

SOME TRUTHS ABOUT YALTA

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE PRO-FASCISTS and warmongers are now having a field day shooting into the Yalta wartime agreement, and also into the reputation of

Roosevelt, who signed this document. In the cowardly spirit of people intimidated by McCarthyite anti-war hysteria, the Democratic leaders almost to a



man are putting their tails between their legs and fleeing before the anti-Yalta blast. And as they run they are throwing Roosevelt to the wolves. About all that they do in self-defense is to try to spread the "blame" for Yalta, by saying MacArthur and others were also "responsible." This is not only cowardice but also political bankruptcy. It means to give the Republican reactionaries a club with which to batter the Democrats in the 1956 elections.

Walter Lippmann takes a somewhat different slant, however, in a series of articles on Yalta which he ran last week in the N.Y. Herald Tribune. Lippmann's line is that the Yalta agreement, bad though he says it may be, was the best that could be had under the circumstances. The unfavorable situation, according to Lippmann, which prevented the U.S. and Britain from writing the agreement in terms altogether favorable to their imperialist interests, was Soviet strength and Anglo-Soviet weakness at the time in Europe. He says that the Yalta document was not more satisfactory because when it was written General Zhukov was rapidly approaching Berlin, while General Eisenhower was still on the western side of the Rhine.

LIPPMANN thus makes some sort of broken-backed defense of Yalta, in contrast to the cowardly flight of the Democratic leaders altogether from that document. But one thing he studiously avoids. This is to explain why General Eisenhower happened to be "on the wrong side of the Rhine" when the Soviet General Zhukov was already poised his army to deal the death blow in Germany to the Hitler regime. In the explanation of the fact, which Lippmann carefully skips, lies one of the most odorous stories of World War II.

If Eisenhower was so far behind, it was because for at least 18 months the most sinister elements among Anglo-American policy-makers had directly sabotaged the establishment of the second, or western, front. They kept their combined forces sitting in Britain, their vast

armies of men and mountainous supplies of munitions, for the cynical purpose of compelling the Soviet Red Army to carry the burden of the fighting against Hitler's Wehrmacht. Then, when the Nazis were about licked they planned to step in, take charge, and organize the peace to suit British and American finance capital.

But it all turned out very different than they had hoped and planned. They were hoisted by their own petard. The Red Army not only broke the backbone of Hitler's armies, but came storming West at a totally unexpected speed. The plan of sabotaging the Western front turned out to be a ghastly error from the standpoint of Anglo-American imperial interests. With the Red Army occupying all of Eastern and Central Europe up to Berlin and beyond, it was quite impossible for the Anglo-American imperialists to dictate reactionary peace terms at Yalta.

WHAT LIPPMANN also carefully hides is that, in fact, the Yalta terms were eminently fair and democratic. The proposals that the reactionaries are now so bitterly complaining of amounted in substance to the disarming of militaristic Germany and Japan, and of returning to the USSR Asian territories stolen from Russia in the war of 1905, and to Poland lands robbed of her by Germany. These eminently just policies the reactionaries now consider to have been disastrous mistakes, and hence no longer to be honored. It is indeed fortunate for the world, including the American people, that the relationship of forces was as it turned out to be at Yalta.

As for the USSR getting all the so-called Yalta concessions for doing nothing in the war against Japan as reactionaries claim, that is a barefaced lie. Let it not be forgotten that, aside from the Red Army's vast military victories in China in the last weeks of the war, all through the war the Soviet Union kept 1,000,000 of Japan's best troops, the Kwantung army, nailed down tight on the Siberian border. Had this Japanese crack army been free to operate, undoubtedly the American island-hopping operations in the Pacific would have been vastly more difficult and costly of American lives, if not quite impossible.

Besides, had it not been that the USSR carried through the decisive share of the job of defeating Hitler in Europe, it would have been out of the question, in any case, to have defeated Japan.

These are some of the realities that lay behind the Yalta agreement and they cannot be argued out of existence by frustrated Wall Street warmongers and would-be world conquerors.