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UNITE

# THE MILITANT



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## TROOPS RULE MINNEAPOLIS Police Arrest Cannon and Shachtman

### WAR LOOMS AS POWERS CLASH OVER AUSTRIA

Central Europe was charged with the dynamite of a new world war when the Nazis assassinated Dollfus in an unsuccessful move to extend the boundaries of Hitlerism into Austria.

Not since 1914 have the explosives of international conflagration been nearer to ignition. Italy has mobilized 40,000 troops on the Austrian border, holding them in readiness for any eventualities. Yugoslavia has fired its army to the frontier where shots are reported to have been fired. France and England make ominous pledges to guarantee Austrian "independence".

Whether the powder keg which Europe is will now go up in explosion and thrust humanity into a bloody slaughter is still unclear from reports in the press. But certain it is that the latest events in Austria have the makings of another Sarajevo.

#### IMPERIALIST CONFLICTS UNDERLIE AUSTRIAN SITUATION

There the tense situation which grips the world in a state of uncertainty expresses the congealing of imperialist rivalries which are rapidly approaching the one remaining issue—war. The struggle for markets, the trade wars, the conflict over colonies and fields for expansion which have given way to the mad race for armaments underlie the earthquake that is rocking Austria.

Whatever credence one can place in the denials of Nazi officials that the Putsch of their brother murderers to the South is a purely Austrian affair and that they are pursuing a "hands-off policy", the indubitable fact remains that the Austrian Nazi movement is a creature of Hitler. Financed from Berlin and Munich, furnished with tons of propaganda from Goebbels' headquarters and given courage and inspiration by bellows radio broadcasts against Austrian officials and government, the Austrian Nazis pressed forward with the conviction that German Fascism stood solidly behind them.

#### HITLER'S DESIRE FOR THE "ANSCHLUSS"

But it was not for fraternal sympathy alone that the Nazis in Austria counted on help from Germany. The irresistible push of German imperialism to break out of the boundaries of Versailles to find new markets and to retrieve her lost colonies drove towards the "Anschluss" as the first point of attack.

Recent events in Germany lend confirmation to the belief that the hand of Hitler has helped to engineer the Vienna putsch. The stripping of Hitler's regime of its main social support in the decapitation of storm troop leaders and the elimination of over a million and a half S.A.s on the one hand and the shattering economic crisis on the other has driven Hitler to a point of desperation where he knows that a foreign embargo is the only solution for his troubles.

The news that Hitler has proceeded to the Austrian frontier and there ordered all roads on the border closed to prevent a mass invasion of Austrian Nazis anxious to come to the assistance of their friends indicates only that Hitlerites in Austria got out of control and broke the leading strings of their Berlin masters. Or Hitler is retreating in fear before the international frankenstein that he has called into being, and for which he is not prepared.

#### MUSSOLINI OPPOSES NAZI EXPANSION

Reports that Mussolini is massing troops on the Italian side ready to march into Austria bear witness to the deep-going antagonism between German and Italian imperialism. Italian capitalism will have no truck with the proposition for an "Anschluss". Their irredentist aims and desire for Balkan expansion and markets bring Italy into violent opposition to any German designs on Austria. More than that, Mussolini is ready for war should the Nazis seize power in Austria.

France and England, while not making such belligerent moves as Italy, according to United Press dispatches are considering a warning to Germany to respect Austrian "independence". These imperialist brigands who have cut Austria into a fantastically impossible economic unit have their own axe to grind in the recent developments. Neither France nor England want to see either Germany or Italy too strong in central Europe. They are interested in maintaining the distribution of the booty—the balance of power or the status quo—as it was handed out in Versailles in 1919.

#### WAR AGAINST SOVIET RUSSIA

The sinister cloud that hangs over the international complications caused by the Austrian events is the danger that the plunger gangs now at each other's throats may bury their differences for the time being and agree on Hitler's "drang nach Osten"—an assault on Soviet Russia. The sudden leap of Italy out of the lap of the Triple Alliance at the outbreak of the last world war teaches us not to be too cock-sure of alignments that seem most obvious.

The Nazis' thrust for power and the ensuing international situation raises the struggle against the war danger in the boldest relief. The declination of the Austrian and German working class removes the strongest bulwark against another world slaughter. The difficulties are great and the tasks greater, but the struggle of the working class against war is the most crucial issue of the present moment.

### Leon Trotsky in Danger

Gringoia-Chiappe, the police paper of Carbucaia-Ciappe, publishes the following note in its issue of June 15:

"M. Sarraut not only protects the murderer of Bonnetoy-Sibour. He also protects Trotsky.

"One bright morning we read in the newspapers that the revolutionary agitator had crossed the border into Switzerland. This report was incorrect. He lives in a little house where he continues to dream of

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#### VICTIM DENOUNCES POLICE LIES

Simon Baruch, badly wounded by police thugs yesterday, is now in General Hospital, where he issued the following statement:

"The outright lie published in last night's Star, that I told the police that Communist party leaders said I would get a good job if I joined the strike, I wish to refute absolutely. I made no statement to the press or to police stenographers beyond giving my name and address. I have talked to no Communist party leaders.

"I was not paid a red cent to picket for 574, nor do I expect to receive anything. I am a member of the Minneapolis Central Council of Workers, organization of employed and unemployed. Realizing that 574's battle is the battle of all Minneapolis workers against their common oppressors, I was more than glad to do my part on the picket line. I will always hold myself in readiness to fight for the working class—anywhere."

(Signed) Simon Baruch.

### Frisco League is Firm in Wave of Boss Terror

San Francisco, July 22.—Although the police and police-backed "vigilante" committees have opened a new and sudden attack on radicals throughout the San Francisco Bay District, new members have been gained and new activities undertaken by the Communist League here. The morale of the Bay District organizations has been unshaken, in spite of attacks on every radical group in the district. Three new members joined the Oakland unit and one the San Francisco unit. Final work is being done, preparatory to publication of the first issue of the Western Militant, which will appear in the immediate future through the combined efforts of the Oakland, Richmond and San Francisco units. The League branches and the Spartacus Youth League of S. F. have stiffened up their organizations without loss of membership.

The terror campaign here has been no mild one. Police, backed up by two truckloads of National Guardsmen, armed with machine guns, raided the Marine Workers' Industrial Union headquarters and arrested everyone there, more than 100 workers. "Vigilante" committees, consisting of plain clothes men and hired thugs raided and wrecked every Communist party hall, I.W.O., I.L.D., and workers club in the region, wrecking them in the worst hoodlum style, smashing everything in the rooms, tearing books to pieces, smashing typewriters, mimeographs and furniture. After raiding the halls of the C.P. the headquarters of the I.W.O. were completely destroyed. Proletarian Party and Socialist Party halls were attacked.

Home of League Organizer Wrecked  
The Triangle Press, where the Western Worker, C. P. organ and other radical papers and leaflets are published was "mysteriously" burned to the ground. Halls that Communists rented were either wrecked or the owners terrorized. In Richmond the home of Comrade Hesser, organizer of the League branch, was visited by five vigilantes whom the comrades drove off. The next day fifty came and completely wrecked his home and auto, smashing every piece of furniture in the house. They wrecked his car and placed a sign on the ruins—"This Was a Red's Car".

Bricks, wrapped with warning notes were thrown through the windows of homes of known Communists and Socialists in Berkeley and Oakland, signed by the "Berkeley Nationals", and individuals were

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### 40,000 Join Mass Funeral for Harry Ness

(Reprinted from The Organizer, July 25, 1934)

One of the most solemn and impressive gatherings ever witnessed in the city of Minneapolis, was seen when 40,000 workingmen and women assembled to pay tribute to the first martyr of Local 574, Henry B. Ness.

Men and their families, from every trade and industry, Union men and unorganized, employed and unemployed, came from all parts of the city to honor the first man to give his life so that others might live, the fearless warrior who was shot down in cold blood by Johannes, the Murderer, shot in the back by cowards who dared not face him.

Not a policeman was in sight as the grim thousands gathered at the call of 574. Starting from the funeral parlor, they marched to the strike headquarters at the old Sutro's Garage, packing the streets until not a person could squeeze through. In front of the headquarters, a temporary stand had been erected and a broadcasting apparatus set up, from which last tributes were paid the heroic martyr.

William S. Brown, president of Local 574, spoke about the fighter whom he had known so well and who was so beloved by all the men. He was so overcome with emotion as he spoke about the man by whose side he had fought many good battles, that he was unable to say more than a few brief words.

Albert Goldman, the noted labor attorney from Chicago who is now attached to the Union's legal staff, followed him on the tribune. In solemn well-chosen words, he eulogized the murderers of the dead man, not only those who shot him down, but those higher up who had given the orders for his assassination.

The last speaker was Chaplain Nelson of the Post of the National Veterans' Association to which Henry Ness had belonged. His invocation was a touching tribute to the intrepid soldier who had so fearlessly fought for himself, his family, and for his brothers—for his Union.

The echo of the last address having died down, the massed thousands wheeled into marching columns behind the coffin of the dead. Following them was a cavalcade of hundreds upon hundreds of automobiles filled with workingmen who swung into line.

So magnificent and startling a demonstration has not been seen in Minneapolis in years. By the tens of thousands, the workers of Minneapolis displayed a solidarity with 574 and its martyr which flung into the teeth of their detractors the lie that the labor movement of the city is not behind the truckers and inside men on strike. By the tens of thousands, the workers of Minneapolis showed their hatred and horror of the murderous attacks of the police and the masters from whom they take their orders. By the tens of thousands, the Minneapolis workers bowed their heads at the grave of a hero and soldier of the labor movement.

Farewell, body of Henry Ness!  
Hail, your immortal fighting spirit!

#### Goldman's Speech

In my years of experience defending workers caught in the clutches of capitalist class justice, I have come to know well the brutality of police officers against pickets and workers' demonstrations. Now, from an examination of the available evidence, I am convinced that if ever anyone was guilty of malicious, premeditated murder and attempt to murder, it was the police who fired at the pickets last

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#### Rush Funds for Cannon-Shachtman Defense

Comrades Shachtman and Cannon have been arrested by the Minneapolis police, the first victims of the terrific "red" baiting campaign unleashed by the bosses. In this we witness once more the celebrated frame-up methods of American capitalism hitting directly at the Communist League. But in its essence it is a part of the general efforts to break the truck drivers' strike and if possible to crush their splendid fighting union.

The strike is solid. No trucks move. But the bosses bring into play their most deadly weapons: the frame-up, armed police attacks and martial law.

Help is needed to defend our comrades against this dastardly frame-up. Rush funds immediately to the Militant office.

### Local 574 on Martial Law

(Reprinted from The Organizer, July 25, 1934)

There is increasing talk about establishing martial law in Minneapolis. Some reports even indicate the possibility of martial law being established by the time this issue of The Organizer is on the press. The thousands of National Guardsmen encamped in the city are to take control in the present strike situation and regulate all activity by force of their military authority and arms.

The establishment of martial law means a recognition that a state of war exists which cannot be dealt with by the ordinary police authorities. And, in a certain sense, it can be denied that a state of war does exist in Minneapolis. It is a war in which thousands of workingmen are fighting for something more than a hard crust of bread for themselves and their families, fighting for a right to live like human beings. It is a war of cruelly exploited workingmen against a predatory band of business barons who still think they can rule over labor like the feudal lords ruled over the serfs—barons of commerce and finance who are set up on bringing to their knees the slaves who are determined to stand up like men.

In this war of poverty against wealth, of labor against capital, there is no room for a "No Man's Land" of neutrality. You are either on the side of the men and their families who refuse any longer to live on fourteen, or twelve, or ten dollars a week, or you are on the side of the men who refuse to grant them a higher wage. You are either on the side of the men who strike, or you are on the side of those who want to smash the strike. You are either for the right to peaceful picketing, or you are for the "right" of the police to massacre the pickets. You are either for the right of the workers to organize their own Union to defend themselves, or you are for the "right" of the employers to crush the Union.

Whom and what will they protect? We never asked for protection from the Guard. We have no property to protect. The employers have. It is their properties and their profits extorted from our labor that they want protected. It is their scabs, and their scab trucks, sent out to rob us of our bread, that they want protected. We never called for the troops. The employers did. We call for their withdrawal.

The employers are desperate, and whatever noise you hear from them is whistling in the dark to keep up courage. We have sewed them up and they know it. Their proudest boast is that they have been able to make 22 trips in one day, under the heaviest police convoys. That means less than one-fourth of one per cent of the number of trips made per normal day in Minneapolis, based on the conservative figure of 3,000 trucks involved in the strike, which usually make a minimum of 3 trips a day! We don't need the Guard to stop scab trucks. But the employers need it to convey them through.

Is it "riots" that the Guard will prevent? Scabs and scab truck movements—these cause riots. Police shooting down unarmed workers—this causes riots. Where there is no scab or police interference—there is quiet. Look at the imposing demonstration of 40,000 workers at Henry Ness' funeral yesterday where, without a policeman in sight, the workers themselves maintained perfect order during the ceremony and all along the line of march.

Another illusion that prevails among employers is that if the Guard is sent into action, that means the defeat of the strike. Fighting 574 has no such idea! The only ones who can defeat this strike are the strikers themselves. Their cause is lost if they weaken, if they break ranks, if they lose their fighting spirit. And this is just what they will not do.

We know from rich experience: Clumsy, cowardly scabs cannot move trucks. Policemen's clubs cannot move trucks. Deputies' badges cannot move trucks. Guardsmen's bayonets, tear-gas guns or trench helmets cannot move trucks. Yes, not even field artillery has even been known to move trucks.

You need truck drivers and helpers and platform men and inside men to move trucks.

And they are all in the ranks of 574.  
And that's where they are going to stay.  
And under its banner they are going to win.  
No force has yet been produced that can rob them of victory unless they voluntarily submit to the tyranny of the employers, unless they surrender.

Only cowards surrender—but Union men fight!  
And the men of 574 are Union men!

#### Farm Workers Strike in Ohio Shows Militancy

Bryan, Ohio, July 19.—Workers in the world's largest onion fields, in southern Ohio, have been fighting a tenacious and unyielding struggle for over a month.

The strike has been met with the most savage brutality by the bosses. An army of strike-breakers and deputies with guns, gas bombs, and clubs have been mobilized against the strikers. Two pickets have

been shot and a great many gassed and clubbed. The jails are filled with strikers. In a recent flare-up in militancy, fifteen more pickets were arrested after a courageous fight against deputies and strike-breakers who fired on them from trucks.

The workers who formerly worked for eight to twelve cents an hour, are demanding \$2.50 for an eight-hour day.

### Drivers Ranks Solid Despite Provocation

(By Wire)

MINNEAPOLIS, July 26.—With the declaration of martial law, Minneapolis police began a howling red-scare and arrested Comrade James P. Cannon, editor of the Militant and Comrade Max Shachtman, editor of the New International today.

The arrest of these leaders of the Communist League of America, in Minneapolis covering the strike situation for the Militant and the New International, took on a sinister aspect when it became known that they were held by authorities without charges.

All the earmarks of a frame-up were present in the case in the announcement by police that "they had seized a large quantity of radical literature in a room occupied by one of the men."

The New York branch of the Communist League of America has arranged a mass meeting to protest the arrest of comrades Cannon and Shachtman. Large numbers of revolutionary workers will jam Irving Plaza hall, where the meeting will be held on Sunday, July 29th at 8 P.M. Reports have arrived here that similar protest meetings are to be held in several other cities.

(By Wire)

Minneapolis, July 26.—Martial law was proclaimed here today by Farmer-Labor Governor, Floyd B. Olson, in an effort to break the general strike of drivers and helpers which is now rounding out its second week, undaunted by police murders and bosses' provocations.

4,000 National Guardsmen were placed in the streets, which means that Governor Olson considers this battle of workingmen for better conditions and recognition of their union to be a "State of Insurrection."

"Bodies of men", said Governor Olson, "together by force have attempted to break and resist the laws of this state, imperiling the lives, health and property and general welfare of the citizens of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, and the civil authorities thereof, are wholly unable to preserve and maintain law and order."

#### Protect Whose Lives?

While the meaning of this motivation for the declaration of martial law remains unclear for the moment, interpretation was widespread here that the statement regarding the imperiling of the health and property of Minneapolis could be construed to mean the moving of trucks with troop convoys to protect them against the strikers. There is likewise some uncertainty here as to whether the remark on the protection of lives is a bit of demagog, at which Olson is so adept, in order to deceive the drivers that the troops have been called out to protect them, or whether it is a sly hint to the employers that scab trucks will move without the casualties caused by the "indiscreet" police force.

Olson did not say what he meant by "law and order" but strikers and large sections of the population here have come to understand this term in the light of the premeditated attack on defenseless workers by murderous thugs in blue coats last Friday.

Martial law was declared here after the bosses had turned down the proposals of Federal mediators to arbitrate the strike. These proposals, including an election to determine whether the union shall be entitled to represent the men in collective bargaining, that the strike be called off and all workers on the payroll as of July 17 be re-

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## PROTEST MEETING

Against the Murder of Minneapolis Strikers and the Arrest of James P. Cannon and Max Shachtman

IRVING PLAZA HALL,  
15th St. and Irving Place  
Sunday July 29, 1934 at 8 p.m.