

What Congress Wants to Do to the Workers

By JAY LOVESTONE.

4. The Sosnowski Bill—A Blacklist Bill.

This "gentleman" from the city of Detroit, Michigan, has introduced the most insidious and in fact the most dangerous anti-labor bill in the Sixty-ninth Congress.

It is less difficult to fight an open, frank, above-board opponent, regardless of how despicable or menacing his plans may be than it is to struggle against a camouflaged, dishonest, cowardly enemy. Mr. Sosnowski proposes registration of all foreign-born workers but he doesn't say so openly. Mr. Sosnowski proposes to have the foreign-born worker register "voluntarily."

An Open Shop Measure.

This is plainly a fraud. Let us analyze the provisions of this open-shop measure.

"Any alien resident of the United States who at the time of his last entry from a foreign country was lawfully admitted under the immigration laws for permanent residence may apply to the immigration official in the district in which he resides for registration. Upon verification of such admission the immigration official shall issue to the alien a certificate that he is a

legally registered alien resident of the United States."

It has been said that the purpose of language is to conceal thought. If ever this statement was true, it is infinitely truer in this case. Beneath this heavily-padded clause of "innocence," there lurks the gravest danger to the workers.

First this "slight" reference to "lawfully admitted" when translated into reality simply means the taking of new steps to deport foreign-born workers. Let us suppose that a worker happened to come to the United States in a so-called irregular way. He may have had to flee from Fascist Italy or Bloody Horthy's Hungary to save his life and therefore was forced to resort to "irregular" means to come to the United States. No one should forget that tho there is no basis of fact the United States still has a reputation in the eyes of large sections of European masses as a haven for oppressed.

Sosnowski's Americanism.

The "gentleman" Sosnowski proposes to catalog the "lawfully admitted" from the above "unlawfully" admitted. Here is the actual line of the self-appointed Americanizer Sosnowski: Let those register who want to register. He who does not register will be up against it when he goes

out looking for a job. Any employer will be able to recognize and distinguish a foreign-born worker from a native worker.

When a foreign-born worker applies for a job, the boss will ask him for a registration certificate. Thus, the heaviest pressure, economic pressure, the threat of starvation, will be employed to club the working men into registration. If a worker doesn't register he won't get a job. That's the "voluntary" registration Mr. Sosnowski wants to put in force.

Let us go on. The worker who, because of Fascism, cannot secure the "regular" permission to leave his native country, cannot enter the United States as "lawfully admitted." He, therefore, cannot register. Thus, he cannot get a job. Consequently this worker is immediately liable for deportation to the country from which he fled and may face jail, torture, or even death.

A Giant Blacklist Scheme.

THE "innocent," the "voluntary" Sosnowski bill places thousands of workers between starvation in America, "the land of the free," and prison and execution in the country of their nativity. Mr. Sosnowski's bill also threatens hundreds of thousands, many millions, of foreign-born workers with virtual blacklist if they do

not register voluntarily.

The Sosnowski blacklist bill goes on in its "voluntary" train as follows:

"Such certificate shall be valid for a period of one year, subject to successive renewals for like periods, and shall be issued in such form and under such conditions as may be prescribed by regulations."

The workers who, by accident, did not happen to be born in the United States and who, very often, thru circumstances beyond their control have been unable to become citizens are to be forced by the threat of denial of employment to register "voluntarily" every year.

And of course the workers will have to pay for the glorious privilege of being registered—for the initial occasion. The charge will be three dollars for the first registration. The successive annual renewals of registration will be free.

FURTHER proof of the rank fraud which the Sosnowski Bill is, can be found in its vicious Section 4 reading:

"An unexpired registration certificate shall be accepted for naturalization purposes as evidence of the lawful permanent residence of its proper holder under the immigration laws."

Concretely what does this section

mean? It means nothing else than saying to the foreign-born worker: If you want to be a citizen, then you must register voluntarily every year. If you do, we will make it very easy for you to become naturalized. If you don't register voluntarily, then you may just go ahead and try to get your citizenship papers. See, if you can get them. You had better register voluntarily and put down your three dollars. You'll either register and be naturalized or you'll get shipped out of here quicker than it will please you.

But woe unto any worker who gives any information in registering which may be construed by the government agents as misinformation or misrepresentation. If a worker should be convicted of such a "crime," then he will be fined "not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both."

Sosnowski's Americanization scheme is just another example of what freedom of choice, of what the much-heralded sacred right of individual freedom means to the worker under capitalism.

Sosnowski's Americanism is just another name for a capitalist iron collar around the neck of every worker whether he was born in the United States or in any other country.