

New Split of U. S. Reds Appears; Issue Is the Soviet Drive on Stalin

Foster Calls for Waiting Until Moscow Completes Re-Evaluation—Worker Editor Raises Some Questions

Indications of another split in the American Communist party as a result of Moscow's apparent campaign to deflate Stalin's reputation emerged yesterday.

A public difference of opinion as to how the American party should react to the Moscow events appeared in contrasting statements from the party chairman, William Z. Foster, and from Alan Max, editor of *The Daily Worker*.

In a three-column article published in yesterday's *Daily Worker*, Mr. Foster urged a go-slow policy in re-evaluating Stalin's role. He warned against those who would tear Stalin "to political shreds as some in our ranks seem inclined to do."

Mr. Foster's remarks seemed to be directed against Mr. Max. Two days ago in *The Daily Worker*, the editor raised a number of questions about the Stalin issue, including some about the role both of the present Soviet leaders and the leaders of the American Communist party.

Mr. Max accepted Moscow's critical re-evaluation of Stalin. But he also seemed to criticize Stalin's critics.

Some Queries on Russians

"Many things bother a person like myself," wrote Mr. Max.

"Where were the present leaders [of the Soviet Union] during the period when they say that collective leadership was lacking? What about their own mistakes in the period of capitalist encirclement? Are they giving proper weight to the achievements of Stalin?"

Mr. Max also directed questions to the American party.

"We American Marxists," he wrote, "also need to give thought to our own role in accepting many things about the Soviet Union which Marxists in the Soviet Union are now criticizing."

"We went overboard in defending things like the idea of Stalin as infallible, in denying any suggestion that civil liberties were not being firmly re-

spected in the Soviet Union, in discouraging serious discussion and criticism of Soviet movies, books, etc."

Mr. Foster gave little encouragement to such free lines of inquiry and self-examination as were suggested by Mr. Max.

The party chairman praised Stalin's role in building up the Soviet Union and in defending the Soviet Communist party against splits. Mr. Foster warned against any split in the American party, citing the expulsion of Earl Browder, former party chairman, as an example in point.

Foster Asks a Pause

"The foregoing conditions," Mr. Foster wrote, "do not condone or justify Stalin's incorrect methods of work, but they at least help to explain how they could have developed in the great Communist party of the U. S. S. R. They also help to emphasize the need of eternal vigilance against the dangers of bureaucracy."

Mr. Foster told his followers to wait for the Soviet party to carry out its "self-critical review" of Stalin's leadership which, he said, would enable them to draw "a better, more balanced picture of the role of Stalin."

The general line of the Soviet Communist party has swung around to parallel fairly closely that once followed by Mr. Browder before his ouster by Mr. Foster. But there seemed little prospect that the Browder affair would be among those party causes that would be re-opened and re-evaluated.

Mr. Browder declared yesterday that he saw no prospect of such a procedure, nor did he express any interest in it.

"I am through as a political figure," said Mr. Browder, who is 64 years old. "I'm too old."

"My only interest in these things now is historical. The American party is not going to reverse the Browder case. Mr. Foster would die first."