



## Communist League And A.W.P. Move To Form New Party

**Both Organizations Declare Desire  
To Hasten Union of Forces**

(See Editorial on Page 4)  
Decisive steps were taken in the past week by the National Committee of the Communist League and the Provisional Organization Committee of the American Workers Party for the fusion of the two organizations and the launching of a new revolutionary political party at an early date.

Following protracted negotiations and discussions between the two committees, and the publication of a revised draft program of the A.W.P., the National Committee of the League, through Arne Swaback, Secretary, addressed a letter to the Provisional Organization Committee of the A.W.P. which was meeting with an active workers' conference of the latter organization at Pittsburgh over the week-end. In this letter the N. C. of the League asked the A.W.P. to take a positive position on the question of uniting the forces of the two organizations without delay, and expressed the opinion that "the basis for fusion into one united party becomes increasingly substantial, the fusion itself more possible and desirable, and awaits essentially a definite expression of opinion by you which would facilitate the necessary political and organizational preparations for unity."

Prior to the receipt of this letter the active workers' conference of the A. W. P. had devoted an entire day to a consideration of the question and had also come to the conclusion that immediate fusion of the two organizations is desirable and necessary. Thereupon, A. J. Muste, Chairman of the Provisional Organization Committee of the A.W.P., sent the following letter to the National Committee of the League:

"Dear Comrades:

"Your communication dated September 7 reached us at our meeting at Valencia, Pa. on Monday, September 10. On the previous day we had completed an exhaustive analysis of the same problem of unity of the revolutionary forces in this country with which your letter deals. Since we had reached the same conclusion about the need for definite steps to achieve organic unity if possible, we were deeply gratified to receive your letter."

"A more detailed communication dealing with the questions of program, etc., embodying the result of our P.O.C. decisions, is now being prepared and will be in your hands in the course of a few days."

A general membership meeting of the New York branches of the Communist League, held last Sunday at the headquarters, after an all day discussion of the question of fusion, led by Max Shachtman as reporter for the National Committee, voted unanimously to endorse the course followed by the N. C. in the negotiations and expressed a firm will to proceed with the unification and the launching of the new Party as soon as possible.

In informal discussions between representatives of both committees, which followed the exchange of letters, it was agreed that the negotiations, which hitherto have been devoted entirely to general discussions of program questions, shall now be put on a concrete basis and that an attempt be made to come to agreement on all questions involved in the problem of fusion, political and organizational, point by point, with the object of preparing the basis for unification in the shortest possible time. The surging movement of the working masses of the country and the burning need of a revolutionary party that would be able to aid this movement to find a conscious direction on the path of the class struggle will undoubtedly exert a powerful influence on both organizations to remove all unnecessary obstacles and push in the direction of a speedy unification which will make the launching of the new party possible.

Leading representatives of both organizations have expressed the desire to proceed with the negotiations from this point of view. The merger of the League and the A.W.P., by itself, would provide the new party at its inception with a considerable membership and the framework of a national organization, as well as a strong nucleus for a new revolutionary youth movement. Both organizations have recorded substantial gains in membership during the past year and have also extended their influence by effective participation in the class struggle in various fields—Minneapolis, Toledo, Unemployment work, etc.

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## Arms Inquiry Is Too Hot for State Dep't

Stop the heat! That's the order from Secretary of State Hull as they gaged the arms inquiry in Washington.

Protests from foreign governments, kings, princes, dictators and mere government hirelings of the arms ring is the reason given by the state department for putting the question on many of the exposures of the inquiry.

Not that embarrassment might be caused other governments but the stink of the entanglements of American munition makers with anyone they can make money from—there is the motive for the gagging of the state department.

Five telegrams from the Du Pont company to agents in a "certain South American country" were suppressed because "it might result in danger to life and property."

No need to be a clairvoyant to know what was in those telegrams. The investigation thus far has given us a general view of the "internationalism" of the munition makers. Impartiality is their slogan. If Bolivia and Paraguay treat each other to pieces in a bloody war don't discriminate. Sell to both of them. And if there are any stubborn people, the old "Palm greasing" method will do the trick. No matter if Bolivian soldiers shoot Paraguayans with Du Pont's powder. No matter if Paraguayan troops murder Bolivian infantry with Du Pont's shells. Business is business.

The question is, however, not the (Continued on Page 4)

## Deputize the Strikers? Who Owns This Country, Anyway?

"No God damned son of a bitch of a strike leader is going to tell us how to use the troops and the deputies."

This was the reply that the bosses and the local police gave to the proposal of Francis J. Gorman, that the members of the United Textile Workers be "deputized" by the various authorities for the enforcement of the "law."

With a militancy not seen for many years in a strike of such wide scope the workers have been closing mill after mill. The reply of the bosses and their henchmen who hold public office has been a militia mobilization from the coast of Maine to the Gulf of Mexico. Hired thugs have been given badges and declared to be "officers of the law." Great bands of strike-breakers have been deputized and armed, and American Legion groups have been secured to help break the strike. Over ten men have been killed already, nine of whom have been strikers. Most of them were deliberately shot by the hired thugs, many even shot in the back. "It Is Unheard of"

It was in the midst of this reign of terror that Gorman came forward with his proposal for the

# MILL WORKERS SLAIN BY GUARDS; GOVERNOR RAISES «RED» SCARE

## The Truth About the Morro Fire

The burning of the Morro Castle, with the ensuing tremendous loss of life, is more than a major disaster of the sea. It is a working class issue.

Who is responsible for the tragedy? Who is usually responsible for such tragedies?

Contemptible efforts have been made, a scoundrelly plot is afoot, to shift this blame to "labor agitators". A "Red Scare" has been started in the reactionary press, and broadcast over the radio.

The Ward Line, backed by Havana's brutal police chief have charged Cuban Communists with starting the fire aboard the Morro Castle as an act of sabotage and terrorism. Their proof they keep darkly to themselves.

**Railroading Testimony Wanted**

If such "proof" could be established; that is to say, if a satisfactory frame-up could be concocted, the Ward Line and officers of the Morro Castle would be released of criminal responsibility, and the company would be saved millions of dollars in claims.

Moreover, a crushing blow could be delivered to organized labor at sea and on the waterfront. A new pretext would be afforded for fresh terror against radicals in Cuba and the United States. Labor leaders could be further hounded, jailed and murdered, and the bosses be free to enforce their starvation wages with an air of virtue.

The temptation is too great, the opportunity too inviting for the bosses to overlook. A frame-up will be attempted; it is already being planned.

George I. Alagna, third assistant radio operator on the Morro Castle, and one of the outstanding heroes of the disaster, who stuck to his post to the end, who saved the life of the chief operator and many others, who behaved throughout with extraordinary coolness and courage, is being held on bail that he cannot raise, as a "material witness."

Amidst the cowardice and indecision that prevailed on the quarterdeck, his conduct shines like a beacon light. Yet he, and he alone among the officers, is brought before the Board of Inquiry handcuffed like a common criminal.

**Alagna's Crime**  
For Alagna, understand you, is a "labor agitator". He was guilty of trying to organize the men aboard ship in protest against rotten food and worse labor conditions. He was on the Captain's blacklist. No other evidence is offered, no other evidence is needed, to keep him in jail.

Other circumstances make it imperative to review the story of the disaster, as so far revealed. Ef-

forts are being made to whitewash the owners and officers of the Morro Castle, and to blame the crew for the tremendous loss of life. This last, by the way, has become one of the established traditions of the sea. The officers are heroes, the crew has to be driven at gunpoint to perform its duty. Remember the Vestris!

Here, however, are the unchallenged facts.

The Morro Castle caught afire off the New Jersey coast, about six miles out at sea from Asbury Park, 20 miles south of Scotland Light, on the return trip from Havana. The time was variously reported, in conflicting testimony, at 12:25, 1:30, 2:45 and 3 A.M. A light gale was blowing, with increasing intensity, the sea was running high.

The fire spread with extraordinary rapidity, according to the officers, who set the time of the blaze far ahead of the time reported by numerous passengers and members of the crew. By 3:45 the entire superstructure was a mass of flames.

Passengers amidship were trapped. Some managed to make their way through the smoke-filled corridors to gain the decks. A few wriggled through the small port holes into the open sea, exchanging death by drowning for death by fire.

## Workers Are Disarmed by Spanish Gov't

Further indications of the active preparations for civil war on the part of the Fascists, Socialists as well as Basque and Catalonian Nationalists can be seen in the recent seizures by the government of several important shipments of contraband armaments.

Seventy-three large boxes containing 200,000 rounds of ammunition and many revolvers and rifles were seized on Sept. 12 at the little port of San Estaban de Pravia on the Asturias coast.

Prominent members of the Socialist party including Indalecio Prieto, parliamentary leader are implicated in the affair and 24 arrests have been made including the mayors and employees of several municipalities.

The Governor of Asturias has arbitrarily removed all Socialist mayors and aldermen in the province, replacing them with republicans.

It is also claimed that a large amount of dynamite and armaments was discovered in the People's House (trade union headquarters) of San Estaban de Pravia.

It is a patent fact to every worker that Spain is headed for civil war, that arming of the labor movement must proceed swiftly if destruction at the hands of the Fascists is to be avoided. The present government, making pretenses at delivering blows at Gil Robles' hands is in reality striking hardest at the working class. This "discovery" and raid on Socialist organizations only points to this: disarm the proletariat while making pretenses at disarming the Fascists and the Spanish Hitler will have his thrust at power.

But Spain is not Germany if only for the fact that the workers there have had the opportunity to learn from Germany.

**INDIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL**  
The International Workers School has completed its plans for an Indian Summer Festival and Dance. The Winter courses of the school begin the 15th of October and it is the purpose of this affair to bring together those who will take advantage of the excellent courses this season. We are arranging for an exciting and entertaining program, which will include a well known dance orchestra. The complete program will be announced in a future edition of the Militant. Remember the time and place! Irving Plaza, 15th St. and Irving Place. Saturday evening, October 27th.

Whose "Law and Order"

"Law and order must be preserved." How often has this cry come from the lips of a frightened bourgeoisie. Here we see what "law and order" is referred to. The "law" of the capitalist class, the "order" of the hired thug and the

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by fire. Others were trapped like rats in their staterooms and burned to death.

Officers and crew were driven to the forecastle for refuge. Others found temporary safety in the stern. But amidsthips was a roaring furnace.

**Delay in S.O.S.**

Captain Willmott, the master, had died of a heart-attack a few hours before the fire started. The first mate, Warrms, was in charge.

There was a criminal delay in the sending of S.O.S. signals. The first CQ (standby) signal was sent at 3:15 and a second at 3:18 A.M. According to the chief radio operator, he did not receive an order to send an S.O.S. until 3:30, by which time flames were eating into the operator's cabin, and his radio set was practically out of commission.

There was similar delay in the order to lower lifeboats. When they were finally lowered, they were manned almost entirely by the crew.

In all, 136 lives or more were lost, passengers and crew. The survivors made their way to shore in the six lifeboats that were lowered, or were picked up in the water by boats belatedly speeding to the rescue. A few swam the six miles to shore with the aid of life preservers.

When dawn broke the once proud liner, the boast of the Ward Line (an advertisement in the New York Times, set up too late to be withdrawn, appeared the day after the disaster, advertising with bitter irony, "Travel with Speed and Safety on the Morro Castle") lay a smoldering hulk off the Convention Hall pier at Asbury Park, towed in and beached by a Coast Guard vessel. Huddled together on the forecastle were Acting Captain Warrms, who remained true to the traditions of saving salvage money for his owners (a ship that is entirely abandoned belongs to whoever picks it up), and a few of the more simply heroic members of the crew.

**A Damning Indictment**

These are unchallenged facts. Other facts stand out as clearly, and constitute a most damning indictment against the owners and officers of the Morro Castle.

The much advertised special fire-fighting apparatus on the Morro Castle was a myth. It was nonexistent or did not function. The blaze was fought with ordinary fire hose and fire extinguishers. No automatic new-fangled chemicals or gases operated, or were used, to dampen the blaze. The structure of the ship, with luxurious but highly inflammable hangings, with

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## Strike Ranks Firm; New Mills Close in the North and South

Two strikers murdered, scores injured, National Guards in wild retreat before the infuriated pickets, a "red" scare raised by the Governor of Rhode Island and an appeal for Federal troops is the balance sheet of the second week of the textile strike.

The ranks are firm, however. The hosiery workers, 10,000 strong, have walked out in sympathy with their brothers in the cotton, silk and woolen industries. New mills are closing and the picket lines are keeping those factory gates already closed from opening.

While "twist-the-facts" Sloan continues to make his optimistic statements that more and more mills are beginning operations with scab labor, the state officials serving the textile barons have been forced to call upon the National Guard in five States to protect the right of scabbary.

But the National Guard, just as the deputies and the thugs, have proved inadequate to cope with the strike. The battleground, shifting from the Carolinas to Rhode Island, has shown the undying heroism of the mill workers.

In the teeth of gas and bullets the strikers advanced, ripping up tombstones for ammunition and routing the guards or seriously demoralizing them in the battles of Saylesville and Woonsocket. They will be written on the pages of American labor history and their martyrs will forever be enshrined in the hearts of the working class.

Such spirit, courage and heroism, cannot be broken by the troops. The thousands of Guardsmen, some of them mill workers and others fresh out of high school, are frightened or demoralized. One incident in Rhode Island, the arrest of two strikers by a Captain Strong because they called him "boy scout", speaks volumes for this fact.

But if the National Guard met with an unexpected reception at the hands of the strikers, the Rhode Island Governor got the shock of his life. So much so that he immediately set up the holler for Federal troops. "There is a Communist uprising in Rhode Island and not a textile strike."

What constitutes a strike according to this marionette of the mill owners is a folded arms demonstration in which the workers lie supinely on their backs while scabs and gunmen trample all over them. If the strikers seize whatever weapons are at hand to defend themselves, that is a "Communist uprising."

Shall R. I. Follow Frisco?

"We must put the Communists down here," says Mr. Green, all in a rage, "as they were put down in San Francisco when the longshoremen went on strike. There must be a distinction between the legitimate actions of the real strikers and the riotous acts of the Communist agitators."

How is this distinction made? Orders to Guardsmen to fire point blank into picket lines. No questions are asked as to who is a striker and who is a red because for the textile barons every worker who dares demand a better life in this world is a "Red" and a "Bolshevik."

So the governor proposed two methods to deal with the insurrection (read: textile strike): Appeal to Roosevelt through the state legislature to bring the army to Woonsocket and the other strike-bound points and get an appropriation of \$100,000 to arm 1,000 war veterans for use against the workers.

Arrangements were all completed to march 1,500 Federal troops to New York City to "overawe" the strikers. Roosevelt, according to Green, gave his assent. But the Rhode Island Democrats balked, the whole plan was a little too raw and politically dangerous for them. The Guards would do, they thought.

**War Veterans Or Thugs?**  
On the other hand, the R. I. legislature voted the \$100,000 appropriation to arm "world war veterans" as auxiliary police. Any gangster from New York or Chicago, any pool room hoodlum—for that matter anyone willing to accept pay breaking the strike—will now become a "world war veteran."

Unable to get the legislature to issue the call for federal troops, Green now "rescinds" his appeal but continues to rave about Communist plotters, dynamite, and deporting "alien reds." The stage is being set for a frame up which can only be facilitated by such cowardly and treacherous statements as that of a New England U.T.W. organizer, Silvia. The latter places the blame for the riots on the

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## R. I. Solons Save Roosevelt From Sending Federal Troops

Only political considerations on the part of the Rhode Island Legislature saved Roosevelt from an act of test of whether he would employ Federal troops as strike-breakers in the textile strike.

According to press reports, the order to "stand by" was given the garrisons in various parts of New York and New England. Troops in New York, fully equipped with death-dealing paraphernalia were prepared to leave at a moment's notice for a "surprise attack" to overwhelm the Rhode Island strikers.

Governor Green—who must have broken a couple of blood vessels searching for Communists under his bed—had a telephone conversation with the grinning messiah in Washington pleading with him to Hyde Park, said to Green that he was getting in touch with Washington "to make all preparations to respond to any call the state might make in this emergency."

The stage was all set for an expedition of the army into New England to crush the strike ranks. Green hollered for it. Roosevelt gave his assent. But the Rhode Island democrats dissented. Their

constituents are in Woonsocket. And while they voted \$100,000 for a pretorian guard, they desisted in calling for the Federal troops.

But Roosevelt . . . who has been regarded by most workers as the man who held out the helping hand to labor with his famous section 7-a was ready to put the Rhode Island strike to the sword.

What becomes of all his vaunted friendliness to the working man? Time was when he could claim that the deputy sheriffs, or the police, or the National Guard over whom he had no jurisdiction were murdering workers and smashing strikes.

Now he took a stand. There is no escape. Hoover deployed the troops against the ragged army of bonusers and that put the finishing touches on his reputation with American labor. Roosevelt offered to use the army against the Rhode Island strikers. The legislature saved him for the moment, but other occasions will arise and he has already indicated what he will do.

Let the American workers learn the truth of this incident and that will help to polish off Mr. Roosevelt forever in their eyes.