

EDITORIAL

The Great American Skin-Game

WHEN Roosevelt said in a speech on the radio that all the steps taken under his administration fit consistently into a general program, he was right in one respect. Even if some of the shots miss...

The monetary policy is the latest illustration. Despite conflicting interests in the camp of the exploiters, the general interest of the dominant section is served at the present moment by lowering the gold content of the dollar.

The Roosevelt technique combines a ruthless aggression in the service of the imperialist masters with the most elaborate deception of the masses. The NRA, a trap for the workers and a death blow to a large section of little business people, is put through as a Magna Charta of the "people".

Roosevelt has helpers in this game. The official labor leaders testify to his friendship for labor and hail him as the heaven-sent champion. Liberals swear by his fairness.

There is no use denying the effectiveness of Roosevelt's methods of fooling the people. His skill in this respect is no small part of his value to the ruling class of America.

The Expulsions in Local 9

RECENT events in Local 9 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union bring a burning question of trade union policy to the fore. The entire executive board of the local has been removed from office after a trial by the General Executive Board of the International and the individual members of the local board are barred from holding office for two years.

Such violent infringements by reactionary officials on the autonomy of Left wing locals are an old story in the labor movement and have to be expected. The labor agents of the bosses would not be true to their mission if they did not resort to such measures against the militants.

The violation of the democratic rights of local organizations to choose their own officials is an issue which ought to rouse the rank and file against the reactionary usurpers. Under normal conditions such an issue can be one of the most effective means of struggle against them.

LABOR LEADERS AND NRA

The A. F. of L. has issued its annual business review which claims three gains for the workers under the NRA. At the same time the statement criticizes the NRA for not giving the labor leaders greater representation in the bodies set up by the code apparatus.

The three gains are qualified with a few ifs and buts which do not add clarity. No conclusions have been drawn by the statement regarding the relation of the working class to the NRA. In fact many bank reports have presented labor's problems with greater clarity.

Basic Problem Untouched The report says that 1,800,000 laborers have been put back to work. But they do not state at what weekly wage. We know that the great majority of those who returned to work have been placed on the minimum wage rate.

Green Appeals to Capitalists The A. F. of L. report devotes a couple of paragraphs to the wage slave; the rest is a warning to the capitalist class. Not a warning that the A. F. of L. will lead the workers in struggle against the capitalists, but a warning that the capitalists had better be careful lest the workers get out of control.

Reduction in Real Wages The hourly wage increase is reported to be 5 cents, and is qual-

history of the needle trades, and not only there. A Left wing which stands on firm ground and follows a correct policy can make the labor fakers pay dearly for trespassing on the rights of the rank and file.

Why is it no so in this case? What enables Dubinsky to override the local with impunity without fearing a revolt in the other locals? The answer is clear. The Left wing does not stand on firm ground. Their connection, directly or indirectly with the Industrial Union, lays them wide open to the accusation that they are working in the International only for the purpose of splitting off little sections.

Such a course is fatal for the Left wing militants in the International. It is impossible to work effectively in one union in the interest of a rival, especially a discredited rival that has no real basis to exist. This, to the workers, means more splits, and they have had enough of that for the present.

The hopeless position of the Left wing in this case, which robs it of the possibility to organize a real fight against the arbitrary actions of the bureaucrats, is another horrible example of Stalinist bankruptcy in the trade union movement.

The loss of the executive board in Local 9 by a mere order of the bureaucrats is a serious blow. But if it leads the Left wing workers to examine closely into the reasons for this defeat and to discard the tactics which made it so easily possible the lesson will be worth all it cost and more.

The Sixty-Cent Dollar

AMONG the blessings which the "New Deal" has showered down upon the American workers, the 60-cent dollar takes now a place. It is not enough for the dollars in the pay envelope to be fewer; they are now also to be smaller—almost by half.

On top of the direct wage cuts which have so fearfully reduced the income of the employed workers, there is now to be added an indirect wage cut of devastating proportions. The unemployed, half subsisting on the relief lists must suffer a drastic cut in the purchasing power of paltry relief allowances.

Every form of inflation works this way. But Roosevelt's move to cheapen the dollar strikes at the workers with exceptional force because it does not stand alone as a single measure; it follows and is tied up with other measures in the "New Deal" program which will obstruct the instinctive movement to raise the money wages proportionally.

The working masses who have taken Roosevelt at his word and trusted him as their friend are due for a double disappointment. When they draw their wages in 60-cent dollars the fine speeches, which raised such hopes, will begin to sound like a mockery. And then, when the workers begin the unavoidable fight for a readjustment of the money wages, they will find that the NRA, with all its codes and complicated machinery, stands in the way.

in control is to give us, the labor leaders, more of a hand in the affairs of the NRA and "industrial control". Such is Green's basic argument.

The report warns the capitalists that they had better get busy and not let the government take the whole initiative. Roosevelt knows how to use Green and Company—so why not you, the capitalists? The report warns against currency inflation but has praise for the other forms of inflation being carried out. The report ends by begging the capitalists and their government to give labor representation on the mechanism established with each code adopted.

Role of Labor Leaders in N. R. A. They were allowed in the first committees which were established to muffle and beat down the first strike wave. They did their job well and are reserved a place to prevent strikes and to break them. The capitalists needed them for this job and allow them to continue in this position.

To the A. F. of L. leaders' policy of class collaboration should be counterposed the workers' struggle for the organization and recognition of shop committees in every establishment. Shop committees, in conjunction with trade unions, fighting on the basis of the class struggle, constitute the apparatus which should be counterposed to the class-collaboration apparatus defended by Green & Co.

-HUGO OEHLER.

War Sparks Fly in the Far East

(Continued from page 1)

order to strengthen the Soviet Union? Is this a sign of a friendlier attitude? Not at all. The imperialist government at Washington understand the Japanese intentions at the Soviet border as well as the Japanese imperialists understand the intended American invasion of China.

Far East Tension Increases Both aim at the further partitioning of dismembered China and the further subjugation and exploitation of the Chinese masses already bled white by the imperialist robber bands. The Japanese war lords show their growing inclination to strike northward against the Soviet Union at the earliest possible date and before the latter can strengthen its industrial structure by means of closer trade relations with the United States.

Unquestionably this fits right in with the Roosevelt policies. It holds the prospects of speeding up American exports to the Soviet market and, above all, the prospects that the Japanese war lords may break their teeth at the Soviet border. After that the possibilities of American mastery in China would increase. In this sense the Amer-

The Game of American Imperialism

Those who control affairs in the United States pursue their own aims toward the Soviet Union and in relation to the Far East. No one should be deceived by the alleged peaceful intentions of Soviet recognition. It was calculated on gaining access to the huge Soviet market. But as far as the American government is concerned it was also hastened by the unbridled advance of the Japanese in Manchuria.

In which direction is Japan headed? It is pilfering sniping, intimidating and terrorizing at the Soviet border. Its military forces are pointed toward the maritime province of Vladivostok. But in any event it will also pursue the objective of further intrenchment in China. There it will encounter in the main the opposition of the United States.

The U. S. Versus Japan China is today the most coveted booty. The fewer countries that are left in the world today into which the imperialist powers can export capital profitably, that is, colonies and dependent nations, the more bitter is the fight for the subjugation and partition of such nations. It is a life and death matter for American imperialism to find these fields for greater subjugation and partition. Hence its attention is now turning more directly to the Far East.

The Japanese imperialist diplomats and military leaders understand this perfectly well. They never fail to make it clear. They never fail to mention the role of the United States in the same breath when they hurl insults against the Soviet Union. Their statements abound in belligerence. General Araki, the fire eating supreme leader of present day Japanese affairs, declared recently before the Japanese Supreme War Council that China is being supported in its anti-Japanese policies by the United States. He points to the fifty million dollar wheat and cotton loan as proof.

Japan Moving against Soviet Union In this furiously developing tension in the Far East the part played by the American government should not escape our attention. It has very special objects in the Soviet recognition in relation to this situation. It goes without saying that the Soviet Union on its side has much to gain from American recognition. But that is not what concerns the American government. The Red Army stands at the far eastern Soviet ready to defend it. The Soviet Union seeks no conquests in China. But American imperialism does, and it will contend with the Japanese for mastery as it will, contend with the other powers there to strengthen its own sphere of influence and lay hold on the vast Chinese territory.

The Japanese diplomats and military leaders, as is known, are preparing for an assault on the Soviet border. They envision the Soviet Union becoming strengthened by American credits and are undoubtedly anxious to strike before this takes place. But does the United States extend recognition and credits in

order to strengthen the Soviet Union? Is this a sign of a friendlier attitude? Not at all. The imperialist government at Washington understand the Japanese intentions at the Soviet border as well as the Japanese imperialists understand the intended American invasion of China.

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THE SILVER SHIRTS

(Continued from page 1)

between the world of the "light" and the "shade". He lectured to nice glibble Christian ladies and gentlemen on the results of the clairvoyant and clairaudient communications, undoubtedly thrilling them out of their toe nails, hoodwinking them out of all rationality and providing them with a convenient escape from the harsh realities of life. Possibly Pelley also received returns which were... not so spiritual.

We have every reason to believe that the Chief-to-be was likewise the master of ceremonies in the great sucker game known as seances. Dozens of mimeographed bulletins, called "readings", packed with this psychical hocus-pocus, were manufactured by Pelley and his associates and retailed at twenty-five cents a throw. The New Liberator is jammed from cover to cover with this metaphysical buncombe.

It seems that somewhere in the year 1932 Mr. Pelley had a new "revelation" in one of his not uncommon trances—to change his field of operations to the social world. Whether this was caused by a falling off of receipts in the old racket, a lust for power at any price, or possibly a sincere belief, after the manner of General Goering, who spent about one year in the Stockholm insane asylum as a dope addict, is not easy to say....

It is not illogical that an American Fascist movement should be started by a religious freak, a spiritualist crank. Pelley says he heard the "word" in California, a state which is known for its Alcega McPhersons, Holy-Rollers, Yogi men and a hundred other kinds and descriptions of religious nuts who are patronized by degenerated middle class elements, retired farmers of Kansas and Iowa, etc., etc. Not only California. Billy Sunday claims to have made 65,492 converts and collected (ahem!) \$120,000 in cosmopolitan New York alone in 1917. Just think of the fortune he made in the provinces, the backwoods and the hinterland.

But the Silver Shirts were started in the post-depression year, 1932, and a social platform was needed, so the Fascist jargon was taken lock, stock and barrel from the German Minister of Enlightenment, The Jews, Jewish bankers, Jewish Communists, Jewish journalists, etc., ad nauseum are responsible for all the ailments of society from the time of Adam, and especially at the present time. Unless this pest is wiped out root and branch the world will go to the dogs. We will deal with this "philosophy" in all its ramifications in the next article. For the present let us see what happened to Mr. Pelley's spiritualism.

The Psychic Transformed The transformation was: Mr. Pelley, the Psychic became Mr. Pelley, the Fascist... "Chief". Psychicism became the underlying philosophy, just as Aryanism and Teuton Gods are for Hitler and his Hitlerites. It serves a very useful purpose for... the Chief. One page or more of every issue of Liberation is devoted to this psychic-seance-medium buncombe. We wish we had space to reprint some of these revelations, for they are indeed, revelations of the depths to which man's ignorance can sink, in this late day and age, to say nothing of their unconscious humor. Above each of these "revelations" appears this gem which should give some indication of its content: "Out of the vastness of Cosmos the Psychic Antennae tune in on a Voice. If the Word was made flesh and spoke once to men, how much stronger may be its pronouncements when the handicaps of the flesh are perished? If we cannot believe

can recognition of the Soviet Union undoubtedly tends to accelerate the Japanese war plans.

But this will also show the more clearly why we should not be deceived about the peaceful intentions of the American government in granting recognition. It is plainly a matter of ruthlessly advancing the most direct interests of American imperialism. It brings the danger of imperialist war as well as the danger of an attack upon the Soviet Union much nearer.

When President Roosevelt recognized the Soviet Union the capitalist press of the country drew a clear line of demarcation between the present Stalin leadership and the former leadership of Lenin.

American imperialism remains the chief enemy of October.

-ARNE SWABECK.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE Several important articles are held over till next week on account of space limitations.

NOTE The discussion article on the NRA which is concluded on Page Two of this issue is by Harry Brand.

Furlough Protest by New York Teachers

(Continued from page 1)

ported. Lefkowitz, legislature agent of the union and leading knight in the crusade against the Left wing in the union made the report. He apologized for La Guardia; La Guardia received the delegation cordially; he had inherited a bad situation; he didn't want to cut teachers' pay; he would do it only as a last resort; if he did, it wouldn't be much, only a week or two; etc. And Lefkowitz went off to Albany to lobby in Lehman's stronghold!

The teachers were stunned by Lefkowitz's speech and his action. It was clear to them after the experience of 1932, when similar methods were employed by the union leadership in the fight against the pay cut of that year, that another sell-out was being prepared. Under the urging of the Left wing they refused to leave and shouted for La Guardia who refused to speak to them.

The Stalinist inspired Class Room Teachers Groups, a rival organization of the Teachers Union, also came down to the demonstration. Although they came in the name of a united fight against payouts they played a disruptive role. They demanded equal right with the Teachers Union, which had organized the demonstration, to send in a delegation to see La Guardia, in the name of their organization. And their delegation attempted to force its way in to La Guardia, presenting the enemy with the spectacle of a division in the ranks of the protesting teachers.

Outside the leaders of the Stalinist led Left wing group in the union urged the teachers not to have any faith in their delegation and to go in to see for themselves.

Two things emerged clearly from the demonstration. As we foretold, the problems posed by a militant fight would help to expose the policy of the union administration, and make it possible to discredit its conservative and even treacherous leadership. On the other hand when the teachers were confronting the class enemy and needed the unity the Stalinist directed Left wing group in the union and its counterpart outside the union appeared in the role of disrupters. Of both these facts the teachers should take note.

Mystery Shrouds Fascist Killing of Van der Lubbe

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zig on September 28. Soedermann denied having claimed to be a Professor or even a medical doctor, affirmed he did not and could not make a medical examination, and told this story:

A Dutch journalist was allowed to visit Van der Lubbe on behalf of his family. The authorities invited Soedermann to go along. He accepted because of his life-long interest in criminal psychology. On emerging, he remarked that Van der Lubbe "looked all right." The prison officials and Wolff—or both—translated this vague statement of a layman into a clean bill of health from a qualified medical expert and "Professor".

There is no way of telling whether Soedermann speaks the truth when he disclaims responsibility for this bit of Nazi swindling. But in any case it is clear that the Nazis wanted to cover something up about Van der Lubbe's condition. And a dead man tells no tales. But the four men tied with Van der Lubbe are still alive. Despite their acquittal they remain in the clutches of the Nazis. The world proletariat must continue the fight to save them from the fate of Van der Lubbe. —HENRY STRANG.

GROCERY CODE

Affecting over one million workers, the retail food and grocery code recently signed by President Roosevelt, provides for starvation conditions. A maximum 48-hour and 6-day week, with many employers exempt, and basic weekly minimum wages from \$10 in cities of less than 2,500 population to \$15 in those of more than 500,000, are offered the food workers in the latest code under the NRA. Here is a real case for union organization.

CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL LABOR FORUM 2257 North Avenue Every Sunday Afternoon, 3 P. M. JANUARY SCHEDULE Jan. 28—Germany: An Evaluation of the Present Situation from a Socialist Viewpoint. A Lecture by Arthur McDowell, Nat'l. Chairman, Young Peoples Socialist League