

THE MILITANT

Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

Vol. III No. 23,

Telephone: DRYdock 1656 NEW YORK, N. Y. Saturday, June 14, 1930.

PRICE 5 CENTS

BACK TO LENIN! MANIFESTO TO THE RANK AND FILE AND SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE C. P. U. S. A.

The crisis in the Party, manifest to all but the self-contented bureaucracy, demands the most serious attention of all Communist workers. It is to aid them to break through the rigid barriers erected by the ruling regime in the Party for the worthless "pre-convention discussion" that the Left Opposition addresses this appeal to the Party membership.

There is a widening gap between the possibilities for the strengthening of the movement in the United States and the accomplishments that the leadership has to record. The increase in Party membership and influence over the workers corresponds less and less to the activity of the Party. There is not a single mass organization of the workers where the Party has succeeded in consolidating or advancing its position in the past year or two, be it in the Left wing unions, in the conservative A. F. of L. and independent unions, in the cooperatives, in the numerous language fraternal orders, etc. In the ranks of the Party itself there is a deadening passivity, an indifference and a growing dissatisfaction with the prevailing Party course, which are prevented from completely paralyzing all activity only by feverish administrative lashings and the ever harder measures of the control commission.

In the upper strata of the Party, new "leaders" appear every day and old "leaders" disappear or are demoted without the Party or working class knowing anything about it until they are informed by the official press. The suppression of all initiative and the complete dependence of all activity upon decrees from above make the Party immobile, and the leadership endeavors to make up for the Party's failure to meet situations in time by plunging it unprepared into adventures and consequent debacles.

The Party's immobility and the leadership's adventurism is the more dangerous because of the broad perspectives for the growth of Communism in this country.

Apart from the historical causes, the immediate reasons for the bourgeois, class-collaborationist ideology and political backwardness of the American workers have been the relative prosperity it enjoyed in the past few years and the privileged position it occupied in comparison with the European and Asiatic working class. The American workers have developed for the better part of a decade under the illusion of a "permanent prosperity".

The Economic Crisis

The collapse of the stock market, the deep-going decline and crisis in industry,

and the creation of a huge army of the unemployed are having the effect of wiping out this illusion in the minds of broad sections of the working class. The sharp contrast between the previous "prosperity" and the misery of unemployment which and hangs like a Damoclean sword over has cut into more than 6 million workers the rest of them, is jolting the working class out of its bourgeois stupor. A deep-going process of radicalization is beginning to take place. The process will be accelerated by the exhaustion of the "prosperity reserves" of the workers. The attempts of American capitalism to issue out of its crisis by a re-adjustment of its industry for more effective competition on the world market, attempts which spell

rationalization, wage-slashing, and in general an offensive upon the workers' standards of living, can only hasten the process. U.S. imperialism can re-create a bourgeois working class in this country, such as England had at the opening of the century, only by enslaving the rest of the world, the mere endeavor of which involves the most violent military and revolutionary eruptions.

Under the pressure of these developments, the American workers are moving away from bourgeois influence and ideology, and their former passivity. There is a growing mood for struggle and militancy. The huge demonstration on March 6 and even the smaller ones of May Day

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Rally to Weekly

New York Leads the Way!

As we go to press, we are informed that the New York Executive of the Communist League (Opposition) has met in response to our appeal for \$2,000 to maintain the Weekly Militant, and has pledged a sum of \$500.00 toward this end. A Day's Pay from every member of the Branch was accepted as an immediate action. In addition, the Branch members will proceed to canvass sympathizers with special lists, and will inaugurate house to house collections and other means to assure it quota of \$500.00 being raised in the given time.

New York has set a good example. We look forward with confidence for adequate pledges and results throughout the country.

The Militant has been a fighting guide to the Communists and Left wing in their struggle against the labor bureaucracy of the A. F. of L. and the "labor leaders" of the Hillman-Beckerman A. C. W. crew.

The Militant has fought for the organization of the masses of unorganized workers into labor unions on a militant industrial basis.

For the Unemployed

The Militant has conducted a campaign on behalf of the unemployed millions under the slogans of work or compensation, for social insurance, the six hour day and the five day week, etc., and has mercilessly and accurately shown up the thread-bare "prosperity" of the imperialist regime of Hoover and Company.

The Militant has maintained a consistent position for revolutionary Communism, for the preservation and defense of the Russian Bolshevik Revolution. It has with equal vigor combated the revisionist theories, the opportunism and bureaucracy that have been nourished by and grown to huge proportions under the directions of the false disciples of Lenin — the Stalins and Bucharins.

For the Opposition

The Militant has espoused the cause of the Russian Opposition—the Bolshevik-Leninists led by Trotsky—who, in prison or in exile, maintain the struggle for the preservation of the proletarian dictatorship and who struggle for the regeneration of the Party of Lenin on its October basis.

The Militant fights for the building of a revolutionary Communist Party in the United States on a Leninist foundation, as against the caricature of one as developed by the Fosters and Lovestones.

The Militant as a WEEKLY publication, has been better able to carry on these historic tasks than in its early days as a semi-monthly paper.

Last week, we spoke of the danger and possibility of a return by the Militant to existence again as a semi-monthly. We called upon our readers, members and sympathizers to render us financial assistance that we may continue as a Weekly Militant in the forthcoming period, and to solidify our position.

Our Appeal

We need \$2,000.00, over and above our regular income of subscriptions, bundle payments, etc. to insure our existence as a Weekly publication for the next six months. We believe that we can count upon your support.

Respond generously for the maintenance of the WEEKLY MILITANT.

Help raise the \$2,000.00 Fund for the WEEKLY MILITANT.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION AT ONCE TO THE MILITANT, 25 Third Ave, New York, N. Y.

The Militant
25 Third Avenue
New York, New York
Dear Comrades:

Enclosed please find \$..... as my contribution to the maintenance of the WEEKLY MILITANT

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE

For Unity of Communist Ranks

We raise before the Party convention the question of restoring the Party membership of the expelled comrades of the Opposition on the basis of the foregoing statement of aims and views. We also propose to the Convention that it take a stand for the reestablishment of the Unity of the Communist International by calling for the reinstatement of the Russian and International Opposition, and for the immediate cessation of those measures which especially undermine the Party and the Proletarian Dictatorship and strengthen the enemies of the working class—the arrests, exile and banishment of the Russian Opposition.

— FROM THE PLATFORM OF THE COMMUNIST OPPOSITION ADOPTED (CHICAGO) MAY 20, 1929.

Left Needle Workers Convention Meets

The Second National Convention of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union met in New York City last Saturday and Sunday, June 7th and 8th. There were over four hundred delegates present of whom 307 hailed from New York. According to official reports 200 shops sent delegates from New York City. In other words this is an indication of the lack of Left wing organization in the thousands of New York shops which were not represented.

The two days of the convention were devoted to combatting the Lovestonites, without any intelligent discussion of the actual needs of the union. The General Executive Board that was elected was a continuation of the Stalinist factionalism which is undermining the Left wing influence in the unions. Not only were one-hundred percent members of the Stalin faction and their plant supporters elected to office but even Party members who at one time or another had happened to express a word of criticism or were unfortunate enough to harbor an independent thought were eliminated from the G. E. B. in spite of their superior experience.

We go to press just as the convention concluded and are therefore compelled to hold over for the next issue a thorough and detailed analysis of the course and perspectives of the Industrial Union.

Save Georgia Class War Prisoners

One of the most brazen examples of American capitalist class justice is the attempt to send to the electric chair the six militant workers, H. M. Powers, Gilmer Brady, Henry Storey, Joseph Carr, Mary Dalton and Anna Burlak, the last three of whom are members of the Young Communist League, at Atlanta, Georgia. The Southern Bourbons threaten to deprive them of their lives for holding meetings of Negro and white unemployed workers and for distributing Communist literature! For this they have resurrected from the archives of 1861 an unused law on insurrection.

The indictment is so astounding that it seems almost incredible. But if anyone thinks this is just some farcical trickery with which the reactionaries of Georgia are trying to amuse themselves let them at once drive this dangerous illusion out of their head. These legal lynchers are in deadly earnest. They want the blood of the workers. They hope to terrorize the Negro and white workers, and prevent organization for better conditions. They want to maintain the South as the stronghold of feudal reaction while the most modern methods of industrial exploitation are developed. But they live in the past.

The alarm must be sounded. The workers of America must be aroused to the terrible fate which await these six workers in the prisons of Atlanta, if the bloodhounds of the South are permitted to carry through their murderous plans. Remember Sacco and Vanzetti! Remember Mooney and Billings!

MILITANT OUTING

Members of New York Branch Communist League (Opposition) and sympathizers will have an outing Sunday, June 15, at Hunter Island. Hikers will meet at Pelham Bay Park Station at 10:30 a. m.