

WORKERS
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UNITE

THE MILITANT



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Toward the Fourth International

Revolutionary Youth Meet In International Conference

Another Step on the Road to the New International

(Ed. Note.—Albert Glotzer, the author of the following article, has just returned from the International Youth Conference held at Luxemburg, Belgium which he attended as the representative of the Spartacus Youth organizations of the United States.)

The international youth conference, called by the youth section of the Independent Socialist Party of Holland for the purpose of discussing the international situation and the tasks of the youth, was dispersed two hours after convening by the Dutch police, acting under the instructions of the Minister of Justice.

On February 24th, noon, delegates representing independent socialist and communist youth organizations from over fifteen countries of Europe and America, gathered at Amsterdam, and in a body proceeded to the town of Laren, one hour away. The police entered the conference while it was in the stage of organizing itself, arrested the 19 foreign delegates and drove them away by bus to the Laren jail. There the delegates were divided into two groups, one remaining at the Laren jail and the bulk of the delegates transferred to the investigating prison at Amsterdam.

German Delegates Landed over to Hitler Police

Four German comrades who remained in the Laren jail were summarily handed over to the Hitler police by the mayor of the town, despite the active intervention of comrade Snelvlet of the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Holland and a member of the Dutch Parliament. The delegates transferred under heavy guard to Amsterdam (three Germans, two Norwegians, two Americans, one Frenchman, two Belgians one Swiss and one Pole), were deported to Belgium, after remaining for two days in prison where they were severely cross-examined, photographed and fingerprinted.

If the "democratic" Dutch regime thought that by this dastardly act they had thereby prevented the actually convening of the conference they were to be rudely disappointed. While in prison the confined comrades prepared for the reassembling of the deported delegates and the holding of a conference. Luxemburg was chosen as its meeting place. On Monday, February 26th, the deportations were effected and on Tuesday evening a plenary session was held by the deported delegates under illegal conditions at Luxemburg.

Conference Reorganized

The original conference was initiated by the Independent Socialist Party Youth of Holland. With the events in Holland, it became clear that the conference would have to be completely reorganized. The plenary session decided that the conference, while having its origin in Holland was actually a new conference, and resolved to hold it in

the name of the International Communist League and the Socialist Workers Party of Germany. The plenum agreed upon an agenda for the conference and decided to issue a manifesto to the international working class movement denouncing the actions of the reactionary Dutch regime and calling upon all organizations to voice their protests.

On Wednesday, February 28th, the conference convened. The following organizations were represented:

1. The Youth Secretariat of the International Communist League, representing the youth sections of

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National Tour of Shachtman Builds For the New Party

Reports of preparations for Shachtman meetings in the important cities all the way to the Pacific coast vie with the reports of successful meetings already held on the national tour. Outstanding is the fact that he has, amongst the many other important activities, spoken upon invitation before various workers organizations. In Dorchester, Mass., a well attended meeting of the shoe workers club listened to the viewpoint of the League on trade union questions. In Tonawanda N. Y. a fine meeting of the local Unemployment League, with about one hundred in attendance, voiced its approval of the message presented by comrade Shachtman by insisting upon another engagement on his return trip. In Chelsea, Mass., he spoke to a meeting of the Labor Lyceum having an attendance of 120.

The biggest and most spirited meetings so far were held in Canada. In Toronto a mass meeting of 300 was followed by a banquet netting some funds not only to help cover expenses of this widely extended tour, but also to finance some initial steps toward establishing our Canadian section on an autonomous basis. In Montreal over a hundred workers attended Shachtman's meeting.

The main subject on the tour covers the new party project. The tour is part of a concerted drive by the League. The problem of the new party and our views in regard to it are being presented to the American workers by comrade Shachtman in the public meetings.

In St. Francisco and Los Angeles big preparations are under way to utilize to the fullest extent the first League speaker to cross the continent. The balance of the schedule on the outgoing part of the tour appears on page two.

Dutch Police Deport Youth Delegates to Germany!

The international conference of revolutionary youth organizations, for the purpose of discussing the present international situation and the tasks of the youth, was called for Saturday, February 24th, at Laren, Holland, to last for three days. Many delegates from Europe and America were present. At 10.00 p. m. on Saturday, this conference was raided by city and state police.

The orders for this disruption came from the chief prosecutor in Amsterdam, acting under the direction of the minister of justice. Passports were inspected. About twenty foreign comrades were arrested, allegedly because they had no residence permit. After being questioned at the Laren prison, a majority of the young comrades were taken to the police headquarters at Amsterdam and deported to Belgium two days later. Four German com-

rades were held in the Laren police station. The four comrades, Kurt Liebermann, Frank Bobzien, Hans Goldstein, members of the Socialist Workers Party of Germany, and Heinz Hese, a member of the Internationalist Communist League of Germany, were handed over directly by the Dutch police to the Hitler police.

Democratic Holland has been guilty of the same crime which once earned for imperial Germany the contempt of the masses of the world. Just as Bismarck and Bulow turned Russian revolutionaries over to the Czarist Ochrana, so the Dutch government has delivered young German revolutionaries into Hitler's hands. That means they have delivered these revolutionaries up to jail, concentration camp, the terror dungeons of the Nazis—perhaps to death.

This is not the first case. Only a short time ago an anti-Fascist who had escaped from a concentration camp was driven back over the German border by the Dutch police.

It is not alone the Internationalist Communist League and the Socialist Workers Party which are affected by this shameful persecution. Every German enemy of Fascism, every exile, whatever his political position is also menaced. This atrocious act, should be a warning to the international working class. Taking place in "democratic" Holland, it is a signal begin at once, without delay, to resist this march of reaction.

Workers of all countries, all anti-Fascist parties and organizations must raise their voices in protest against this accomplice's service to the bloody Hitler regime. There must be brought upon those responsible a pressure so powerful that such crimes must not and cannot be repeated.

Lining Up For Big May Day Edition Of the Militant

The issue of April 28th will be a special May Day issue. It will contain special material appropriate for the general significance of May 1st, and for its special significance this year in view of our efforts to build the Fourth International and a new Communist Party in the United States.

We want to feature a long list of revolutionary greetings to the New Communist Party of the Fourth International and its banner bearer, **The Militant**. We expect that all the branches in the League will send such greetings in their own name and that the organizations sympathetic to the League will do likewise.

Individual comrades, sympathizers, and friends may also wish to send such greetings. The comrades who solicit greetings should carefully explain that where a comrade does not wish to have his name appear in print his request will be complied with. In such cases we suggest that the greeter use another name or initials or simply some signature such as "a friend."

The greeting rate are as follows: One inch, one column—One Dollar; Two inches, one column—\$1.50; Five inches—\$3.00; For two column greetings the rates are double. Individual names—\$.25.

May 1st, as always, will be the occasion for demonstrations, parades, mass meetings, lectures, forums, and social affairs. The opportunity for the distribution and sale of **The Militant** will be exceptionally great. From the political point of view it is a first class opportunity to strike a blow for the New Party. The machinery requir-

The New Strike Wave

The Automobile Workers Revolt

THE automobile workers, poised for a mighty struggle for the rights and demands which the "New Deal" promised but did not give, are heralding the advent of the new strike wave which will most likely swing hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of rebellious workers into aggressive action. "The worst epidemic of strikes in our history," which General Johnson foretold and tried to head off, is knocking at the door.

The new strike movement will be deeper than last year's, more militant and more difficult to pacify with empty promises and patriotic demagoguery. It will encounter fierce resistance from the industrial overlords and their mercenaries, and this, in turn, will call forth great resources of working class courage, endurance and sacrifice. The impending class battles will mark an important step on the road to the class awakening of the American workers and, consequently, to their political organization.

The emergence of the automobile workers as the vanguard of the impending struggles invests the entire labor movement with a new force of incalculable energy and power. The machine proletariat, the most powerful and dynamic section of the class, hitherto unorganized and quiescent, is bestirring itself and organizing for action. No wonder the politicians and the conservative labor leaders scurry like rabbits in fear of the strike! Once the machine proletariat gets into mass action the relations of capital and labor, as well as the internal situation of the labor movement, will undergo a pronounced change. A trade union movement dominated by the factory proletariat would be too wild a horse for Green & Co. to ride.

The NRA machinery, as such, failed to satisfy the auto workers or to hold them back. It required the direct intervention of President Roosevelt to effect a postponement of the general strike scheduled for Wednesday. The breakdown of the NRA in the situation is a powerful blow to its prestige. The express determination of the automobile workers to strike for the enforcement of their demands signals a profound change in their attitude toward the NRA.

Last year they believed a promise—now they proceed to independent action. The greatest danger to the strike movement now comes from Roosevelt directly. His strategy of delay is the strategy of the bosses. Now is the time to strike. The workers will make a great error if they allow the action to be delayed while the bosses continue their preparations and the edge is taken off the strike spirit in endless negotiations at Washington.

The forces are lining up along the whole front for the greatest labor struggle since the post-war days; possibly, as General Johnson predicted, "the worst epidemic of strikes in our history". In this impending struggle the masses will confront a different attitude on the part of the Roosevelt administration, the NRA and all the rest of the governmental machinery. Once the strike wave takes on real scope and militancy, once it becomes clear that the old game of ballyhoo and promise does not suffice to stop the strikes, the iron hand will come out of the velvet glove. The Government will demonstrate very quickly whose side it takes.

All the forces of the capitalist order will be lined up against the workers. These include not only the Government from top to bottom, but also the entire upper stratum of the official labor leaders. In breaking through the net of the NRA and coming directly to grips with the capitalist masters, the revolting workers will also collide at every turn with the constricting barriers of the A. F. of L. structure and the treacherous policy of its leaders. At the crucial moment these leaders will fight the strikes openly. Many of the strikes will be branded as "outlaw" movements and will have to proceed independently.

In this prospect of stormy struggle of the masses, with enemies assailing them from every side, and the government taking off the mask and the labor leaders showing their true colors—in this stormy movement the working class of America will find itself, clarify its aims and march with seven league boots on the path toward revolutionary action. The formation of a revolutionary party which could aid and guide this process is the most important task of the hour.

New York Taxi Drivers Continue Militant Fight For Union

The taxi drivers of New York City are striking back at the growing menace of company unions. The Panken-Ernest "settlement" of the February strike left the men without recognition of their union and constituted an encouragement to the fleet owners to proceed with the organization of company unions. One of the largest, Parmelee, presented the men with an ultimatum: Either sign up in the company union, or get out. The men struck.

After eight days of an indecisive struggle, the union called a general strike. The estimates of the response vary from 27 to 45 thousand. The main demand is recognition of the union and abolition of the black list. Economic demands have been put forward and are substantially the same as those advanced in the last strike, providing for a minimum wage of \$22 a week on the day shift, and \$25 on the night; maximum hours, no discrimination against negro drivers who are allowed to drive only cabs which by their distinctive markings are recognizable as having negro drivers.

Picketing has been organized at the garages and squads are out on the street to prevent scab cabs from trying to break the strike. The spirit of the men is militant and they are clear on the central issue involved; a working class organization controlled by them, or a company union.

ed to sell the paper on this day should be carefully organized now. You will need a much larger number of papers than you take now. Please send in your order for the additional copies as soon as you can and MAKE SURE THAT IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENT FOR THEM as our financial situation is still such as to make it impossible to undertake the printing of a larger issue unless it is paid for IN ADVANCE. The bundle order rate for this issue will be the same, one cent a copy.

A complicating factor is the independent owner-driver, for whom a strike against the fleet owners is an opportunity to reap a golden harvest. There are enough independent cabs in New York City to break a strike. In the former strike the union attempted to prevent the independents from working. In the present strike they're trying to work out a sort of compromise arrangement. The union is trying to organize the independents into the union and has come to an agreement with them by which the independents pay three dollars a day each into the treasury of the union.

There is yet no sign of an attempt on the part of the union to spread the strike to other sectors of transportation. In our opinion this is a necessary step which should be carried out without delay. The workers of the Fifth Avenue Coach Company are smarting under the tyranny of the company which has imposed a company union on them and through the use of pies prevented them from voting for an independent union in the recent NRA elections. The issue for which the taxi drivers are fighting is the same one for which the Fifth Avenue Coach Company will struggle tomorrow. An appeal to them must find a warm response. Serious and energetic efforts to pull them out on the same issue have more than a fair chance of success. A common fight would

increase the chances of both to win against the bosses.

Hostile to NRA

The general strike of the taxi-drivers occurs during the preparation of a local code for the industry. The code provides a twelve dollar minimum, and its other provisions are of a similar generous nature. The attitude of the taxi drivers toward the NRA is one of hostility. The Regional Labor Board, which functioned so well against the hotel strike, is trying to intervene by arranging conferences to settle the strike. The union has expressed its willingness to attend the conferences, but the fleet owners have not. The men should be on guard against any attempt on the part of Herrick and Golden to play the same tricks on them which they played on the hotel strikers and other workers.

The impending strike of the auto workers is of the utmost importance to the taxi drivers. Not only is the issue of the right of workers to organize in their own organizations the same, but both have exactly the same enemies in the most direct and immediate sense. The Parmelee Company is owned or controlled by Cord Motors, makers of the Auburn and Cord cars. General Motors owns outright the Terminal cabs and controls, through a weighted mortgage coverage system, the Radio cabs.

The strike of the auto workers will shake the auto industry to the ground and increase the chances for a successful outcome of the taxi strike. The two struggles are really one. The workers should be united in fraternal bonds of solidarity.

The Strange Adventures of Insull

The doings and goings of Samuel Insull, formerly of Chicago, more recently resident of Athens, Greece, and decidedly well known to certain United States utility stockholders, has flared excitedly on the headlines of newspapers these past few days. It seems that on Wednesday afternoon, March 14th, 1934, the 74 year old gentleman surreptitiously slipped out of his Grecian home. Although reported sick in bed suffering from heart attacks, the indomitable Insull was not the man to be kept down.

With the police guarding the building, how he managed to make his getaway is subject to various versions. One story has it that he escaped through the back door, while another states he left by the front door in disguise. One can have his choice or develop his own hypothesis. We are inclined to think that the two versions are credible. Back in Chicago, Samuel had learned that a front door disguise plus a back door method could accomplish something, and why not in Greece?

Insull was to have been deported from Greece under the Undesirable Aliens Act. There had been several postponements due to his alleged sickness. Instead of waiting to be properly and legally deported in accordance with all the Greek regulations, the ungrateful Insull

secretly departs by himself, charts the freighter Malotis, and away he sails.

Such flaunting of Greek regulations could not be tolerated by the Greek government. When the ex-millionaire's disappearance was discovered a wireless was dispatched to the captain of the ship ordering his immediate return. An airplane with machine guns was placed in readiness in case the captain should prove stubborn. The cables from Athens failed to mention whether the navy war vessels were mobilized, but we assume as much. Anyway the ship returned.

Now, it was believed, Insull's recall would mean that the agents of the United States Department of Justice would at last get him. But alas! The Malotis had been recalled but not for that purpose. The ship returned, Insull's papers properly stamped, the prestige of the Greek government saved, the regulations duly observed, and Insull sailed away again.

For what port is Insull sailing? It is rumored he wishes to go to Abyssinia. There it is said they want him as an advisor in the building of power interests in Africa. The spirit of emulation has seized some of the Abyssinian officials. If it can be done in Chicago, why not in Abyssinia? —G. E.

Mass Delegations On CWA Work Go to Washington

Mass delegations of CWA workers from New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Camden will converge on Washington, Saturday, March 24th and unite in presenting their demands to Hopkins and Roosevelt.

Hopkins' instructions to State relief organizations, the gist of which appeared in the press March 20th, make clear even to the most conservative workers what the government's program will be if the workers do not stop it. "Between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 persons will be on work relief, Hopkins says, which, translated into practice, means at most one out of four on CWA now will continue.

The rates will be at a minimum of 30c an hour "provided that weekly earnings shall not exceed the budget", employment is limited to 24 hours a week, and Hopkins estimates that wages in large cities—which in theory are to have the highest wages—"will be about \$12 a week." And for the overwhelming majority of the unemployed, if they can get it—Home Relief.

Faced with this pauper wage under pauper conditions, the CWA workers could have chosen no more propitious time for marching on Washington. The New York delegation is being organized by a joint committee of the Associated Office & Professional Emergency Employees, Association of Civil Works Employees, Emergency Workers in Adult Education, Tenement House CWA Employees, and the Workers Unemployed Union. Mass meetings and rallies have been and are being held throughout the city and scores of thousands of leaflets distributed.

In order to leave and return the same day and spend as much time as possible in Washington, the Joint Committee has chartered a special train. The fare is \$4 round trip. All CWA workers are asked to come and raise funds to send other workers from their job. A drive is being made to get indorsement and funds from trade unions and other workers and fraternal organizations to pay or supplement fares of the lower-wage CWA workers.

The Stalinist-controlled "United Action on CWA" responded to the Washington call by going into competition with it. At a mass meeting March 19th at Stuyvesant Casino, the previous "face" for the Stalinists, the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians, receded into the background and the Unemployed Councils came forward. The Stalinists shoved through a motion to boycott the Washington delegation. Instead, the Unemployed Councils decided to send its own "United Action" to Washington a week later! This is a typical continuation of the disruptive activity of the Stalinists in the unemployed movement during the years of the crisis.

The answer of all militant workers is to support the Joint Committee's "On to Washington" drive and join the delegation on Saturday, March 24. Any time up to Friday night, arrangements can be made to go, at the headquarters of the Joint Committee, 22 East 22nd St. —EMERGENCY EMPLOYEE.

The Question of the Hour!

THE PROGRAM OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

a Lecture by

JAMES P. CANNON

IRVING PLAZA HALL
15th Street and Irving Place

SUNDAY, MARCH 25th, 8 P.M.

Admission 15c Questions and Discussion

Court Hits At Substitute Teachers

About 700 New York City high school teachers, fully licensed, but compelled by an "economy"-seeking Board of Education to work as substitute at a lower rate of pay than the regularly appointed teachers, were turned back in their fight for permanent jobs by a decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on March 16th.

Several months ago the teachers went to court to compel the Board to make appointments in conformity with the law. Supreme Court Justice, Wasservogel handed down a decision in favor of the teachers. The Board of Education appealed the decision and won its case. The teachers are now making preparations to carry the fight further.

There are some lessons which the teachers can draw from the fight which they made. One of the most important is the fact that they conducted a divided struggle. The proceedings were instituted, both by organizations of unemployed teachers, the High School Eligible Association influenced by the Lovestonettes, and the Unemployed Teachers Association which follows a Stalinist policy.

The Eligibles Association conducted a strictly legal fight placing its faith in the "processes of justice".

In this struggle it was assisted by the conservative administration of the Teachers Union which contributed funds and sent a speaker to a mass meeting. The administration of the union, saw in the factional division of the unemployed an opportunity to strike at the U. T. A. which is hostile to it and to which it is hostile. While it supported the fight of the Eligibles Association it refused to have anything to do with the case of the U. T. A.

The Unemployed Teachers Association tried to rally mass pressure behind its legal fight. It held a number of mass meetings, organized protests at the sessions of the Board of Education, and was instrumental in getting a number of organizations to send protest telegrams to the judges who heard the case. Like its prototypes, the Unemployed Councils it succeeded, more than anything else, in demonstrating its impotence in face of the serious issue and its sectarian isolation from the main stream of the teachers movement.

Of these facts the teachers should take careful note. The first prerequisite for a successful struggle to secure relief is unity, unity among the unemployed, and unity of the employed and unemployed. —E. L.