

# Relieve Unemployment

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have wasted two hours listening to political propaganda". From such as these—the Walkers, et al—nothing can indeed be expected. It is for the workers to understand and act in their own interests.

## Workers Begin to See Capitalism as Cause of Unemployment

It is no longer possible to get all the workers to accept the situation as quietly as they have in the past. Greater numbers of them are becoming conscious of the situation and the causes behind mass unemployment. They are beginning to recognize that unemployment grows out of, is nurtured by, increases, and cannot be done away with under capitalism. Thus they are driven to the consideration of ways and means for the abolition of capitalism.

The Senate Committee on Commerce listens for hours upon hours and days upon days to capitalists or their representatives, discusses business growth, tariff revision, censorship of radical and scientific literature, but they will not permit and will not listen to representatives of workers who have definite measures to put forward for the alleviation of unemployment. This was very clearly demonstrated when the representatives of the Trade Union Unity League were refused a hearing on the matter of unemployment. To listen to representatives of the workers is not to the liking of the bosses; but soup lines remain meanwhile and the poverty of the masses increases.

What a mockery the "benefits" of capitalist society are to the working masses, is exhibited by the words of Dr. Julius Klein, assistant United States Secretary of Commerce and a close co-worker of President Hoover, who states: "At least two-thirds of the population of the world live in countries where a considerable proportion of the people are underfed."

## To Aid Unemployed, Demand Credits for Soviet Government

Hoover "strikes up the band" with a roar of prosperity that is to come and writes the score for programs of work, building and reconstruction. But all remains on the sheet. Nothing is said of the utilization of such actual sources as would make possible the employment of tens of thousands and even hundreds of thousands of American workers now out of a job. We refer here to the silence on the question of the extension of large-scale and long time credits to the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

This, on the one hand, would make possible the purchase of large orders of machinery for the industrialization of the Soviet Union, as well as modern agricultural equipment for use on collective and Soviet farms; and, on the other hand, it would thereby make possible in return the greater export from the Soviet Union of various articles of consumption, such as, grain, butter, meats, as well as those products which the Soviet Union now exports in large quantities, such as oil, timber, etc. Why this failure of the Hoover government, with all its talk of prosperity building, to utilize the possibility to aid materially the American workers through the medium of large-scale trade with and credit extensions to the Soviet government?

The material interests of both the American workers and the Soviet workers are affected by this question. Obviously, too, the material and political relations between the Soviet workers and the American masses would be enhanced and a better understanding gained by the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, namely, the recognition of the Soviet Union by the United States.

It should be plain to every worker that the establishment of big and planned economic exchange between the Soviet Union on the one hand and the United States on the other, could help in a good measure the amelioration of the economic situation of the masses of the unemployed in America, though it cannot of course solve the question of unemployment under capitalism.

## Unite Forces on Behalf of Jobless

We have referred time and again to the narrow, sectarian policy that has been followed by the official Communist Party in the movement on behalf of the unemployed.

The Party has failed to initiate a broad movement for the unemployed, to unite all possible elements on this issue. By their failure to propose a united front to the socialists, A. F. of L. and other elements being jerked into motion by rank and file pressure, the official Communist Party has made and makes it easier for these social reformists and outspoken capitalist supporters to lead the unemployed movement into channels that betray the interests of the workers. Not one real step has the Party taken to develop such a united front movement.

The official Communist Party press is filled with the arrests and persecution of workers throughout the country who engaged in activities in the unemployed movement, organizing the unorganized, etc. It is necessary to unite all possible forces for the defense of these arrested workers and against the attempts of the bosses and the government to frame them up and railroad them to prison. But the defense movement of the Communist Party, as expressed through the International Labor Defense, rejects in practice any proffers to aid the defense of the arrested and persecuted workers and continues a narrow line on all fronts.

## Demand Communist Party Change Its Isolation Policy

It is high time that the Communist Party turns sharply away from this course that leads to further isolation and weakening of the prestige of the Communist movement.

Such a broad united front movement can make militant efforts on behalf of the unemployed for work or compensation, a shorter work day, lessening of the speed-up, a campaign upon the United States government for large-scale and long time credits to and recognition of the Soviet government by the United States government.

It was to be expected, as we anticipated, that the national unemployment conference of the Trade Union Unity League, with a narrow outlook, would prove chiefly a talkfest and hence will leave its various slogans on behalf of the unemployed largely paper resolutions. It is time for the Party to call a halt to such practices and conceptions.

## Methods in the Unemployed Movement

On the burning issue of mass unemployment, which will remain a central problem for capitalism and which the Communists must know how to utilize effectively, the Left wing and Communists have to present the issue concretely so that every worker can understand the partial program of the Communists for the relief of the unemployed. The appeals to the mass of the unemployed and the employed cannot be based merely on the abstraction of solidarity. A big task is to reduce to the minimum the friction between the employed and the unemployed that naturally grows out of the economic situation. A broad united front movement is imperative which has the possibilities in it to bring together more closely the employed and unemployed, the organized and unorganized in the country, and which can also be the means of serving to cement the alliance of workers in all lands. The economic and political reasons speak loudly for such a policy.

It is therefore, for this reason, among others, that we regard it necessary for the Communists to conduct a campaign for and to make demands upon the Hoover government for the establishment of broad and long time credits to the Soviet Union by the United States. This should, in fact, be a central slogan of the Communists in all countries. It is possible to demonstrate to the American workers the simple material needs that link them closely with the needs of the Soviet masses. The refusal of the Hoover government, in the face of mass unemployment in the United States, to recognize the Soviet Union and thereby to facilitate vast economic relations between the two countries, more than ever makes this a national political issue. The Communists must make it clear that the development of economic relations on a larger scale between the two countries also increases many times the opportunity to strengthen the sympathy of the American working class toward the Soviet Union.

## Tasks of the Communists

To the Communists it should be plain that such an economic development, the wider importation of machinery and agricultural equipment, would aid tremendously the five-year plan of the Soviet government (howsoever crudely, mechanically and arbitrarily this plan is being carried out by the Stalinists.) (We do not here deal with the question, that naturally arises through the growth of such a policy, of international political and economic relations between the Soviet Union and the capitalist world and its contradictions: such as the reduction to absurdity of the theory of socialism in one country (Stalin-Bucharin) and the peculiar brand of National-Socialism of the Right wing of the Western countries (Brandler-Lovestone) nor of all the other contradictions which can be solved only in the arena of the international socialist revolution. These will be dealt with in other articles.)

What we reiterate again in the sharpest manner are:

1. Revive the policy of the United Front for a struggle in the interests of the unemployed.
2. Build a genuine mass movement of the unemployed.
3. Organize a wide national defense movement for the aid of the arrested and persecuted workers at the hands of the ruling class.

The rank and file of the Communist Party must demand of the leadership that it stop at once its sectarian and isolationist policy and that it unite all Communist forces to lead an effective struggle for the above demands.

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## Buffalo Unemployment Heavy

BUFFALO—Again the workers of Buffalo have been promised "pie by and by". Meanwhile they will have to sate their hunger with the more solid feel of police billyes. One doubts if the promise of "better times" that comes from the head of the Chamber of Commerce will enable the workers to extend their credit at the corner grocery. For the present they are permitted to starve.

Buffalo is a highly industrial town and conditions are very bad. "Normally" there are about 8,000 unemployed workers in the region. According to the figures of John J. Johnston, secretary of the Buffalo Central Labor Council, there are at present about 40,000 unemployed in the city alone. Johnston bases his figures primarily upon reports of the skilled and semi-skilled organized in the trade unions, so that the percentage of unemployment is actually higher. Even Johnston's figures would show one out of every four Buffalo workers unemployed.

The reports from the various charitable organizations testify to the miserable conditions of the unorganized workers especially. The municipal department of public welfare is now giving aid to 3,400 families, three times the average number. When we recollect the case of the youth who was recently shot and killed while taking a loaf of bread, it is testimony to the fact that the so-called charitable organizations do everything to discourage and humiliate the workers who come to them for aid. Large numbers have, nevertheless, asked, but only to be denied aid.

The hokum of increased building construction is also being handed out in this city. Average unemployed among the building trades at this time of the year is less than 40%. The report of secretary Johnston itself indicates that 53% of the workers in the building industry are out of work. Over 15,000 workers stormed the city employment office one Friday for snow shovelling work. About 1000 were hired for the short time needed. A class conscious labor movement yet needs to develop.

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SPARTANBURG, S. C.—A bill to curb stretchout by prohibiting operation of more than 48 looms in South Carolina by one textile worker has been unfavorably reported to the state legislature by its committee on commerce and manufacturing.

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NEW BEDFORD, Mass.—New Bedford textile mills are operating at only 55% of capacity, with 25,000 looms idle out of a total of 55,000. This is a high mark for inactivity in this textile center.

## Communist League to Print Important Books

The Communist League of America (Opposition) will begin the publication shortly of a series of books and documents of the most extraordinary interest and importance to the working class and the revolutionary Communist movement in general. This material which represent some of the most important writings, speeches, theses, etc., of the Russian Opposition, of Trotsky, Rakovsky, Zinoviev, Radek and others, has never been published in the English language. They have been suppressed by the Stalin-Bucharin factions.

Despite the fact that these documents were presented officially to the congress of the Communist International, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and to various Party plenums, and represent the views and platform of the Opposition, they have never seen the light of day. Among these books, the first of which will soon be out, are:

1. The Revolution Disfigured by L. D. Trotsky.
2. The Theory of the Permanent Revolution by L. D. Trotsky.
3. The Platform of the Russian Opposition (Bolshevik-Leninists).
4. The Struggle for Peace and the Anglo-Russian Committee by L. D. Trotsky.
5. The Declaration of the 500. (This is a lengthy document addressed to the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union by 500 of the leading Bolsheviks of the Russian Communist Party).
6. The Chinese Revolution and the Thesis of Comrade Stalin by L. D. Trotsky.
7. The Thesis on the Chinese Revolution by G. Zinoviev.
8. The Defeat of the Chinese Revolution by Karl Radek.
9. A Letter of Three Comrades. (Representatives of the Stalin faction in China) presented in March 1927. A powerful criticism of the line of Stalin in the Chinese Revolution.

10. Speeches and Articles of L. D. Trotsky to the 8th Plenum of the Executive Committee of the Communist International on the Chinese Question.

11. The Transformation of the Russian Proletariat and the Party as Created by the Proletarian Dictatorship by Ch. Rakovsky.

12. The Crisis of the Right-Centrist Bloc and the Perspectives by L. D. Trotsky.

13. On the New Stage by L. D. Trotsky.

14. The Crisis in the International by L. D. Trotsky.

15. Speech of Comrade Vuyovitch to the 8th Plenum of the Executive Committee of the Communist International.

16. A Sorry Document, by L. D. Trotsky (On the Question of Capitulation).

17. The Legend of "Trotskyism".

These books and documents, which have already been translated from the Russian, German and French, will fill a number of large volumes, form an inexhaustible reservoir for the student of revolutionary Marxism and Leninism. They will serve as a practical guide for the Communists in the working class struggles. They enrich greatly the library of Marxist-Leninist theory and practice. All of these, as well as others now being translated, will be published with systematic regularity through the Militant at popular prices which will enable every worker to purchase them. The first of these to be printed will be "The Revolution Disfigured".

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## FROM A SOUTHERN WORKER

Richmond, Va.

Dear Fellow Workers:

I rode in a street car and found a copy of the Militant on a seat. I must say that everything you say is certainly so with us working people.

I've been a former I. W. W., but have dropped out. I wonder if you would send me a copy of the "Real Situation in Russia" which you advertise, by the great revolutionary leader, Leon Trotsky. I'm interested in happenings in Russia and I want the true facts—and I'm sure that book will give me all the necessary information.

I've been out of work for the last five months, and haven't a penny to my name, and therefore would appreciate it if you could send me the Militant free, and some back copies will also be O. K. One couldn't buy a job here... We need the kind of unions you are fighting for. J. J.