

SWP Leader Cannon 'Stunned' At 1929 Depression

Sept. 16 (IPS) — In a public testament to its history of impotence and political idiocy, the now CIA-controlled Socialist Workers Party (SWP) published in the Sept. 13 *Militant* an interview with James P. Cannon, longtime leader of the SWP who died August 21 at the age of 84. Interviewing Cannon a month before he died, *Liberation* magazine editor Sidney Lens began with the comforting comment: "I interviewed Earl Browder before he died."

Cannon is pathetically candid, divulging his ignorance of the basics of scientific socialism:

Lens: Did you anticipate the depression of 1929?

Cannon: Well, we kept forecasting it.

Lens: Yes, you kept forecasting it from about 1922 on.

Cannon: So we were eventually vindicated in 1929.

Lens: But did you anticipate that particular depression and that it would come through the stock market crash?

Cannon: I wouldn't say specifically so

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Lens: When the depression came, what were your personal reactions? Did you feel that America was moving close to an actual revolution?

Cannon: I can't say that I did.

Lens: Then what was your reaction?

Cannon: Like most everybody else, stunned.

Lens: Stunned?

Cannon: Yes, it was so severe. It was hard to see an immediate revolution....

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Lens: Did you expect a depression after the war like the depression of 1929?

Cannon: No, we were taken by surprise.

Lens: That there was no depression?

Cannon: That there was no radicalization.

Lens: But you didn't expect an economic slump in 1946-47 like Eugene Dennis [General Secretary of the Communist Party in the 1950s] did.

Cannon: We expected it, but we didn't put a time limit on it. We suffered terrible reverses. We lost a lot of members in the fifties.

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Lens: But my question is why did all the energy go into the organizations of the New Left? And although you've made some gains, you never made a fundamental breakthrough. How do you account for that?

Cannon: It just didn't happen.

Lens: Why? Was it something you did that was wrong?

Cannon: No, I don't know of anything we did that was wrong.

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Lens: Do you anticipate a revolution in America in the near future?

Cannon: It depends on what you mean by near.

Lens: Next 10 or 15 years.

Cannon: I say anything is possible in this century in the years that are left of it. That's 26 years.

Lens: But you don't sound very optimistic.

Cannon: I don't want to make any categorical statements, but I say we're living in a time when capitalism is plunging toward its climactic end.

Lens: Didn't you say that in the thirties?

Cannon: I did, yes.

Lens: And in the forties?

Cannon: And in the forties.

Lens: I mean, that must sound like something peculiar when you say it every decade.

Cannon: But when you stop to think, the history of humanity is a very long one, isn't it? And a quarter of a century is only an instant in the history of the human race.

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In a front-page headline, the same issue of the *Militant* echoes Cannon's pitiful lack of knowledge: "Is the U.S. On Road To Depression?"

Congressional Coverup on Rocky Planned

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 12 (IPS) — There is every immediate indication that the upcoming Congressional investigation and hearings on the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President will, in effect, not take place! Preliminary reports point to an outright attempt by the Rockefeller forces, with the passive assistance of frightened members of the Senate and House of Representatives, to pull off a carefully orchestrated coverup.

William Cochrane, staff director of the Rules Committee and aide to its chairman Senator Howard Cannon (D-Nevada), told IPS today that the Committee's hearings will begin September 23 and **may last only four or five days!**

Phony Opposition

The *Washington Post* nervously reported today that the so-called "anti-Rockefeller" pseudo-opposition likely to receive Rocky's okay to testify at the hearings will consist of CIA "leftists" and a select chorus of impotent zanies: Angela Davis, the protege of former OSS operative Herbert Marcuse and the CIA's choice to lead the final transformation of the CPUSA into a nationalist, police-controlled counter-gang; the National Lawyers Guild,

whose New York branch supports the CIA's own Symbionese Liberation Army; the Liberty Lobby, a right-wing group under effective CIA control, which has been slated to perform a counter-gang role to the U.S. Labor Party's documentation of the Rockefeller fascist conspiracy; and the Right-to-Life zealots, who will simply heave and moan about Rockefeller's stand on abortion in New York.

Testimony may be forced into closed Committee sessions to "avoid defamatory statements" against Rockefeller or demonstrations outside the hearing rooms.

Reports from the staff of the Judiciary Committee and the office of its chairman Peter Rodino (D-N.J.) indicate that the entire affair on the House side will be a quiet and slightly more drawn-out coverup for Nelson Rockefeller, while no date has yet been set for the start of hearings before the Committee. IPS has learned that former Naval Intelligence officer and FBI agent Rep. Don Edwards (D-Cal.) has been placed at the head of a special Judiciary subcommittee to set the format and procedures for the hearings.

Abzug Plans to Spur Fake Fight Against Rocky

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 14 (IPS) — IPS has learned that Rockefeller forces in the House are planning a fraudulent "fight" against Rocky, led by Congressmen Seiberling, Jordan, Moss, and Danielson and designed to provide a cover for ushering Rockefeller into office.

The linchpin to this development is Bella Abzug's plan to introduce a House Resolution Monday which would call on President Ford to answer questions on his role in the Watergate affair, specifically whether as Vice President he made a deal with Nixon to grant a pardon in exchange for Nixon's resignation.

Both the Watergating of Ford and the phony Rockefeller opposition in Congress are geared to discredit

Constitutional government and to dissipate legitimate opposition to Rockefeller's confirmation, opening the way for his takeover of the government.

Playing Dead

Interest in Congress continues to run strong, particularly among Conservatives, around the U.S. Labor Party's Brief to Congress on Rockefeller's Political and Financial Empire. [See IPS Nos. 18 and 19. Reprints available at \$2.50 each.] Despite acknowledgement that the Labor Party analysis is correct, that Rockefeller intends fascist rule, these Conservatives are fearful of a fight — they prefer to hold on to their correct views silently, giving up and playing dead before their time.