

LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS

The Pocketbook Makers Fight the Racketeers

NEW YORK, N. Y. One year ago, the S. P. Fakers and the Musteltes forced an agreement upon the Pocket Book Workers in N. Y. and conceded all the conditions of the employers without a fight.

How is it possible that the employers could get away with not living up to the agreement when there is an impartial arbitration board. First the reorganization clause we've had since the last agreement was forced upon the workers by the betrayers.

Second, the present "Fraternal Club" administration gang gave the employers a free hand, collaborated with them to bring down wages and undermine the already poor conditions of the workers.

Furthermore the officials not only helped to reduce wages but with the aid of the employers and some of their henchmen (the so-called shop chairman), they instituted a reign of terror in the union.

Why did the administration resort to such methods? The writer pointed out in The Militant of March 26 and May 23 that the "Fraternal Club" administration will force a new agreement on the Pocket Book Workers by hook or crook, with more wage cuts, reorganizations, readjustments, etc.

About two weeks ago, our manager, Lubliner, announced in the press that he had reached an agreement with the bosses' industrial council. The manager did not state the terms of the agreement. Let me enumerate the concessions the employers gained this time from our "practical" officials.

The "Fraternal Club" administration did not reckon with the wishes of the members and especially with those who are unemployed. They did not make any attempt to gain the forty hour week to relieve the unemployment situation.

On June 20, a membership meeting was called at Stuyvesant High School to ratify the agreement. On the same day, the Rank and File Committee distributed leaflets in the union office, in which they urged the workers to come to the meeting and vote down the treacherous agreement.

When the meeting took place at night, the "Fraternal" gang prepared themselves for it with the aid of the Gara or Curly gangs, numbering over fifty. Is it any wonder that the "Fraternal Club" administration put over the agreement?

In conclusion, I want to say that the "Rank and File" must close their ranks more firmly and rout the gangsters and slugs from our union. One corrupt administration was forced out of office a few years ago due to the fact that they could not give an accounting of more than \$250,000.

For every member that is beaten up, we will repay them eye for eye and tooth for tooth. This must be the answer to our "Fraternal Club" administration. Let our slogan be: a union for the workers, not for grafters and gangsters.

Abel Fine, one of the leading "Fraternal Club" slugs, who participated in the beating up of the Left wingers and who made the motion to accept the agreement, is scabbing in the Bielen shop, which has been on strike for the last few weeks!

The "Labor" Governor of Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—June 25, 1932 True to the role of capitalist and reformist politicians, Floyd B. Olson, the Minnesota "Farmer-Labor" Governor is very busy nowadays in the usual campaign before election time to make himself popular, especially with the ruling class.

Speaking at a banquet of the Northern Pacific Ry. veterans at the Nicollet Hotel on June 23rd, Olson joined in with the railroad officials and such notorious open shoppers as A. A. D. Rahn, pleading for a square deal for the railroads.

Our "Farmer-Labor" Governor, instead of telling Donnelly and the rest of the outfit present, that the railroads together with all the other industries should be taken from the parasite owners without pay and be made public property and operated for use instead of for private profit, according to the same Journal stated as follows:

"We must have railroad transportation, especially for long haul and carload business. Much of the competition now forced upon the railroads is unfair competition. It is necessary for the government to so regulate the transportation business as to provide fair and equitable business for all forms."

Neither Donnelly the Railroad President nor Andy Rahn, who spoke for the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association, could plead more eloquently for the cause of big business than did our "labor" Governor. The half million railroad "veterans" who have been robbed of their right to make a living by losing their jobs as victims of private own-

Among the Greek Workers in N. Y.

In the Militant of June 4th and in the Communist No. 5 we demanded from the Greek Stalinist bureaucrats to announce in heavy type the victory of the Empros over the Athens Trust Co., of New York City. The Empros kept an icy silence, concerning this question, for obvious reasons. Both parties agreed to reject the trial at the Special Sessions Court and accepted the motion of the District Attorney. What we are interested to know is what the terms were under which this mutual agreement took place.

The bureaucrats up to this day refused to print this agreement because it is certain that it contains terms that are very favorable for the bank and very compromising for the Empros. By shouting and boasting of exposures against banks and newspapers and then compromising behind the backs of the workers we achieve nothing more than a tremendous loss of prestige.

Three whole weeks before the motion of withdrawal took place, the Empros carried a two column campaign against the rival of the Athens Bank, the National Bank of N. Y., and not a word about the Athens Trust Co. This speaks for itself.

Trial of the National Herald Taking into consideration the dealings of the Greek Stalinists with the Athens Trust Company we venture to state that the same kind of dealings will take place with the National Herald next November when the workers will have forgotten all their fuss and unsincere eagerness to present themselves before the capitalist courts. Our prediction is substantiated by the fact that a certain member of the Board of Directors of the Athens Trust Co. happens to be also a member of the School Collection Fund that the National Herald carries.

Our Healthy Criticism That our criticism of the Empros is healthy and constructive is proven by the quick response it received among the honest elements in the ranks of Stalinism. The workers' indignation at the criminal attitude of their bureaucrats brought about a considerable pressure and it resulted in a certain change—at least temporarily. Comrade Tsironis, a party member serving a long term in the capitalist dungeons, protested from within the prison walls and demanded that the Empros occupy itself with the vital questions of the class struggle. His letters to other party members forced the bureaucrats to print in the Empros of June 4th a fragment of a letter which we translate below:

Dear Comrades of the Editorial Board: Have received the Empros and with great eagerness. I see that you don't write anything on the march of the veterans for the bonus. The capitalist press does this very thing which attempts to diminish this question and this is to their interest, but the attitude of the Empros, I really do not know how to explain it.

BOOKS BY TROTSKY

- PROBLEMS OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION 450 pages Cloth cover \$1.50 paper cover 1.00
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Lausanne and Germany

The Communist press is already half-suppressed. The Nazis are demanding the suppression of the Communist party. But the onslaught of the black hundreds is wedging in on even the more moderate opposition. A late dispatch reports that the Federal authorities have demanded of the Prussian government the proscription of the Berlin Vorwaerts, the central organ of the German social democracy and—of the Kthieland organ of the Catholic Centre party, the Koelnische Volkszeitung.

THE TURN IN THE C. I. IS OUT OF PRINT, BUT IS AVAILABLE IN THE BOUND VOLUMES OF COMRADE TROTSKY'S PAMPHLETS. MANY OF THE PAMPHLETS ADVERTISED ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE CAN BE HAD IN JEWISH, SPANISH, RUSSIAN AND ITALIAN. FOR INFORMATION WRITE TO PIONEER PUBLISHERS, 84 East 10th Street, New York City

MINNEAPOLIS WORKERS ATTENTION!

Sunday, July 10th, 1932 at Glenwood Park Grounds, Plot 3 Speeches—Refreshments—Entertainment A Trotsky bust by Claire Sheridan will be raffled off for the benefit of the Left Opposition Press. Come and bring your friends. Auspices: Minneapolis Branch, C. L. A. (Opposition)

Spartacus Club & Labor Defense

The Spartacus Club under Stalinist control became an organization where only those workers that accept beforehand the infallibility of Stalin are allowed to become members, any other is not allowed even to sit in the social hall. Comrade Alexandronakis, a former party member and at present a close Communist sympathizer, is not allowed even the privilege of the social hall of the club because he expressed his indignation at the attitude of the Empros towards the imprisoned Oppositionists in Greece. The Empros endorses the criminal and anti-Communist attitude of the Stalinists in Greece by refusing to render any kind of assistance through the Labor Defense to the imprisoned Oppositionists. Comrade Alexandronakis succeeded in organizing an I. L. D. branch out of a reactionary fraternal organization of Cretans and very correctly maintains that every imprisoned Communist should be supported and assisted by the I. L. D., irrespective of his factional affiliations. Hundreds of Greek Oppositionists are deported and imprisoned in Greece and whole branches of the Greek I. L. D. are expelled because they demand that the

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During the days of June 10-13, both inclusive, our National Committee held a plenary meeting at the New York headquarters. Members and alternates were in attendance, coming from Chicago, Minneapolis, Philadelphia and Canada. The meeting became a fruitful one in many respects. The main issues discussed and acted upon were concerning differences of views in regard to developments within the sections of the International Left Opposition and our own internal developments. It is but natural that such issues should assume the importance of serious discussion particularly when we bear in mind that our main problem is still the one of selection and of consolidation of a nucleus of the future Communist movement.

These questions did not involve our principle position in the class struggle nor our attitude toward the Communist party as those are settled questions with us; nevertheless they did involve the problems of organizational growth here and abroad. The plenum ironed out in the main the differences of views that existed and arrived at unanimous conclusions in regard to the problems of our own development and in regard to our views of the European sections. These conclusions were embodied in resolutions which are now being submitted to our branches. This fact alone showed that the sessions were fruitful. It means that the decks are cleared for action, that a step has been taken forward to greater consolidation to better face the tasks of the future. Indications everywhere of developments in the revolutionary movement point to these tasks of the Left Opposition assuming greater proportion and particularly making possible that our organization will count more as a factor in direct intervention in the class struggle. One of the practical steps issuing out of the conclusions arrived at is the proposal to further broaden the National Committee, by adding to its members, and, with that, the strengthening of the center and of its functioning staff. This action together with the general conclusions of the committee meeting is being submitted to the membership for their discussion and their vote.

Lausanne and Germany

The Communist press is already half-suppressed. The Nazis are demanding the suppression of the Communist party. But the onslaught of the black hundreds is wedging in on even the more moderate opposition. A late dispatch reports that the Federal authorities have demanded of the Prussian government the proscription of the Berlin Vorwaerts, the central organ of the German social democracy and—of the Kthieland organ of the Catholic Centre party, the Koelnische Volkszeitung. These further indications of the dark intentions of the Von Papen regime make evident the need of haste in countering the action of the Fascists' scouts. Once more, it must be emphasized that a successful repulsion of the reaction—which is spreading its fangs towards the borders of the Russian Workers' State—depends only upon correct and timely united front action on the part of the German Communist Party and the Communist International.

The Communist International is maintaining an ominous silence. At a time, when black dangers face the European working class and the whole proletarian revolutionary movement of the world, the Communist International, the general staff of the revolutionary forces, finds it possible to do without a word of advice, without a word of direction to the international ranks that are behind it. Workers, Communists, demand in your organizations that the Stalinist leadership speak up. Demand that they tell you what they intend to do in this all too fateful situation!

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YOUTH ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK

The activities of the Spartacus Youth Club have been picking up. Successful open air meetings were held a week ago Saturday at 7th Street and Ave. C. and last Saturday at Second Avenue, and 4th Street. Young Spartacus, Militants, and Germany pamphlets were sold. Several youth contacts were established.

At its regular Friday meeting, last week (June 24th) a good discussion on the War Danger and its Aspects, led by J. Carter was conducted, in which a number of comrades participated.

The Club has arranged for a picnic to be held July 10th at Tibbets Brook Park for the benefit of the Spanish Opposition Youth.

Watch the Militant for further announcements on the activities of the Club.

YOUNG SPARTACUS The July issue of the Young Spartacus will be off the press in a few days. It will contain articles on the current questions of the day, on the developments in the Chicago Y. C. L., the Left Opposition youth in the European countries. Comrades should prepare for wide distributions of the issue.

CHICAGO, ILL.—The youth of the Chicago branch debated the representatives of the Young Peoples Socialist League on June 12th. For full report see the coming July issue of the Young Spartacus.

The statement printed below was written by an active young Communist of Chicago. A number of other Communist youth in the Y. C. L. have supported a similar view. Six comrades have already suffered the consequences: Expulsion or exclusion. The July issue of the Young Spartacus carries an article by comrade N. Gould explaining the latest developments in the Chicago Young Communist League.

Y. C. L.'ERS DECLARE FOR LEFT OPPOSITION To all members of the Young Communist League:

In answer to the demand of the district secretariat for a statement of my views on the questions of (1) Fraternalism with expelled League members now adhering to the Left Opposition, (2) Characterization of "Trotskyism" I wish to submit the following statement.

The latest resolution of the Young Communist International, properly interpreted, agrees with the position held by comrades Satir, Gould, Andres, Sold, myself and others, on such important points as:

- (1) Rooting ourselves in the factories. (2) On the raising of the ideological level of the League. (3) Against bureaucracy. (4) Insufficient work among the children and sports movements, and numerous other points which are formulated in the Y. C. L. resolution and in joint statements of the expelled comrades.

(Continued from page 4)

The Bonus Marchers and the Press

The ex-servicemen's invasion of Washington was great news to the bourgeois press for the first several days. They headlined them on their front pages, and circulation was increasing. This spontaneous march of ex-soldiers aroused the intense interest of the whole country. In fact, the capitalist editors were just a little alarmed at the too great interest shown in these men thrown up by the class struggle. The repeated detailed descriptions of the filthy conditions under which the soldiers live, faced with starvation and disease might lead the workers of these states to a little thinking of their own. They might begin to ask questions that would make these editors just a little more uncomfortable than they already are.

The country might learn that this march of the soldiers, like the idleness and starvation of the millions of unemployed, is no accident; that, in fact, they are part of the proletariat who in addition to being put to the industrial machine and exploited like the rest of the workers, were put to the machinery of war and after being crippled and butchered for the profit of the ruling class, were cynically cast aside.

So the bourgeois editors acted in concert out of their class instinct and issued orders to their lackeys, "Retreat to the inside covers!"

And they all went under cover. The Times, the Tribune, the Post gave and are still giving miserable half-columns tucked away somewhere on the inside of the papers; or if it is more than that, it is about this financiers' scheme for the soldiers to go gold-digging in the Rockies, or something written by the president of a hobo society about the need of reviving the men's patriotism; or providing a rate of one cent for the men to go home, etc., etc.

This was to be expected. Our open enemies are not going to help the exploited workers, except by their greed, their blindness, their stupidity, which will lead to the revolutionary awakening of the masses.

But what of the journals that are not so open in their opposition to the workers? Take for example the N. Y. Telegram of which Heywood Brown, the political baboon, is a high light. The paper suddenly closed curtains on the scene of the B. E. F. Several issues (June 22 to the 25) hardly had a single line about the soldiers. Which goes to show that when any movement of the class struggle actually begins, the liberals become panicky and flee under cover.

Now the Socialist press. I have before me a copy of the June 17 issue of the American Guardian of Oklahoma City, and as it is a typical socialist party

paper, neither better nor worse than any of the others, let us examine it a little more closely. It is all the more necessary as the S. P. still camouflages itself as the workers' party.

Mr. Charles W. Erwin, eastern editor, has a long article on "The Army of Occupation". He describes the horrible conditions under which the soldiers live, the pest hole of a dump the soldiers occupy, the rottenness of the food, the filth, the stench, (and let us add to spice his description the homo-sexuality rampant in the camp).

We have no quarrel with his description. It is all damnably true. But when we came to his reflections and conclusions—listen:

"Had the workers shown less patience they would not have been compelled to come to Washington," he writes.

What would they have done if they had had less patience? Organize with the other workers and proceed by a series of demands and actions to the overthrow of the power that threw them into that last war and is now throwing them into filthy disease-infested lots—No! heaven forbid!

"They would have used their ballots—" Here we have our old ballot salesman offering solution for every evil or what ails you.

"They would have used their ballots to throw out of office and therefore (sic) out of power, those who have basely betrayed the interests of the toiling masses of this country."

By the way, what happened to the six socialist Assemblymen duly elected by the citizens of New York in 1918? The assemblymen were not seated.

The bourgeoisie put the socialists in their place even when they did happen to get elected. We need go no further in this place to show the impotence of the ballot.

But as the soldiers didn't use the ballot and consequently were thrown into butchery and now into filth, Mr. Charles Erwin now turns to—to whom?—no less a personage than that of Herbert Clark Hoover!

"Had the president had the courage," writes courageous Charlie, "the courage that one has a right to demand of one holding his high office (Sign—Demand Courage of President), he would have come out to the White House gate and pledged the men to see that they were decently taken care of while here, and that the pittance which they were asking for would be given them in the near future."

What a victory it would have been to have had the president come to the White House gate! And what a triumph it would have been to have had him pledge himself!

—EX-SOLDIER