

'Preventive War' Instigators

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE ULTRA-AGGRESSIVE attitude of the Eisenhower Administration towards People's China is bringing to the front a whole crop of warmongers, who are trying to condition the American people for the atomic war that these worthies so ardently desire, and which they are now sure is right in the offing. With



the sangfroid of a person ordering a cup of coffee, these atomaniacs unfold schemes of wholesale slaughter that they contemplate with obviously sadistic glee. And these bloody massacres are all enunciated in the name of peace.

Take, for example, Joseph Martin, Republican minority leader in the House. On Sunday this senile man calmly spouted his plans and hopes of virtually wiping out the Chinese people. He thinks that the American people are terribly injured by China's insistence upon getting back its island of Formosa, presently occupied by American military forces. Martin, obviously of the opinion that what he advocates is just what ought to happen, drew a picture of a China bombed so mercilessly that it would be knocked out of the war in a month's time at the most.

In answer to a direct question, Martin made it quite clear that he favored the using of atomic and hydrogen bombs. He seemed not a bit disturbed by the horrible thought that if the plan he outlined could be carried out, it would cause the loss of countless millions of Chinese lives in the wholesale blasting of their great cities. So callous have this and other "leaders" of our people become in the current war hysteria.

One of the favorite items of

these trigger-happy warmongers is the assertion that the extermination of the "enemy"—in this case the Chinese people—could be accomplished practically without any American losses. No American foot soldiers would be required to do the job—it would all be carried out cleanly and surely from the air.

IN ANSWER to a second question, Martin stated positively that the Soviet Union would not bestir itself to aid China. According to this old sabre-rattling fool, the USSR, which has a defensive alliance with People's China, is supposed to stand aside twiddling its thumbs and awaiting its turn to be atom-bombed, while its great neighbor is being obliterated.

A very brash assertion this indeed. But then if one were to let it be known that an atomic attack upon People's China would provoke an atomic war in which American cities also could be bombed and millions of our citizens die, many war fanatics might lose their appetite for the picnic-like slaughter, with which old man Martin is trying to fool the American people.

OR TAKE the wild mouthings of Captain W. D. Puleston, U.S.N. Ret., which occupy over 30 pages in the current number of U.S. News & World Report. This old fire-eater, who, of course, like Martin, would not have to go to the front in case of war, is all out of patience with those (fools or traitors) who argue that the United States should not use the atomic and hydrogen bomb unless and until it is attacked. The captain is an unblushing advocate of preventive war, and according to his logic, the sooner it is carried out the better.

Captain Puleston figures it all this way. "We must strike first," he says, and what he means by "striking" is to drop such an overwhelming avalanche of the most terrible bombs upon the

USSR as to devastate the Russian people at one blow and to make them incapable of striking back.

And when should "we" attack? Well, says this blood-thirsty captain, "We would only strike if the prospective enemy did not cease preparing to attack us or our allies by a certain time."

The plain meaning of this insolent statement is that the "preventive war" should be waged right now, for the Pentagon brass have long since decided that the purely defensive measures of the USSR constitute "preparations to attack us or our allies."

THE time was when the American public was shocked at the idea of bombing cities. One can remember, for instance, the outcry that went up when Mussolini's son gloated over a bombing attack upon an Abyssinian village, and also the widespread protest over Hitler's bombing of Guernica during the Spanish war.

But the public has long since gotten over such "finickiness." In Korea the American militarists, with the slogan of "kill everything that moves," bombed hundreds of unarmed North Korean villages and killed tens of thousands of non-combatant civilian men, women, and children.

Now, reaching the apex of cynicism in one week-end, two over-age warmongers (among many like them) dare to come forward and advocate insane "preventive wars," one to wipe out the Chinese people and the other to destroy the Russian people. The most deplorable feature of all this war propaganda is that these monstrous projects of limitless death and destruction are mouthed under the pretext that they are measures of peace. Such atomaniacs should be put in jail as advocates of the mass slaughter of the American and other peoples, and as a menace to the peace of the world.