treated to some of the most inflamatory language ever used by a newspaper in Canada against a class struggling for more livable conditions of labor. At the end of the first week of the six weeks' strike Dafoe told his readers that the situation in Winnipeg "had developed into a potential social revolution whose Bolshevik leaders intended to divide the country between themselves." As the weeks passed he became more violent and bitter. On June 7 he wrote, "Between the German Zeppelin policy and the cutting off of the food of infants and children there is no perceptible difference." This in spite of the fact that an arrangement between the Mayor, the Citizens Committee and the Strike Committee had already been made to open restaurants, operate movies, supply hospitals, deliver milk and bread, etc. In his frothings Dafoe constantly referred to the strikers as "bohunks," "aliens" and "foreigners," although thousands had just returned from a stint of fighting overseas. He outdid himself to turn economic struggle into "a big Red scare."

An International Nationalist

On the international scene Dafoe's views were just as unrealistic. He used gallons of printers ink sponsoring the Wilsonian "League of Nations" which—because of bitter trade rivalries among nations the socialists said would fall apart—actually did at the sound of the first bugle call in 1939. His pen worked overtime to build the British "Commonwealth of Nations" into a "steadying influence" to preserve world peace. This body has lost its potency, if it ever had any. Before he died in 1944 Dafoe foresaw another "League," more streamlined than the original, and with much more power. Today, U. Thant, secretary of the United Nations Organization, presents a sorry spectacle. He resembles a fireman with an extinguisher rushing from one hot spot to another in the cold war dampening the small fires which are erupting on a world wide scale. Nations disputing so violently cannot organize and unite for peace. The UN is ultimately doomed as was the League of Nations.

In human achievement, therefore, Dafoe batted zero. As a capitalist writer he hacked out a name for himself for his ability to lead blind workers and farmers up blind alleys. The naming of schools after him, the setting up of plaques and scrolls to his memory are his reward for a job well done. Mr. Bruce Hutchison, Victoria newspaper editor and long time friend and admirer, tells us that in 1944 Dafoe's views had changed "and matured in a fashion startling even to his close friends, but (the war was on) it was not time then to expound them." (Winnipeg Free Press, May 16, 1963.) There is no evidence of this.

To make a living in present society all workers must sell their mental and physical energies to a capitalist. Like most workers the newspaper editor has something special to sell. But unlike most workers the editor can only sell his energies successfully by adopting and advocating the views and opinions of his employer. To refuse is to be removed. On this basis the socialist holds no animosity to individual newspaper editors. But it is our job nevertheless to show that the modern newspaper is a powerful institution dedicated to maintaining the supremacy of the ruling class in society. This is not in the interest of the majority — rather a society of production to supply the needs of all is in order. We therefore support the view expressed by a writer in a socialist journal fifty years ago describing daily press editorial staff writers as "capitalist hacks and lickspittles." Their writings should be looked at in such light by all workers.

A.S.

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