

Wall St. Speaks

Hoover's Bunk

"The second quarter of the year," comments the *Annalist*, financial weekly of the *New York Times* on Hoover's recent "optimistic" statement about the turn for the better, "opening with business activity approximately at the depression level of last December, offers no reasonable prospect of other than an uneven and low progress out of the valley of the current business cycle. The normal relations of production and consumption have been disorganized. Productive facilities, and all commodities including bank credit as used, are present in excess. The new stabilization that needs to be worked out is threatened by existing cheap money policy and rising speculation."

Cynical Over "Predictions"

The *Annalist* sees a "broad valley of depression out of which business is not likely to emerge in much less than six months or so." Hitting directly at the Hoover prosperity pronouncements the *Wall St.* weekly says: "Another point to be noted is the indubitable fact of a reaction among business men against the cheerful business propaganda initiated at Washington. The ironical fashion in which busi-

ness events have repudiated successive 'balmy-hoo' official statements from Washington has had its logical effect on the business mind—it has produced a conviction not only that the government does not know the facts, but that the facts are probably rather worse than has been generally supposed even outside of Washington."

The *Annalist* index of business activity even below the lowest previous mark of for March, its latest figure, shows business December. Freight car loadings, electric power production, cotton and wool consumption and soft coal and zinc production were all below the December figure.

Φ

LITTLE PIECE OF FORGOTTEN HISTORY

The *Daily Worker* of May 7, 1930 writes, greeting the "new" *Weekly Young Worker* organ of the Young Communist League, as follows: "In the United States the youth movement has long lagged behind. There has not been a weekly youth paper before in this country." The author of those lines must have joined the Party a few weeks ago. Had he been in it very much longer, he might have remembered that more than four years ago the Young Workers League launched the *Weekly Young Worker* and maintained it for a long period of time, successfully, too. It was only when the immediate predecessors of the present misfits in the League "took over the power" that they wrecked it—a job they have conducted with great success to the present day!

After May Day's Demonstrations

Even the briefest review of the May Day demonstrations this year must begin with a clearing of the air so that the facts become visible. That means—unfortunately nowadays—to discount from the very beginning all the figures given in the official Communist Party press. The definite information we have already received about a dozen of the most important cities shows what recent experience with the Party press has taught us to expect: in every instance, the figures given in the *Daily Worker* on the participants were distorted anywhere from twice to ten times the number that were actually on the scene. This sort of reporting has the worst possible consequences because it gives a misleading picture of the response of the working class, of the strength of the Party, and thereby perpetuates the basis for adventurism, and, in general, for policies all out of proportions to real conditions.

Achievements of Meetings

But when the outrageous falsifications of figures are wiped out, and the consideration is taken of the fact that for the first time in many years this May Day was almost everywhere organized as an open demonstration, frequently in the face of police terror or opposition (instead of, as formerly, in meeting halls), the participation was indicative of the increasingly radical mood of the working class. It may even be said that relative to the strength of the Communist Party, the demonstrations in the United States were superior to those in many, if not most of the European countries where, preliminary reports would indicate, the May Day demonstrations of the Communists were not at all up to the mark set in the past. Most certainly, they lacked the militancy that has characterized such meetings on previous occasions.

The demonstrations in the United States showed, at one and the same time, the weakness of the Party and its great possibilities. In New York, for instance, most obvious particularly as indicative of the organizational decline of the Party, was the falling off of its influence in the trade unions. The shoe workers, who formed one of the most impressive contingents in last year's demonstration, were represented by the barest handful this year. The food workers were to be remarked only by their fewness. In other trades and industries, an even worse picture was presented. And as a whole, the demonstration made evident the enormous gap that exists between the

organizational strength of the Party and the possibilities for its growth and power, an ever-increasing gap which the destructive Party policy makes it extremely difficult to bridge. One need go no further than the needle trades representation in the parade: In spite of the radical decline in organizational influence of the Party and Left wing in this industry, needle trades workers formed the largest group, many of them coming from Right wing shops. That the Party has lost in organizational influence over them is largely traceable to the incoherent policy of blunders it has pursued for the last period of time.

As for the much-touted "mass political strike", it simply did not materialize. Not all the bluster of the Party press can conceal this damning fact. That the slogan was wrong and inappropriate for this period, that its use could result only in discrediting the slogan itself, was already clear when it was first promulgated. On May Day, the dispute was tested in life. The *Daily Worker* was unable to mention the name of a single factory or shop of any real importance throughout the United States which responded to the "mass political strike" slogan. As in so many other instances, the Party leaders are going through the regular process of self-exposure as irresponsible phrase-mongers.

Opposition Active

In all the demonstrations, the members of the Communist League (Opposition) participated actively in groups. The Party bureaucrats, as is known, followed a criminal course of ejecting our delegates from every "united front" May Day conference they controlled, issuing, at the same time, condemnations of the rank and file for "not organizing the united front conferences on a broad basis"! Needless to point out that this did not halt us in any instance from participating side by side with the revolutionary militants. As on May Day, we will continue to march with them, helping the workers in the Party to unload the crushing burden of stupid and criminal policies and an even worse leadership. The needs and possibilities of the movement, shown starkly on May Day, make this unburdening imperative.

Φ

ON THE NEEDLE TRADES

The next issue of the *Militant* will print an extended comment on the amazing statement "Building the Needle Trades Workers Union" which appeared in the *Daily Worker* on May 7, 1930.

Bluff, Brother, Bluff! Someone Will Believe It

The Crusader News Agency is a press service directed and controlled by the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party, under the immediate responsibility of Cyril Briggs. It is intended primarily for Negro newspapers in the country, and is one of the methods by which the Party brings its viewpoint to the Negro workers. In its press release for the week of May 5, 1930, it prints the following astounding report of the New York May Day parade and meeting:

"In this city (New York) over 300,000 workers, Negro and white, answered the call of the Communist Party of the U.S.A. to 'strike and demonstrate'."

And further: "Over 70,000 joined in a gigantic, colorful parade from Rutgers Square through some of the worst slum districts to Union Square where the biggest meeting of the day was held."

The *Daily Worker* is the official organ of the Communist Party. That it exaggerated the facts in its reports of the May

Day demonstrations goes without saying: it's in the blood. But it never dared go so far as its colleague, the Crusader News Agency. Its issue of May 2, 1930, says:

"A hundred and fifty thousand New York workers (not 300,000!) turned out yesterday, striking and demonstrating on May Day."

And speaking of the parade: "The procession began shortly before 1:30. And, what a procession? A close (close, Briggs!) checkup indicated 25,000 in line (not 70,000 Briggs!)."

But what is a little matter like an additional—even if non-existent—150,000 strikers to the Party bluffers? Or a matter like an additional 45,000 marchers who never marched? In the third period, the Party leadership calculate, the best way to win the masses to Communism, and (evidently) the Negro workers especially, is to bluff and bluff and bluff. Surely someone will believe it!

Trotsky's Autobiography Free!

OR YOU CAN GET A FREE COPY OF

The Real Situation in Russia

This book is also available free of charge to all workers. Here you will find the only English translation of the famous Platform of the Russian Opposition, suppressed by Stalin, and Trotsky's letter exposing the falsifications of the History of the Russian revolution and the Communist Party. You will also find here the important Testament of Lenin. It is a \$2.00 book, but you can get it free from the *Militant* by turning in 5 yearly subscriptions (at \$2.00 each) or 10 six-month subs (at \$1.00 each). Renewals are accepted.

Do you want to get a copy, free of charge, of "My Life" by Leon Trotsky? Do you want to get the book which is arousing such enormous interest in the revolutionary movement in Europe and America? Many worker anxious to have it are unemployed. They can get it in spite of that. The *Militant* is offering a copy free to any worker who turns into its office TEN yearly subscriptions or TWENTY six-month subscriptions to the paper. Approach your friends and fellow workers. The sub for a year is \$2.00; for six months it is \$1.00. Collect the subs and the money, forward them into the office, and get your copy of the Autobiography, which has been called Trotsky's greatest work, absolutely free of charge. This \$5.00 book is yours for the little effort required to get the subs—or renewals.

WE ALSO OFFER A FREE COPY

Since Lenin Died

This book by Max Eastman was the first work in the English language to tell the truth about the struggle in the Russian Communist Party between the Opposition led by Trotsky, on the one hand, and Zinoviev, Kamenev, Bucharin, Stalin on the other. You will have an excellently drawn picture of the beginnings of this fight after reading this book. The *Militant* has succeeded in getting the last few dozen copies of this book, of which no other edition exists. It has been sent to us from England, the American edition being exhausted. It sells for \$1.00, but you can get it free of charge by turning in 3 yearly subs (at \$2.00 each) or 6 six-month subs (at \$1.00 each).

Send All Subscriptions and Funds to The Militant, 25 Third Ave., New York City