

THE MILITANT

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Workers, Out On May Day!

For nearly two years, the most important countries of the capitalist world have been writhing in the grip of an unprecedented economic crisis. In the United States, as in the most other lands, industry has been prostrated, trade clogged up, agriculture driven into a chaotic position. All of its unexampled power, its enormous resources, its dominant position in world economics and politics, its lavish wealth, has not prevented the United States from being drawn into the deepest crisis it has ever known.

Who is suffering most acutely the effects of the crisis? The millions upon millions of workers tramping the streets in vain search for work, their hungry, desperate families, the ever-lengthening breadlines are an eloquent reply to the question. Some ten million workers are out of a job. Other millions of workers, insecurely placed in industry, are having their living standards deliberately undermined by a brutal campaign of wage cutting, national in scope and affecting every industry. The plan of the capitalist class, driven into a corner by the crisis that has overwhelmed it, is to put the burden of the difficulties upon the shoulders of the working class. It is labor, nourished for years upon the myth of "permanent prosperity", that is to have its standards cut in half, or worse. No other meaning can be read into the "stagger plans", the wage-cutting offensive of the bosses, the failure of the captains of industry and finance and of the government to provide even the slightest measure of social insurance for the unemployed. The plan of the capitalist class is to press down the standards of living of the working class to the level of misery, "Lower the costs of production!" is the cry of the bosses. To lower the costs of production, so as to be able to meet the sharpened competition on an ever-narrowing world market, means to lower the wages, worsen the conditions, remove the hard-won safeguards of the workers.

This involves the continuation and intensifying of the capitalist offensive. The acute and unbearable misery of the ten million unemployed workers is met with a cynical light-heartedness by our ruling class, which is unable to provide the jobless with work and refuses to provide them with relief. The workers still in industry, are strangling in the noose of the wage-cutting drive, while the Wall Street government and its labor lieutenants in the leadership of the trade unions feed them with deceit and empty promises. Every agency of capitalism, which has shown itself incapable of guaranteeing even a minimum living to the mass of the people, is engaged in the assault upon the working class, straining every nerve to prevent the workers from resisting.

But the resistance of the workers, the defense of their conditions, the shifting of the burden of the crisis on to the shoulders of the capitalist class whose system provoked it, is the imperative need of the moment. The campaign of the capitalist class is a national campaign and not confined to any one field. The reduction of wages has its counterpart in the bosses' offensive against the workers on other fields which aim to reduce them to passivity and the docile acceptance of the misery standard. Towards that end, the government has engaged upon a campaign to deport thousands of "foreigners", which means to send out of the country every foreign-born worker who expresses his discontent actively. With the same aim in mind, a new campaign has been begun against the Communist movement, beginning with the arch-reactionary movement headed by the Fish Committee, down to the arrest and imprisonment of scores of workers in every part of the country for participation in strikes or other militant actions. In the same spirit, the starving unemployed workers who gather to demand relief, are met with the policeman's club, with tear gas, with jail. As a part of the drive, the Fish Committee, representing the darkest forces of American capitalism, has launched a campaign of slander against the Russian workers' republic, seeking by their ridicu-

ous charges of "dumping" to distract the workers' attention from the capitalist criminals at home to whom they owe their distress and to incite them against the Soviet Union.

Confronted by the peril of this assault upon them, the workers of the United States, following in fraternal solidarity their brothers throughout the world, must unite and solidify their ranks to defend their own class interests. The capitalist class is strong not because the workers are weak, but because the workers are not united on a militant program of struggle. Such a program of struggle, of resistance to the capitalist offensive, must be the rallying banner for the workers gathered throughout the land to celebrate the International day of the proletariat, May Day.

The Communist League of America (Opposition), in spite of its differences of opinion with the official Communist party, therefore calls upon all workers, regardless of their political or economic opinions, to join in a powerful display of their determination to fight back the assault of the capitalist class, by turning out as one man to the Communist demonstrations on May Day. The Communists alone conduct a militant struggle for the needs and interests of the working class, in spite of the errors made by the official leadership of Com-

munist. The "socialists" of all varieties, on the other hand, are the agents in the working class of the capitalists. In the struggle between the capitalist class and the working class, these "socialists" fight on the side of the former. What MacDonald does in betraying the Indian people and the British workers is what the American "socialists" do on a smaller scale in this country. In the fight between the "socialists" and Communists in the labor movement, in which each represents conflicting class interests, the Left Opposition throughout the world, led by Leon Trotsky, inspired by the ideas of Lenin, stands with the revolutionary working class.

Workers! Join in the May Day demonstrations in every city!

Fight for a program of struggle, to resist the offensive of the capitalist class!

A broad united campaign must be conducted to wrest an elaborate system of social insurance, with special regard for the unemployed, from the hands of the capitalist class and its government.

In order to lessen the intense sufferings of the unemployment workers immediately, the demand must be raised for immediate relief for the unemployed by municipal, state and federal appropriations.

To cut down the mass of unemployment, to adjust the hours of labor so that

they are more in harmony with increased productivity and the unemployment crisis, the central slogan should be inscribed on the banner of the labor movement for the six-hour day without reduction in wages.

For the relief of many tens and hundreds of thousands of unemployed, we must demand the extension of long term credits to the Soviet Union which will enable it to place orders for imperatively needed machinery and afford employment to workers in American industry.

Workers! The capitalist class has seized the workers by the throat. The working class must close its ranks, unite its forces, combine the employed and unemployed into a mighty movement against the capitalist offensive.

Demonstrate your determination and strength on May Day! Come to the demonstrations in mass!

Long live the international solidarity of the working class!

Greetings to the First Workers' Republic and the International Communist movement of Lenin and Trotsky!

On with the struggle for the revolutionary liberation of the oppressed and exploited!

NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA
(OPPOSITION)

Miners' Revolt Checked at Muste Convention

The revolt against the Fishwick-Lewis sell-out agreement brought ninety-nine delegates, representing miners in all parts of the country, to the St. Louis convention, April 15. The sentiment of the miners in mass meetings preceding this gathering was for a house-cleaning from top to bottom and for the building of a new union. But these hopes did not materialize.

The bitter attacks upon the rank and file by the reactionary U. M. W. officials, lack of finances, and lack of actual preparatory organization resulted in only one-sixth of the Illinois miners being represented. Those present however were there on behalf of the most live section, a total of sixty-one delegates representing thirty-three locals. Ohio was represented by eight delegates, Kansas by twenty delegates, Indiana by two delegates, and West Virginia by eight.

From the first day of the convention the Muste-Howat type of "progressive" proved to be in the majority and had the control. But before adjournment the bankruptcy of their policy for a solution to the miners' present problem stood out clearly. Further to the Right of this combination were elements unorganized but exercising a certain weight on the policies of the social reformers. To the Left was a minority of honest rank and file delegates who wanted a new union but were pulled into the orbit

of the bankrupt Muste policy through the weight of the organized majority faction. The National Miners' Union, directed by the Stalinist party bureaucrats, had issued leaflets in the field urging the miners to stay away from the convention. Nevertheless, it was represented there by Joe Tash. A minority of delegates supporting the policy of the Left Communist Opposition carried the main burden of the fight for a new union.

Alexander Howat made the opening political speech which gave a good deal of evidence on the sell-out agreement but failed to give any indication as to what should be done. In his conclusion he praised the "revolt of the masses in South America who had kicked out their kings and rulers and the Spanish workers who are kicking out their king." In the past, when Howat was still a rebel, he would always remember to point to the workers' achievements in the Russian Revolution; now he failed to mention that. Apparently he does not know that the revolts he mentioned are purely bourgeois revolts. Muste, Daack, Tippet and Hapgood also proved by their speeches and actions their inability to present a program although Muste and Hapgood by far were the most active in giving lip service to a new union. In this situation their position as a whole became a thoroughly reactionary one.

SMASH the SCOTTSBORO FRAME-UP!

The Negro worker has always been subjected to the most ruthless forms of exploitation by the American boss class. Driven by the double whip of capitalist robbery and violent race hatred, flouted twofold for being a worker and for being a negro, the American negro worker represents the most oppressed section of the working class.

Especially today, when the capitalists are pressed to the wall by their own wild and planless production, by a sweeping world crisis, the increased exploitation and oppression of the various sections of the working class takes on particularly sharp and unbearable forms. In their attempt to sow dissension and conflict in the ranks of the proletariat by pitting the employed against the unemployed, the native against the foreign born workers in order to tame and crush the power of resistance of workers' solidarity, the bosses stress above all, the attack on the negro worker. The negro worker is the first to be fired from his job, the first to have his wages cut, the first to fall under the intensified speed up.

This double and treble exploitation alone does not satiate the capitalist class. They exert every effort to ake this unheard of robbery and oppression secure, by a large system of frame up, slander and lynchings against the colored workers. The case of the nine young workers, framed up by the bosses in Scotsboro without any evidence is a flagrant example of this vicious method of the American ruling class. The frame-up of the nine young negro workers in Scotsboro is part and parcel of the bosses' campaign to divide the ranks of the American working class. It must be unmasked and defeated. Against the attempts of the capitalists to sow dissension into the laboring masses. Against the efforts of the ruling class to separate the negro from the white workers, Against the bosses' campaign of legalized lynching, the entire working class must stand up as one man, in the defense of the nine negro youths, for the defeat of the Scotsboro frame-up. Negro and white workers, unite against capitalist exploitation and oppression!

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