

# LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS

## THE PARTY MATHEMATICIANS AT WORK

New York

Dear Comrades:

The Communist Party of the United States led by Stalinist "yes men" continue to highly exaggerate reports on the response of the workers to its appeals. If a worker in any other country would read the *Daily Worker* regularly for 30 to 60 days and have no other information on the economic and political situation in the United States, he would come to the conclusion that the American proletariat was rallying by the hundreds of thousands to the banner of the Communist Party.

As a result of this accepted view by the Party leaders the Communist Party is calling for a mass political strike on May First, in spite of the fact that all recent appeals for political strikes have been obvious failures. August 1, 1929 and March 6, 1930 are two recent examples of the Party's appeals for political strikes that were not at all answered by the workers. Those workers however, who picked up the *Daily Worker* after the August 1, International Red Day demonstration and the Unemployment rallies on March 6, were informed that hundreds of thousands of workers responded. According to the *Daily Worker* of April 2, 1,250,000 workers demonstrated on March 6 in every industrial center of the United States at the call and under Communist Party leadership. Is this so?

Unemployment is an immediate and burning issue for millions of workers. It is understandable why they can be set into motion on this issue. The *Militant* has previously accurately evaluated the March 6 demonstrations. A few additional comments may clarify further. We judge the exaggerations in relation to March 6 only insofar as New York is concerned, which was the most successful. The Party leadership and the *Daily Worker* states that 110,000 workers assembled in Union Square on March 6.

**The March 6th New York Demonstration**  
Counting every one present, 60,000 is the maximum figure. Probably the total crowd did not total 50,000. Of the 50 to 70 thousand assembled, at least half were present only out of curiosity. One only had to mingle with the crowd for less than 10 minutes to discover that. The writer saw many high school and college students, as well as business men, who in speaking among themselves, stated that they wanted to see the riot, while others, anti-radical to the core, asserted that they were waiting to watch the reds get beaten up. When these same persons appear in Union Square May 1, will these elements be counted as adherents of the Veterans or of the Communist Party?

The claim that 110,000 were present is ridiculous, and then to claim that they were all demonstrators does more harm than good to the Communist movement. It is, however, in general line with the Party policy to double or triple the attendance of any meeting or demonstration when a report appears in the Party press. This has resulted in any number of workers losing confidence in the *Daily Worker* and Party press as an accurate spokesman of the working class.

### In the Unions

The same irresponsibility to be found in relations to demonstrations can also be discovered in the trade union policy of the Left wing unions under Party control. In addition to barring non-party members from playing any leading role in these organizations, the Stalinists exaggerate the strength of the Left wing organizations and constantly tell of the decay of the Right wing unions, even when it is far from the actual facts.

### Untruths and Illusions. Don't Help the Communists

In New York City, where the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union has lost control of the needle trades workers to the Right wing International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the International Fur Workers Union, the Ben Golds and Rose Wortises, instead of admitting that the union is only a skeleton, do not admit past mistakes, but try to bluff the workers.

Becoming more and more disgusted by the tactics of the Stalinists, they are driven into the Right wing camp.

In the National Miners Union and the National Textile Workers Union, the same situation is to be found. The Stalinists make no attempt to face the problems of the workers, but instead take the easier path of issuing revolutionary statements. These look very good on paper but do not help to organize the workers. This policy must be ended, and in its place a program adopted that will rally the workers in struggles that will advance the workers' and Communist movement in this country. A first step should be to end the attacks on the supporters of the Left Opposition who are members of the Left wing unions. In general too, union members who are willing and capable to do work in the organizations must not be barred because of their political or lack of political point of view, as is the case now.

### The "Cooperative" Cafeteria

The *Daily Worker* and other Party organs use up valuable space to condone the murder of comrade Blumkin at the order of Stalin, because he supported the Leninist program of the Opposition led by Trotsky. May we note a few other practices of the Stalinist Central Committee during the "Third Period"?

Up until a few months ago the *Daily Worker* press which prints the vicious, lying attacks on Trotsky and the Left Communist Opposition, also printed, daily the *Nove Russkye Slovo*, organ of the monarchist forces in the United States. Shall we say that the *Daily Worker* is the ally of General Koutlepov? For this white guard sheet stands on the same program as Koutlepov and the other counter-revolutionary forces who want to reestablish a monarchy.

The Communist Party disgracefully fools the New York workers by allowing the privately owned cafeteria in the Workers Center, 26-28 Union Square to use the name of Cooperative Cafeteria. When the Proletcos, a cooperative owned by the Party sold the restaurant to a private individual several months ago, the use of the name, Cooperative, was included. At the present time thousands of workers regularly use the cafeteria, under the impression that it is a left wing institution and the profits go towards the *Daily Worker* and the *Freiheit*, while actually they go in the pockets of the capitalist owner.

The proletarian members and the Left wing workers who support the Party must demand the end of exaggerations and bombast, a truthful policy in the Party press, a revival of the left wing unions on a broad basis and the ending of such treachery as the fake cooperative. Until that time all the so-called "victories" of the Communist movement in the United States are built on sand and will crumble at the first real major conflict with the capitalist class.

The capitalist class and its agents are mobilizing against the party for May Day. Let the Party answer by a united struggle in which all possible forces can participate and defeat the plans of the bosses. It is up to Foster, Minor and their associates. What will the answer be?

—FRANK BROMLEY

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## DIVIDENDS GO UP! WAGES COME DOWN

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrades:

If you are a worker out of a job and tramping the streets begging for a chance to work; or if you are still working, but your wages have been slashed to the bone, buck up and take heart, for your royal high chief and master, Big Business, is doing well. This should gladden the hearts of millions of unemployed and their families, whatever might be their present state of misery. Likewise, for all those who have been compelled to speed up and take a wage cut under threats of a layoff.

In regard to dividends for the first quarter of 1930, the *Chicago Tribune*, a newspaper always lavish with its praise of "Big Business," has the following to say:

"It is estimated that payments today reached approximately \$550,000,000, and

that for the entire month they total close to \$700,000,000.

"Eight hundred important corporations and upward of 1,800 companies of all descriptions make disbursements this month. Dividend declarations during March are estimated at \$427,121,988, and for the first quarter at \$1,170,082,645. That was an increase of about 17 percent compared with the corresponding period of last year."

Meanwhile, the Hoover big business conferences in the early part of the winter are daily being revealed as nothing more than a get-together for the purpose to plan systematic reductions of wages. To put it over more successfully, it was necessary to adopt a plan based upon progressive stages and, cynically, salt it down with ballyhoo propaganda about no wage reductions in order to lull the unsuspecting workers to sleep, and thus to take them by surprise.

Mr. Owen D. Young, of Reparations fame, erstwhile partner of J. P. Morgan, let the cat out of the bag the other day when he made a guarded statement about necessity to reduce the standard of living of American workers in order to complete profitably, for the American capitalists, for the world trade. Nevertheless, working men and women are asked and expected to be cheerful in their state of misery. Remember, Hoover and Big Business are doing quite well.

—J. MIHELIC

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## MATTHEW WOLL PROVES HIMSELF

Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Comrades:

If any further confirmation of Matthew Woll's character were needed, the readiness with which he joins the anti-Soviet religious propagandists would be sufficient. As acting president of the National Civic Federation, Mr. Woll has been an efficient steward to the capitalist barons. And, like a trusty servant, he is alert to guard the ranks of the menials against the intrusion of any unorthodox ideas: political, economic or religious.

So Mr. Woll adds his pious voice to the hallelujah chorus now pronouncing anathemas upon the Soviet Union. He says in part:

"There is only one issue in the Soviet situation as far as Americans are concerned, and that is entirely one of principle. The question is not whether Russians are being a little better fed this year than last, or whether they are being a little more poorly fed this year than last. The question is whether or not we believe the freedom and democracy of our civilization superior to the dictatorship... of Communism."

All of this sounds suspiciously like the old war-cry, "Make the world safe for democracy." Only this time it will be, "make the world safe for God." For the nth time the world is to be drenched in blood in the name of religion—if the preachers, plutocrats and Mathew Wolls have their way. Before we go out to save God and Gold, we would request Mr. Woll to show us "the freedom and democracy of our own civilization." One suspects that, like God, they exist only in flights of rhetoric.

### Woll's Poisoned Goods

The distinguished "labor leader" closes his comment, anent the Russian situation in two pithy sentences: "It is, in short, one system against another. And the conflict between the two will continue until one or the other passes from the scene. There is no such thing as compromise possible in such a conflict..." It is evident that the world at last senses something of the full truth about the Communist situation.

The first point is a naive statement for a politician of Mr. Woll's calibre to make. Of course the conflict between capitalism and communism is irreconcilable; in the very nature of things there can be no basis of compromise. On the one side are arrayed the capitalists, the preachers, the reformists, the pink-tea radicals, and the goose-stepping, so-called labor officials. On

the other side stands the exploited proletariat, but wrathful and mighty, refusing any longer to swallow the poisons of religion and patriotism.

As Mr. Woll says, "It is evident that the world, at last, senses something of the full truth about the Communist situation." The full truth, realized by the workers of the world, will dissolve the economic system by which the Mathew Wolls profit, throwing both them and their capitalist masters out of jobs. We have learned to distinguish between bearers of truth and purveyors of poison. By the label on the wares, Mr. Woll cannot be placed in the former category.

—HAROLD PREECE

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## Rail Workers For Six Hour Day

(Continued from page 1)

ference at its gathering of March 19th unanimously passed the resolution printed in part below, concerning the recent convention of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Association.

### RESOLUTION

Whereas, the approaching State and Congressional elections present exceptional opportunities for the advancement of the cause of the workers who now suffer the misery of widespread unemployment and

Whereas, the present program and platform of the Farmer-Labor Party does not in any respect represent the needs or demands of the workers either employed, unemployed, organized or unorganized, and

Whereas, all the outstanding elected officials of the Farmer-Labor Party by their activity or lack of activity, both during election campaigns and while in office, have reflected the ideology of the Party, which is dominated by the outlook of the small property holder rather than by that of the worker and

Whereas, this state of affairs has resulted in a decline of interest of wide sections of workers in Labor Party activity and support, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this delegated meeting of Railroad workers recommends to the Hennepin County and State Conventions of the Farmer Labor Association (of Minnesota) a complete redraft of the program and that, amongst others, the following definite proposals be included in the new draft:

1. The organization base of the Party to be the economic organization of the workers. All individual membership to be abolished.

2. Candidates of the Party to be members of the Party, who shall be pledged to the full program and who will sponsor during election campaigns and after election among other demands the following proposals:

1. 100% organization of the workers. Against the Open shop.
2. For the organization of a National Labor Party, based on workers organizations.
3. For a 6-hour day and a 5-day week for all industries.
4. For unemployment wages, furnished by taxation of profits, to be administered by the organization of the workers.
5. Against the use of police, the courts or any branch of the governmental armed forces in labor disputes.
6. For the abolition of all private employment agencies; workers to be employed through their organizations.
7. For two weeks vacation with pay. Unanimously adopted at St. Paul Woodruff Hall, March 19, 1930.

Sec'y. P. G. Hedlund, Firemen, No. 814  
Chairman, J. P. Barr, Switchmen No. 206

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NEWARK, N. J. —Beginning March 31 all Stelner & Co. employes in New Jersey pajama plants will be on a 5-day schedule without pay reduction.