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Dressmakers Again Betrayed Imperialist Powers Quarrel at London

« Impartial Commission » Formed to Sell Out Workers

The New York dressmakers' strike of the International Ladies Garment Workers, the Right wing union, is nearing an end. The end of the strike, called with the agreement of the manufacturers, brings as its major result and "accomplishment" the establishment of a so-called impartial machinery for the adjustment of disputes between the bosses in the cloak industry. Its actual function is to hamstring the workers, to destroy their militancy and reliance upon fighting means to gain better conditions in the industry. The "Impartial Commission" makes it simple for the union fakers and the bosses to betray the worker in any impending struggle by delaying or preventing any strike action, and makes easier the intervention of the governmental agencies on the side of the employers.

No Militancy Displayed

Little if any militancy has been displayed during the walkout except so far as Left wing and class-conscious workers have injected it and made efforts to energize the strike. The "mass picketing" and demonstrations of the Right wingers, looked upon quietly by the employers and nonchalantly by Whalen's police, were not even well staged. Where Left wingers mingled among the workers and tried to develop a fighting spirit among the apathetic workers, then the police did not hesitate to club and arrest the workers. In the course of one of these sham demonstrations, Right wing guerrillas and gangsters, expecting to attack Left wingers, were responsible for the death of a dress manufacturer mingling in the crowd.

Working Conditions Unchanged

The workers are about to return to their shops. The class collaboration agreement of the I. L. G. W. U. and the Manufacturers, in addition to the "impartial machinery" for the adjustment of disputes, calls for the formation of a commission to "study" the dress industry with a view toward "stabilizing" the trade; in other words, a commission to study long and plenty and to delay indefinitely any actual improvement of the dressmakers' conditions.

The reported agreement calls for a two year contract with no changes in the wage scale except overtime rates. With an increasing unemployment in the dressmakers and the needle trades generally, and at the same time with an increase in the cost of living, no actual wage increase means in reality a wage reduction. With workers unemployed and starving or eking out a miserable existence, the proposed agreement defers discussion for unemployment insurance for one year.

Schlesinger, Dubinsky, Hochman and Co., the manufacturer and the state government, represented by Lieutenant-Governor Lehman worked like a holy trinity in binding the dressmakers to miserable conditions.

Left Wing Failed to Propose United Front

The Left wing, represented by the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, had an opportunity to do effective work among the rank and file workers who responded to the call of the Right wing union, but sectarian and isolation tactics rendered the efforts of the militants less effective. To keep Left wing union members at work in "controlled shops" behind locked doors was even worse. No efforts or proposals were made in the name of the Left wing to the I. L. G. W. U. and the rank and file strikers to effect a fighting front against the manufacturers, to abolish the sweat shop to gain the 40 hour week, to develop a militant spirit among the striking workers other than Left wingers. The N. T. W. I. U. lost a chance to show up effectively the Right wing officialdom through united front

proposals for a struggle for these and other specific demands. Denunciation of the officials is insufficient. Nor, likewise, is a demand upon the workers who went out under the Right wing call to go instead to the halls of the Left wing and strike under their banner. This call was simply not heeded by the workers. It is necessary, imperative to find and utilize every means to gain contact with all workers and to influence their thoughts and actions. The isolation policy of the Left wing has not gained forces for the N. T. W. I. U. It is time to end an ostrich policy and existence.

The struggle to build a mass union of the dressmakers, of needle trades workers, to smash company union, class-collaboration agreements, "impartial commissions", Schlesinger and the other I. L. G. W. U. reactionaries; to instill a new fighting spirit among the exploited needle trades workers; to rally them to industrial union; to the organization of the forces for a genuine struggle for the 40 hour week, increase in wages, shop committee control—this remains as before. It can be done, if proper tactics are adopted and pursued. In addition to the work of building the Left wing

N. T. W. I. U., it is necessary to begin seriously and with well-laid out plans to build a Left wing in the I. L. G. W. U. to undermine the Schlesinger machine, the bosses' agents.

By a policy of isolation and the abandonment of the united front tactic, the N. T. W. I. U. is in danger to lose its last base in the needle trades, this despite the fact that the Right wing union is again betraying and selling out the workers. But the sectarian policy and the mechanical Communist party control of the N. T. W. I. U. has been of such a character that many of the workers have lost confidence in it. This needs to be remedied at once if a successful fight against the Right wing union is to be waged. Not a reflex of the Party struggles, but toward a broad Left wing organization of the mass of workers, is what the N. T. W. I. U. must consciously direct its steps. Only with such methods and aims will the N. T. W. I. U. be able to fight and defeat the betrayers of the workers and the agents of the bosses—Schlesinger, Hochman Dubinsky and Company, and to build a union functioning in the interests of the mass of needle trades workers.

YES OR NO! HAS BLUMKIN BEEN ASSASSINATED?
More Facts on the Disappearance of the Fighter for the Russian Bolshevik Revolution

The Stalinist press is ominously silent! Has Blumkin been shot "in conformity with the orders of the G. P. U.", or not? The question has been put to it publicly, before the whole revolutionary working class. It refuses to reply to it. Why?

Why is Stalin himself silent? Why does the Russian Party press, directly controlled by him, fail to breath a word about Blumkin's fate? The assassination of Blumkin would be a new stage in the "ideological struggle" against the Russian Bolshevik Opposition. Will Stalin, Yaroslavsky and Co. find it difficult to explain to the Russian and international working class why the "exterminated Trotskyists" now have to be fought by being stood against the wall in secret and shot down? Is this difficulty the reason for the silence?

Blumkin was an irreproachable revolutionist. Early in the revolution, he transferred his allegiance from the Left Social Revolutionaries and joined the Communist Party. He was one of the heroes of the Red Army in the civil war and the struggle against imperialist intervention. Despite the fact that he avowed his support to the Russian Opposition from the very beginning, never concealing his views at any time, he was entrusted with the most important and confidential work of the revolution to the very end. Menzhinsky, the head of the G. P. U., and Trilisser, former head of the foreign section of the G. P. U., were both aware of Blumkin's views, but he continued to fulfill his important revolutionary function because Menzhinsky and Trilisser considered him irreplaceable, and that was correct.

Now he has been shot—the Militant is in a position to state this from unquestionably authentic sources. Why? On whose responsibility, on whose orders?

On hearing the news, thousands and tens of thousands of Russian workers and

Communists will whisper in horror at the deed. They know that such an act could never have been committed in Lenin's day. At that time, the Tcheka (now G. P. U.) carried out a rigorous task. But its activities remained subordinated to the control of the Bolshevik Party. At the head of the Tcheka stood Dzerzhinsky, a man of superior moral power. He remained subordinated to the Political Bureau of the Party, composed of members who had clear ideas on every question and knew how to defend them. All this was a guarantee that the Tcheka would rest an instrument of the revolutionary dictatorship.

Now the Party is stifled. At the head of the G. P. U. stands Menzhinsky, not a man, but the shadow of a man! The principal role in the G. P. U. is played by Iagoda a detestable careerist, who has bound his fate with Stalin's and carries out the latter's orders unquestionably. The Political Bureau does not exist—of that the recent revelations of Bucharin bear incontestable witness. Stalin holds the Political Bureau in his palms and uses the G. P. U. to collect such material against them as will insure their obedience. Under such conditions, the execution of Blumkin is a personal affair of Stalin.

Has Blumkin been assassinated? Why? William Z. Foster, the head of the American Communist Party, who has just returned from Moscow, should know. Does he assume joint responsibility with Stalin for this unheard of crime? Do Browder, and Bedacht, and Minor and the others in the Party leadership? Let them speak out publicly! Or do they want the Blumkin affair to become the Sacco-Vanzetti case of the Communist movement?

YES OR NO! HAS BLUMKIN BEEN ASSASSINATED! TELL US, FOSTER! AND TELL US WHY!

The undertone of dissatisfaction that has characterized the attitude of the British Japanese, French and Italian capitalist powers at the London conference on naval reduction with the arrogance and demands of the United States imperialist representatives, is now coming sharply into the open. The conference of pirates is showing dissent.

The rift has taken place with America's proposal that she be permitted to build a modification of the proposed capital ship new battleship of 35,000 tons. This is a better America's battleship standing with "holiday" until 1935, and would actually Great Britain, with whom the United States expresses disagreements on replacements. The London Daily Times, organ of the Conservatives and the Daily Herald, organ of the Labour Party and the MacDonald Government, together protest on behalf of British imperialist privileges. The Times protests that the American proposal really give an advantage to the United States; and the Daily Herald refers to naval parity as "Parity disease" and "if the American suggestion is accepted it will mean the conference will be a prelude to, not a cessation of battleship building.

Each has its special capitalists interests to preserve, and each demands its share of cruisers submarines, battleships or other naval armaments. All make plans for war equipment for years ahead.

The French paper, Figaro, complains, "The United States obstinately pursues her plans...All she cares about is to have the kind and size of navy she wants", and goes on to add that France's freedom of action is preferable to agreement. "The Americans started in after the war to build the largest fleet in the world but found it too expensive. Now they think they can achieve the same result by forcing others to reduce. Britain has agreed to impose limitations on other naval powers. They are to be equal but all others are to be inferior and they intend to fix the size of the French, Italian and Japanese navies. Moreover, in condemning submarines in theory, they are trying to force us to accept an unsatisfactory minimum."

America Spreads Her Wings

But America is insistent and feels that her strength and resources will prevail. Formal parity with Great Britain under the circumstances actually means that America supersedes Great Britain as mistress of the seas. Stimsons' proposals have the design to place the American delegation in a dominant role at London.

The Japanese are bitterly hostile, but know not where to turn for relief. Small concessions have been made to the Mikado government in the way of submarines.

So the pirates quarrel and fight for the spoils, and politely ask the other fellow pirate to walk the plank. The scared petty-bourgeois pacifist sees his hopes going up in smoke. First secretly, now openly the imperialist powers reveal that all their maneuvers are but paper talk and are actually laying the basis and strengthening themselves for the next imperialist war, first through diplomacy, and finally in the extension of diplomacy into the reality of scourging war. Reduction and disarmament are just talk. These capitalist representatives feel more comfortable that they hear nothing of an actual program for total disarmament in all fields, as proposed by the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. But the road toward total disarmament and the abolition of war lies through the struggle for the abolition of capitalism...And so the London Conference will talk reduction and peace—and prepare for war.