The World Socialist Party Of U. S. Conference

On September 1st and 2nd, the World Socialist Party of the U.S. held its annual conference at the Essex Hotel in Boston, Mass. Business sessions, catered meals, and social activities were the order of the day for the gathering of socialists and their sympathizers. The usual large number of attendants from Greater Boston was considerably augmented by delegates from New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and six comrades from the Socialist Party of Canada representing such widely-flung areas as Montreal, Winnipeg, and Victoria, B. C.

For the first time in the history of our movement for world socialism, comrades from a Companion Party were accorded full vote as well as voice in the Conference deliberations — a further recognition of the basic oneness of the international socialist movement. In the same vein, another significant forward step was taken. Comrade Don Poirier of the Socialist Party of Canada was delegated to begin an extended lecture tour of the United States and Canada, helping in any way possible the establishment of new, and solidifying of already existing, locals. The enthusiasm generated by this decision was manifested by a good response in cash and pledges toward the building of a fund large enough to consummate our plans. All comrades and friends are urged to join in the donation rush. The months ahead will surely see a significant increase in our activities and a growth in our membership.

For a period of about three weeks, before and following the Conference, a number of well-attended open air meetings were held by Local Boston and several of the visiting comrades enjoyed the experience of speaking to good audiences on Boston Common. It can truly be said that this was one of the most successful conferences in the history of the World Socialist Party.

MANLIO REFFI

It is with a feeling of deep sadness that we record the passing of Manlio Reffi, in Boston on August 26, 1962, at the age of sixty-five. Reffi, the only name by which he was known during our long association with him, was not a member of the World Socialist Party, nor could he be said to be in agreement with all of our attitudes and aims. Yet Reffi cheerfully contributed prodigious efforts on our behalf during the years since October of 1939 when The Western Socialist was moved from Winnipeg to Boston. For this old-time linotype operator and all-around printer supervised the printing of our journal, giving of his knowledge and abilities far beyond the call of his professional duties. If The Western Socialist has maintained a high standard for such journals, if it has indeed improved through the years in appearance and in lay-out, much of the credit must go to Reffi. He knew his job and performed it well — in fact he regarded good workmanship as essential to life.

Not that Reffi always followed the old bromide "Shoemaker stick to your last." He has been known to intervene, on his own, in the alteration of a title or the change of a word. Whenever challenged on this he would reply: "Every good printer has the right to interfere in such matters when he feels its for the good of the journal." He understood what our writers wished to convey, he sympathized with us and shared with us the satisfaction of seeing each new issue born — the satisfaction, he would say, that a mother must feel on the birth of a baby. All of us who knew him will miss him.

Montreal (CP) — The Socialist Party of Canada will in all probability enter a candidate in the Oct. 22 federal byelection in Burnaby-Coquitlam, spokesmen said Tuesday.

James Milne of Winnipeg, a member of the party's national executive, and George Jenkins of Victoria, made the statement in an interview here while en route home from a convention of the World Socialist Party in Boston.

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THE CASE FOR PACIFISM

The following criticism of our article THE PACIFIST in WS No. 3, 1962, is presented in full as submitted by its author. Our answer follows.

"The Pacifist," by Harmo (WS #3) was both erroneous and suicidal: erroneous because Harmo doesn't know what a pacifist is; suicidal because he doesn't know what an H-Bomb is.

Pacifism entails not only a refusal to take human life under any circumstances, but also a refusal even to use violence. Thus most people in the peace movement are not pacifists, and many pacifists are not in the peace movement. Obviously most of Harmo's examples (Carnegie, Coughlin, America First, and SANE to give a fair sampling) fail to come anywhere near pacifist qualifications.

Infinitely more important than such conceptual errors, however, is the article's sheer suicidal oblivion. Typical is the opening prediction: the peace movement "is doomed to failure, the overwhelming majority of its members becoming ardent supporters of their government — either in fighting units, or ambulance units..." How could any literate human being write a sentence like that in the era of Polaris submarines and ICBM's? This isn't the War of Jenkins Ear, this is World War III. World War III will be over in one afternoon...possibly half an hour!!!

MATHEMATICS OF DESTRUCTION

Let's do a bit of arithmetic. One pound of trinitrotoloene TNT exploded in the WSP hall with the doors closed would leave a shambles. Ten pounds would completely destroy the place, blow all the walls straight out, and cave in the upper floors. One ton of TNT —the size of the "blockbuster" of World War II — would demolish the entire block. But these are merely MOLECULAR explosives from the toy department. The ATOMIC bombs used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 were each equivalent to 20 kilotons (20,000) tons of TNT. One of these over the WSP hall in Faneuil Hall Square would pulverize everything in downtown Boston within an area bounded by Berkeley Street on the east, and the Charles River Basin-Boston Harbor-Ft. Point Channel in the other directions. Everyone and everything in this entire area would be transformed into vapor particles for the mushroom cloud, and beyond that devastation would spread in all directions.

HIGHER MATHEMATICS

In 1952 we moved into the Hydrogen Bomb phase, and subsequently have developed Superbombs (fission-fusion-fission). These are rated in megatons—million of tons—of TNT equivalent. A single plane carries 20 megatons, which is nearly seven times the estimated total of explosives (three million tons) dropped by ALL participants in the whole six years of World War II. A single 20 megaton bomb exploded over the WSP hall would turn not only all of Boston into a cloud of radioactive vapor, but would do likewise to Quincy, Milton, Newton, Brookline, Waltham, Water-