

Daily Worker

DEFENSE OF U. S. REQUIRES DEFEAT OF WAR-MONGERS

An Editorial

UNDER the guise of a "defense program," a gigantic war conspiracy has been launched against the people who truly love their country and want to defend it.

The United States is in grave danger today. But the chief enemy stands right within our gates. The foe consists of those who have declared merciless, unrelenting war against the living conditions of the masses of American people. They are the enemy who have scrapped American neutrality, given support to one side in this imperialist war and who are now plotting to take the final step and plunge the country openly into the conflict.

President Roosevelt's "defense" program pretends to be a program of defense and of peace. Actually, it is a program of war and exploitation. It is the program of the enemy within. Examine this program carefully. It is based on the un-neutral game of supporting one of the two camps of imperialist bandits who have turned Europe into a bloody nightmare. It is destined to create a war scare with its "hysterical chatter about an invasion," to use the words of Col. Lindbergh. It deliberately falsifies the military position of the Americas. This is proven by the testimony of military experts like Rear Admiral Harry E. Yarnell who says: "The Atlantic Ocean still remains a large body of water and the probability of plane attack from overseas on this country will remain remote for some time to come. Command of the seas is and will remain the primary factor in our plan of national defense, and so long as we have it we are safe from successful enemy invasion."

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The real objective of this "defense" program is revealed by the talk in the press which becomes franker and bolder every day. "We must take over the Dutch East Indies. We must declare a protectorate over Canada. We must seize Latin America now." Here is the war for which the President is preparing—aggressive, imperialist war to plant Wall Street's dollar sign on foreign territory. Is it any wonder that for such a foreign policy, the Roosevelt Administration has the whole-hearted support of all sections of American capitalism although there may be some disagreement on procedure? The capitalists greet the program with cries of delight. "Never mind the cost," they shout. For they intend to make the people foot the bill—through lower wages, longer hours and their very blood. Clearly there is only one thing that this "defense" program is intended to defend—the profits and interests of Wall Street!

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The nation's defense is not a matter of airplanes and battleships alone. It is primarily a question of who is to direct these planes and war ships? Who is to determine the use to which they will be put? An Administration representing the capitalists who want to hurl the country into war, cannot be trusted with the defense of the nation.

The defense of the country can be trusted **ONLY** to a people's government, a government which truly represents a coalition of the workers and farmers, solves the pressing domestic problems of the nation, and does not cast hungry eyes at the possessions of foreign imperialists and at small independent nations. Such a government must be fought for and built by the people.

The people cannot register one shred of confidence in Roosevelt's government of war-makers or in its "defense" program. On the contrary, they must fight tooth and nail against this program as the greatest menace to the interests of the country. This "defense" program, around which the capitalists have united, is both a preparation for entry into war and, at the same time, an immediate declaration of war against labor and the people. Wall Street and the Roosevelt Administration hope with this fake "defense" program to disperse and break up the peace forces, headed by labor through the CIO unions, which have spoken out vigorously up to the present against involvement and have been a real obstacle to the war plans of Washington.

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All the common people are for the defense of this country which they have built with their own hands. But the war-makers are trying to make it appear that anybody who disagrees with their program, is an enemy of defense and a traitor to the country. By putting the issue this way, the war-makers hope to terrorize large sections of the anti-war movement into accepting the very war program which they have opposed. Look at the savagery with which the war-makers attacked Lindbergh, one of their own imperialists, for speaking out of turn, even calling him a "Fifth Column" man. This shows what they would like to do—unless they are checked—to the average man in the street who is not ready to lay down his life to enrich the House of Morgan.

The speed with which various labor bureaucrats like Green, Woll, Dubinsky and Hillman, and the Social-Democrats rushed to cheer this "defense" program, serves to expose their own treachery. At the same time it helps to reveal the real meaning of the program. For are not the Social-Democrats, for example, who are so ecstatic about the "defense" program, also calling for immediate entrance into the war?

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On the other hand, there are people who either are fooled by the talk of "defense" or who are really distrustful of Roosevelt's program, but hesitate to speak out, confining themselves to an insistence upon labor's rights as an integral part of any defense program. No one can doubt the motives of such people, especially when they express real determination to defend the rights of labor. But it is necessary to look more deeply into this question and say:

"A trap has been set for you. If you remain silent on the meaning of the so-called 'defense' program, place yourself at the top of an inclined plane which can take you in only one direction—down into the dark pit of the war-makers. You may insist that the defense of labor's rights must be part of the defense program. But the Administration and the capitalists have different ideas. They will say that maintenance of labor standards endangers the defense of the country. Once you accept their premise that their program is actually our defense, they will proceed to demand sacrifice after sacrifice from labor—all in the name of the 'defense' of the country. Those who oppose such sacrifices will be hysterically labeled as traitors and Fifth Column agents and every right which labor has won will be placed in jeopardy."

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The Administration and the capitalists have established national unity for war. Now they are trying to compel labor to submit to their program. Let no one be disarmed by the assurance of the father of the "defense" program that he will protect social legislation and the rights of labor. Such assurances were given at the beginning in France and Great Britain and today the workers in those countries are in chains just as they are in Germany. Furthermore, the gentleman who is so free with his promises now is the same person who pledged to the people that he had "just begun to fight" but who has long since withdrawn from the battle and turned upon the people instead. It should be plain to everyone that these promises are but a snare and delusion.

Those who do not speak out boldly now against the "defense" program will find that the logic of their position inevitable leads them in the end to being a party to the enslavement of American labor. For the war plans of American imperialism are directed not only against their rivals abroad but against the masses of people right at home—against their wages, working conditions and civil rights.

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The true defense of America requires the defeat of the "Fifth Column"—those who would trample upon the rights and conditions of the people under the false slogan of "defense", and who would hurl the nation onto the blood-stained battlefields of the imperialist war.