

Theodore Dreiser Joins Communist Party

As a testament to his deep faith in "the common people, and first of all, the workers," Theodore Dreiser, one of the outstanding novelists in the world, applied for membership in the newly reconstituted Communist Party and was admitted unanimously by the delegates to the convention held in New York City over the weekend.

Addressing his letter of application for membership to William Z. Foster, Dreiser declared: "Belief in the greatness and dignity of man has been the guiding principle of my life and work. The logic of my life and work therefore leads me to apply for membership in the Communist Party."

Dreiser's letter to Foster follows:

Hollywood, Calif.
July 20, 1945

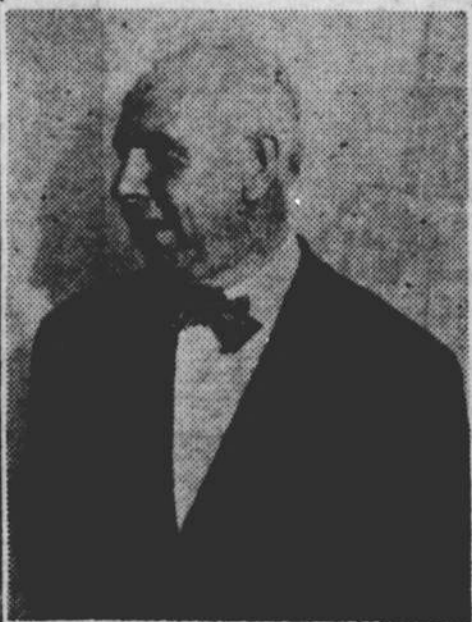
William Z. Foster,
New York City, N. Y.
Dear Mr. Foster:

I am writing this letter to tell you of my desire to become a member of the American Communist organization.

This request is rooted in convictions that I have long held and that have been strengthened and deepened by the years. I have believed intensely that the common people, and first of all the workers,—of the United States and of the world—are the guardians of their own destiny and the creators of their own future. I have endeavored to live by this faith, to clothe it in words and symbols, to explore its full meaning in the lives of men and women.

It seems to me that faith in the people is the simple and profound reality that has been tested and proved in the present world crisis. Fascism derided that faith, proclaiming the end of human rights and human dignity, seeking to rob the people of faith in themselves, so that they could be used for their own enslavement and degradation.

But the democratic peoples of the world demonstrated the power that lay in their unity, and a tremendous role was played in this victory by the country that through its attainment of socialism has given the greatest example in history of the heights of achievement that can be reached by a free people with faith in itself and in all the progressive forces of humanity—the Soviet Union. The unity of our country with the great Soviet Union is one of the most valuable fruits



DREISER

of our united struggle, and dare not be weakened without grave danger to America itself.

Communists all over the world have played a vital part in welding the unity of the peoples that insures the defeat of fascism. Theirs were the first and clearest voices raised against the march of aggression in China, Ethiopia and Spain.

Dr. Norman Bethune, the great pioneer in saving war wounded through the use of the blood bank, died in China helping the free peoples of that country withstand the Japanese hordes years before the democratic countries came to their aid. His dying request was that it be made known that since many years he had been a Communist.

Out of the underground movements of tortured Europe, Communists have risen to give leadership in the face of terror and all-pervading military suppression. Tito of Yugoslavia won the admiration of the world for his leadership of his people to victory. The name of Stalin is one beloved by the free peoples of the earth. Mao Tse-Tung and Chou En-Lai have kept the spirit of democracy and unity alive in China throughout the years that divisive forces have split that country asunder.

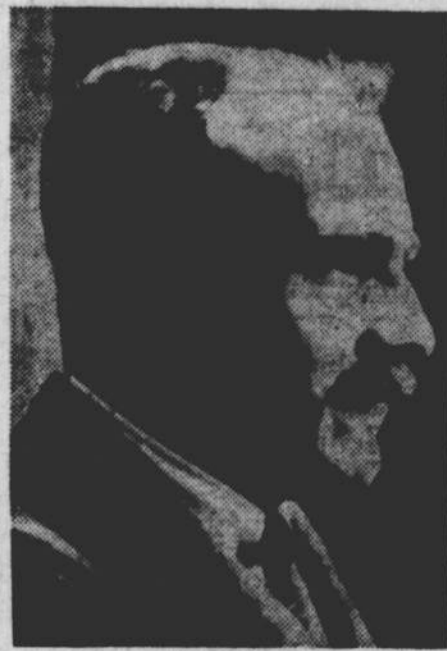
In the United States, I feel that the Communists have helped to

deepen our understanding of the heritage of American freedom as a guide to action in the present. During the years when Fascism was preparing for its projected conquest of the world, American Communists fought to rally the American people against Fascism. They saw the danger and they proposed the remedy. Marxist theory enabled them to cast a steady light on the true economic and social origins of Fascism; Marxism gave them also a scientific understanding of the power of the working people as a force in history which could mobilize the necessary intelligence, strength and heroism to destroy Fascism, save humanity, and carry on the fight for further progress.

More than 11,000 Communists are taking part in that struggle as members of the armed forces of our country. That they have served with honor and patriotism is attested to even by the highest authorities of the Army itself.

More and more it is becoming recognized in our country that the Communists are a vital and constructive part of our nation, and that a nation's unity and a nation's democracy is dangerously weakened if it excludes the Communists. Symbolic of this recognition was the action of the War Department in renouncing discrimination against Communists in granting commissions. A statement signed by a number of distinguished Americans points out that "the Army has apparently taken its position as a result of the excellent record of Communists and so-called Communists, including a number who have been cited for gallantry and a number who have died in action."

It seems to me that this ought to discredit completely one of the ideological weapons from the arsenal of fascism that disorients the country's political life and disgraces its intellectual life—red-baiting. Irrational prejudice against anything that is truly or falsely labeled "Communism" is absurd and dangerous in politics. Concessions to red-baiting are even more demoralizing in the field of science, art and culture.



HALDANE

If our thinkers and creators are to fulfill their responsibilities to a democratic culture, they must free themselves from the petty fears and illusions that prevent the open discussion of ideas on an adult level. The necessities of our time demand that we explore and use the whole realm of human knowledge.

I therefore greet with particular satisfaction the information that such leading scientists as the French physicist, Joliot-Curie, and the French mathematician, Langevin, have found in the Communist movement, as did the British scientist Haldane, some years ago, not only the unselfishness and devotion characteristic of the pursuit of science, but also the integration of the scientific approach to their own field of work with the scientific approach to the problems of society.

I am also deeply stirred to hear that such artists and writers, devoted to the cause of the people, as Pablo Picasso of Spain and Louis Aragon of France, have joined the Communist movement, which also counts among its leading cultural figures the great Danish novelist, Martin Anderson Nexø, and the Irish playwright, Sean O'Casey.

These historic years have deepened my conviction that widespread membership in the Communist movement will greatly strengthen the American people, together with the anti-fascist forces throughout the world, in completely stamping out fascism and achieving new heights of world democracy, economic progress and free culture.



ANDERSON NEXO



PICASSO

Belief in the greatness and dignity of man has been the guiding principle of my life and work. The logic of my life and work leads me therefore to apply for membership in the Communist Party.

Sincerely,
(Signed) THEODORE DREISER.

Probe Fascist Drive on Vets

CHICAGO, July 29 (FP).—The Federal government is probing native fascist attempts to organize veterans of the present world war.

Its interest was aroused when Carl H. Mote, isolationist Indiana industrialist, testified at Senate committee hearings on the United Nations charter that he spoke for five million American citizens, including members of the Committee of Veterans-World War II. Heading this group is Frederick Kister, associate of such native fascists as the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith and Joe McWilliams.

The Justice Dept. cast a suspicious eye at Kister during a 1942 investigation of alleged seditious activities here, but was unaware of his latest venture until it heard Mote's testimony. Dr. Harold W. Ruopp, head of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, recently described the committee as "anti-Semitic and anti-Ally in character." Its object, he said, is to "enlist returning servicemen in its program of hate."

Smith and Mote, who edits a fascist hate sheet in Indianapolis in addition to his activities as head of a utilities company, addressed the first meeting of the Committee of Veterans, which was held April 22.

Kister is about 30 years old and was formerly employed in the editorial department of the P. & S. Publishing Co., publishers of the Herald and Scribner's Commentator, which received Japanese money. George S. Eggleston, Commentator editor, was found guilty of failure

to register as a foreign government agent. Kister wrote a column for the Commentator called, My Day—Joseph Stalin. It was his job to comb the Congressional Record for isolationist remarks.

Kister was identified with the America First Committee prior to this country's entrance into the war and with the Keep-America-Out-of-Foreign-Wars Committee (now known as the Citizens USA Committee)

Screen Workers Refuse To Go On Strike

HOLLYWOOD, July 29 (UP).—The powerful 3,000-member Screen Office Employees Guild today defied orders of its international officers to join the 19-week-old movie studio strike and voted to continue to pass through picket lines.

The decision was reached in a secret ballot taken early today among 1,500 members at a mass meeting. They had argued for hours over a strike order issued by L. P. Lindelof, international president of the Painters' Brotherhood, AFL.

The vote was 894 to 666 against a walkout.

The decision of the SOEG to remain on the job was expected to influence strongly strike vote meetings tonight and the Screen Publicists Guild and the Screen Story Analysts Guild, sister locals of the Painters' Union, whose members also were under orders to respect picket lines.

Painters' Local 1421 touched off the strike last March 12 when it walked out in a dispute with Local 44 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees over jurisdiction of 78 set decorators.

'Who's Kidding' On Manpower

LOS ANGELES, Calif., July 29.—"Who's kidding who about the manpower shortage?" asks the UAW News, official publication of Region 6, United Auto Workers, CIO as it lists figures illustrating cutbacks in California in aircraft and shipbuilding.

The figures, which apply to California only and do not include administrative, supervisory or office personnel, cover the past three years.

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AIRCRAFT: Total employment of production and related employees: April, 1942—244,700; May, 1944—199,400; May, 1945—141,200.

SHIPBUILDING: Total employment of production and related employees (excluding government yards): September, 1943—282,500; May, 1944—246,900; May, 1945—155,900.

Not Wet Behind The Ears

HILLSBORO, Ohio, July 29 (UP).—This little Ohio community was a small boy's Paradise today.

Local mothers were rationing the number of baths per person in the face of a critical shortage of soap, soap powder and soap chips.

Grocers reported record sales of lye as some housewives went back to making soap from waste fats, grease, lye and ashes.

HINTS TO THE SUMMER VACATIONIST

DON'T drive your news-dealer, who has served you well all year long, to distraction by leaving him with piles of unsold papers while you rest on your vacation.

DON'T force the Daily Worker and The Worker to waste paper by printing more copies than necessary because you have flown the coop.

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