Milburn P. Akers

Wallace speech dissected--II

PROF. HAROLD J. LASKI, former chairman of the British Labor Party's executive committee, and currently lecturing at Chicago's Roosevelt College, has written a keen appraisal of Henry A. Wallace.

Laski, who can hardly be classified as a Red-baiter, a favorite epithet of Wallace supporters, and applied indiscriminately by them to any one who challenges their hero and his works, writes:

Akers

"So far as an outsider can judge, they (Wallace opponents) are justified in arguing that he is a prisoner of his Communist and semi-Communist supporters; certainly it is otherwise difficult to explain the utterly irresponsible speeches he has made on Czechoslovakia, and the futile alternative he has proposed to the European Recovery Program.

"With many obvious and sterling virtues, it is difficult not to feel that Mr. Wallace is an Iowa edition of our English Dean of Canterbury. He sees only what he yearns to see, and he has bitter anger for those who cannot see beyond reality to the visions by which he is haunted. He is, so to speak, furious with the quite special fury of an expelled emigre who has lost what he once thought a permanent spiritual home. But the American vote of protest against the war-fever and the yearnings for a new 'normalcy' seems as yet most likely to go to Mr. Wallace in many millions. If he cannot make himself, he can break Mr. Truman."

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ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, another to whom Wallace fanatics can hardly apply the term "Red-baiter", long ago predicted his intellectual imprisonment by Communists and their sympathizers when she wrote: "The American Communists will be the nucleus of Mr. Wallace's third party."

But predictions and observations are not required to substantiate the point made regarding Wallace. Wallace himself does so, as can easily be ascertained by a reading of his Chicago Stadium speech.

Yesterday the point was made in this column that not once during that speech did he as much suggest that any responsibility whatsoever for current world tensions should be charged to Russia or Communists. Instead, he blamed only Americans and American monopolists.

Also, in stating against whom his fight was directed he included only "kings, monopolists and Fascists." By his omission of Communists from his Public Enemy list, Wallace suggests they are not included among the foes of democracy.

"War hysteria is the desperate weapon of men who seek to forestall the catastrophic fall in their profits which continuation of their policies would make inevitable," so Wallace said at the Stadium.

Russia, Wallace asks us to believe, is in no way responsible--even minutely--for the war hysteria. The establishment of the Cominform, the Communist tactics in Italy and Greece, the seizure of the Czechoslovakian government--all that, and much more--in no way contributed to that hysteria, Wallace implies.

ALL WALLACE COULD SEE in the Communist threat in Italy was "a fight to free themselves from the shackles of huge monopolies and a feudal system of agriculture." And, apparently, he thinks those objectives can better be achieved under Communism than under a democratic form of government which can only be fully developed after the threat of Communism, and Fascism, as well, are stamped out.

Wallace repeatedly belabors the hysteria prevalent in America. He is doing as much, and, in many instances, more, to contribute to that hysteria as any of those against whom his revealing Stadium speech will be carried in this ...

62-71788-A

RECORDED - 52

INDEXED - 52

MAY 26 1948

APR 24 1948

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