

Lovestone's Career

By Rose Wortis

IN 1929 Jay Lovestone was expelled from the Communist movement for his theory of American exceptionalism [the theory that there would be no economic crisis in America] and for unprincipled factionalism. He has traveled far since 1929, reaching the peak of his career recently when he kissed the hand of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII.

After his expulsion from the Party, Lovestone attempted to worm his way into the labor movement through the Auto Workers Union. He became the monitor of Henry Ford's paid agent, Homer Martin, then president of the Auto Workers Union.

When the Auto Workers caught up with him and threw out Homer Martin and his Lovestone coterie, Lovestone tried his hand at many things until he finally landed in that haven of renegades, the national office of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, an office which is the center of reaction and intrigue against the unity of the American and world labor movement.

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LOVESTONE then became the political specialist for David Dubinsky, and collaborator and glorifier of Matthew Woll, that old spokesman of the Civic Federation and the National Manufacturers Association in the labor movement, the gentleman who used his position as AFL vice president to build up a profitable insurance business for himself.

In this era of Wall St.'s drive for world domination, Matthew Woll, like all Big Business men, has extended his operations on an international scale through the so-called Free Trade Union Committee, which collects money from American workers, particularly needle trade workers, to split the labor movement in Europe and the Far East.

At the recent meeting of the GEB of the ILGWU (Justice, June 15, 1948) Lovestone reported on the activities of the Matthew Woll committee. Delving into the archives of our revolutionary history, he discovered the renaissance of the 1776 Revolution in Matthew Woll's Free Trade Union Committee. . . . "It is truly a revolution in its spiritual as well as material aspects," said Lovestone. "Future historians will, no doubt, place it side by side with the first Revolution of 1776, and the name of Matthew Woll who spearheads this drive in the AFL will head the list of those who contributed to this monumental achievement."

The Aug. 1 issue of Justice reports in glowing terms the audience of Dubinsky, Antonini and Lovestone with that great revolutionary, Pope Pius, whom Justice proudly quotes as saying . . . "they were not strange to him."

The heroes of 1776 must have turned in their graves to hear these modern Benedict Arnolds compare the Revolution for freedom and independence to the world-wide conspiracies of Wall St. and their labor lieutenants—Matthew Woll, Lovestone, Dubinsky and their newly acquired ally, the Pope, to reduce the nations of Europe to colonies of the modern Tories, the Wall St. kings.

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WHILE DUBINSKY, Antonini and Lovestone tour Europe as the "emisaries of the American labor movement," lending the name of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union to all their endeavors, thousands of workers in that union differ sharply with the policies of the leadership.

This is expressed in the widespread sentiment throughout the Garment Center for Wallace, through thousands of pledge cards collected in support of the Progressive Party, and through shop committees for Wallace.

The conditions in the industry are already giving the workers just cause for alarm. The industry, in an attempt to keep its market, is developing new styles which are more difficult to produce. At the same time, the workers get no equivalent increase in piece rates.

This has resulted in a sharp reduction in hourly pay. Also, the long periods of layoffs between seasons have returned to the industry. Section work is being introduced on a wider scale, and competition from open shops tends to drive wages even lower.

Many workers in the needle trades find it strange indeed that Dubinsky and Co. find time for jaunts to Europe in the service of the American capitalists but can find no time to organize the open shops and to conduct a fight that will defend their wages and working conditions.