

Labor's Perspective in the Struggle for a Respite

With ever sharper turns and jerks American capitalism is endeavoring to find its way out of the present crisis.

To what extent it can gain a respite from the general crisis period and to what extent it can take advantage of the possibilities still open for further expansion on the world market should not be judged a priori.

While even the "best" of the bourgeois experts have not as yet succeeded in establishing any concrete evidence of a change in the cycle, there is evidence aplenty of preparations for the shifting of its burden.

To be sure, the general declining character of capitalism cannot be overcome. And any respite even for American capitalism will necessarily imply the lowering of the present level of the American workers as well as the reduction of the ration of other capitalist powers in world economy.

The American bourgeoisie is definitely aiming at replacing the bourgeoisie of Europe and particularly that of England, primarily, in order to take possession of their markets.

We have witnessed, as ominous signs for the European bourgeoisie, a series of convulsive economic and political crises coupled with direct intervention of American capitalism within the most recent period.

depends decisively upon the extent and ability of Communist leadership.

The process toward the reduction of the working class level is definitely in motion. That is also one of the signs of efforts toward an economic revival of American capitalism which, of course, holds possibilities of success in so far as another upward conjuncture is concerned.

Growing resistance of the workers at the beginning of this crisis or during its first rapid progress downward could not be expected. That was the period of mass dismissals from the factories with the prosperity illusions still strongly imbedded.

Yet, in this coming period of growing resistance and sharpened economic struggles, the workers, despite the false analysis and conclusions of the leadership, will move at an accelerated tempo toward the Communist party.

What are the prospects of development within the United States in this struggle for a respite? While the further ebbs and flows of the economic cycles may take place in strong leaps, some of the important aspects of the course for the immediate period are already indicated.

questions of strategy will again be posed in full force—more so at each particular mistake and failure recorded.

Unfortunately, however, the field for mass leadership is not left open exclusively for the Communists. There are yet the social reformists of various types and appearances to be taken into account.

It can therefore not be too often asserted that with each step of development of present objective conditions, the position of the party and its policy becomes of ever greater importance.

How the Life of the Y. C. L. Is Strangled

Somehow many a sincere League member begins to ponder over the curious anomaly we have in the Y. C. L., namely a lot of "activity" but no results, may even go backward.

The discussion article of comrade G. Ray on "Education and Young Communists" drives home a point which is even taboo to discuss in the Y. C. L., namely the exact conception of what really the Y. C. L. should be.

At the present time the Y. C. L. "functions" on a "three months' plan" basis. Were the results not so tragic in undermining the influence of the Y. C. L., it would be indeed a very comical spectacle.

Preparations. But to the "united front conferences" are but shadows of conferences. League units and a few stragglers of A. W. U. and Young Workers are the exclusive element represented.

Paradoxical as it may sound, as a result of "planned activity" we spread our activities in every possible direction (the "third period," you know), starting something here, something there, and abandoning it just as quickly for a new field of concentrations.

In our Negro work we see Young Liberals formed and disbanded. Scottsboro block committees, with the workers enthusiastic, but after a while we "cool off" and leave it for "better and more urgent work".

developments of the working class movement invites a heavy punishment. And all the protestations of the Centrist leadership of great disproportion between the party's numerical weakness and its large ideological influence to the contrary notwithstanding, the workers have in many respects, since the early part of the crisis, cast an adverse vote in regards to the party.

Forced by the pressure of objective developments and by pressure of our correct criticism and intervention, the Centrist party leadership has found itself compelled to relinquish its "Third Period" analysis and conclusions.

However, there will be no decisive jerks and turns also in the working class movement in the immediate future, perhaps of a convulsive character. This is clearly indicated in present perspectives, and at such decisive instances the questions of strategy will be posed in a forceful manner.

Mobilizing the Labor United Front

Every day brings new indications of well prepared attacks against the working class by the leaders of American capital, by the so-called "captains of industry".

The burning need of the hour, in the face of the torrentious onslaught of the old, experienced and crafty bourgeoisie, is the hermetic unity of the working class, which has yet to be achieved.

Incomprehension of the perspectives facing the working class, a false analysis of the situation, failure to grasp the tasks involved, faulty preparations, are bound to prove costly not only to the Communist leaders of the proletariat, but to the entire working class as a whole.

Aside from the necessity of uniting the reformist with the revolutionary workers, there are a good many other problems involved in constituting the workers' front. We shall deal here with only two aspects of the question of unity.

The bosses aim at breaking up the ranks of the proletariat by being carried on under various forms. One of the most vicious forms is that of pitting the white against the black workers.

Not only are Negro workers the first ones to be fired when personnel is reduced, but very often they are replaced by white labor. The boss, by playing on the race instincts of the white workers, in this manner tries to set up a barrier between white and black, from which he alone ultimately gains.

Another method of dividing the workers against themselves is the campaign to deport foreign born workers. The labor faker Doak as secretary of Labor in the Hoover cabinet, announces 20,000 deportations of foreign born workers within the period of a few short months and hopes thereby to arouse the basest national instincts of the native workers.

When the native born worker considers, however, that the percentage of foreign born labor in the United States amounts to about 15 per cent of the entire industrial population and more, it becomes clear to him that this whole business of deportations is merely a reactionary ruse.

Iron and Steel manufacturing 58% Bituminous coal mining 61% Woolen and Worsted m'fr'g 62% Cotton goods 62% Clothing 69%

SAM GORDON.

A Letter About the Spanish Revolution

According to the information of comrade N., the Central Committee of the Spanish Communist Party has made a decisive turn in its policy.

From the words of comrade N., it follows that the Spanish Central Committee, which formally retaining the slogan of the "democratic dictatorship", changes its policy decisively on two points: first, it takes the road of struggle for democratic slogans; second, it is ready to apply the policy of the united front.

We have here a clear and an indubitable victory of the Left Opposition. How deep and serious is the turn of the Spanish Stalinists, is another question. Moreover, any answer to it depends to a considerable degree upon our policy.

In a brief letter, comrade N. underlines two facts, having an exceptionally important significance for the policy of the Spanish Left for the present period: the official party has taken, or at any rate, has proclaimed a series of steps directed towards the policy of the Bolshevik-Leninists; on the contrary, the leadership of the Catalan Federation sinks all the deeper into the confusion of opportunism and petty bourgeois nationalism.

The Left Opposition should subject the turn of the Spanish Central Committee to a serious analysis—without naive credulity, but also without sectarian prejudices. Whatever is conquered by us should be clearly stated by us and taken into consideration. Where differences remain, they should be characterized without any softness and embellishment.

The faster and the more decisively the Left Opposition reacts to the turn in the direction of an approach to the party, the more advantageous it will be to the Left Opposition, to the party, to the Spanish revolution.

July 30, 1931. —LEON TROTSKY.

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Wage Cut in Steel

(Continued from Page 1)
Press great regret and profound disappointment" (Matthew Wolf);
Organized the Fight!
It is inconceivable that the workers will take this blow without resistance, says Wolf, and although "they will not try to stigmatize the growth of fascism", it is not hard to agree with what he says. It is just as easy to say that neither will nor any of its crimes will organize this resistance, it will have to be done by those hundreds of thousands of steel workers who showed their mettle in the magnificent steel strike of 1929 which was carried out in spite of the sabotage of Gompers and Company.

That a national steel strike is the only possible answer to the wage cut announcement, is indisputable. But such a step would be prejudiced irremediably if it were precipitated artificially, without a previous organization of the necessary pre-requisites for it. (What the situation demands more than ever is a carefully conceived and executed fight against the steel manufacturers, organized on a united front basis. Should the official Communist party pursue, in this situation, the narrow, sectarian, isolationist course it adopted in the recent miners strike, the results in the steel industry would be even more disastrous. It is the height of idiocy to proceed from the idea that the Communists can have nothing to do with anybody who does not agree entirely with everything the Stalinist leadership puts forth as gospel truth.

The militancy of the steel workers, nobody can dispute. They proved that once and for all time in 1919. It is necessary to crystallize the bitterness of the workers, organize it carefully, direct it into struggle against the wage-slashers and their agents, and conduct a struggle which has every prospect of arousing the whole working class of the country to a realization of its task in the crisis.

Foreign-Born Workers
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