EISENHOWER AND COEXISTENCE

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

EVER SINCE the latter weeks of the election campaign, President Eisenhower has been talking actively about world peace. He has repeatedly stated that international tensions have grown less and that prospects for peace are brighter. He has even mentioned favorably the forbidden words, "peaceful coexistence."



Naturally, however, this "peace line of Eisenhower's has not gone unchallenged by the "war-now" crowd. Just a few days ago, Sen. Knowland, Republican leader in the Senate, gave voice to this wolf pack by demanding a general discussion of the Administration's foreign policy, looking to its revision in a more openly warlike direction. Knowland's jingoism was promptly echoed by the Democratic warmongers Senators Douglas and Symington.

This war militancy by Knowland and company emphasizes afresh the fascist and war danger in this country. It is doubly dangerous, not only because it has the backing generally of the McCarthyites but also of many decisive Democratic leaders. We may be sure, too, that Knowland's war line, calling for more war appropriations by Congress, will be looked upon favorably by many Keynesian-minded labor leaders, who consider munitions-making as the main barrier against a full-scale economic crisis.

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THE WORKERS and their allies must be on the alert to fight vigorously against the Knowland war-now line and also to support every trend toward peace, no matter when or how it may manifest itself. But in doing this they should not fall into the illusion that President Eisenhower, with his sudden outbreak of peace talk, has actually become a real fighter for world peace. On the contrary, there is every reason for concluding that Wall Street is continuing its pro-war program and that, in carrying this out, Mr. Eisenhower is its faithful servant.

The President has become aware of the powerful peace sentiment prevalent among the people of this country and of the rest of the world, including not only workers and other democratic strata, but also many businessmen. He is gauging his policy of utterances accordingly. He probably knows that Dulles' threats of "liberation" of the socialist countries, of "instant massive retaliation," of A-bomb raids against People's China, etc., have not paid off, but have aroused powerful peace and anti-American sentiments all over the world. Eisenhower knows, too, that in the November elections, with the Democratic leaders stupidly following a warmongering course, his own talks about peace undoubtedly save the Republican Party from receiving an even more serious licking. Hence his present sugary "peace" line.

The warlike program of the Eisenhower Administration shows through its thin peace veneer. Fresh in our minds are its desperate efforts to keep the war going in Korea and Indo-China. And now the announcement is made that in a ruthless effort to prevent unity in the latter country, the U.S. is establishing a receivership over Indo-China's army and government, pushing France to one side. Then there is the super-warlike attitude of Secretary Dulles over Formosa. He has virtually issued an ultimatum to People's China, "Touch Formosa and We Fight."

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BUT THE MOST dangerous war move now being made by the U.S. government is in the rearming of Western Germany. The significance of this is that the peace-talking Mr. Eisenhower is busy creating a great army, manned throughout by Nazi officers thirsty for revenge against the USSR. This course sharply raises the war danger afresh, and has caused the Soviet Government to issue its urgent call for an all-European conference on the 29th of this month, to attempt to secure a sane and peaceful settlement of the German question. Mr. Eisenhower has learned that the best way to advance his warlike objectives is under a thick camouflage of peace demagogy.

In combatting the fascist war danger in the U.S., the workers and their political allies must fight vigorously the McCarthy-Knowland-Jenner clique, who are are now battling recklessly for control of the Republican Party and the Government, and also combat their Democratic warmongering supporters, such as Douglas and Symington, who support Knowland. They must also be prepared to utilize every statement of a peace character made by the Administration, by demanding that it be expressed in deeds; but they must never forget the fundamentally warlike character of the Eisenhower government. In the peace question, there must be no reliance upon President Eisenhower.