

# Unite for the Unemployed!

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by the employers is well known; now it is openly acknowledged and permitted that this be done "legally".

## The Drive Against the Foreign Born

4. The revival by the reactionaries of the campaign to compel the registration of aliens and for the deportations of aliens who are not satisfactory to the Bourbons of Wall St. Bills have been again introduced into the United States Congress for the registration of aliens. In effect it will establish a vast espionage system over the millions of foreign born workers; by means of persecuting them, driving them out of their jobs if need be, jailing and deporting them. The bills are aimed at the alien radicals, and typically enough, are supported by that arch labor faker, now an open tool of Wall St., namely, Secretary of Labor Davis. The foreign-born workers, who are in the basic industries are the ones most sharply affected by the mass unemployment. These alien registration bills have in mind to stifle their protest against capitalist exploitation and oppression, and to take whatever measures are needed to do so, including deportation.

## Workers and Civil Liberties

5. A drive to deprive aliens and American radicals of so-called civil and constitutional rights. The campaign is going on all the time, but now the 100 per centers, the Pay-Triots of every description are coming out of their holes and beginning to bark for greater suppression of radical labor and for withdrawal of so-called liberties and rights from them. Where successful, it will be labeled "Americanization work" (that is, good results in breaking up union organizations, lowering wages, increasing hours of labor, speed-up, etc.); where unsuccessful in "Americanization", then there will be the policy of revocation of citizenship of alien radicals, refusal to grant citizenship, to permit radical gatherings, indoor and outdoor meetings, attempts to persecute Red students and school-children, etc. In New York a college youth has been suspended from City College by the Dean for so-called "violation of a city ordinance". He had the audacity to distribute handbills for the New York demonstration of the unemployed! Others in public schools are to be dealt with by the educational authorities who will work hand in hand with the employers and the police.

## Revival of Criminal Syndicalism Laws

6. The attempted revival of Criminal Syndicalism laws in an effort to drive the Communists and other labor organizations into illegality. The reaction of 1919-20, the period of of the vicious Attorney-General Palmer, is raising its head. Nothing serious of course is done with the gunmen, racketeers and murderers who infest society, products of the capitalist system. Indeed, these gangsters and racketeers are regularly brought into service by the officially recognized thugs—the police—against workers on strike, against unions, against the radical workers, etc. The Mathew Wolls and William Greens, the labor agents of Wall Street, chime in to endorse any movements aiming to check the progress of the workers and to smash the "Reds".

## The Bosses Organize

7. The organization of the capitalist groups themselves to give organized direction and policy to all campaigns against labor, organized and unorganized. The New York Chamber of Commerce has formed a special committee to launch a "militant fight" against the Communist movement. They hope thus to hide or obscure the burning problem of unemployment. New York wealth and plutocracy have given the lead and expect the other Chambers of Commerce and business groups to take the cue. It has a Committee on Deportation; Committee on Communism in Business and Industry; Committee on Publicity, etc. Every agency, governmental, business, religious, etc. is to be enlisted to raise the "Red Scare" so that the misery of the workers under capitalism and particularly severe because of mass unemployment, shall be passed by.

## Mass Unemployment Remains

What needs to be done to stem the

rising tide of reaction and to bring again to the forefront the problems that affect sharply the daily lives of the working men and women of this country? It is largely up to the Communists and Left wing, and in particular the official Communist party, to answer this question and to make possible effective work, agitation and organization among the masses. The tactics to pursue have been proposed before by *The Militant*. The basic problem and issues remain as before.

1. Mass unemployment, estimated at over 6,000,000 at the present time, remains the outstanding phenomenon and cancer of American capitalism. There has been much bally-hoo otherwise, but mass unemployment remains and mounts higher. Cleverness, advertising and now a "Red Scare" have not gone over; Hoover and capitalism are seeking other means to cover up the acute situation. The figures of the Hoover administration, of the U. S. Labor Dept. on unemployment and an alleged rise in industry and business have been challenged from various sources, and have been shown up as valueless, unreliable and untrustworthy.

In New York State, where figures by the State Dept. of Labor have been issued monthly, F. Perkins, State Industrial Commissioner, reports a further increase in unemployment and at the same time challenges the accuracy of the Hoover figures. Reports from other regions are similar, varying in totality of numbers, but revealing essentially the same situation throughout the United States. The need to defend the interests of the unemployed, to unite the organized and unorganized, to get the unions to enter the fight on behalf of the unemployed, to bring together the employed and unemployed, white and colored workers, in common action for demands upon the employers and the government for work or compensation, less hours of labor and speed-up is yet paramount. The Communists remain the main instruments that can give such a movement vitality, purpose and direction, and develop the consciousness of the worker regarding his social position in capitalist society. The basic tasks of the Communists and class-conscious workers remain to explain the causes of unemployment; the failure and inability of capitalism to solve the problem and the Communist solution thereof.

## Create United Front Defense Movement

2. Organize a broad UNITED FRONT DEFENSE MOVEMENT to defend the leaders and workers arrested in the unemployment demonstrations and meetings, and in order to make an effective campaign to smash the anti-Communist and anti-labor offensive of the Bosses, the A. F. of L. labor fakers, Woll, Green & Co., and the Government. A sectarian defense movement, limited largely to the Communist party and the I. L. D. with its present narrow line, will defeat its own purpose. Large sections of the labor and liberal movement can be mobilized in such a campaign, if only the official Communist party will permit and not cut such a movement to pieces, as it did, for instance, in the Gastonia textile case. Already liberal elements—professors, scientists, etc.—have protested the Black List and red-baiting campaign of Whalen, et al. The Socialist party has been compelled to declare against the forms of the drive against the Communist movement. The Socialists find it necessary to present a liberal front against reaction, while they at the same time wish to stave off oppressive measures against themselves. Wide circles of labor can be brought into action for a broad UNITED FRONT DEFENSE MOVEMENT, can be made to see that a blow against the Communists by the capitalist reactionaries is a blow against the whole labor movement and the working class. We demand that the Communist party shall discontinue its sectarian policy and make possible the creation of such a movement.

## United Front for the Unemployed

3. The unemployed movement under the direction of the Communist must likewise be given room to breathe, must be developed into a United Front movement. In such a movement, the Communists can

easily hold their own and make gains among the workers at the expense of the reformists and labor elements that come into it, provided the Communists use intelligent tactics.

In New York, the Socialists and A. F. of L. unions have organized an Emergency Conference for the Unemployed. We have recommended that the Communists propose a United Front movement to them. It is conceivable that the social-reformist movement will attract the unemployed, albeit they have only reluctantly and under pressure begun such a movement. The Communists will have to find ways and means to penetrate the masses wherever they are. The United Front remains yet in this period the best tactic to achieve contact with the masses and to influence their thought and direction. For the Communist party to continue its ostrich policy, to reject the tactic of the United Front, will result in a number of defeats for itself and the Communist movement in the future; moreover, it will directly affect the adequate defense of the arrested Communists, the attempted frame-ups and the progress of the unemployment movement.

In any case, if the unemployment movement is not to be diverted into channels of reformist illusions, or even directly into capitalist grooves; if there is to be a genuine defense movement; if there is to be an energetic campaign against the efforts of the employers and government to smash the Communist movement, to drive it into illegality, the rank and file of the Communist party must make possible the unity of the Communists in these common needs, and demand at the same time a broad united front movement on the issue of unemployment. —M. A.

## Salvation Army Bread Line Long

NEW YORK—(FP)—Unemployment is from 30 to 35% greater now in New York than it was a year ago, according to a survey conducted by the Salvation Army. Every department maintained by the army for the relief of jobless men is taxed to capacity, its Bowery Hotel has a daily breadline of 1,800 men and all its employment bureaus are swamped with appeals for work.

"Our capacity of 611 beds in the Bowery hotel," said Capt. Paul Brown, "has long been overtaxed and to accommodate homeless men we permit them to sleep on the floor. About 400 of them crowd each night into one large room where they 'flop' on the floor with their clothes on and so close together they can scarcely turn over. Hundreds of others who can find no shelter wander the streets all night.

"From 1,800 to 2,000 men daily stand in the noon breadline. Each man is given a ticket for a free meal, consisting of bread and soup or stew. Each meal costs from 5 to 10 cents."

## THE NEXT ISSUE

1. By L. D. Trotsky—"An Open Letter to All Members of the Leninbund (Germany). An article of the utmost importance to all Communists, dealing with the causes of the split in the Leninbund developed by Urbahns. Those who read comrade Trotsky's booklet on the *Defense of the Soviet Union and the Opposition* which appeared in the *Militant* serially, (Vol. II, No. 21-Vol. III, No. 4 inc.), will especially find the "Open Letter" of interest.
2. Another article by Arne Swabeck dealing with phases of American Labor development, the Labor Party, Communist party history and policy, etc.
3. Letters from the Soviet Union, and many other articles on events of the labor and Communist movement.

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## Fight Registration of the Foreign-Born

Attempts are again being made by reactionary forces to compel the registration of all non-citizen foreign-born living in the United States. Bills are again before Congress, supported by the Department of Labor, which, if their passage is not prevented by the united efforts of all labor, will establish a vast espionage system primarily aimed to harass and persecute all radical workers and especially the Communists. Advocates of compulsory alien registration who appeared on March 12 before the Senate Immigration Committee were the red-baiter, Capt. Trevor, spokesman for the New York Chamber of Commerce, and Assistant Secretary of Labor Husband, speaking for Secretary of Labor Davis.

The registration of the alien worker, which would be a forerunner for registration of all people in the United States, makes it easy for the employers to persecute and oppress the foreign-born worker particularly. The threat of discrimination, arrest and deportation would always be held as a whip by the employer over the alien worker who fought for betterment of his conditions, wage increases, decrease of hours, for unionization, etc. The employing class and government forces endeavor to sow further division between the native or citizen-workers and the aliens whose interests as exploited workingmen and women are identical and whose actual enemies are the bosses and the government that persecute them on any and every opportunity.

## Capitalists Aim to Establish Spy System

Government snoopers, private detective agencies, employers' dicks would be used to intimidate, spy upon and blackmail the alien worker. The Pay-Triots would be given an additional weapon in their hands to fight any progress of labor and would intensify their ranting and violent activities particularly against the revolutionary minded workers. There would develop a vast espionage system over the entire country whose primary task would be the persecution of radically minded workers.

Among the most vicious of the Bills before Congress is the Aswell Bill, H. R. 9101, introduced by Congressman Aswell of Louisiana. It is approved by the Department of Labor, and among its proposals are:

1. Every alien 21 years of age and over must register annually. Failure to register is a crime. Failure to register for 2 years subjects an alien to deportation. The fees are \$2.00 for the first year and \$1.00 for each year thereafter.
2. The certificate must bear the alien's photograph and signature. It must be shown any time on demand to any public officer. All changes in name or physical appearance, together with the record of all arrests and convictions, must be reported to the Commissioner of Naturalization, who is charged with enforcing the law. Violations of the law are made serious crimes.

The movement of the capitalists to put over such measures against labor has been defeated in the past through the strenuous efforts of liberal and labor forces. The reactionaries look to every opportunity to revive and put over registration laws, and all labor must be continually on guard to prevent such attempts. Protests, meetings, resolutions, etc. at union meetings and gatherings, fraternal organizations, to Congress, etc. are among the methods of publicity to be used to protest against any kind of registration bills.

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