

editorial

The 'Free Press Campaign'

The Labor Party membership is now deciding the timing and selection of targets for economic sanctions against selected vulnerable newspapers guilty of massive lying in connection, for example, with Portugal and the coverage of the Labor Party itself. Our principal targets are the CIA-controlled AP and UPI "news" services, which we shall attack economically at selected points of their subscribers' network.

This campaign has two main aspects, both of which must be absolutely clear.

A Free Press Policy

Firstly, it must be clear that we are not demanding that any newspaper turn itself into a Labor Party "house organ." We are not dictating the editorial policies of any publications but our own. We are limiting our demands strictly to those standards of journalism which the newspaper publishing industry itself has pretended to represent to its readers.

By these generally accepted norms of honest journalism there are significant numbers of honest publishers, editors, and reporters in the U.S., usually limited — unfortunately — to local newspapers and radio stations. Our need to exercise care in selecting targets for our campaign is based on our concern not to attack economically news media, which, although disagreeing with us, represent an honest effort to maintain professed standards of journalistic integrity.

For these reasons, our demands upon target newspapers must be limited to the following sort of conditions.

(1) To the extent that there are gross, clear-cut examples of massive falsification of important news, such as the Portugal hoax, we demand that the target newspapers which have carried such false reports conspicuously publish a competent admission of such abuses of their readers.

(2) That these target newspapers publish policy decisions warning AP and UPI that those wire services will be discontinued unless AP and UPI admit committing such frauds and make reasonable assurances against repetition, including a credible commitment that the CIA, FBI and other agencies shall not be permitted to determine what is and what is not published.

(3) That in cases in which these publications have issued scurrilous fabrications against the Labor Party or against Labor Party members as Labor Party members; they conspicuously publish admission of such conduct. We do not demand that they endorse the Labor Party, nor do we insist that they not cite charges made against us by various critics, etc. We merely insist that they make a **reasonable effort** to determine facts without fallacy of composition and address their criticism of the Labor Party to those facts.

Otherwise, there will be no toleration of a newspaper's malicious representations affecting any civil or criminal action involving Labor Party members.

The campaign will be limited to a selected few targets which clearly fit the category of worst offenders. We shall generally aim at producing a discreet, private smile of pleasure among the ranks of those editors and journalists who fit or desire to fit the category of honest journalists. This will be a campaign to further the cause of free press in the U.S.A.

An Organizing Tool

The second reason for this campaign involves the urgent tactical reality that employers are currently provoking union members into desperation strikes which would inevitably be defeated in the present state of organization of the labor movement. It is absolutely urgent that the growing desire to fight among union militants and unemployed workers be positively expressed in forms which can both achieve immediate beneficial results and lead toward the kind of mass organizations we require to win economic battles with these employers.

If the U.S. labor movement were pulled together under qualified leaders, it has the objective strength needed for the sort of coordinated political and economic struggles which could achieve victory in an important number of cases and reverse the present rout of labor. Unfortunately, under the Woodcocks, Abels, Wurfs and so forth, trade-union victories are virtually impossible — and a minority force of trade-union militants in leadership of this or that local union cannot win as long as we permit Woodcock et al. to effectively hold the power of receivership and other means to sell out those struggles behind the workers' backs.

In this situation, the Labor Party has recently begun to receive an increasing number of invitations to intervene in local union strike situations.

Although we are not yet situated to take over the UAW, the fears of Emile Mazey and others are correct insofar as they see us possessing the imminent potential to take over the UAW in the early future. The Labor Party base in key UAW locals ranges from ten per cent to a potential majority at present. Unfortunately, only part of this support is in the form of organized factory cells — it needs to be pulled together as an organized force, at which point the existence of such an organized force will, for example, win over the overwhelming majority of UAW members.

An increasing number of local union leaderships throughout the U.S. are aware of this and are turning to us for help on the assumption that we are the force able to turn out the majority of the UAW and rally other large sections of the union and unemployed militants.

What we have to do is to transform that potential into an actuality. A number of actions are already being taken in response to growing demands from local groups of union militants, and we are going to assist them to the extent we actually have the capability to do so competently. Above and beyond that, these workers require some transitional tactic through which we can pull together the forces needed for more decisive efforts. For several reasons, the campaign for a free press satisfies the workers' needs almost ideally.

Feasibility

The immediate tactical situation of the Labor Party itself is the clearest indication. At present, the immediate Labor Party base represents between 20,000 and 25,000 persons, with varying degrees of support among over a million persons. This is exemplified by the fact that during the first several days of the campaign to stop the CIA-directed Mexican atrocity, over 100,000 persons in the U.S. took some form of positive action on that issue.

This force is usefully classified into three principal categories: Labor Party organizers, other de facto Labor Party members and supporters. In general, the hard-core layer of organizers is presently growing at a rate of about ten per cent per week or more, with a recruitment of over 100 organizers (chiefly from the ranks of Labor Party de facto members) during one day last week. By the end of this year, active Labor Party membership will be somewhere between 50,000 and 100,000, with varying degrees of support among approximately ten millions.

Barring police-state measures to prevent this, the Labor Party will be on the ballot in all but a few states in the Fall 1976 national elections, and in a free election will win at least 33-35 per cent of the vote (sufficient to win in a four-way race among three major parties — the Republicans, Democrats, and Labor Party — and a Conservative ticket which will take approximately 7-10 per cent of the vote, with about 3-5 per cent going to splinter parties such as the SLP, SWP and whatever the ecology-and-sodomy "NewLeft" crowd produces.)

This is the clear-cut potential, which will become an actuality to the extent that we creatively supply the necessary next step at each new turn in the developments. At this moment, the campaign for a free press fulfills the requirements of a next step, for which we now have the muscle.

End Opinion-Molding

In the long term, our free press campaign emphasizes that the Labor Party electoral campaign is not going to be conducted in the newspapers, radio and TV — at least not essentially — but through the development of the most efficient mass-based political machine this nation has yet seen. In a limited sense, the Social-Democratic Party of the German Federal Republic functions that way — in fact, the SPD has even much less of a party press organization than the Labor Party does today. By building such a machine, we care very little what the press publishes concerning us. This does not mean that we shall not cooperate with journalists covering us; it means that we shall in no sense depend upon them. Meanwhile, barring police-state repression we shall have our own press, whose daily circulation will be in excess of 100,000 during 1976. We already have the newsgathering and editorial capacity to produce the best daily national newspaper in the U.S. and developed plans for producing the daily in several regional editions. By those means we shall destroy the effective Rockefeller use of control of the press to create a controlled political environment among the majority of the population.

The important thing, to which all working people must refer in making judgments, is not the opinion of the major national press, but the reality which that press may or may not report.

Immediately, the fact that we have the muscle to make economic sanctions effective against selected targets in the press will provide workers with the easiest possible way to make their potential organized strength visible to both themselves and others. This simple act of demonstrating their potential political power will directly feed the kind of mass organizing essential to undertaking tougher political and economic struggles and will, as a by-product, wipe out the last vestige of bureaucratic control of the UAW by the Rockefeller machine of Woodcock and Company.

Immediate Targets

We propose, as immediate first steps, an immediate campaign to black out listening to CBS News department broadcasts and a black-out against the

notoriously corrupt newsweekly and voice of Rockefeller allies, **Time** magazine.

CBS News is selected because of its key role in effecting CIA control of the press throughout the post-war period. CBS executives have been the most visible public spokesmen for the CIA policy of "out-Goebbels Goebbels" which was adopted by Crossman and Paley during the World War II development of the post-war Anglo-American intelligence apparatus.

Time magazine, the first to announce the "American Century" policy which has destroyed and corrupted life throughout the post-war period, is notoriously hideous abuser of the public credulity, in respect to which we have "hard" documentary evidence of a conscious editorial policy of lying.

Hit these two "news" media. Let their advertisers know that we will not tolerate these media until their policy-makers convincingly repudiate the malignant practices.