
Capitalism's Howling Jackals Are Heralds of the New Day.

by J. Louis Engdahl

Published in *The Worker* [New York], v. 6, whole no. 269 (April 7, 1923), pg. 3.

The jackal is the most cowardly type of animal. It hunts at night in the dark. The jackals travel in packs, never daring it alone. It is claimed that the jackal cringes before his master, the lion, for whom he hunts prey.

There are plenty of jackals among humans. They also hunt in packs. During the past week it seems that just such a pack of human jackals began their joint howlings against the American Communist movement, with the opening of the defense of William Z. Foster in court at Bridgman [St. Joseph], Michigan.

It wasn't enough that Secretary of State Hughes had to let loose with a broadside of old falsehoods against the Soviet Republic, when women came pleading with him for recognition of the workers' government in Russia. Secretary Herbert Hoover had to en-core with his usual alacrity.

Then R.M. Whitney, Harvard College professor, honored by capitalist *kultur* for great discoveries made in *The Reds in America*,[†] now heads a special pack recruited from 100 Percent Plus organizations, including the American Constitutional League, the Massachusetts Public Interest League, the Women's Constitutional League of Maryland, the Women's Constitutional League of Newport News, Va., and the Women's Patriot Publishing Co. In addition to their howlings against Communists, they let loose their cowardly pack hatred against such friends of Soviet Russia as Capt. Paxten Hibben, Attorney Charles Recht, and

Anna Louise Strong.

We find the Socialists trailing with the same crowd. They broadcast in their publications the latest hypocrisy of the Anti-Soviet emigrés, that the most prominent offer themselves as hostages to Soviet rule, to secure the liberation of the counterrevolutionaries now in Russian prisons, convicted of crimes against the Workers' Republic.

Then there is another pack of these jackals that bays against the anti-religious ceremonies it is claimed the Russian Communists are planning this Easter, and howls itself hoarse over the proletarian justice the Soviet courts are meting out to the Catholic clergy who plotted against the regime of the victorious Russian Workers and Peasants.

And among the yellowest in the herd is William English Walling, renegade Socialist, mouthing exploded falsehoods in new "exposures" through the columns of Sam Gompers' *American Federationist*, new "revelations" built on information supplied by the Black Capitalist International, the League of Nations.

Then, too, the new slanders of the *New York Tribune* and its associates against the "Reds" in the Mexican Revolution, voicing the hope for Mexican Fascist victory.

All this has been howled into the ears of America's working class by the jackals of capitalism, as the Communist defense sought to get in its case in the Michi-

[†]- Reference is to R.M. Whitney's series of articles in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, which in 1924 was adapted into a book, *Reds in America: The Present Status of the Revolutionary Movement in the United States based on Documents Seized by the Authorities in the Raid upon the Convention of the Communist Party at Bridgman, Michigan, Aug. 22, 1922...* Richard Merrill Whitney (1874-1924) does not seem to have been a Harvard professor, although he was an 1897 graduate of that institution. Whitney worked as a journalist and editor in St. Louis, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. He also worked as a South American correspondent. During the world war he covered the State Department for the Associated Press. In the postwar years he was the director of the Washington Bureau of the American Defense Society. Whitney also authored a pamphlet published by the American Defense Society called *Back to Barbarism*.

gan courtroom. To be sure the case is really tried in the newspapers, since the whole American working class is the jury, and not the few “know-nothings” who have been sworn in by a judge in a backwoods mill of stone-blind and crippled “Justice,” kept by the interests that prey in Michigan, as everywhere.

What common call was it that caused these packs of jackals to bark and yowl in unison? It was not all coincidence. What hope they had to out-bay on the pages of the subsidized press any small particle of Communist truth that might drift into them from the Michigan courtroom!

But mingled with their hopes there must also have been fears, abject fear of the unswerving purpose of the American Communist movement to drive ahead, to push forward in spite of all enemies. Ten more surrendered to the Michigan court.† Thirty-two in all await trial. William Z. Foster, the first to do battle for the principles of all, stands straight and fearless before his judge, his class enemy.

“The result of this trial means life or death to the American Communist movement,” announce the political lackeys of capitalism in Washington in interviews with the kept press, as they hope for convictions and death, providing food for the carrion-feeding jackals.

That is what they said 3 years ago when J. Mitchell Palmer, Attorney General, launched his nation-

wide raids, and thousands were put in prison. In those days the Russian Soviet Republic was given but a few more days to live.

But how different today! American Communism, in Michigan and everywhere, hurls its challenge into the teeth of its enemies, with all their hordes of barking and snapping jackals. And the Russian Soviet Republic? It is beyond all danger. It stands as adamant against all its foes. The hungry are being fed, the naked are being clothed, the homeless are being sheltered. Workers’ rule in Russia is daily calling on labor everywhere to witness new achievements, to profit everywhere by following its example.

It is this success, this triumph of awakening labor, that the jackals of capitalism, from Secretary of State Hughes to Secretary of Commerce Hoover, down to the renegade Socialist, Walling, and the hired falsifier, Whitney, fear on behalf of the disintegrating social system they serve.

The brilliant victories of the Communist struggle in Soviet Russia call the workers of all lands to new deeds of valor against their common oppressors. The frantic howling of the jackals at night, in this wilderness of capitalism, is but the herald of the new dawn, the dawning day of Communism.

†- As part of the defense strategy, 10 members of the Communist Party of America wanted under warrant for their participation in the Bridgman Convention in August 1922 surrendered en masse in St. Joseph, Michigan two days before the start of the trial. It was hoped to “fill the jail” and to overwhelm the citizens of the small rural county with the prospect of a never-ending series of legal proceedings that might hit potential jurors in the pocketbook as taxpayers. The action also served to put faces on the fugitives, humanizing the Communists. Those surrendering on March 10, 1923, headlined in the press by Rose Pastor Stokes, included John Ballam, Max Bedacht, Ella Reeve Bloor, Jay Lovestone, Robert Minor, Edgar Owens, Rebecca Sacharow, Gustav Schulenberg, and Will Weinstone.

Edited with footnotes by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.