

Meany: Diehard Warmonger

By WM. Z. FOSTER

Obviously, the interests of the American working class, like those of the peace forces throughout the world, are to do all possible to help to make come true the promise implicit in the recent Big Four conference in Geneva, to end the cold war. Concretely, this requires, among other needs, for the workers to do everything they can to cultivate friendly relations — economic, political, and cultural — with the peoples of the countries of people's democracy and Socialism. Above all, they must see to it that the coming scheduled international conferences be made fruitful and that they constitute a further real easing of world tensions.



It will surprise nobody, however, to note that George Meany, head of the A. F. of L. (and other labor officials of the same ilk) are flouting the interests of all trade unionists and of the whole American people by taking a course diametrically opposite to that indicated above. Attacking Geneva from the start, Meany has declared that its results, so far as the workers are concerned, are "zero-zero," and he is doing all he can to make things turn out that way in reality.

It is in this narrow spirit that Meany has decided that there can be no exchange of labor delegations with the Soviet trade unions, as urged by George Morris of the Daily Worker. Some important trade union leaders, on the other hand, have different ideas than Meany and definitely favor such a delegation.

Meany, of course, has no rank and file mandate for the anti-Geneva policy that he is following. He simply enunciates it arbitrarily, in his role as would-be dictator over the American (and international) labor move-

ment. Characteristically, Meany, who is a glaring example of what Lenin called labor lieutenants of the employers in the ranks of the workers, expresses not the will and interests of the trade union masses, but of the big bosses, the bourgeois politicians, and the capitalist press and radio, who are his active backers.

A graduate of the corrupt Brindell New York clique of building trades labor bureaucrats, Meany was never democratically elected to any union post, including his present one. Throughout his career he has received his promotion from the hands of the ultra-conservative bureaucracy that has dominated the A. F. of L. from time immemorial. It is a tragedy for the American working class that this man has already been picked out, of course by top level agreement and not by rank and file vote, to head the new merger of the A. F. of L. and C. I. O., 15,000,000 strong. He is the nearest to a dictator that our labor movement has ever produced — not overlooking the 40-year reign of Sam Gompers.

For his gross disservice to organized labor, Meany pulls down the plush salary of \$35,000 a year, together with an over-stuffed expense account.

Mr. Meany's attitude towards the Geneva conference and its end-the-cold-war implications, is almost identical with that of the notorious Senator McCarthy, even as were his pro-Geneva policies. The two men are diehard warmongers, militant backers of the most extreme Wall street imperialists, and they are resolved upon doing all they can to keep the cold war going on. The fact that Mr. Meany's anti-Geneva attitude directly contravenes the will of the overwhelming mass of the workers, including the membership of the A. F. of L., deters him no more than it does his political bedfellow, Mr. McCarthy.

Mr. Meany feels sure, on the strength of his bureaucratic domination in the A. F. of L., that he can get away with his

monstrous plan of putting forth in the name of organized labor, the concepts and projects of the most reactionary elements in the U. S.

Besides being a menace to the further easing of dangerous world tension, Mr. Meany's reactionary line regarding Geneva could also contribute heavily to a Republican victory in the national elections of next year.

Obviously, if the Republicans are to be defeated, the labor and progressive forces in the Democratic Party must come forth, together with a strong economic and civil rights program, with a firm determination to fight energetically, more actively than the Republicans, for ending the cold war.

Otherwise, as things now stand, there is the real danger that not only may Eisenhower be re-elected; but that he may carry both houses of Congress with him. In view of Meany's huge influence in the Democratic Party, his efforts to re-ignite the cold war might well invite a resounding victory for reaction in this country.

The ultra-reactionary Meany, and other labor misleaders of the same stripe, have long had a field day of it, especially during the years of the cold war — which is one reason why they want the cold war continued.

But basic forces are at work which will break down the arbitrary controls and reactionary policies with which these anti-working class elements have so long hamstringed the labor movement — in co-operation with big business and the capitalist government. The easing, or outright cessation, of the cold war — which the Meany's so actively oppose — will open the door to a period of more active defence of their own class interests by the workers. This will be the type of situation that will tend to eliminate the anti-working class leadership of the Meany brand and to call forth new and better leaders, worthy of the name and the tasks of heading the American labor movement.