

THE McCARTHY TV SHOW

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE PRESENT Army - McCarthy hearings in Washington, begun upon the initiative of the Eisenhower Administration, were launched presumably for the purpose of

clipping the wings of the pro-fascist junior senator from Wisconsin. But it is all turning out quite differently. Unless there is a drastic change soon in the tactics of the Army, McCarthy could walk out the victor from the whole affair.



To begin with, the whole setting of the hearings is one highly favorable to McCarthy. The latter was handed a major advantage when the hearings were scheduled to be held by the McCarthy Committee itself, instead of by the Senate Armed Forces Committee, where they belong. McCarthy won again when the notorious redbaiter and reactionary, Senator Mundt, was selected to preside over the proceedings. And again McCarthy was drastically favored in the choice of the Committee's Counsel, Ray Jenkins, who lets no occasion pass without directing water onto McCarthy's mill.

When the hearings began there was at once instituted the reactionary legend that McCarthy, in his witch-hunting, is doing work of supreme importance to the preservation of this Republic. All the participants have accepted this lie as gospel truth. Counsel Jenkins especially likes to enthuse over it.

In questioning the first witness, Major-General M. Reber,

(who was a complete wash-out so far as the Army's case was concerned), Jenkins, after puffing McCarthy to the skies, demanded to know if the witness could name one man in the U. S. who was doing equally important work. Shades of Eisenhower and Dulles, the witness could not, or did not, name anyone who could be considered as important as McCarthy!

WITH ALL THIS BUILDUP, McCarthy, with his customary arrogance, is dominating the whole proceedings. He realizes that the business, as it is being transacted, is highly embarrassing to the Administration, both here and abroad, and while ridiculing the whole sorry mess, he deliberately adopts a course designed to prolong the hearings and to make them even more assinine than they now are.

The testimony of Secretary Stevens (as of the other witnesses) make it perfectly clear that the Administration, prior to the hearings, was following a policy of outrageous appeasement of the bully, McCarthy. This was evident, among other instances, by the out-of-this-world consideration shown to Private Schine, but especially by Stevens' reconsideration of his decision to fire General Lawton from Fort Monmouth when he learned, upon his own solicitation, that Senator McCarthy disapproved of the proposed removal.

What is worse than such contemptible appeasement in the past is that it is still going on. These hearings offer a splendid opportunity, where the Administration is so disposed, to deal the arrogant McCarthy a crippling blow. Already, the material that has been produced in the hearings has created wide

realization among the people of the fascist program and methods of McCarthy. But the Eisenhower representatives have utterly failed to utilize this material to make a real attack on the Wisconsin fascist. At most they have only weakly criticized his "methods. They are still appeasing him

THE DANGER is, therefore, not only that the hearings serve to deflect the peoples attention from Dulles' dangerous maneuvers in Geneva, or that McCarthy may be whitewashed but that McCarthy may be even further strengthened in the public eye. This criticism of the policy of the Eisenhower forces in the hearings also applies to those Democratic Senators who are members of the Committee. Their chief objective seems to be to strut before the television cameras and carefully to refrain from attacking McCarthy.

Organized labor, the Negro people, and other democratic elements should actively protest at the reactionary course these hearings have so far been allowed to take. They should condemn the Eisenhower Administration for its milquetoast "fight" against the militant pro-fascist, McCarthy. The people should let it be known most emphatically that Eisenhower, by the way his representatives are praising and coddling McCarthy in the hearings, is not fighting against the fascist danger in this country but is building it up. There is a grave danger that the Army-McCarthy hearings will result in a serious victory for spouting fascism.

The people must intervene to compel a real investigation of McCarthy, and to take the hearings out of the hands of the McCarthy committee.