

REVIEWING THE NEWS

Dern, the National Guard and the Workers

Secretary of War Dern is worried and he speaks right out for everyone to hear. The popularity of the army is being impaired by the increasing use of the National Guard in strikes. Dern thinks that the National Guard is being called to murder strikers that the local police or company gunmen could attend to themselves.

Nazi Gems

Hitler:—"The Nazi regime will endure for 1,000 years." Alfred Rosenberg:—"Hitler is the greatest political impulse for 150 years and also the most potent stimulus for art and culture."

Mussolini and the Stork

Mussolini has a plan for raising cannon fodder. Here it is as reported to the N. Y. Times: Fire all women workers and put men in their places. Home life and starvation encourage women to marry.

Tears from a Crocodile

Mr. Sloan of the Textile Manufacturers: "I am deeply distressed that blood was shed in Georgia. These sad events make it plain, the forces unleashed by the strike leaders are now out of control."

The Workers Bookstore

To place a young communist in the workers' bookstore in Chicago, apparently dooms him to Trotskyism. At least so it seems to Sam Hammersmark, as one after another of his valued assistants goes "renegade."

The Munitions Inquiry

The munition companies opposed a Senate inquiry on the high patriotic grounds that such an inquiry might divulge military secrets and so weaken the country.

The American Legion

To those workers who wonder how the American Legion and the vigilantes got that way, the following War Department figures may be of interest.

Strike Statistics a la T.U.U.L.

Figures issued by the "Pen and Anvil" show the growing strength of the T.U.U.L. unions. In one day of last week 50 percent of all strikes were called by the T.U.U.L. and 50 percent by the A. F. of L.

Embarrassing Questions

A supporter of the I.L.D. in Boston sent the following letter to the national office of that organization:

Boston, Mass. Sept. 9, 1934 International Labor Defense 80 East 11th Street N. Y. C. Comrades,

I read on an orange-colored "Scottsboro-Herdon-Tnaelmann Application Card", given me at the Scottsboro-Herdon meeting in Boston last night, that the I.L.D. organizes for mass struggle against capitalist class justice in all its forms.

Is not one form of capitalist class justice the hounding of Trotsky by the French Government? Have you been organizing for mass struggle against this form of capitalist class justice?

Your card says also that the I.L.D. "fights for the right of political asylum" is not Trotsky denied by the U. S. Government the right of political asylum, and is not this denial another form of capitalist class justice?

Your card further states that the I.L.D. "utilizes the entire labor press . . . for the mobilization of mass support for its program," and its program, as stated above, includes "struggle against capitalist class justice in all its forms" and "for the right of political asylum".

I believe that you are not in these instances living up to what your card claims. Why not? Surely capitalism likes to divide and rule, and is particularly pleased when its enemies do not defend each other as against the common foe.

I believe I have a right to an answer from you. I have many times contributed through the I.L.D. such sums and efforts as I could. I enclose 30c more for the Scottsboro-Herdon campaign, and a 3c stamp for your reply.

Meeting to Defy Nazis in Yorkville

In the past six months the Nazis in Yorkville have been doing things pretty much as they please. Although their only show of force thus far has been the singing of the Horst Wessel song in beer gardens and strutting around in their Brown shirted uniforms, the working class organizations have not yet dared to lift their heads openly in a concentrated effort to get rid of them.

Some time ago LaGuardia closed 86th Street to political meetings because the Nazis broke up working class street meetings. Now the Democrats and Fusionists are allowed to hold meetings while working class organizations are discriminated against.

The Harlem Branch of the S.Y.L. and Circles 6 and 9 (Yorkville and Harlem) of the Y.P.S.L., realizing that only by a united effort could they ward off the Nazis and rid Yorkville of their poisonous propaganda, have formed a United Front Committee against Fascism in Yorkville.

The first joint outdoor street meeting to be held by the United Committee will take place on Monday, Sept. 17th on 85th Street & 3rd Ave. at 8 P.M. All workers are urged to attend.

THE MILITANT

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IN THE TRADE UNIONS

Salem, Lawrence Workers Confused

Salem, Mass., Sept. 10.—In the Pequot Mills in this town the loomfixers, numbering about a hundred, were the only ones to answer the strike call of the U. T. W.

Although the rest of the workers voted unanimously not to strike, some 20 have quit in sympathy. Because the loomfixers struck solidly, half the looms are not working. At first the bosses had three scabs, including the son of the local Sheriff, but they failed to show up this week, and all the bosses are trying to become loomfixers. They can't do the job, however, and the second shift is shut down entirely.

McMahon Responsible

If the weavers and other workers struck the whole mill would shut down. The reason they have not done so, however, is not that they love their bosses or "their" country, but because of the treatment they have received from the U.T.W. Last year there was a strike here, but McMahon "out-lawed" it, and stopped the payment of strike benefits from the money paid in by these workers in dues.

Lawrence Suffers from Old Wounds

In Lawrence the situation is worse. This city, the scene of many militant strikes in the past has, until the past few days been as silent as a tomb. The reason for this is that Lawrence has been a concentration point for the Stalinists. One strike a few years ago was actually led, while it lasted, by the Stalinists Edith Berkman, Bill Murdock and Pat Devine.

The Middle Class Backing of Sinclair

San Francisco, Aug. 31.—A semi-Social Democratic bloc was formed within the California Democratic party (hence the national party as well) when Upton Sinclair, erstwhile Utopian Socialist, won the Democratic nomination for Governor of California in the primary election of August 28.

Textile Strike in Connecticut

Allington, Conn.—The American Mills plant was struck here for the second time in five months. The first strike, four months ago, was a complete success. The union was recognized and wages were raised. At present 35% of the employees are out, and every morning and evening sees five bus loads of scabs enter and leave.

The main complaint of the workers, here as elsewhere, is the stretch-out system. One person operating one loom earns \$12 per week; and in order to make enough to support their families the operators are forced to run two looms at least—for which they receive \$21 per week.

There is picketing morning and night, the scabs eating their lunch within the plant confines. As the majority of strikers are girls and women there is plenty of noise whenever a scab sticks his head out the window.

Hoover vs. Roosevelt

Herbert Hoover delivered a broadside at the Recovery program of the Roosevelt administration in a series of articles appearing in the reactionary Saturday Evening Post. These articles are excerpts from a book to be published this month. Under the slogan of "The Challenge to Liberty", Hoover defends the sanctity of private capitalist property.

Around a few half truths and a series of bourgeois catch phrases about liberty and justice Hoover has built up a structure of lies and misstatements. Breaking the silence maintained since his defeat, the statements of the former President represent more than merely a battle of the "outs" against the "ins".

"Tories" Still Alive

The role of the American "Tories" is not over just because the "liberalism" of the Roosevelt administration has become so predominant. This struggle within the camp of the capitalist class, in its ebb and flow, reflects the veering of the ruling class with the changing class relations, and class pressures both internally and internationally.

Hoover does not take his cue from the American Stalinists who say the New Deal is leading toward Fascism and already is partly Fascist. No, Hoover says the present government policy of "National Regeneration" is leading toward Socialism and is already partly Socialism.

Hoover is correct when he says, "Not only in the United States but throughout the world, the whole philosophy of individual liberty (bourgeois individual liberty—H. O.) is under attack. He is also correct when he refers to the NRA, without naming it, and says, "All this is, in fact, the greatest legal mechanism ever devised for squeezing the small competitor out of action, easily and by the majesty of the law." However, Darrow, speak

ing for the middle class, said the same thing much more elegantly. Likewise when he says, "The first step of economic regimentation is a vast centralization of the power in the Executive." He is also correct. Naturally none of these truths are explained, or developed to their logical conclusion, because as such they could not be used as ammunition against the Democrats but rather, they would be an indictment against all forms of capitalist rule and all kinds of bourgeois politicians, and against the capitalist system as a whole.

In a blast against the monetary policy of the Roosevelt administration, Hoover has the nerve to draw the following correct conclusion about the shift from policy holder to stockholder. "Thus the rich become richer, and the poor poorer." This is bait for political paps to vote Republican—who will "defend" the poor.

Facts vs. Conclusions

But these economic facts, pointed out by Hoover's group, against the Roosevelt group in the inner struggle of the imperialists for power and wealth, contradicts his conclusions. This man, whom the yellow press praises so highly for his economic education and ability, turns out to be the worst kind of vulgar economist. If it is true, as Hoover says, that under the New Deal, concentration of wealth and centralization of government continues, that the rich are getting richer, and the poor poorer, that smaller units of production are being squeezed out under the code set-up, that the "Managed currency" is to enable the Government to change from time to time the purchasing power of the currency for all commodities, wages salaries and incomes.

The "Liberty" Racket

At least Hoover's economics is not as vulgar as the economics of many Socialists, who see Stalinism in the New Deal, or the Stalinists who see Fascism in it. Hoover is not serious in his charge that the Government policies are socialistic. This is bait for conservative support within both parties. Hoover is serious about liberty, but not the kind of liberty he speaks about in his article. Such prattle about liberty, abstract pure liberty, is merely the age-old propaganda to catch the uninitiated. Bourgeois liberty in its most favorable form means complete freedom to exploit labor power and natural resources with the least possible amount of government regulations.

Hoover is against "national regimentation" and for "liberty". He is opposed to code restrictions on business and for "real competition". He wants the government to get out of business and stop penalizing "thrift". In fact, he almost speaks for the "forgotten man". Roosevelt beat him to that clever sales talk.

Hooliganism Again

The Pittsburgh branches of the Communist League and the Spartacus Youth have distributed the following leaflet:

TO ALL WORKING CLASS ORGANIZATIONS! You will recall that in San Francisco groups of Vigilantes were organized by the ruling class to smash working class meetings and their homes.

A similar incident happened very recently in Pittsburgh. Hit-lerite methods were used by the Communist Party (Stalinists) in setting up one of our 19-year old members Friday evening, August 31, for distributing leaflets advertising a meeting of the Spartacus Youth League.

On the following evening when the Spartacus Youth League attempted to proceed with their meeting a group of Stalinists, numbering approximately forty people, came into the meeting hall, provoked and gave us an ultimatum that a certain member of the Communist League of America and a certain sympathizer will never be permitted to speak before any working class organization as long as the Communist Party exists in Pittsburgh.

We wish to stress the fact that in miniature from this is an exact reproduction of the Madison Square Garden affair.

We call on all workers' organizations to condemn such tactics as REACTIONARY in the labor movement.

The Communist League of America and the Pittsburgh Branch of the Spartacus Youth League will hold a meeting in the near future where the prohibited speakers will appear. We urge all workers to attend and defend this meeting. You will be notified through a separate leaflet as to the time and place of this meeting.

We believe that only the working class can put an end to this hooliganism in the labor movement. —Communist League of America —Spartacus Youth League —Pittsburgh Branch

Letters to the Editor

We are now undertaking a fundamental change in the character of the Militant. From a theoretical organ dealing primarily with intra-party matters and the clarification of principles we are trying to transform it into a popular working class political weekly. Our purpose is to fill a great need in this country—a Marxian newspaper, understandable to every worker, that tells the truth about events as they occur, that fights the capitalist system and all its agents in the trade unions and elsewhere and that answers the problems of the labor movement.

The bundle order of one hundred Militants have been received and have already been distributed to the strikers. The seeds of Marxism have been sown on virgin soil; at least one met with no resistance while passing the Militant to them. The workers were not only well pleased with their article on the strike, but they also read the other accounts with much interest.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE MILITANT JOIN THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE. ORDER A BUNDLE OF MILITANTS-ONE CENT PER COPY.

What Hoover is not able to realize is that he is a partner of the New Deal. It was the Hoover Commission, under his administration that brought in a lengthy, voluminous report in economic and social trends in America. This Commission pointed out many facts, showing both the weak spots and the breakdown in the system. That was valuable bourgeois economic research. The Roosevelt administration is merely trying to patch up these holes in the economic structure of American capitalism that the Hoover Commission pointed out. The whole difference revolves around the ways and means to patch up the capitalist system and to keep America on top of the heap of decaying world capitalism. Hoover thinks his conservative capitalist method is superior to the Roosevelt progressive method of saving capitalism. Roosevelt is at least clever enough to throw crumbs to the workers every time he dishes out big portions to the capitalist class. Hoover didn't have this technique.

The inner capitalist struggle of American imperialism for control of the state machinery is becoming sharper. The Liberty League of Smith and his big financier backers, and the Herbert Hoover "Challenge to Liberty" are merely the opening guns in the struggle of these groups for the spoils of exploitation and the possible booty of imperialist wars. —HUGO OEHLER.

MARCH OF EVENTS

The State and the NRA

Even the most casual study of the NRA and the philosophy back of it cannot help revealing that the forces at work in the capitalist system pushing it along the road to state capitalism, are independent, by and large, of the volitions of those compelled to submit to these forces. Thus the "philosophy (or ideology) of the New Deal finds itself continually and apologetically at variance with the reality, with the needs of capitalism in crisis that thrust upon the state greater and greater tasks that previously were the care of "private initiative".

Owen D. Young and the Farmer

Owen D. Young also wants a balance maintained between industry and agriculture. But he is opposed to the NRA and becomes the firm champion—does this industrial-banker-capitalist, head of one of America's greatest monopolist trusts—of freedom for the farmer, freedom, that is, to support capitalism. The farmers, says he, hold freedom of action sacred and will not tolerate coercion in the use of the land they call (!) their own. The farmer accepts no man as his boss, resents discipline of the factory whistle, specified hours of work, ect. We hope that all the wage slaves exploited by the Youngs take due note of the great admiration of this boss for those who resent the capitalist factory discipline. Young is engaged here in building up the myth of the "free" American farmer (most of whom are already in the tenant and farm proletariat class, the rest so heavily mortgaged by the banker Youngs that they are rapidly falling into that class). Young would like to drive a wedge between the farmers and the workers, to keep them separated, to set one against the other—in order to divide and rule. He gives the usual lip service to the fraud of having the government "arrange" its national economy so that there is a just economic balance between the price which the farmer gets for what he sells and the price which the farmer pays for what he buys. As though it is not the very nature of the system of capitalism itself to render this impossible by its piling up profits on the cost of raw materials bought from the farmer and the labor power of the worker.

Monopoly Capitalism Crushes the Farmer

Young is one of the foremost proponents of the system of monopoly capitalism that reaches out for complete control of the market and establishes by its grip on the market not only the price of its products but the prices paid for the raw materials. The individual farmer is utterly helpless, just as is the individual worker, in the face of monopoly capitalism. But this does not stop Young, tongue in cheek, from calling on the government to help the farmer "negatively" by preventing the taking of unfair advantage through artificial price control, through credit discrimination, and through artificial market manipulation and market speculation. O. D. Young is typical of that class of financier and stock manipulator who attempts to pose as a captain of industry and therefore "allied" with the farmer against the speculators and grasping bankers. But the farmer is not taken in by this pose. He knows that monopoly capitalism is the root of all evil and the hard economic facts that disinhibit him from the land, that convert him steadily into tenant farmer or farm worker, are too close at hand for the farmer to be hoodwinked by sweet words that celebrate his vanished freedom. The farmer is becoming increasingly aware of the game of the capitalists to set him against his natural ally, the city worker. —JACK WEBER.