

WORKERS  
OF THE  
WORLD.  
UNITE

# THE MILITANT



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## All Together Against Reaction on May Day

Last year's May Day demonstrations were held under the slogan of solidarity with the German workers and against advancing Fascism. Since that time the heroic fight of the Austrian workers and socialist was drowned in blood and now murderous Clerical Fascism with its program of black reaction rules in Austria. Ominous signs of the advance of Fascism are to be seen in France, and to a greater or less extent in all countries in the capitalist world.

With the victory of Hitler it should have been apparent, even to the blind, that reaction would push forward in other countries. The need of the hour then was a united front of all labor organizations, political, economic, and fraternal, to crush the growing Fascist danger in their home countries and to give aid to their brothers elsewhere.

Decaying capitalism with no other way out of its crisis is resorting to the arming of murderous bands for the crushing of every semblance of independent working class organization. Faced with a divided working class it marches forward everywhere. The heroism of Communists, Socialists, and trade union members in Austria, in Italy and in the prison camps of Hitler serve but to show the devotion, courage and readiness to struggle in the ranks of the workers, which if united could smash the Fascist menace in one country after another.

Another May Day, the day of labor solidarity, is at hand. Shall it reveal to our enemies a working class unable to unite its forces in face of the Fascist butcher? That is the question for every worker in whatever organization he may be found to ask himself now.

War preparations go on at a feverish pace. Japan openly prepares for an attack on the Soviet Union. Europe is a powder barrel awaiting the spark. Conflicting imperialist forces have made a shambles of several countries of South America. The United States, while cutting off hundreds of thousands of unemployed from the relief rolls and refusing to make any attempt to provide unemployment insurance, is at the same time spending billions on naval, military and aerial armaments. Division of forces on this May 1st is a crime. To admit that a united front demonstration against Fascism and war cannot be formed is to admit the triumph of black reaction and the destruction of all labor organization.

Workers of New York, delegates to this May Day Conference, you must not and cannot admit such an outcome. Reports appear in the capitalist press of the arming of groups in New York akin to the Fascists in Europe. Nazi open air meetings, largely attended, are being held in New York. Brown shirts, Khaki shirts, Silver shirts, spring up in different parts of the country. Nazi bands are organizing and arming in all large cities. This rising danger must be crushed. One united front May Day demonstration against war and fascism will strike terror into their hearts. It will send a surge of joy and militancy into the breasts of workers throughout the land.

We propose:  
1. That this conference elect a representative committee and propose a meeting with a similar committee from the united front May Day conference called by the Communist Party.

2. That a program for a united May Day demonstration be worked out covering all the details of the organization of the demonstration.

### On Father Coughlin

Those who are interested in knowing how a government run by Father Coughlin under the guidance of the Holy Father in Rome would function, can take a look at Austria. A new constitution has been drawn up. "Laws are to emanate from God the Almighty." The Roman Catholic Church is to be a specially privileged state-supported institution. An agreement with the Pope will govern the educational and religious training. There will be no freedom of speech, the stage, the movies, the press, or the radio. Priests, professional men, industrialists, and government bureaucrats will compose the five chambers of the state which are being set up. The workers can work or starve, but in silence. This is the kind of state that stands behind the words of the demagogue, Coughlin.

### Dryer Taken to Court by A.F. of L. Union Official

I. Dreyer, managing editor of the Union Pharmacist, official publication of the Pharmacists' Union of Greater New York, has recently appeared before Magistrate J. Goldstein on a charge of criminal libel. He is accused by E. Roy Denise, eastern representative of the Retail Clerk's International Protective Association, A. F. of L. and also organizer of the American Pharmacists' Union, organized by him six months ago in opposition to the Pharmacists' Union of Greater New York.

An article, exposing the anti-union activities of Mr. Denise, appeared in the March issue of the Union Pharmacist. Mr. Denise, in his attempt to stifle criticism not only of another organization but also of oppositionists in his outfit, has applied for help to the capitalist court.

Upon cross examination by the lawyer for the defense, Mr. Denise admitted something that throws a glaring light on the character of this individual. He refused an offer made to him by the Pharmacists' Union of Greater New York to publish his refutations of the charges made in the "Libelous article" and also their offer of a platform before the membership of both organizations. However, the fact that Mr. Denise has chosen the capitalist platform in preference to the workers' platform can only testify to the anti-working class makeup of this "great labor organizer."

This case is of great interest to all the advanced and militant elements in the labor movement. Attempts of reactionary elements to stifle criticism and establish a censorship on the radical labor press by means of court action must be fought bitterly. This case again illustrates the need of a genuine united front for non-partisan labor defense. It is high time to form it!

The second general strike of the New York taxi drivers has ended in a second defeat for the workers and a victory for the bosses and reaction. None of the demands put forward by the Taxi Drivers Union has been won. The collapse of the strike—that is what it was—coming on top of the betrayal of the auto workers, has strengthened the chances of the company union which the auto bosses are seeking to foist on the taxi drivers here in New York.

The strike was defeated by the combined forces of the companies who imported gangsters from Chicago to supplement the home supply, the police who drove scab cars and rode in them to provoke attacks by pickets, the yellow press which tried to frame up bombings on the union, the Mayor and his mediators, the NRA doves of peace, Mrs. Herrick and Golden, the Socialist Party which sabotaged the strike and went in for a vicious red-baiting campaign in the union, and the mistakes of the leadership.

**Politics in the Strike**  
On every one of these points there is much to say; from each lesson to be drawn for the future strikes of the taxi workers and the workers movement as a whole. Because of the limitation of space we want to confine ourselves here to one outstanding point of this remarkable strike: the extraordinary political nature of the situation in the union and its relation to the strike.

For years the New York taxi drivers have been the prey of racketeers and bourgeois politicians. The thinking of many of them stood closer to that of the underworld and the cop than it did to that of the working class movement. That they have now made great strides toward thinking and acting like militant workers is an enormous plus for them as well as for the whole movement. Our hand is extended to them in fraternal solidarity for common struggle against the common enemy.

When La Guardia was campaigning for the mayoralty he sent his agents into the ranks of the taxi drivers to line up their vote for his new deal. Through Gandall, he built an organization which served him well in the campaign. It was one of the four organizations which later merged to constitute the present union. Gandall became the leader of the first general strike in February.

### Committee Organized to Aid Anthony Bellussi

After a protracted struggle, Anthony Bellussi, militant anti-Fascist and active trade-unionist of Wilkes Barre, Pa., has won the right of voluntary departure from the United States. To assist him in financing his trip, the sole method of saving him from being turned over to Mussolini by the U. S. government, a Bellussi Anti-Fascist Dinner Committee has been organized. Sentenced to deportation to Fascist Italy, Bellussi is now enabled to escape from the clutches of the Mussolini regime which has for years desired to punish him for his working class activities in Italy.

Bellussi spent ten months in jail before his case could be settled. At first the I. L. D. pretended interest in his fate, but when Bellussi refused to repudiate his friendship to the Communist League of America, the I. L. D. lost its enthusiasm for the cause of this anti-Fascist. In the end the fight had to be carried on by the friends of comrade Bellussi with the aid of the American Civil Liberties Union. After winning the right of voluntary departure, Bellussi was released on bail, bail money being provided by the American Civil Liberties Union.

His last month in America is being spent in New York. Bellussi plans to sail for South America before May 1. The members of the Dinner Committee are Roger Baldwin, James Buzend, James Burnham, Louis P. Cannon, Elliot E. Cohen, Max Eastman, Herman Gund, Sidney Hook, Rose Karsner, A. J. Muste, Elinor Rice, James Rorty, Herbert Solow and Carlo Tresca.

The Bellussi Dinner will be held Friday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Stuyvesant Casino, Second Avenue and 9th Street. Admission is 50 cents. The speakers of the evening, in addition to Comrade Bellussi, will be James P. Cannon of the Communist League; A. J. Muste of the American Workers Party; Quincy Howe, editor of The Living Age; Herbert Solow of the Provisional Committee for Non-Partisan Labor Defense; and Carlo Tresca, editor of Il Martello. Important new features of the general fight against Fascism and reaction and on behalf of political refugees will be taken up by several of the speakers. After dinner admission to hear the speakers will be 15 cents.

Tickets may be ordered and tables reserved through Elinor Rice, treasurer of the Bellussi Anti-Fascist Dinner Committee, 151 East 83rd Street, N. Y. or through the City Committee of the Communist League of America, 128 East 16th Street. The League urges all its friends to support the Bellussi Anti-Fascist Dinner Committee in every way. Those who cannot possibly attend are urged to send a contribution to the Committee for the fund to finance Bellussi's trip.

Comrade Bellussi appeared at the Spring Festival of the League at Irving Plaza last Saturday and was given a rousing reception. Contributions to aid the expenses of his journey were made as follows:

Fein	.....\$2.00
Lieberman, B.	..... 1.00
Beadsley, M.	..... 1.00
Becker, J.	..... 1.00
Sterling, M.	..... 1.00
Jimmy	..... .50
Saul, G.	..... .25
Dollinger, A.	..... 2.00
Bleeker, S.	..... 1.00
Collection	..... 2.45
Total	.....\$12.20

The collapse of the strike gave a great stimulus to the centrifugal forces in the union working through the political contradictions. The union now hangs by a thread. The influence of the Communist Party is almost all and that is a good thing. But the influence of the Socialist and Democratic parties has increased and that is a bad thing.

**Future Lines**  
The solution lies on the road of building a broad left wing of all progressive elements in the union. The task of building a left wing in this union is a part of the larger problem of building a new left wing in the trade union movement. That is a task of the new party. The Communist League can make a beginning now.

The taxi strike was of the utmost importance for the labor movement. Had it been successful it could have given a great impetus to the struggle against company unionism, and encouraged the workers in the gigantic transportation industry in New York to organize and struggle for the betterment of their conditions. As the situation stands now it is without positive gains. The two strikes will enter into the annals of the working class as splendid demonstrations of working class militancy. And if the union survives, even without recognition, it will be an important toe-hold for the labor movement in one of the most important domains of Wall Street's vast empire.

Contradictions Come Out  
The contradictions in the union did not appear in their full importance until the strike reached its peak and stopped growing. When it landed in the bog of capitalist politics the impact of the strike-breaking efforts of all the capitalist agencies caused the political lines in the union to be drawn very sharply. In the main the line was drawn over the issue of radicalism and its responsibility for the difficult position of the strike. First honors in the reactionary business of red-baiting go to the Socialist Party which seized on this moment to take its undercover campaign into the open. Under its guiding hand the Bronx local passed a motion calling for a fight against Communist influence in the union. Gilbert was dropped from his leading position and a Tammany lawyer took his place in the negotiations at City Hall. Orner's popularity saved him from a similar fate.

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## Appeal to the Young Workers of the World

A conference of representatives of independent proletarian youth organizations was called for February 24th to 26th at Laren, in Holland. The object of this Conference was to draw the lessons of the catastrophe in the German labor movement, of the crisis of the international labor movement, and, particularly, the proletarian youth movement.

Unemployment and super-exploitation—evils which at the same time are contradictory and supplementary—are both the consequences of the terrible world economic crisis which effects especially the proletarian youth. This youth, however, has not reacted to the blows of capitalism by revolutionary means. On the contrary. The crudest form of capitalist oppression, Fascism, threatens to attract to itself a great part of the youth and to submit them to two dangers: heightened exploitation and imperialist wars. The two international organizations claiming to represent the interests of working-class youth, the Young Socialists and the Young Commun-

### Arrest Leaders of The Cuban Labor Movement

Through La Prensa, Spanish daily printed in New York, we are apprised of the arrest of the whole leadership of the Labor Federation of Havana. The police surprised a meeting of the Plenum of the Federation while in session, placing all of the members under arrest. Among these is Sandallo Junco, one of the most prominent labor figures of the island and one of the outstanding leaders of the Bolshevik-Leninist Party (Cuban Section of the League of Communist Internationalists) which has been extremely active in the heroic struggles of the Cuban proletariat.

The Mendieta government is undoubtedly determined to crush the "counter-revolutionary Trotskyists" and the labor organizations in which they are actively participating and playing a leading role. The lackeys of imperialism hope that a blow at the revolutionary vanguard will cripple the workers in the sharp struggles that are now being waged.

**A Veteran Militant**  
Comrade Junco, the only one of those arrested to be named in the dispatches, is a baker by trade and has long been prominent in the struggles of his own industry in particular and in the general labor movement. He affiliated with the Communist Party when it was first organized and was forced to flee to Mexico in order to escape the Machado terror. While in exile he occupied for a while the secretaryship of the Caribbean Secretariat of the RILU and participated in several international conferences. After returning to Cuba, Junco was expelled from the party following a series of conflicts with the irresponsible bureaucracy.

The Labor Federation of Havana, while in reality a provincial federation, has considerable influence throughout the island, and most of the democratic, militant and non-Stalinist unions of the island are associated with it in its mass activities. It was the Labor Federation of Havana that maintained the general political strike against the Machado regime in August of last year, at a time when the Stalinist controlled National Confederation of Labor capitulated to Machado, ordering the workers to return to their jobs, as soon as the economic demands had been granted by the dictator.

The smashing of the Cuban unions would infinitely strengthen the position of American imperialism, facilitating its attacks on the wage standards of the workers of the United States as well. The American workers must be roused to defend their class brothers in Cuba. Demand the release of Sandallo Junco and all Cuban class war prisoners!

### THE PROGRAM OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

Speaker: ARNE SWABECK  
1330 Wilkins Avenue  
Sunday, April 15th at 8 P.M.  
Admission 15c

Questions Discussion  
Audience: Bronx Branch C. L. of A.

ist International (Y. C. I.) are faced by these forces on dangerous. Their dependence and reformism and Stalinism has condemned these two organizations to impotence.

It was to find a way out of this situation, and to prepare and organize the consolidation of all revolutionary forces of the international proletarian youth that there assembled the representatives of independent revolutionary youth organizations and groups of Holland, Belgium, France, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Roumania, Greece, Spain, United States and Australia.

But the Dutch bourgeoisie, reputed to be one of the most liberal on the Continent, is so afraid of the revival of the proletarian youth movement that, on the very first day of the Conference, it brought about the arrest of all the foreign participants and, after two days of imprisonment, expelled them. Four German anti-Fascists were carried to the German frontier and given up to the mercies of the paid henchmen of Hitler.

Deeply conscious of the enormous importance for the world proletarian youth of the holding of this Conference, the representatives of various organizations and countries participating reassembled in Luxembourg in order to continue the Conference.

The present Conference calls upon the working-class youth of the world to support its protest against the actions of the Dutch bourgeoisie.

Furthermore, the Conference declares that no step, however reactionary, whether taken by the bourgeoisie of Holland or any other country, can prevent it from carrying out its international tasks. And it addresses the following call to the world working-class youth: Fight its abominable demagogues, and understand its real role as the mercenary hanger-on of capitalism!

Fascism destroys both the organizations and the social and political rights of the working class. It submits the youth, to working and living conditions like those of ancient slavery. Fascism intensifies to a high degree the contradictions of the capitalist system and makes possible at any time terrible explosions, destructive wars over whole continents.

It is necessary to see the whole extent of the danger. It is necessary to begin the struggle against these dangers on every sector, and on the basis of the broadest united front.

The undersigned organizations represented at the Conference of Luxembourg therefore propose to all organizations of working class youth, a campaign for:

1. The most relentless ideological and physical struggle against Fascism.
2. Against war, against chauvinist and militarist propaganda, against the militarization of the youth.
3. For the defense of democratic rights of the proletariat and its organizations.
4. For reductions in the working hours of proletarian youth without wage cuts.
5. Against forced labor of youth.
6. For the defense of the U. S. S. R. as the workers' State.

**Signed:**  
Union of Young Socialists of Holland  
Revolutionary Youth Union of Holland  
Young Socialist Union of Germany  
Young Workers Union of Norway  
Youth Group of the Communist League of Struggle (U. S. A.)  
Bolshevik-Leninist Youth (International Communist League): International Communist Youth of Germany; Young Leninists of France; Young Bolshevik-Leninists of Belgium; Spartacus Youth (U. S. A. and Canada); Marxist Youth Action (Switzerland); Young Bolshevik-Leninists of Greece, Spain, Czechoslovakia, and Australia  
Mot Dag Group (Norway)  
Federation of Young Communists of Sweden  
Federation of Young Socialists of Roumania  
Unitary Federation of Young Workers of France

## END OF THE NEW YORK TAXI STRIKE

The second general strike of the New York taxi drivers has ended in a second defeat for the workers and a victory for the bosses and reaction. None of the demands put forward by the Taxi Drivers Union has been won. The collapse of the strike—that is what it was—coming on top of the betrayal of the auto workers, has strengthened the chances of the company union which the auto bosses are seeking to foist on the taxi drivers here in New York.

The strike was defeated by the combined forces of the companies who imported gangsters from Chicago to supplement the home supply, the police who drove scab cars and rode in them to provoke attacks by pickets, the yellow press which tried to frame up bombings on the union, the Mayor and his mediators, the NRA doves of peace, Mrs. Herrick and Golden, the Socialist Party which sabotaged the strike and went in for a vicious red-baiting campaign in the union, and the mistakes of the leadership.

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**Block with Stalinists**  
Following the scuttling of the first strike by Franka and Ernst a

struggle developed in the union. The Stalinists who came into the union through the merger of their paper Taxi Workers Union, formed a bloc with Orner and Green of the Workers Socialist Party, a group of former members and sympathizers of the Socialist Party of Great Britain. Joe Gilbert became an organizer and leader of the second strike. In this fight the bloc received, at least, objective support from the Tammany elements in the union who had their own axe to grind against La Guardia. Gandall was dislodged from leadership. Orner became president of the Manhattan local, the largest and most important of the three units of the union. The Bronx and Brooklyn locals remained under the influence of the Socialist Party elements.

While the strike was in the exception of the Socialists in the Bronx and Brooklyn locals worked to push the strike forward. Orner, without organizational strength outside of the union to throw behind the strike, and involved in the bloc with the Stalinists, had to lean on the latter for support. The Stalinists tried to rally outside forces behind the strike but succeeded only in giving another demonstration of their isolation from the main stream of the labor movement. Their united front conference of working class organizations to support and spread the strike was the usual mass meeting of Stalinist outfits and friends.

**Tammany and the Socialists**  
Tammany tried to use the strike as a club against La Guardia. The present Grand Jury investigation into the "failure of the municipal government and the police to protect life and property" is inspired by Tammany.

The Socialists tried to make factional capital of the strike in the union by inciting the workers against Communism and the Stalinists whom they represent to the workers as Communists. Because of the popularity of Orner and the strong Orner-Stalinist bloc in the leadership they were forced to carry on their agitation against the leadership in the middle of the strike by an undercover campaign.

All of these forces working through the strike and the union produced a POLITICAL situation in New York of great importance to all future strikes. In fact with the publication by the companies of full page ads in the capitalist press and the replies of La Guardia attacking the companies the strike became a major political issue in New York City.

—T. STAMM.