

Mrs. Roosevelt Rejects ALP Left Wing; Supports Rightists

The right wing of the American Labor Party, engaged in another struggle for control of the party, had the emphatic and unqualified support today of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Mrs. Roosevelt declared that she recognized the right wing, led by State Chairman Luigi Antonini, as the real leadership of the ALP and she repudiated the Communist-dominated left wing in stinging terms.

Her powerful support was expected to strengthen the right wing in next Tuesday's primary, when control of the party will be decided by the election of delegates to the state convention.

Result of Maneuver

The statement of her position was the result of a maneuver by which the New York County Committee, which is controlled by the left wing and has been all-out for the war since Russia was invaded, obtained her indorsement of a statement of policy pledging support to Congressional candidates who were supporting the war and urging unity of race, class and creed.

The use made of this indorsement by Eugene P. Connolly, secretary of the county committee and a left wing leader, prompted Mrs. Roosevelt to protest to him in a letter, written Aug. 3, a copy of which was sent to Alex Rose, state secretary and right wing leader. Rose gave out the letter, with her permission. It said:

"Dear Mr. Connolly:

"I am very much surprised to find that you have used my letter, which I wrote about a statement I thought the American Labor party as a whole had made, not only in connection with the statement, but in a leaflet which is being used in the present primary campaign. I wish to take no part in this campaign. Your 'progressive committee,' so called, has people running against candidates nominated by what I suppose you would call the right wing of the American Labor party.

Backs Right Wing

"As you must realize, I am, and always have been, much

more in sympathy with the stand of the American Labor party as represented by what I consider is the real leadership under Mr. Antonini as state chairman. Their stand on foreign affairs has always been my own and I do not think there would be any doubt in the minds of the left wing group that, while I endorsed the statement which the entire party, I imagined, would be united on still, I was certainly not endorsing primary candidates in opposition to what I consider the regular American Labor party, when I am not even a member of this party

"I have no illusions whatsoever as to the stand which the American Communist Party has taken in American affairs. I admire Russia and the marvelous fight which Russia is putting up. Russia has a right to the kind of government that Russians desire to have, but I do not wish to be controlled in this country by an American group that, in turn, is controlled by Russia and Russia's interests. There are many things, naturally, on which all groups agree. I should like to see labor people united, because it would add to their strength, but they cannot be united politically with people who act under the dictates and in the interest of another nation.

"I am writing you this because I do not wish you to use my name or my letter again in any publication whatsoever.

"I am quite willing to have you give this letter publicity if you so desire, and I shall send a copy of it to Mr. Antonini and Mr. Rose for such use as they may deem wise.

"Very sincerely yours,

"ELEANOR ROOSEVELT."

Connolly's reply was: "Mrs. Roosevelt has been misinformed. We have never authorized or sanctioned the use of her letter for any political purpose whatsoever."

Issued by the Liberal Labor Committee to Safeguard the American Labor Party, Which Supports the Right Wing Candidates in the American Labor Party Primary.

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