Jay Lovestone  NON-COURSE MATERIAL  Nov. 9, 1965

Lovestone began his lecture by stating that as he saw it there were five basic misconceptions abroad concerning the U.S.

I........1) The United States is not a country but a continent, not a nation but a nation of nations - a UNIVERSAL PEOPLE. In support of his point he stated that New York City alone has a larger budget than 110 out of the 117 member nations of the UN.

2) We are an implanted country, that is to say one founded from without and therefore have our own peculiar ideological problems. We have no feudal tradition and slavery was an imported institution. Our frontier provided an outlet for discontent that could find its way West. Ours is an anti-Colonial tradition and a successful continuing revolution since we have never had a successful counter-revolution after such crisis dates as 1776, 1860, 1960's etc.

II ......"We are a fortress of Capitalism and of Monopoly."

Are there classes in the U.S.? Yes, answered Lovestone, but not along frozen class lines. He added that our free enterprise system was stronger than the European and freer. He remarked with sarcasm that the budget of General Motors was bigger than that of General De Gaulle. He stated that we have far stricter social controls in the U.S. than most foreigners realized. Our anti-Trust laws have real teeth. The extent of U.S. Government control over stock market operations is greater than that of the Red Polish Government over the workers of that country. In the U.S., workers have more rights and voice in industry than anywhere else in the world through collective bargaining. He added that, "Word Capitalist or Socialist today has lost its meaning."

Lovestone added that the average American has no idea of the true extent of socio-public ownership. He stated that there was $500 billion worth of socially controlled property in the U.S. He gave additional figures:

- U.S. Gov't controls 700,000,000 acres.
- U.S. Government controls one-half of the area of 11 Western States
- 73% of Arizona.
- 45% of California
- 85% of Nevada

One-third of the land in the U.S. is owned by the Government.

Lovestone contrasted the above with interesting figures of a comparative nature:

1) Despite its Socialist regime, 91% of the gainfully employed people in Sweden work in private industry.

2) New York City alone has 142 housing projects (public) with a population of over 500,000 people.

3) Corporate and property taxes in Denmark are less than in the U.S. Maximum income tax level in Denmark is 50% which American wealthy would settle for with glee.

4) There are more computers in New York or Illinois than in all of Europe.
III ....... "Race prejudice is an American Phenomena"

Said Lovestone: "Race prejudice is world-wide but only we don't try to hide it". He then went on to describe what he called the education explosion:

The U.S. Population in 1900 was 76,000,000 and at that time only 6% of 17 year olds were High School graduates while only 4% went on to College.

In 1965 with a population of 195,000,000, a total of 54 million are in school with 71% of the 17 year olds obtaining High School diplomas and 17% going on to College.

The total educational bill in the U.S. is $42 billions a year. We are the only country with a drop-out problem because we are the only nation with a genuine mass-based education.

IV ........... "We are a country without Social legislation". This was really true before Roosevelt but not at all since then. Social services in the U.S. today cost 5 1/2 Billions yearly. Nor should it be overlooked that we classify as poor those families with incomes of less than $3,000 a year which in many other nations would be considered an admirable annual total.

V ........... "U.S Labor has no ideology."

Lovestone insists that American labor does have an ideology which he defines as, "A deep conviction on the overriding difference between democracy and dictatorship". "Why," he asks, "is the crisis a permanent one?"

"Because the totalitarian doctrine of Communism is based on conquest, domination and re-moulding of all societies."

Concerning Russia and Red China:

"What they have in common is stronger than what divides them."

"You cannot bring a revolution to another country, you can only help them help themselves."

"A military dictatorship is not a totalitarian dictatorship. Neither a military, personal or gangster dictatorship can run for long in a modern society. But a totalitarian dictatorship can because it has a mass base and operates under the flag of labor. A totalitarian dictatorship must therefore "be attacked as an anti-labor structure rather than a pro-labor one" Where there are no free unions there is no democracy.

In any developing country, the trade unions are the vital factors. "We have the lever of life, we take an international outlook, one-quarter of the AFL-CIO budget goes to international affairs."

"Our yardstick in judging a system is what it does for an average human being."
Stated that if the AFL-CIO had not successfully prevented a Communist foothold in postwar West German trade union movement, that the country would by now have been lost. He added: "Nature abhors a vacuum, particularly in political struggles".

"Communists never play for marbles, only for tombstones."

"The fight against an international enemy must be waged everywhere."

Lovestone added a Sixth Misconception: "The U.S. labor movement is backward because it has no political party of its own." He answered this by saying that American labor has no political party of its own because it has had no need for one until now. He added: "We have more freedom trade-union wise without our own party than with one." Advocated, "Militancy of the deed and not the phrase," described himself as neither hawk nor dove but an "eagle", frankly spoke of his hostility to Walter Reuther, welcomed UAW statement in support of Administration policy in Vietnam as one that might serve to cool relations between CLASC and UAW.