

REVIEWING THE NEWS

Father Divine

The Daily Worker editorially tries to justify to their somewhat bewildered readers the joint Religious Front-Stalinist parade of August 4th.

Hindenburg

The devil finally overcame his disgust and took Hindenburg. The old murderer and former social democrat White Hope had an eventful and a lucky life.

Famous Sayings that Made Headlines

"There is no god" - Binba. (Daily Worker, 1928).

With the Daily Worker Staff

Sender Garlin compares the "lively" T.U.U.L. papers with the stodgy A.F. of L. papers.

Very consoling assurance by Earl Browder, under the influence of Willi Muenzenberg's oratory.

Daily Worker's indignations for August First: "All picketing in Union Square must cease forthwith."

Off the Press: "I ACCUSE STALINISM IN JEWISH Maria Reese's devastating indictment of the course of Stalinism in Germany before Hitler took power."

OPEN FORUMS August 16-What the Communists Want. Speaker: Reva Craine.

Labor News From Mexico

The Taxi Drivers Strike

Mexico City.—On July 27, 1934, the taxi drivers of the capital answered a rise in the price of gasoline from 20 to 24 centavos a litro by a one day strike and demonstration, which resulted in a complete victory for the workers as the government intervened under a new law that gave them the right to fix prices, to reduce the price of primary necessities, to arbitrate the price of the lower figure.

The strike was important for a number of reasons: 1. By its very character it was a blow against the imperialist oil firms, particularly the Royal Dutch Shell, which controls approximately half of the country's production and initiated the workers the most in this situation.

The initial victory of the united forces of labor is a confirmation of the correctness of the Internationalist Communist slogan of "Trade Union Unity." Without doubt this slogan of the League of Communist Internationalists of Mexico will meet, from now on, with even greater response from the workers.

The strike bore a militancy unseen here for years. Traffic was tied up in the gigantic demonstration of the workers, who marched to Cardenas Prison as an expression of solidarity with the more than 250 drivers who had been arrested.

The strike and other strikes mark the beginning of a strike wave in Mexico, the result of the same causes as in the U. S.

This also marks the first appearance of the Mexican League in a major struggle through picketing, membership on the strike committee and through its press.

After having regained over the streets for five hours, the strikers were finally dispersed, after a battle, by a large group of soldiers and police who swung rifle butts on workers trying to escape through neighboring buildings.

Stalinists Fail to Disrupt Meeting

Mexico City, July 18.—A meeting called in solidarity with the San Francisco strikers by the Association for the Study and Divulgence of Marxism-Leninism was invaded July 18 by the Stalinists who attempted to capture it only to be repulsed, and forced to retreat with their tails between their legs.

Mustering about fifty of their members, they arrived in groups which seated themselves, each group with a leader. Many were plainly none-too-proud of the work they would have to carry through that night. They sat silently, as the meeting started and the first speakers spoke, awaiting the pre-arranged signal.

ists, but only resort to, in view of what was obviously going to take place, fists.

The prearranged signal was the first criticism made of either Stalin or the Party. When one of our speakers pointed out that the proletariat of the world needed the aid of Trotsky in their struggle against fascism, and that Trotsky was kept in a condition worse than prison by an alliance between Stalin and the French bourgeoisie, the storm broke.

After having split the skulls of the internationalists for years for demanding free speech in the labor movement and the right to express themselves in the Party, those who only yesterday carried on these massacres against the Trotskyists, and who will do so again tomorrow—for this is the only argument they have—suddenly became the devoted champions of liberty of expression. They wanted the floor, not in their turn but right now, and if it was not given to them, well they had a long experience in breaking up workers' meetings and are quite efficient.

The majority of the workers present supported the chairman, Diego Rivera, in his refusal, but this meant nothing to the Stalinists. They advanced to capture the platform—forgetting that the enraged workers had a say in the matter too. A scuffle took place in the center of the floor.

The meeting continued, changed in character, with non-party trade unionists one after the other arising and telling their frank and uncompromising opinions of those who break up meetings called in solidarity with other workers.

One speaker, a respected member of the Stalinist party arose and said that he hoped that the events of the evening would not stop the formation of the united front against fascism, with the participation of the Stalinists and Trotskyists. League speakers pledged themselves to work for this aim.

With the conditions of illegality that exist for the Communist movement in Mexico, special methods of propaganda have had to be devised. For example, whirlwind meetings are held in this form: A group of comrades will band together, enter a plaza at an hour when it is thronged, hold a meeting until the outskirts give the signal that the police have arrived when the comrades disappear in the crowd which usually shelters them.

New Headquarters of LOS ANGELES BRANCH

Communist League of America. HOUSE WARMING PARTY. SATURDAY, AUG. 18, at 8 P.M. Music Hall, 232 So. Hill St. Los Angeles

Waukegan Branch PICNIC. Auspices of the Communist League of America (Waukegan Branch) SUNDAY, AUGUST 19. Edithon Beach (On Lake Michigan, between Winthrop Harbor and Kenosha) REFRESHMENTS SPEAKER ENTERTAINMENT Cars leaving McAllister and May Streets at 10 A.M. and 1 P.M.

Just Off the Press!

War and the 4th International Draft Theses Adopted by the International Secretariat of the International Communist League. TEN CENT. PIONEER PUBLISHERS 84 East 10th Street New York City

Org Press Campaign

Special Local New York Report Local New York has collected and turned over to the national office a total of \$250.50. This includes special donations from individual comrades as well as the day's wage contributions from members for the special campaign in behalf of our League work in Minneapolis.

Downtown Branch—Total \$89.50 A. Robert 5.00 S. Gordon 4.00 L. Lewis 5.00 B. Wallace 2.00 M. Sterling 5.00 L. Manne 10.00 J. W. 1.00 Nava Crain 2.00 Rosh 1.00 E. Konkow 1.00 R. Karsner 1.00 S. Blecker 2.00 J. Glady 1.00 Dorothy Morris 1.00 P. Oswald 1.00 Spithos 1.00 Through branch sec'y. 46.05

Harlem Branch—Total \$25.40 Visconti 40 S. Smith 4.00 Colay 1.00 Gonzales 1.00 Through Br. Secretary 19.00 Bronx Branch—Total \$14.00 G. Saul 1.00 Levy 2.00 Garfinkle 1.00 M. Burns 1.00 Stevens 1.00 Through Br. Secretary 8.00 Williamsburg Br.—Total \$18.50 Hubbert 4.00 J. Weber 5.00 Stern 1.00 Kamiat 1.00 Gosh 1.00 Through Br. Secretary 7.50 Boro Park Br.—Total \$30.40 R. Blackwell 50 M. Engel 1.00 H. 5.00 A. Toven 2.00 Kluger (S. Y. Club) 20.90

Brownsville Br.—Total \$9.50 Layton 2.00 Lorenz 3.00 Kent 50 A. Marcella 1.00 Through Br. Secretary 3.00 Individuals—Total \$19.90 G. Krakowsky 1.00 Eleanor R. 5.00 H. Simpson 1.00 J. Matter 50 A. Friend 1.00 Sd. Marsh 1.10 Louis Suss 1.00 L. Bord 75 R. Simon 50 C.W.A. worker H. 25 C.W.A. worker S. 50 C.W.A. worker F. 50 C.W.A. worker C. 50 C.W.A. worker A. 50 Alexandranakes 1.00 Christos 50 M. Kahn 1.00 Geo. Edwards 2.00 House Party by sympathizers 11.25 Through City Comm. office. 32.45

Grand Total \$250.50 (Room does not permit additional report on this campaign from other branches and individuals out of town. This report will appear in the next issue of the Militant.)

REGISTRATION PLAN FAILS

Faced with the overwhelming protest of left and right trade unions, forcing even the most reactionary leaders to take part, Mayor LaGuardia and Police Commissioner O'Ryan have turned tail on their too-slick labor registration plan.

Now they would have it appear that the whole thing was a misunderstanding. The credentials allegedly turned in already by "cooperating" labor leaders are to be returned. The police are to be instructed that "no such order existed."

"The incident is entirely closed," says Mayor LaGuardia. So spontaneous and immediate was the reaction to the plan in labor circles that even Joseph R. Ryan, of the Trades and Labor Council, who was previously registered as having approved the registration scheme as a means of shutting out the "Reds," has since lent his name to the protest.

Had the authorities succeeded in railroad through their scheme, left wing leadership, lacking the O. K. of Green's bullies, would have been officially barred from participation in strike activities, and subject to persecution by legal authorities as "outside agitators," "irresponsible elements," etc. But the workers refused to be fooled.

A Freak Movement in L.A.

Los Angeles.—Los Angeles has long been noted as the stopping off place of innumerable freakish metaphysical cliques and movements, but recently with the depression, has come with the material human soil in southern California a couple of large mass organizations: and to compare them to past organizations of a mass character they indeed seem in a way freakish. Sprung into existence almost over night they attract thousands of the hard pressed and dispossessed.

The first one peculiar to the social student, was the "Self Help" vegetable gathering unemployed movement. This reached close to a hundred and sixty-five thousand and is now but a shell of its former self. The masses have left it since the vegetables ran out, and the charity, with a few cheap politicians taking it over.

The latest mushroom growth is a secret organization with a series of degrees or cycles. The Utopians became "Hermits" in the Copsian to the degree. It is self organizing to a great degree for to become a full-fledged member one must bring at least two new members. The masses are flocking into this mystic garb bag by the thousands. Most of the people join without knowing what controls it or who the leaders are.

The members on the average are of the dispossessed or nearly so, workers, unemployed and the small business men; the first two making up the vast membership. They have a program which is given by degrees, as a member progresses through the "cycles." The Utopia is incorporated in the names of three persons. These were not known to the vast membership, until exposed in the press last week.

Everything is questions and formulas handed down from the top. Meetings are held in private homes—about twenty in a group, both men and women. Some two hundred of these small meetings are in session every day in the week. Large meetings are held in Shrine Auditorium which seats 3,000 twice or more a week. A large meeting was held in the Hollywood bowl with tickets sold to twenty thousand.

Among the workers and the masses generally there is a continual buzz about the Utopia. Rumors galore of all kinds and descriptions, the mystery and secrecy to the membership encouraged tremendous exaggerations such as the notion of 40 million members in the U. S. Another "hermit" member would whisper to you that there are 20 million. It is more or less, at present confined to Los Angeles county, but has proven so successful in gathering in members and dollars, that it is about to become a national movement. It is an interesting phenomenon and is well worth considering.

Some of the aims and program are as follows: The reputed leader and official spokesman, unknown and silent, until last week, Eugene R. Reed says: "providing plenty in a land of plenty." "It has been labeled Communist, Socialist, Technocrat, Fascist and un-American. It is none of them. The only people that can really be called un-American, it seems to me, are those who would deny people comfort in a land of plenty." "The monetary system must be changed." "There should be work among plenty" "work twenty years and retire at 45." And on this utopian rambles. Truly a utopian dream, for he is going to "buy-out" the interests with "new paper units." "The interests won't sell them." "We can set up our own"

He denies that it is political, but his new system is all on the assumption that "control of Congress has been vested with control over money and can regulate its value." The same old hokum! But what does interest us is the fact that the thousands of oppressed are flocking to the Utopian banner and are doomed for an awful wall of disincorporated medicine men.

True to its reputation, Los Angeles has produced a real freak which is still growing like wild fire. Will it burst and go down as Utopia as it came up? Or will this Utopia spread to a large portion of the U. S. and then break? The reform quacks are successful in playing upon the desires and needs of the pinched and oppressed. The class struggle needs of the unemployed and workers in this "dream" organization will not bring the goods to be delivered—nothing

but disillusionment being at the end of the blind grab bag of cycles—disintegration and splits will occur. Members have begun to drop away—"too much monkey business"—"clowning around". "Is it a racket"? "Are the three incorporators sincere freaks"? These are the comments of some of the more intelligent in neighborhoods where the attendance to the secret house meetings have dropped off. As one of the comrades says, "It is a mass movement incorporated" and "A good racket for the mercenaries and a plaything for the Reform freaks." The mass membership are on the tobaggan headed for a broken dream bubble. —T. B.

Father Divine-Browder's God

This is not intended to be a fun column. This is for the information of those workers out of New York who have not been witness to the latest and most revolting spectacle of Stalinist degeneracy in America.

Having failed miserably with its reactionary "united front from below" and having met with suspicion on the part of the Socialist workers with its seemingly "genuine" offer of a united front—Stalinism made a united front with God. Literally, with God!

In New York there is a Negro mountebank and racketeer known as the Father Divine. And Father Divine and his followers proclaim him God incarnate. "Father Divine is God", is their slogan. And since unto God all must be given, his wretched, deluded disciples give unto the starvation point. To this psychopathic mountebank the Stalinists offered a united front—and lo and behold! The Browners found someone who would bite. A further proof that Stalinism and psychomania are brothers under the skin.

On what occasion was this united front consummated? On no less an occasion than the anniversary of August 4, and the struggle against war! A struggle against war with Father Divine. Father Divine is God. God is peace. Peace will stop war. Oh, Father, Father Divine! Unto what further cess-pools will Stalinism offer to mislead the American masses?

Here it is fit to describe—but how describe the indescribable. In front is the so-called Communist Party—about 2,500. Next comes Father Divine and his followers—about 5,000. Next come the Party trade unions, cultural (!) organizations and periphery organizations—about 3,000. It is an almost equally divided united front. As many so-called Communists and followers as followers of God. "Fight against War and Fascism." (echo) "Peace, Peace." "Free the Scottsboro boys." (echo) "Father Divine free the Scottsboro boys." "Defend the Soviet Union." (echo) "Father Divine is God." (echo) "Father Divine is God—God stop war—Peace, peace. Picture to yourselves the antics of the inmates of a hundred insane asylums let loose on the city streets and you will get some idea of the department of the followers of the new God in this anti-war parade.

Once Again on Cuba

Several weeks ago we made an appeal in these columns for financial aid to our brother section, the Bolshevik-Leninist Party of Cuba. Our Cuban comrades occupy responsible and strategic positions in the labor movement of the island. Now both the party and the unions find their very existence threatened by repressive measures on the part of the government.

Events point towards a new mass uprising in the coming period and it is necessary that every possible effort be made to conserve and consolidate the influence of our Cuban section so that it can be in a position to function in its role as the vanguard of the working class.

The continual functioning of these organizations depends upon the solution of the present financial difficulties. For our part we have promised to bend every effort in support of our Cuban comrades. The response to our previous appeals has to date been very small. All comrades, branches of the League and sympathizers should remit their donations and collection lists as soon as possible to the National Office of the League. Latin American Department, Communist League of America

MARCH OF EVENTS

The Conspiracy Against the Unions Proof is not lacking of the far-flung campaign of finance capital to block any further attempt on the part of the workers to organize in independent unions, and to establish the open shop. That campaign started when the bosses were threatened with the unionization of the mass production industries, autos and steel in particular. Since then every reactionary employers' organization in the country has been quietly organizing its forces and collecting a war fund for use against labor. These powerful associations of manufacturers are knit closely together on a national scale, supplying each other with information, with blacklists, with thugs and gangsters and stool pigeons when necessary. This movement to smash the unions has been strengthened by the existence of the "Code Authorities" organized for this very purpose under the NRA. There is every danger that this movement of reaction may steadily develop towards the crystallization of fascism as the workers, driven by sheer desperation to struggle for their very existence, refuse to be intimidated and continue an increasingly militant fight for their unions.

Olson's Maneuver Olson, driven into the open by the class struggle, was forced to declare martial law in Minneapolis in the interests of the truck owners. But being a clever demagogue who knows the value of votes in the next elections, Olson, unlike Merriam of California, wants to create the illusion that he is "impartial", that, in fact, he is "for labor". Hence his staging of the raid on the Citizen's Alliance, the boss organization for the open shop. We foster no illusions concerning the strike-breaking role of the Farmer-Laborite Olson. But we note the revealing material obtained in the raid. J. W. Schroeder, vice-president of the Alliance, announces that the seized documents have no connection with the Minneapolis strike, but contain correspondence with similar organizations in other parts of the country, thereby proving the nation-wide character of the conspiracy. A. W. Strong, president of the Alliance, admits that the bosses maintain one or two "permanent investigators" in the unions—to enable the bosses to "spot" the radicals and Communists. The workers must demonstrate against these reactionary centers of strike-breaking and betrayal. A strong, militant union is the best answer to reactionary capitalism. The unions must not allow themselves to be intimidated by the bosses into driving out the Communists. That would be capitulation to reaction.

Armed Fascism Starts to Drill! The Los Angeles Examiner is quoted as revealing testimony concerning the fascist Silver Shirts before the congressional investigating committee meeting in Los Angeles for the purpose. The testimony shows that armed men, known as the Silver Shirts, with a secret auxiliary called Storm Troops are drilling near San Diego. This reactionary organization has its own rifle range and is in conformance with U. S. naval forces to obtain ammunition. Thus it recently purchased 2,000 rounds of .30 calibre bullets at the North Island, San Diego naval air station from active armed forces of the U. S. government. The organization has in its members of the U. S. navy, the marine corps and California national guards. With the class struggle deepening in intensity, with the proletariat resorting to the general strike for defense of its living standards, one can predict that such forces will at no distant future, attempt to take the field in a "crusade" against the unions and the workers' political organizations. The raids in Frisco were a prelude to such activity.

The United Front We must press the utmost pressure on every working class organization to join the united front against fascism now! We cannot wait. The attempt of the C. P. to establish the united front with the S. P., with its manifest hypocrisy in trying to evade the implications of this offer concerning its past crimes, we nevertheless welcome. But we warn both of these organizations that the task confronting the workers is too serious to be trifled with and that they must not attempt a caricature of a united front by the exclusion of other organizations. We urge the socialists to accept Browder's belated offer, but we also urge that the offer be extended at once to every workers' organization willing to enter the struggle against fascism. Any attempt to exclude the Bolshevik-Leninists, the Trotskyists, will reveal the lack of any serious purpose back of this "united front" of shame-faced Stalinists. It will show that this is only a maneuver to prevent the toppling of the bureaucracy. Only the united front can prevent the smashing of the unions and the establishing of the open shop. —JACK WEBER.