

WORKERS  
OF THE  
WORLD.  
UNITE

# THE MILITANT

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## N. Y. Dressmakers Strike

### Workers Unity against the Common Enemy Imperative

In the New York dressmakers strike, now on, the crucial issue is that of working class unity. But it will be attained only with a policy based upon that objective. And so far the exact opposite is the case.

Every working class action constitutes part of the historical laboratory testing the program and policies of the revolutionary party. No evasion of fundamental duties, no emancipation of counterfeited for these duties, however cleverly proposed, can circumvent this test. Its results will only be new confusion and strengthening of the enemy's hands. That completely holds true also in this instance in the needle trades market.

How do matters stand in this strike? Last Monday the Left wing, the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, issued the call. Obviously that was in accord with the policy of the official Communist party leadership which controls the union. For some time the union under Right wing control, the International Ladies Garment Workers, has been preparing for a strike and has made such a decision with the actual date not yet set. This decision, of course, is the direct result of pressure from the rank and file leadership. In the center of the demands of all workers stands the abolition of the sweatshop, improvements of the standard work week, enforcement of the reduced work week, and insurance for the unemployed. These demands are made by the workers upon their common enemy.

The condition of two unions existing within the needle trades is not one originating today and cannot be changed at will. To that extent the workers are naturally and of necessity divided. But it is precisely because of this condition that the problem of working class unity has become the crucial issue. For this reason the only policy of the revolutionary party which can stand the test in this situation is the one which is founded upon the united front of all workers involved in the conflict. This policy, which, in other words, is a fundamental duty of the revolutionary party, the Stalinist leadership has constantly evaded. It has constantly followed the opposite direction. It has pursued a course which culminated in a complete emasculation of the united front policy, in the establishment of a counterfeit—the so-called United Front Committee—which does not at all proceed from the two unions as its base. It does not provide a bridge for unity in strike action of the two unions but rather a preventative. Therefore it must be said unequivocally that in the crucial issue of working class unity, the policy of the official party leadership completely fails the test.

There need be no illusion of the strike intentions of the Right wing union leadership. They have gone as far as they have only under pressure from below. All past experiences prove its treacherous role and fully justify the most severe indictment. It would be foolish to expect it to have reformed today. Within this union, the Loveston group occupies a peculiar position, though one quite in accord with its general orientation. Does this group now demand from the I. L. G. W. that it immediately decide upon the strike date in common cause with the workers of the industrial union who are already out? Do they take up the fight for a united front of all the dressmakers within that union? There is no evidence of either. Despite all of their clamor of participating now in a progressive movement the fundamental fact remains that when they unconditionally returned to the folds of the Right wing controlled union, they deserted the Left wing and all it stands for.

It is a well known fact that the Right wing leadership have with every possible means resisted all efforts for a workers' united front. That they will continue to do so need not be doubted for one moment. But their views and policies are not determined by the revolu-

tionary party, nor is it responsible for them. Its responsibility rests exclusively with its own policies for which it must render an account to the working class as a whole.

It is true that the official party leadership has made progress from its one time position of the industrial union members staying at work while the members of the I. L. G. W. were out on the streets. But this progress is miserably small and far from sufficient in the present much more exacting situation. The requirements are much greater than that. The rank and file pressure for struggle has vastly increased. So much so that the Right wing officials are compelled to heed their demands.

But let us again recall the exact situation today. The workers of both unions are in a direct conflict with the common class enemy. It represents the immediately threatening danger. Its defeat is the common objective. Can that be accomplished separately at all, or are the possibilities better when united? Certainly the latter. Could the two unions, one following a Left wing policy, the other a Right wing policy, be completely united at once? Hardly. That will most likely proceed through several conflicts. But for the common strike objectives, for a practically identical set of demands and for the defeat of a common enemy, a united front could and should be established. There will be objectors, saying: the Right wing leadership are the out and out emissaries of capitalism. To this we answer: that is completely true, but how can these emissaries be defeated except by the unity of the workers. In a united front, the Left wing would, of course, not for one minute cease its criticism of nor its fight against these Right wing capitalist hunkies.

If the Communists should not endeavor to unite workers who should? Does a call upon those workers in the I. L. G. W. to leave their established union bring unity? No, experience has shown that this is not the way. Another course must be found and the direction for that course is clearly indicated.

By far the largest section of the organized dressmakers are in the I. L. G.

## OPEN FORUM

Lecture by  
MAX SHACHTMAN

### Imperialist Aggression in China—the Danger of War

at the  
Labor Temple  
14th Street and Second Avenue

Saturday, February 13, 1932  
at 8 P. M.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION  
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W. The N. T. W. I. U. is a minority; but the Left wing spirit is by no means crushed within the former. Yet it is a matter of two distinct organizations; two movements. In this situation, the party leadership can square its responsibility to the working class only by sincerely and genuinely fighting for a united front on the common strike objectives. A united front from organization to organization, from movement to movement. Concretely, it would mean to fight for a joint strike; for a joint strike leadership to jointly work out the demands for settlements. The party leadership should tell the workers in the shops who belong to the I. L. G. W. not to leave their organization, not to forsake it for a counterfeit institution but to fight within for a united front. Undoubtedly, it would produce a powerful and favorable echo. This is the way to defeat those who have designs of betrayal. Incidentally it will also be the way to re-establish the seriously damaged prestige of the Left wing.

This policy, the Left Opposition has repeatedly emphasized. It is the policy of Lenin. In this decisive moment, in the face of a serious conflict, it has become so much more imperative.

We call upon all the dressmakers to heed the strike call, as far as the Left Opposition members are concerned, they will strike with the Left wing.

—A. S.

## Imperialists Meet at Geneva

### French and Americans Wrangle for Lead in Struggle against U.S.S.R.

The imperialists are shuffling their cards once more at Geneva. Despite all the bourgeois press comment to the contrary, it appears, nevertheless, that the French proposals are the real trump. Wall Street statesmanship has always been known for its "pacifistic" for its "democratic" gestures. At the disarrangement conference now in session, it runs true to form. The antipathy of the American delegation to the Tardieu offer is easily understood in this light.

In the general comment on the presentation of France's delegate, a great deal of attention was devoted to the complications in the problems of "eastern Europe". And it is not idle talk, as the bourgeois press feigns to believe, to say that the French proposals are directed in the first instance against the Soviet government and against an eventual upheaval of the German workers. One needs only to bear in mind the French applause of the Japanese actions in Northern Manchuria, the various diplomatic plots sponsored and initiated by Paris, to realize this.

It is not at all surprising to find Wall Street and American imperialism opposed to the French plans. An "international police force" under the control of the League of Nations, would inevitably have to act under the hegemony of Gallic imperialism. The French army is the strongest and best equipped military force in capitalist Europe. France is, of late, one of America's most powerful rivals. Wall Street can have no interest whatsoever in a compact European army under French direction. The same holds true for Great Britain, especially if we consider the recent financial obligations of that government to the United States bankers.

#### COMMON ACTION AMONG IMPERIALISTS

However, while we are disinclined to schematically outline a united imperialist front in advance, as the Stalinists do, it does remain important to point out the possibilities of common action among the robber governments in the event of a war against the European working class, while the Americans have not concealed

their discomfort and vexation in the face of Tardieu's proposals, the head of the Washington delegation, Ambassador Gibson, does find it possible to say in its name that it "is prepared to consider any form of military limitation and reduction which promises real progress toward a feeling of international security, protection against surprise", etc. It is clear that this statement is a reservation on the part of the Hoover regime with regard to the French proposals. And it will be remembered that the United States imperialists once before joined the European vultures in an attack on the U. S. S. R. That was in 1919, although the "Polar Bear" division of Wilson's troops was sent to Vladivostok without any definite instructions to cooperate with the other Western powers. One could hardly expect less from Hoover than from Wilson.

In liberal bourgeois circles, it is being said rather apathetically, that the current Geneva Conference will be the last before the next war. And, in view of the developments in the Far East and in central Europe it must be admitted that there is a great deal of truth in the contention. The Japanese in the Orient, who can hardly afford the all too costly extension of their Chinese looting expedition, proposed to the other powers, the demilitarization of the main Chinese ports, or in other words, a repartitioning of China. The Americans naturally find this Japanese design unacceptable. What they need most is a centralized China, to serve as a reliable market for the inflated American industries. All indications point, however, to some sort

of an agreement, between Tokio and Washington, on the one hand, and between Washington and the Quai d'Orsay, on the other.

It is quite indisputable that the most serious danger at present is that of a war against the working class of Germany and against the Soviet Union. As the political crisis develops, the oppressed masses of the Asian continent will look more and more to the European proletariat, for succor. Upon the leadership of the revolutionary European proletariat devolves a role of the foremost historic and world magnitude. To trifle now with a mocking intransigence toward the social democratic workers' organizations, to heedlessly overestimate the importance of the Red partisan movement in China, to subordinate everything today to the needs of the Five Year Plan alone, means to head for irreparable losses, to drive blindly towards an epoch-making defeat.

The working class of the world must be aroused to the danger facing it. Only international action on its part can save the Soviet Union, can keep the achievements of the heroic struggles of the Russian workers intact and carry them further, beyond the boundaries of the capitalist world. To do this, the possibility must be created to speak to the broadest sections of the masses. Every "little" mistake, every obstacle lightly put in the way of reaching the masses, is bound to prove extremely costly not only nationally, but internationally, not only for a year, but for a whole epoch.

—S. G.

## Philadelphia Oppositionists Sentenced

### Bulletin

Comrades Bernard Morgenstern and Leon Goodman, members of the Philadelphia Branch of the Communist League of America (Opposition) have been sentenced by Judge Reed of Philadelphia to ninety days imprisonment. They were found guilty of violating the notorious Flynn Sedition Act of the state of Pennsylvania. Comrades Morgenstern and Goodman were arrested a year ago for distributing leaflets issued by the National Committee of the Communist League of America (Opposition), explaining the causes of unemployment and stating that the international proletarian revolution alone can bring a real solution to the misery called forth by the capitalist system.

The case of Morgenstern and Goodman has been most shamefully sabotaged by the Stalinist bureaucracy heading the International Labor Defense, who have not turned a finger for them and whose policy it has become, to defend only members of the Stalinist faction and not all working class prisoners, for which purpose the I. L. D. was originally founded. All workers, all revolutionists, all Communists must be aroused to this fact. The dangerous and criminal sabotaging policy of the Stalinists must be stopped, if the staunchest fighters of the

proletariat and all the workers with them are not to suffer the inevitably harmful consequences.

Comrades Morgenstern and Goodman will serve their term in prison. They have been sentenced for distribution of leaflets of the Left Opposition emphasizing to the working class that the final solution to the unemployment problem can be found only in the proletarian revolution. For its realization they are prepared to fight regardless of their incarceration in the capitalist bastilles. (Further news of the case will be found on page Two).

## Com. Glotzer's National Tour

Our second national tour is about to start. Comrade Albert Glotzer, member of the National Committee, Communist League of America (Opposition) will speak at a series of meetings now being arranged throughout the country. Comrade Glotzer has just returned from a visit to comrade Trotsky. He spent about four weeks discussing with Lenin's closest co-worker some of the pressing problems of the world revolutionary movement today.

Comrade Glotzer was also fortunate in being able to get a first hand view of conditions now existing in Germany, England and France. An account of his impressions should be of extreme importance to American workers, particularly in view of coming decisive events in Germany. This will naturally be the subject of his lectures and contain an intimate account of comrade Trotsky's views on the threatening Fascist danger and the problems of Communism in Europe.

His subject will be: **WHAT IS EUROPE HEADING FOR?**

The following is the schedule for Glotzer's tour:

- Boston, Mass. . . . . February 19
- Montreal, Canada. . . . . February 21
- Toronto, Canada. . . . . February 23-24
- Buffalo, N. Y. . . . . February 25
- Chicago, Ill. . . . . February 27-28

Other dates will follow. The meeting for Glotzer in Montreal will be held at Universite Ouvriere, 85 East Craig St., Sunday evening, Feb. 21, 1932.

Three months subscription: \$0.50—a copy of either one of our 10c pamphlets. The International Communist Review will appear in 48 pages, bi-monthly in the beginning. The price per copy will be 15c, subscription will be \$1.50 for 12 issues and \$1.00 for 8 issues.

There will be no delay in preparations for its appearance. We count similarly on no delay in your response. Help us build the Left Opposition Press!

## Is Trotsky's Life to be Kept in Danger?

The Daily Worker of January 8, 1932 reports a White Guard plot to assassinate Maxim Litvinov, Soviet Commissar of Foreign Affairs. In addition it quotes from a note sent by Krestinsky, acting Commissar of Foreign Affairs to Sir Eric Drummond, Secretary General of the League of Nations, in which it says:

"Our authorities have learned reliably that certain Russian emigres in Paris led by Miller, Dragmilov and Shattlov, were given orders to make an attempt on Litvinov's life. . . ."

That the White Guards are planning to murder a number of Russian revolutionists has been known for some time. The menace is imminent in the most direct and immediate sense. Several months ago, on October 22, 1931, the *Rote Fahne*, official organ of the Communist Party of Germany at Berlin, first exposed this plot, bringing news at the same time of a plan by the White

Guard emigre, Turkul, to murder Leon Trotsky, in his place of exile near Istanbul, Turkey.

The report which has reached the Daily Worker omits that part of the story printed in the *Rote Fahne*. We want to know, first of all: has the Daily Worker done this willfully, under instructions? Secondly, do Stalin and the Central leadership of the Russian party intend to content themselves with merely casting off the responsibility for an eventual murder of our comrade by the White Guards, as was apparent from the tenor of the *Rote Fahne* report? Thirdly, will the Stalinist leadership continue to sabotage the protection of comrade Trotsky despite the fact that it is they, as heads of the Soviet state who have discovered the plans of the White Guards? We demand an answer promptly.

The organizer of the October victory,

the first leader of the Red Army, Leon Trotsky, the comrade in arms of Lenin, is in danger of losing his life at the hands of White Guard murderers! Every further attempt to neglect precautionary measures against the would-be assassins, every attempt of the Stalinists to wash their hands of the whole matter will be interpreted only as assistance to the White Guards, as united action with them. The workers of the world will understand that full well.

Let every worker-Communist, every sincere revolutionary in the Communist Party of the U. S. A., demand an accounting of the leadership. The question must be posed to them sharply. What do they intend to do with Trotsky? Do they intend to leave him exposed to the daggers of a White Guard assassin? Is Stalin in a united front with Turkul?

## Help Build Opposition Press!

When we launched our Expansion Program about this time a year ago one of the most important steps contemplated was the publication of *The Militant* as a weekly. It became a reality. But a serious extension of its circulation still remains ahead. Can we now ask the cooperation of all our comrades and supporters to take this up in earnest? We propose that all put their shoulder to the wheel and make a real effort during the coming three months: March, April and May. This is the time of our regular subscription drive.

Our weekly has appeared now without fail for some seven months. Our readers, we are sure, fully appreciate this accomplishment. But what they may not appreciate so well, is the fact that it has been running on a mere shoe string.

This, however, has not affected its character in the least. On the contrary, we feel confident we can also say that the weekly appearance has increased its theoretical, its informative and its fighting quality. It has become a real source of additional strength to the Left Opposition. This is at it should be. The

press is the fighting instrument of the revolutionary movement. For the Left Opposition that holds doubly true. But it will only become that fully when it reaches to the farthest corners of its field, when it reaches every live, thinking, militant worker. This is what we aim to make our immediate task.

With our newest addition to come, announced in our previous issue, that is with the addition of a theoretical organ,

The International Communist Review, this task should become considerably facilitated. First, because it will make possible further improvements of *The Militant*. It will become a means of seriously broadening its appeal and give it character a more popular touch. It will enable us to further consolidate our position.

Will our supporters assist us in this task? Will they help build the Left Op-

position press? We remain confident that with this new addition we can count upon a serious extension of the generous support given in the past. We know we can count on yet greater sacrifices from our comrades to make this possible.

But we ask our supporters everywhere to begin immediately to show their sympathy in aid. The best form in which this can be done is to forward their contributions to our office at once. First of all the beginning should be made by actual building right now. Extend the circulation of the *Militant*. Will you, who read his announcement, become an active participant in a circulation drive during the three months: March, April and May for the *Militant* and for *The International Communist Review*?

During this period we offer for *Militant* subscriptions the following inducements:

One year subscription: \$2.00—a copy of *The Strategy of the World Revolution* (cloth bound) by L. D. Trotsky

Six months subscription: \$1.00—a copy of *The Strategy of the World Revolution* (paper bound) by L. D. Trotsky.

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