

# The Heat Wave and Aaron Burr

— by Mike Gold —

**N**EW YORK is hot as a steam-heated jungle in Brazil. Best way to beat the heat is to stop thinking about it. Drill, drill, ye terriers, drill! Plant that cotton, write that scintillating book review! Forget the heat!

Have been doing some light summer reading while heat wolves barked at the door. History of N. Y., for example, in 1805, on July 11, Vice-President Burr and ex-Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton fought their famous duel on the Palisades, in which Hamilton was shot and killed.



Thereafter, Aaron Burr was regarded as a treacherous dog who murdered his political rival in cold blood. Burr was a man of immense energy and greater personal ambition. To become President of the United States he would have murdered his own family, then used their bodies as a ladder into the White House.

But the victorious duel against Hamilton started Burr down the chute of failure. Burr was later charged with a plot to split the southeastern states away from the U.S.A. With the help of monarchist France or England, he planned to set himself up as dictator of a new vast rival American republic.

But he ended his days in exile. Aaron Burr was brilliant and unstable, with an ego big as all hell. The Trotsky of our American Revolution, such Lucifers of ambition never accept the decisions of democracy. They despise the people even at the moment of revolution when leading the masses.

What can we do about such changelings? Give up the people's struggle? No, indeed, for all history teaches that the Aaron Burrs generally meet their just reward, while the great people's movement rolls irresistibly onward in history.

Hot weather makes me feel irritable, however, about leaders who get too big for their breeches. Maybe the old IWW theory of rotation in office would help—elected officers to serve only a year, and to be subject to recall at all times. On the other hand, in emergencies one needs to employ the experience of veteran leaders. And the working class is always in an emergency. What is the road then to integrity?

Comrades, it is a hot day. I am not thinking clearly and it is with a dubious feeling that I suggest the following:

How about giving the women a chance? Women are as smart as men. They also have kinder hearts and are fond of children, the future of our planet. Women look better, they work harder, they are steadier. Women are realistic, and rarely succumb to a lot of fine-spun abstract theory.

Doing the daily marketing, they know the exact value of an inflated dollar, the price of meat, the morals of "progressive capitalism."

A male leadership often shows the most unusual talent in hindsight. They can explain brilliantly every error and crime of the past. But why do they show so little foresight?

Women are not yet sophisticated in the subtleties of politics. They don't know the rules. If a thing is wrong, and hurts the people, women are apt to say so, even though some city slicker calls them "non-Marxian" or "non-parliamentary."

The fair sex for a new deal! We need a real sweeping, dusting, cleaning of the house. Women can do it. It's a hot day, ladies, gentlemen and comrades, and this is all I can think up today.