

FOSTER SAYS FAST 'SLANDERS' SOVIET

William Z. Foster, Communist leader, accused Howard Fast, novelist, yesterday of "slanders" against the Soviet Union and of "playing directly into the hands of the class enemy."

The attack, printed in *The Daily Worker*, is the strongest denunciation yet made by any major Communist leader against Mr. Fast. The latter was generally considered the leading Communist novelist in this country until his announcement early this year that he had broken with the Communist party.

The Foster denunciation was provoked by the publication in *The New York Times* last June 2 of an exchange of letters between Mr. Fast and the Soviet novelist Boris Polevoi. Mr. Foster called Mr. Fast's attitude "bourgeois nationalism," presumably referring to the emphasis Mr. Fast has placed upon Soviet mistreatment of Jews in that country.

Reached at his home, Mr. Fast said yesterday he did not care to comment until "Mr. Foster cares to debate with facts rather than by name-calling."

The New York Times

Published: June 18, 1957

Copyright © The New York Times