

THE MILITANT

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Fight Back the Boss' Offensive!

As the present world crisis grows in scope and intensity, gripping one industry after another furrowing its way to the very core of the complex capitalist structure, a good deal of ideological hardware undergoes a process of rapid corrosion. Not so long ago, "American" rationalization "scientific management" and the "technical revolution" were the inspiration of the entire capitalist world. This wave of enthusiasm undulated from the desperate Right wing of the bourgeoisie, the Fascists to its most servile Left, the Social Democrats, who pointed to America as the "workers' paradise".

Today when the super-capitalist Arcadia has blown up, with millions of workers pounding the pavements with an unprecedented tie-up in trade and an overloading of warehouses while countless families go unfed, unclothed and unprovided for—a different song is being sung. Capitalist spokesmen today speak with alarm of "technological unemployment", ask themselves "whether technical and managerial improvements do not cause unemployment after all," etc. A few simple figures tell the story:

Year	Vol. of Indus. Produc. Index	Vol. of Fact. Emp. Index
1923	101	104.2
1924	95	96.2
1925	104	99.6
1926	108	101.4
1927	106	98.8
1928	111	97.2
1929	118	101.8

In the six years between 1923 and 1929 the index of production rose 17 points, the index of employment, at the same time fell 2.4 points! So striking is the contrast, so telling the consequences that even among the capitalists large number are seized with panic. Senator Wagner, for instance, quoting these figures before the Senate, concludes:

"Into every home that the problem of unemployment has entered it has brought with it a doubt as to the validity of an economic system which permits such catastrophes to happen. It is as yet only a doubt, but if we do not take the action that seems obvious and essential that doubt will mature into an adverse conviction."

Discounting the interplay of politics directed against the Hoover administration, the fear expressed and the concern with the problem of "technological unemployment" remains genuine nevertheless, and are doubtlessly shared by the capitalist class as a whole. What the Senator does not make clear is how the bosses intend to find an issue out of the straits imposed upon them by this crisis. Theoretically the bosses' plan of action has been voiced very clearly by one of the most prominent representatives of German capital, Dr. Friedrich Lemmer, in the *Deutsche Wirtschaftszeltung* of last February.

The Theory of Capitalist Offensive
"Rationalization" wrote Dr. Lemmer, "means substitution of labor costs . . . Since the productive apparatus is today overdeveloped . . . further progress in rationalization . . . is unthinkable." Invoking the "law of diminishing utility" he concludes that "rationalization becomes ever less and less profitable", and urges as an antidote to the ills of rationalization—a wage cutting drive all along the line.

This is the basic strategy of the bosses in the present crisis: to utilize the division of forces and the demoralization brought into the working class by unemployment in order to shift further the burden from their own shoulders by slashing the wages of the workers still in industry. This is their plan in Germany, this is their plan here and everywhere. In Germany the wage cutting campaign has already assumed huge proportions in the recent past. The strikes in Mansfeld, in the Northwest the recent Berlin metal workers' strike, were all part of the weak resistance organized by the treacherous reformists, which the campaign has swept aside.

In the United States, despite the fake industrial conference called by Hoover last year, despite the promises made by the bosses to "retain the high living standards of the workers" the wage cut drive, though still cloaked, has already made terrific in-

roads. Only Green and the high priests of the A. F. of L. have kept their part of the bargain, by doing their best to obstruct and prevent anything resembling a struggle on the part of the workers.

The Department of Labor announces

«Order Prevails Throughout Spain»

Andres Nin, Leader of Spanish Left Opposition, Arrested and in Danger

The Madrid coup d'Etat attempted by the bourgeois republicans, headed by the aviator Franco, has been crushed by the Berenguer dictatorship without much difficulty. In Jaca, the attempted uprising has met with a similar fate. The iron fist has descended upon the militant labor organizations, their headquarters raided, their leaders arrested and imprisoned, and the strikes which were assuming a distinctly political character have been suppressed by violence.

The republican bourgeoisie, failing and fearing to rely upon the masses who alone can overthrow the monarchy and lead the revolution to a decisive conclusion, has made a pitiful debacle. One camp, further visioned and fearful of the mass movement of the workers that would be aroused by a popular insurrection has rallied to the decrepit monarchy of Alfonso and the brutal dictatorship of Berenguer. The other, equally contemptuous of the masses in whose name they pretend to speak, and whom they prefer to have act as soldiers obeying without thinking, has made the feeble and theatrical attempt to stage a novel revolt from the air which failed to inspire the masses to insurrection and was as ineffective as a spent rocket. The proletarian leadership of the revolution, which is still to be consolidated showed a fatal absence and unpreparedness.

An Unstable Dictatorship

The power of the Berenguer dictatorship, however, remains extremely tenuous. It was constituted on the pledge to restore those measures of "democracy" which the Primo de Rivera regime had so high-handedly abrogated. But the first step towards a loosening of the bonds, combined as it was with the accentuation of the economic crisis in the country, unleashed the dormant forces of the proletarian movement until acute strike struggles were raging from one end of the land to the other.

Harrassed on one side by the republican movement, on an other by the Catalonian separatists, on the third by the revived labor movement, and in general by the popular dislike of the monarchy and the dictatorship, the Berenguer regime immediately showed that it was distinguished from its predecessor only by more militant violence. In the first important test of arms it has issued the victor. But it will be of brief duration if the forces maturing for new skirmishes and insurrections come to a head.

In the work of suppressing the revolutionary movement, even at its initial stage of political strikes against the dictatorship, the Berenguer regime has been able to rely—and how could it be otherwise?!—upon the warm support of the social democrats and reformist trade union leaders of the General Union of Workers. Like their brethren everywhere, they are in favor of violent revolution only in one country—the Soviet Union—but vigorously opposed to an insurrection against their own bourgeoisie. In all the important strikes that broke out after the fall of Primo de Rivera the Reformists played the servile game of scabs by fighting against the extension of strike aims beyond the narrow limits of a trade union struggle. Their kin in the ranks of the anarcho-syndicalists have ardently supported the other section of the bourgeoisie, the republicans. There is no reason at all to believe that there will be any change on their part in the coming struggles

The revolutionary situation has not been liquidated. The economic crisis has not been solved. The fighting moods of the workers have not been entirely dampened. The official Communist Party, characteristically enough with all its talk of the "third period", was caught entirely unawares by the events of recent weeks. It had been taught in recent months, under Manuilsky's tutelage, that a "partial strike" is of vaster import than a revolution of what he called the "Spanish type". The Left Opposition however, has been very active in the struggle, particularly in the Barcelona working class where it has considerable influence. A number of our most active comrades, including Pedro Lavid and others, have already been sentenced to imprisonment.

Further, we read the following alarming report in the Barcelona correspondence by the well-informed Jules Sauerwein to the *New York Times* of December 23 1930, who quotes Don Ignacio de Despujol captain-general of Catalonia.

"The result was an easy task when the disturbers began marching against the gendarmerie. There was no violence to speak of and we quickly arrested the ringleaders. Among them was a notorious disciple of Trotsky who spent a long time in Russia and is a Soviet agent here now."

Nin In Danger!

The reference is unmistakably to comrade Andres Nin, leader of the Spanish Opposition, and one of the principal founders of the Communist Party in Spain. For years, he was secretary of the Red International of Labor Unions. A steadfast supporter of the Opposition, this irreproachable rebel was finally expelled from the Soviet Union's borders a few months ago by the Stalinist apparatus. The bourgeois press has frequently reported concerning his activity in Barcelona which he managed to reach after being expelled as a "counter-revolutionist" by the G. P. U. His arrest now means a serious blow to the whole labor and revolutionary movement. Every effort must be bent by the militants in all countries to force the release of comrade Nin and the other rebels imprisoned by the Berenguer dictatorship.

The Spanish revolutionists need the support of the international working class. Let us raise our voices in protest against the murderous work of the Spanish bourgeoisie which has already occupied a number of districts with the notorious Foreign Legion, composed of janissary scum of three continents, for the purpose of suppressing the workers' movement. The cause of Spanish labor is the cause of every worker. —S.

Comrade Kote Zinzadze's Life in Danger!

We have just received the following alarming report about our comrade Kote Zinzadze, a sterling Bolshevik fighter who was exiled by the Stalinist apparatus for supporting the struggle of the Opposition. For some time now he has been in a very dangerous condition, which we mentioned in a recent issue of the *Militant*. The report follows:

It is a month now that comrade Kote Zinzadze has been in a dying condition. In this time he has suffered two blood hemorrhages were accompanied by heart attacks,

alongside with a 2.5 percent drop in employment a 5.1 percent slump in payroll totals, or a 2.6 percent wage reduction for the month of November alone. "Per capita earnings in manufacturing industries," the report reads, "in November 1930 were 8.5 percent lower than in October." Still more serious are the general index figures for the entire year of November 1929 to November 1930:

	Employment	Pay-totals
Nov. 1929	94.8	95.1
Nov. 1930	76.5	68.5

While employment fell 18.3 points payroll totals dropped fully 26.8 points. A discrepancy which indicates the cut that the bosses have already made into the living standards of the American workers, and which reveals the seriousness that this trend will assume in the future.

Against this careful and well-planned offensive of the bourgeoisie only a solid and compact united front of the workers and jobless can be effective. Every step, in order to strike back must be organized on the broadest possible scale. If ever the slogans of the class struggle could be brought home to the American proletariat it is now.

But this cannot be accomplished by simply expecting the workers to rush to the revolutionary banner under the threat of being denounced as fascists or social-fascists but by going to the workers, by entering every mass organization in which they are to be found, by fighting for their support, by pointing out the way to them constantly and persistently. The only way to encounter the bosses' offensive now is by organizing the fighting defensive of the workers.

—SAM GORDON

Malkin Welcomed Back

A hundred workers, members and sympathizers of the Communist League and members of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, gathered at Grand Central Station on December 20, to greet comrade Maurice L. Malkin upon his release from Comstock prison, where he served two years of the term to which he had been sentenced as one of the defendants in the Mineola frame-up. From the Station the comrades marched through the streets, singing revolutionary songs, until the headquarters of the Communist League at 84 East 10th Street were reached. An impromptu get-together was held, which gave way, later in the evening to a comradesly gathering of dozens of workers to celebrate the release of Malkin and his return to the ranks of the active fighters for the Left wing in the trade unions and the Communist Opposition which he was one of the first to join.

The New York branch of the League has decided to hold a formal New Year's entertainment and dance to which all workers are invited to greet Malkin. It will be held on December 31, at the *Militant* Hall, 84 East 10th Street, when the New York Reds can get together for a hearty good time. Comrade Malkin will speak. The entertainment with music and dancing and eats, begins at 8 o'clock.

so that he was almost strangled. The doctors offer little hope for his recovery. The only hope of saving him, according to the doctors, is an absolute change of climate such as is offered by Suchum. The climate of Crimea where he is located, is fatal. Comrades have for a long time been endeavoring to obtain his transfer to Suchum. For two months, Ordjonikidze has promised to get the transfer for him, but so far no permit has been received . . . It will probably arrive when comrade Kote Zinzadze has died.