

Meany versus Morrison

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE MEETING a few nights ago in the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in celebration of the 30th anniversary of *The New Leader*, one of the country's most notorious anti-Communist sheets, produced a dispute between Herbert Morrison, No. 2 leader of the British Labor Party, and George Meany, head of the AFL. The issue at stake between them was the attitude



to be assumed towards People's China. Morrison advocated normal diplomatic relations with that country, whereas Meany attacked the idea as though it came from the Devil himself.

Now what is the meaning of this unseemly clash between these two leaders (save the mark) of British and American Labor? Does it mean that whereas the British workingclass is in favor of treating People's China as an established government, the workingclass of the U.S. is against it? Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact is that if the workers of the U.S. had a say in the matter (which they have not had) they, too, undoubtedly would take a friendly attitude towards the new Chinese government and favor its seating in the United Nations.

The origin of the quarrel between Morrison and Meany, therefore, must be sought elsewhere than in conflicting opinions and interests of the workers of Britain and the U.S. The plain fact is that the dispute reflects basically the contrary interests of British and American imperialism, of which Morrison and Meany are faithful exponents.

THE LABOR PARTY'S foreign policy has notoriously dovetailed with that of the Churchill government, and the AFL's for-

ign policy, blatantly imperialist, follows slavishly every crook and turn of the State Department. In accordance with the more radical ideology of the British workers, however, Morrison has to doll up his imperialism with socialist phrases; whereas Meany can speak more brazenly the language of his capitalist masters. Neither of these gentlemen draw their basic policies from the interests or will of the workingclass.

British imperialism, in deepening crisis, while nursing a warlike perspective, meanwhile wants to trade with China. It needs desperately to maintain and develop its commercial relations with the many formerly colonial and semi-colonial countries of the Far East, now in various stages of winning their national independence and of working their way towards industrialization. This is the fundamental reason for Mr. Morrison's more liberal attitude towards People's China.

American imperialism, on the other hand, does not feel the life-and-death necessity for a strong East-West trade. Instead, in pursuance of its basic policy of world domination through a great world war, it finds it needful to take up an attitude of extreme hostility towards People's China. Mr. Meany, as a consistent Wall Street labor imperialist, automatically takes the same position; hence his collision with the British labor imperialist, Mr. Morrison.

THE WORKERS and their political allies, in the last analysis, have the ultimate decisive power to decide all foreign policy, even that of Britain and the U.S. They can force bureaucratically-dominated trade unions and political organizations to follow a peace policy, by firing or hamstringing the Morrisons and Meanys; they can lay impossible road-blocks in the path of the Anglo-American imperialist

warmongers; and they can even abolish capitalism altogether and establish the final guarantees of world peace, democracy, and being. This peace will have much to do with Britain's present less belligerent attitude towards People's China.

But such mass pressures are not decisive in shaping the policies (domestic as well as foreign) of such right Social Democrats as Morrison and Meany. Ample experience since the Russian Revolution of November, 1917, proves conclusively that, come what will, such elements are the agents of the monopolists and do their bidding. Mass pressures can force them to duck about, to change their tactics and to revamp their demagoguery, but, with rare defections, they remain inveterate lackeys of capitalism. When they head a people's movement of resistance to the monopolists in any sphere of struggle, it is only in order to behead it.

The right Social Democrats, of which Morrison and Meany are typical examples, joined hands with the Czarist-capitalists and with the foreign invaders—1918-20 in a futile effort to shoot down the Russian revolution; they betrayed the German revolution of 1918 into the hands of the monopolists; they disarmed the workers before the advance of Hitler and Mussolini, and they tried to make a bargain with the latter once they had gained power; they have been loyal agents of Wall Street's anti-Soviet crusade, and inevitably they are the most vicious enemies of People's China—Mr. Morrison included.

Right Social Democracy is an organic part of monopoly capitalism, and as capitalism goes down in various countries before the advancing workers, right Social-Democracy goes down with it. The workingclass and the cause of democracy and the well-being of the people advance only with the cumulative defeat of Morrison, Meany, and their likes.