

# THE MILITANT

Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

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## Jobless Millions Must Organize! Demand Immediate Relief!

The National Unemployment Convention is to meet July 4th and 5th in Chicago. If it is animated by a sense of responsible and militant leadership and effective policies of class struggle—if it is not satisfied with noise but embarks on serious organization and action, this convention can become a protest centre for the mobilization of the millions of unemployed.

The danger is that under the present Party leadership with its erratic hand-to-mouth political practises the convention will develop into nothing more than just another formless mass meeting. It is common knowledge that not a stroke of real organization work has been done to crystallize the unemployed movement since the March 6th demonstrations.

### No Signs of Ease-Up in Crisis

There are no signs of any alleviation in the economic crisis taking its toll of misery in every city, town and hamlet in the country. The bank discount rate has been sunk to two and a half per cent, the lowest since the war but the successive stock market crashes are assuming the character of a panic. Wheat is selling at a dollar. Automobile production has again registered a decline. Steel production is at 65 per cent capacity. The Commodity price level dropped 4.2 per cent in two weeks. The New York Census figures point to 400,000 unemployed in New York alone. The *Annalist* Index of Employment is the lowest since 1922.

### The Industrial Reserve Army

The cyclical crisis has come to add its misery but it must be remembered that it only augments an already standing industrial reserve army—the victims of the technical advance of civilization under the rule of the anarchic capitalist mode of production. Every new machine, every business consolidation, every stop-watch economy for the speed-up, has resulted in fewer jobs. Between 1920 and 1927, the economist Mitchell estimates the number added to the ranks of the unemployment reserve army at no less than 650,000. This is the balance sheet of American "prosperity". The power that is the greatest creditor state in the world, of the most millionaires of the most abundant resources, the finest machinery, the most productive labor force is the tragic scene of soup-kitchens, flop-houses, corporation charity, park benches and starvation for the working class. In an age when science begins to probe secrets of atomic energy, vast masses of producers must form up in bread-lines.

### The General Crisis of Capitalism

What is the answer of the capitalist government to the unemployed? The Hoover brand of mental healing. A Hawley-Smoot Tariff to increase the cost of the necessities of life and assure the Trusts the monopoly of the market. Even the miserable Wagner Bill for the establishment of official instead of private employment bureaux is out of court. At the Senate investigation into Communist "plotting", even Wm. Green pleads with his capitalist masters "that he will not guarantee to be able to keep the A.F. of L. rank and file in submission unless some small reforms are forthcoming."

The workers must be clear that even were the exploiters willing to grant them without struggle no mere palliatives or reforms could lead out of the blind alley of the antagonisms and contradictions of capitalist imperialism. Partial demands can only serve the working class if they are the starting point for revolutionary class struggle. The only decisive solution of the general crisis of capitalism is in the interests of the millions of toilers lies in the international emulaton of the Russian workers. Only the revolutionary workers' state can release the forces of production from the exploiting

vision of capital, put an end to industrial enslavement, eliminate the root causes of war and unify world economy.

### The Socialist Five Year Plan

The Five Year Plan in the Soviet Union demonstrates the tremendous possibilities of planned economy. Despite capitalist economic encirclement, and the threat of intervention, the achievements of the U.S.S.R. stand out in splendid contrast to the intolerable situation in the capitalist world. The undeniable difficulties in the U.S.S.R. and the Five Year Plan are those of isolation, the retardation of the international revolution. The Five Year Plan provides for a total capital investment of 93 billions for electrification and industrial development. It is in the most vital interests of the international unemployed and especially of the American to demand large scale credits for the Soviet Union. There are always millions of dollars available for war expenditures. There are millions for the Young Plan loans. Demand credits be given that would at once result in the employment of American workers, and their participation in the realization of the socialist Five Year Plan.

## N.Y. Party-Y.C.L. Group For Opposition

TO THE SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE.

Dear Comrades

We, the undersigned Communists declare our solidarity with the Left Opposition. We announce our agreement with the views of the Left wing faction of the American Communist Party—the Communist League of America (Opposition). After a thorough examination of the Party and Young Communist League situation and the three viewpoints that exist in the Communist movement today, we have come to the conclusion that the only Marxian and Leninist view is the one maintained by the Left Opposition. This correct view of the national and international situation we are prepared to defend.

### Organize for Action!

The Chicago Unemployment Convention must appeal to the unemployed army with demands that will strike immediate and effective response in the hearts of the workers mobilizing them for the class struggle against the capitalist state.

Demand recognition and credits to the Soviet Union.

Demand the enactment of social insurance unemployment insurance and old age pensions to compel the capitalists to bear the charges for the break-down of the system. Demand the six hour day and five day week.

Demand the freedom of class war prisoners, the release of Mooney and Billings, of the leaders of the New York unemployed demonstrations, the prisoners in Georgia, class war victims under sentence in Gastonia.

Organize a united front of the unemployed and employed.

The power of the imperial plutocracy of America is great. But there is a power greater than theirs and that is the power of proletarian numbers. Mobilize and Organize!

—MAURICE SPECTOR

## Demonstrate for the Indian Revolution!

The New York District of the Communist Party has issued a call to all workers' organization to join in a demonstration of solidarity with the Indian Revolution for Saturday, June 28 at 2:30 p.m. in front of the British consulate in Whitehall Street.

The New York Branch of the Communist League (Opposition) will itself participate in this demonstration and urges all class conscious workers to do likewise. Demonstrate for the complete independence of India from British Imperialism! For the alliance of the workers and peasants of India under the leadership of the industrial proletariat against the treacherous policies of Gandhi and the Indian bourgeoisie! Demonstrate against the Imperialist MacDonald Labor Government and the Second International! For the emancipation of the Philippines from American Imperialism!

## Bureaucrats Rule C.P. Convention

The seventh annual convention of the Communist Party of the U.S.A. is now in session. The opening was at Madison Square Garden, Friday June 20.

The calibre of the discussion at the convention has so far been on the same mediocre level as the so-called "pre-convention discussion" in the *Daily Worker*. No one dares, nor is competent to raise fundamental questions of principles and policy. The apparatus-bureaucrats watch each other closely for every "deviation". Every slip of a fellow-bureaucrat means an opening to "work oneself up" one notch higher in a career.

We have already indicated in our manifesto to the Party membership the terrific gap that exists between the possibilities for the revolutionary movement in America and the paralytic ineffectiveness of the C.P. under the "third period" leadership of the Centrists. There is much that can be added by way of concrete illustration, and we propose to estimate the complete results of the convention on its conclusion.

Meanwhile rumblings are heard of the latest late turn of Stalin in the discussions on the economic crisis and the "third period". Bedacht has at last begun to talk of the present economic crisis as a "cyclical crisis in the period of the general decline of capitalism" and not as the immediate acute revolutionary crisis of Stalin-Molotov's imagination. A certain "Merker" tendency has consequently been virtuously repelled by the Browder-Bedacht "Old Guard". Such a "leader" as Sam Don accused them of entertaining "exceptionalism" because they did not emphasize the acute revolutionary crisis sufficiently. Don was ridiculed out of court and told to go back to the Party school.

The Canadian Party representative—a little adventurer named S. Smith who received the letters patent to the leadership of the Canadian Party with his sheepskin diploma from the "Lenin School", also accused Browder and Company of opportunism—for their too conservative estimate of the "third period"—and was duly castigated.

But this slight advance towards political sanity by Bedacht and Company is still a mere drop in the bucket of their swollen theorizings about "social fascism" etc.—those "tenth plenum" analyses that so thoroughly stultified the political influence of the Communist Parties.

What in brief is the balance sheet of stalinism at the present convention? In the leadership of the Party—a bureaucracy clinging to office by the most desperate acts of servility to the higher-ups in the Comintern hierarchy—at the bottom an apathetic and terrorized membership—an

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### A LECTURE on the

## ROAD OF THE INDIAN REVOLUTION

An exposition of the driving forces of the Indian Revolution, the struggle against British Imperialism, the role of Gandhi, the treachery of the MacDonald Labor Government, the Comintern policy (Chinese experiences and India) and the position of the Left Communists.

at the

Stuyvesant Casino

9th St. and Second Ave., Room 22

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2nd at 8 p.m.

BY

MAURICE SPECTOR

of the National Committee of the Communist League of America (Opposition) Comrade Maurice Spector was one of the witnesses—refused admission by the British Government—who were nominated to testify on their behalf by the trade unionist and revolutionary worker defendants in the great Meerut Sedition Trial now proceeding in India.

Auspices: New York Branch, Communist League of America (Opposition)

Admission 25 Cents