latest attack."

On July 10, District 1 Council announced that it "supports without reservation all-out aid for Britain, China, and the Soviet Union."

From that point on, local and district leaderships, particularly those under Party control, couldn't hop on the bandwagon fast enough.



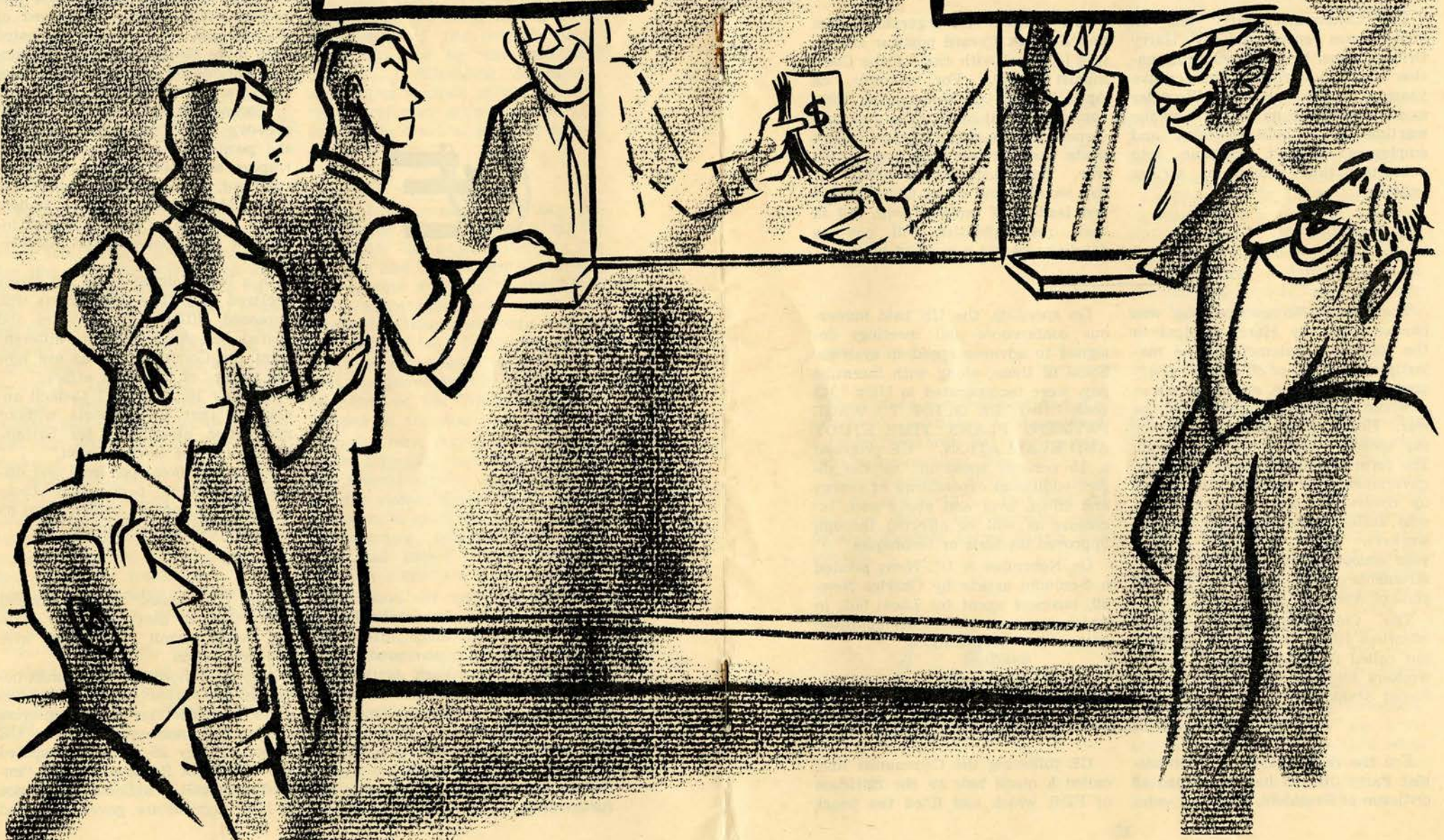
Immediately after the Nazi invasion of Russia the Communist Party went "production mad." Nothing must interfere with war production, it argued. Strikes such as the one conducted just a month before by the Communists at North American Aviation now became unthinkable. The workers must make concessions even when employers will not in order to keep production rolling. In furtherance of all this the Commu-

The UE echoed the Communist Party position that absolutely nothing should permit interference with war production.

Also UE echoed the Communist demands for various kinds of conferences and meetings with employers to plan and speed-up production. UE News on July 26, page 1, proposed that President Roosevelt should "immediately call a national conference of labor, agriculture, government and

PAY UE DUES
HERE

COMMIE FRONTS
COLLECT HERE



COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

nist Party placed huge emphasis on conferences with employers, on joint production councils, and on local and regional meetings of labor and industry to plan conversion to war production and increased output.

The Communist Party line on strikes was enunciated by Harry Bridges when he proposed continuation of the no-strike pledge for five years after the war. Earl Browder said he could see no reason why the wartime amity between labor and employers couldn't continue into peacetime thus eliminating strikes entirely.

The Party line on speed-up was handed down by Harry Bridges in the following statement: "The majority of the time of officers, of grievance committeemen, of the unions as a whole, must go to winning of the war. How? Production. I'd rather say speed-up, and I mean speed-up. The term production covers the boss, government and so on. But speed-up covers the workers—the people who suffer from speed-up are the workers. To put it bluntly, I mean your unions today must become instruments of speed-up of the working class of America."

The Communist press recited countless stories of Russian speed-up but called it "Stahkonivism." U. S. workers were urged to imitate the Soviet Stahkonovites.

For the rest of 1941 the Communist Party uttered hardly a word of criticism of President Roosevelt, who

UE LINE

industry." From that point on UE News reported numerous labor-management conferences, and frequent appeals to management to convert to war production and accelerate output.

The attitude of Fitzgerald, Matles and Emspak toward postwar strikes was identical with that of the Communist Party. For example, on April 7, 1945, in Minneapolis, Fitzgerald said that as far as he was concerned the no-strike pledge wasn't made just for the duration of the war. He added that he hoped the day would come when labor leaders and leaders of industry who fail in their responsibilities will pay as dearly as people who start wars.

On speed-up, the UE held numerous conferences and meetings designed to advance speed-up systems. Some of these, along with incentive pay, were incorporated in UE's 1943 book titled "UE GUIDE TO WAGE PAYMENT PLANS, TIME STUDY AND EVALUATION." UE proposed a 15 percent speed-up "by the direct additional expenditure of energy and effort, over and above such increases as will be effected through improved methods or techniques."

On November 8, UE News printed a 5-column article by Charles Newell, business agent for Local 601, in which speed-up systems are approved with a few qualifications.

UE following the Communist line, called a quick halt to the criticism of FDR which had filled the pages

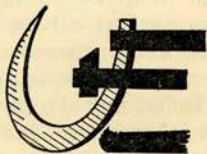
COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

until June 22 was branded an enemy of the working class and a destroyer of peace. Instead, practically every move of FDR's was acclaimed.

The Communist Party quickly developed a case of **1,000 percent** patriotism with Browder outdoing the American Legion.

The Communist Party conducted a nationwide campaign to have Earl Browder freed from jail after his conviction for passport fraud.

The Communist Party from time to time now admitted that England and her Allies had actually been fighting Fascism before Russia was invaded.



UE LINE

of UE News prior to June 22. Although this was before Pearl Harbor, UE now had no criticism of Roosevelt's plan to repeal the neutrality act or to lend arms and ammunition to the Allies. On October 25, the UE News in fact gives a three column story to the action of Local 103 asking for complete repeal of the neutrality act.

UE also became suddenly super-patriotic. On October 25, UE News devoted a whole page to a plan developed by Joe Selly and the ACA to keep spies out of the country.

On December 13, UE News devoted its whole first page to an editorial with the theme "UE Will Fight the Appeasers." Just five months before, UE News was acclaiming Senator Wheeler and John L. Lewis for their isolationism and printing their pictures.

UE News on August 30, devoted a full column to a letter demanding Browder's freedom. This came only a few weeks after the paper had editorially deplored factionalism (of the Carey group) in the letter columns.

The UE convention in September discovered for the first time that England is now worthy of getting aid from the U. S. And a convention resolution, now that Russia was in the war, declared that "The tremendous sacrifices being made by the British, Russian, Chinese and other peoples in this resistance to Hitlerism are sacrifices made on our behalf as well as their own, and contribute directly to the defense of our country now!" The resolution then asked that "all possible aid be given to Great Britain, the Soviet Union, China and other nations resisting Hitlerism."

COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

Early in 1942 the Communist Party held a conference of its trade union functionaries in New York. One of the points heavily emphasized was that grievances should not be prosecuted whenever they could be avoided. Particularly grievances that might lead to unrest in the plant or strikes. Even if the grievances involved wages and overtime, shop stewards were told to appeal to the worker's patriotism and forget the contract.

In mid-summer of 1942, the American Communist Party got instructions to start clamoring for a "second front." It opened a propaganda barrage on this issue and the White House and the military establishment were deluged with telegrams and letters demanding an invasion of western Europe regardless of the state of preparations or the number of American and British lives that might be lost.

Throughout 1942 the Communist Party intensified its demands for increased production at any cost. Speed-up was openly advocated and the theme was "Labor will do it even if employers will not." No concessions were too great as long as production aided Russia.

The Communist Party line was to favor Russian War Relief more than all the other war relief projects. As a consequence it invited sabotage of the CIO War Relief Committee which distributed the funds it raised equitably among all the relief groups, British, Greek, Chinese, Russian, etc.

UE LINE

UE shop stewards and grievances committeemen all during the war were instructed to "go easy" on grievances, except in cases where workers threatened to quit their jobs and replacements would be difficult. Consequently "beefs" about overtime, speed-up and even seniority, were ignored.

UE officials, along with other Communist-dominated unions, responded immediately to Party instructions and began demanding a second front to aid Russia.

UE sanctioned speed-up systems to an extent that they were still in contracts three and four years after the war ended.

UE made concessions to employers that the UAW, among others, would not make.

UE officers gave prime importance to Russian War Relief to the discrimination against others. UE officials made many speeches and appeared at numerous benefits for Russian War Relief and shunned benefits for other nationalities. Privately UE members were urged to contribute directly to Russian War Relief and by-pass the CIO War Relief Committee.

1944

COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

One of the very few occasions during the war on which CIO took issue with President Roosevelt occurred in January 1944 when FDR asked Congress for enactment of a "National Service Law." This was the infamous May-Bailey Bill calling for industrial mobilizations and compulsory work assignments which both the AFL and CIO branded as "Slave Labor." The Communist Party quietly advocated its passage but the bill was defeated in Congress.

UE LINE

Despite the fact that President Philip Murray and the CIO Executive Board blasted the "slave labor" proposal, UE officers along with other CP-line unions gave this legislation quiet approval. UE refused to denounce it as did CIO, and UE Washington representatives told Congressmen they were in favor of the law.

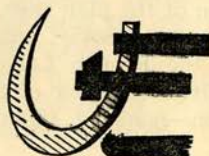
1945 and 1946

COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

Late in 1945 and in 1946 the Communist Party started agitation to "Bring The Boys Home." This was particularly aimed at the Pacific Theatre, although not exclusively. The idea was to leave the Orient completely open for Communist infiltration. It also correlated with the Communist propaganda for U. S. disarmament while Russia continued to maintain the world's largest standing army.

UE LINE

UE officers and the UE News took up the slogan of "Bring The Boys Home." Mass meetings were held, resolutions were passed by local unions and petitions signed.



Almost immediately after the war ended the attitude of the Communist Party toward the governments of China, Greece and Italy (among others) was reversed. These governments, for which the Communists had previously demanded assistance, were now violently attacked. At the same time, the Chinese Red Army and the Greek Partisans (ELAM) became heroes.

UE's attitude toward the Chinese and Greek government also cooled with the Communist Party shift. For the most part UE News ignored the fight of the Chinese Nationalist Government and the issue in Greece.

COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

On March 12, 1947, President Truman proposed to Congress a new foreign policy aimed at the "containment" of Communism throughout the world. This policy, which came to be known as the "Truman Doctrine" was immediately attacked by Communist leaders and by the Communist press as a provocation to war.

On June 5, 1947, Secretary of State George Marshall outlined the idea of the European Recovery Program in an address at Harvard University. The Marshall Plan, as it came to be known, caught the Communists off guard for months.

On the day of the Marshall speech there was a meeting of the General Council of the WFTU in Prague, Czechoslovakia. James Carey was there, as were leaders of Soviet, French, Italian and other trade union movements. There was no denunciation of the plan then. Kuznetsov, head of the Soviet unions, Franchon, of the French Labor Federation, DiVittorio, leader of the Italian Federation—none of them had any criticism.

It was not until four months later, on October 5, 1947, that the Cominform was created, representing the Communist Parties, and therefore the governments, of every Iron Curtain country. This initial meeting of the Cominform denounced the Marshall Plan as a method of American blackmail, extortion, political and economic pressure, bribery and creation of economic strife.

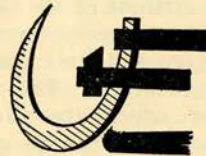
From that date on, international Communism was to wage incessant warfare against the Marshall Plan and against the CIO for supporting it.

UE LINE

UE officers, following the Party line, also were loud in their criticism of the Truman Doctrine. They echoed the party line that the U. S. State Department had forgotten the Yalta and Teheran conferences and was promoting a third world war.

The UE line on the Marshall Plan followed closely that of the Communist Party. It was not until four months after it was announced by Secretary of State Marshall at Harvard that Fitzgerald, Matles and Emspak (and the Daily Worker) made up their minds on the Economic Recovery Program. From the clear evidence of the dates, it is obvious that the Cominform made the decision for UE and other Communist-controlled unions in the U. S.

The UE News today takes the position that the Marshall Plan is a Wall Street plot to dominate and exploit the non-Communist nations of Europe. On the domestic front, the UE reflects the Daily Worker line that instead of aiding unemployment in this country and abroad, it has increased unemployment.



COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

On atomic energy, the Communist Party line was dictated by the position taken by the Soviet UN delegates Gromyko and later Vishinsky. Russia rejected on August 29, 1947, a joint U. S.-British-Chinese proposal for outright international inspection. The American Communists have had only one argument against the Baruch plan of international inspection. It would mean spying in Russia by the British and Americans, they contend.

In 1948 the Communist Party created the Wallace Party in an attempt to defeat Truman and elect Dewey. It is unquestioned today that Wallace was a puppet of the CP and in fact the Party later took credit for creation of the Third Party. In many instances the Progressive Party ran candidates for Congress against established friends of labor, candidates who were endorsed by both AFL and CIO. Truman's victory was in spite of the fact that the Wallace vote in such states as New York and Maryland swung those states' electoral votes to Tom Dewey.

UE LINE

UE's position on atomic energy control has faithfully reflected the Communist Party position. UE News hasn't commented too often on this, but when it has the comment has been critical of the U. S. government and never critical of Russia.

While not officially endorsing Wallace, UE in reality threw full support to the Third Party and its candidates throughout the country. Fitzgerald served as permanent chairman of the Wallace Convention and as chairman of the Labor Committee for Wallace and Taylor. The entire general executive board of UE also served on this labor committee. Despite the CIO repudiation of the Third Party, and endorsement of Truman, UE national, district and local offices were used for distribution of Wallace literature and the collection of campaign funds. UE mailing lists were used (photostats are available) and UE withdrew from CIO-PAC.

1949-1950

COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

During 1949 and into 1950 the Communist Party continued its support of the Wallace Third Party, praised him in the Daily Worker and instructed local and state branches of the Party to intensify the work of building the Progressive Party. Early in 1950 the Communist leadership was already selecting candidates which the Wallace group would be

UE LINE

In 1949 and 1950 it became evident that UE was not abandoning the Third Party even after the 1948 fiasco when Wallace failed to get as many votes as the Dixiecrat candidate for president. UE officials and international representatives were running on the Progressive Party ticket in Pittsburgh, New England, and other areas.

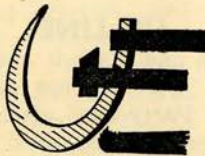
COMMUNIST PARTY LINE

told to run for Congress in November 1950.

Expulsion of the Communist-led unions from the CIO became the subject of a raging attack by Communist Party leaders and the Daily Worker from November 1949 through the early months of 1950. Philip Murray was attacked, the historical role of the CIO in organizing the unorganized was rewritten, and all contract gains by CIO unions were denounced.

During 1949 and early 1950 the Communist Party and the Daily Worker constantly attacked liberal and pro-labor Congressmen on practically every issue before Congress. Only Rep. Vito Marcantonio was a hero to the Communists.

In January 1950, Communist spokesmen bundled up President Truman, the Democratic Party, the CIO and AFL, and accused them all collectively of "selling out" Fair Employment Practices (FEPC) legislation.



UE LINE

Numerous UE leaders were scheduled to attend or be delegates to the Progressive Party convention slated for Ashland Auditorium (a frequent UE meeting hall) in Chicago during the last week of February 1950.

UE, following its expulsion, from the CIO joined with the Daily Worker in wholesale attacks on the CIO, charging democracy was dead, terming CIO leaders warmongers, and like the Communist Party defending the other Communist-dominated unions that had been expelled or faced expulsion.

UE also echoed the Communist line in attacking liberal and pro-labor Congressmen on most Congressional issues, particularly anything having to do with Marshall Plan, foreign aid, or national defense. The only Congressman praised by the UE was the Communist hero, Marcantonio.

On legislation, UE, as previously, departed from the position held by CIO and AFL and followed the Communist position carefully. For example, UE continued to claim that Taft-Hartley repeal had been sold out by the AFL and CIO and that only the Marcantonio bill, which was rejected by both CIO and AFL, could succeed in repealing Taft-Hartley.

UE leaders, in arguing that the CIO had sold out to the Democratic Party, charged that CIO had also betrayed civil rights legislation.

UE's testimony on social security and pensions before the Senate Finance Committee on February 1 was sharply at odds with the testimony of CIO and AFL. Labor Press Association reported that UE joined with reactionary employers on the social security question. The news service said: "In reply to a series of questions, Waybur (UE legislative

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representative) said he approved of the idea of 'pay-as-you-go' pensions, which would mean that each generation of wage-earners would be paying



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for the pensions of oldsters currently drawing benefits. All other branches of organized labor support an insurance program which would involve a payroll tax paid into a fund set up in anticipation of the day when the workers covered would retire. They believe this would prevent to large extent playing politics with the level of benefits paid under social security. The most rock-ribbed of the employer organizations, on the other hand, are for 'pay-as-you-go' as are many more conservative Republicans like Brewster."

On international affairs, the Communist Party line continued in 1950 the Kremlin argument that the Marshall Plan was a Wall Street plot, represented naked imperialism and was generating a third world war. The same held true of any efforts toward a national defense program. The Communists held the same position on atomic energy as in previous years, opposing any realistic plan for international control and inspection. There was, of course, no word of criticism of Soviet Russia from any Communist leader or the Daily Worker.

UE leaders, as in the preceding years, parroted the Moscow line on the Marshall Plan, on national defense, on atomic energy, and other international issues. UE leaders by the score, in every section of the country, attended and were delegates to the various Communist-front "labor peace conferences" which were held in various cities late in 1949 and early 1950. These "peace conferences" followed the Communist line closely in condemning U. S. foreign policy and always refraining from even a single word of criticism of Russia. The UE News continued a similar policy of never finding anything critical to say of Stalin's regime.

“The hold of the Communists on America’s electrical industry is the hold of Soviet Russia. It is Communism in action---now. It is not an historical danger; it is a present danger!”

* * *

“The Communist Party has gained a strong foothold in one of the Nation’s most strategic industries: the electrical industry. It dominates the largest labor union in that industry: the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America. It has seized control of its national office, the executive board, the paid staff, the union newspapers, and a number of its district councils and locals.”

—From the report to Congress by a special subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor, December 14, 1948.