

MARCH OF EVENTS

By JACK WEBER

The Profit System and Capitalist Sabotage

No class-conscious worker will be fooled by the revelations of so-called "inefficiency" in the handling of food stuffs for relief purposes...

This capitalist sabotage manifests itself everywhere and at all times when the maintaining of profits requires the destruction of wealth...

Profits and Housing

Capitalist society in the throes of crisis is faced continually with the problems of continued economy...

What the capitalists desire is that the government shall somehow set the wheels of heavy industry going once more by means of a housing program...

Housing and the Building Workers

This does not mean that the government will not concoct schemes for aiding the languishing heavy industries through some form of subsidized housing...

The government is moving to take the lead in this process of "deflation" of costs. If present intimations become a reality, then we may expect a direct conflict between the construction workers and the capitalist state...

Robins-Gras Free on Bail

Harold Robins and Andre Gras, whose conviction for assaulting a scab during the hotel strike was reversed last week by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court...

Happy to be free and ready again to take their places in the labor movement, Robins and Gras were confident that a new trial would prove their innocence once for all...

The Robins-Gras Defense Committee for Non-Partisan Labor Defense, will continue the fight for the freedom of Robins and Gras...

JOIN THE WORKERS PARTY.

Munitions Makers Put the Screws on Roosevelt

President Overplays His Hand In Profitless-War Plan

WASHINGTON. — Last week's take-the-profit-out-of-war campaign was a lesson in capitalist politics. War has always been one of the crucial questions for a capitalist regime...

There can be little doubt that Roosevelt recognizes the ultimate necessity of war if the capitalist regime in this country is to continue. One need only remark that while the government handed out one billion in relief under the New Deal, it spent two billion, exactly twice as much, on armaments.

The Nye committee on armaments has barely scratched the surface. If the investigators care to follow every lead, no matter how indirect, they will finish by indicting the whole capitalist state as a monstrous device for oppression, graft, and murder...

Roosevelt on the Spot

There can be no doubt that President Roosevelt was put under pressure by just those financial interests that found the Nye committee so dangerous. The President responded nobly. He responded too nobly, he overplayed his hand, and for twenty-four hours it looked as if he had actually laid bare the real capitalist nature of "our democracy"...

A brief glance at the President's end-profit-in-war pronouncement reveals its source and its intent.

The New York Sun said, "In announcing the afternoon conference on war profit laws, President Roosevelt declared that he hoped war would never come again, and that he was taking up the question now because there was at this time no war cloud on the horizon."

No War Clouds?

Leaving aside the asinine plety of hoping war out of existence where did Mr. Roosevelt get the idea that there was no war cloud on the horizon? The President knows that war with Japan over the Chinese market is always imminent; that war with Great Britain over the colonial market, especially in South America, is ever possible; that the war between Germany and France, now brewing, would involve the United States very rapidly; to mention a few war clouds. As for actual wars—the Chaco dispute is, as the State Department knows, a war not between Bolivia and Paraguay, but a war

W.P. AND TRADE UNIONS

By ARNE SWABECK Secretary of Trade Union Dept. of the Workers Party.

IN THE program of action adopted at the convention giving birth to the Workers Party the central point is its trade union activities. That is a job which the party intends to tackle in earnest in order to become a factor of influence in the trade union movement.

Thoroughly realistic, this program of action sets out objectives that are within reach of a live active force. Following further in the same fashion the initial steps are now under way to organize the party itself, its members who belong to trade unions, and to cement a firm contact with the progressive elements who are eagerly awaiting a lead to chart a new course in union movement today.

A trade union department has been set up. The party trade union fractions are being organized and the first steps taken to contact the live wire progressives in the various localities. Information will be exchanged mutually between the branches and the center, taking up such questions as: How to start the trade union activities; the function of the party fractions; the organization of local progressive groups; the problem of organizing in unorganized shops; the burning issues in the trade union movement; the essence and meaning of

the party's trade union policy, etc. These are, of course, only preliminary steps to get the machinery into motion in order to take up the bigger points on the order of the day.

Basic Tasks The program of action for the trade union work centered around two basic propositions. The first and foremost is the creation of a national progressive movement in the trade unions. The second presented the idea of selection of a couple of concentration points, the section of the textile industry in New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania and the automobile industry in and around Detroit, Toledo and Cleveland.

Insofar as the first proposition is concerned, the crying need for a national progressive movement does not have to be emphasized to militant workers. In fact it represents to them a long felt need; but the forces to actually tackle the problem were not at hand. There is today not such a national movement in existence. Excellent examples have been set of what progressive and left wing policies mean and what can be accomplished when a group of determined militants begin to act in an organized fashion. We need mention only Minneapolis and Toledo. But these examples had so far mainly a local character.

Many other examples could be adduced of how not to conduct left

wing or progressive policies or organizations. For the present, however, we do not intend to enter into a discussion of these questions. They will be taken up in subsequent articles in the New Militant dealing more directly with the purposes of the projected national progressive movement in the trade unions. At this moment our first task is to get the wheels into motion and to begin the first steps in our activities. To this end we are discussing this question directly with a number of outstanding progressive trade unionists.

Concentration Points The idea of selecting a couple of concentration points for our trade union work has to do with our initial party stage when with limited forces it would not be advisable to attempt to spread over the whole field at once.

But this is not the only reason. In the two particular concentration points mentioned issues of the most important character are accumulating and great struggles are in prospect. The issues are of course not the same character in both instances and to that extent the approach to the problems differ. In the Detroit automobile area for example the real problem is still the one of establishing a union organization. But that also is a job for the militant forces. And so, with the initial preparations on the way our party will proceed to the bigger issues confronting it.

Harlan "Law" Still Active

HARLAN, Ky.—Carl Williams and two other union miners were attacked and beaten in the Louellen Hotel here by Ben Unthank, Frank White and George Lee, three of the 75 gunmen on Sheriff Middleton's deputy sheriff force.

"They are reds," the deputies said, explaining the attack. Middleton, who was elected by the miners' vote, has been ordered by Lieutenant Denhart, chief of the state militia, to rid his force of "gunmen" immediately after the election of Middleton he re-hired the deputies who terrorized the miners in the big strike of 1930. The miners say they have been "sold out" again.

Gunmen are procured to "uphold" the law and to prevent the miners from organizing in the United Mine Workers. Many of them are on the payrolls of the companies and the straighter they can shoot the more they are paid.

Denhart intervened in behalf of "the good state of Kentucky", which fears a repetition of the 1930 "national scandal" when the coal operators and the Sheriff's office crushed by violence an incipient union movement.

JOIN THE WORKERS PARTY.

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WORLD IN REVIEW

FASCIST STATE IN PORTUGAL

The dictatorship of President Carmona has ridden rough-shod over the rights of the workers and peasants of that country for the last nine years. Labor organizations have been suppressed, their publications suspended and workers' leaders imprisoned. As a culmination of the process that has been definitely developing for some time, the ruling clique has now decided to convert Portugal into a corporative state modeled after Mussolini's Italy. The change is to take place "peacefully" through elections in which only one slate of candidates appears on the ballot. In view of the weakness of the Portuguese labor movement, and the complete lack of a revolutionary party, it appears that Carmona will encounter no serious opposition to his schemes at the present time.

CHACO WAR TOLL HEAVY

As the Paraguayan army prepares to drive the Bolivian troops from their last strongholds in the Gran Chaco, the government of that country has rejected the proposals for settlement offered by the League of Nations. Flushed with victory, the Paraguayans are now unwilling to terminate the two and a half years of open warfare, excepting on their own terms.

This conflict, having its origins in a territorial dispute involving American and British oil interests, has already cost the lives of 80,000 men, sixty per cent of which were Bolivians. Between 350,000 and 400,000 men were mobilized during the course of the struggle.

POWER BALANCE IN EUROPE

The following significant item, reporting from Paris that French policy is turning in the direction of reaching an agreement with Germany, is taken from the British New Leader, organ of the Independent Labor Party:

"In well-informed circles here it is believed that French policy has turned in the direction of reaching an agreement with Germany. Official circles are now reconciled to the Saar Plebiscite resulting in a return of the territory to Germany, and it is recognized that nothing effective can be done to prevent Germany re-arming.

"This turn in policy is likely to affect French-Soviet relations. The critics of Soviet foreign policy have always taken the view that the French capitalist government would be an unreliable ally of Soviet Russia. If an agreement with Germany can be reached, the French government will not hesitate to throw over Russia.

"Austria is also changing its attitude towards Germany. The government has issued instructions to the Press (1) not to print anything in future regarding German re-arming, and (2) to treat the Saar problem in a manner favorable to Germany."

TREND IN FRANCE DOWNWARD

The general economic situation continues to go from bad to worse, according to a news dispatch from Paris in the Sunday, Dec. 15 issue of the New York Times. "Unemployment statistics just issued," says the dispatch, covering the ending last Saturday, "show a rise of 9,658 over the previous week and 115,223 over the corresponding week in 1933."

"The total was 384,841. These are registered as wholly unemployed, and it is generally agreed that the actual total is about four times the official figure. Competent observers expect unemployment to reach the 500,000 mark by the end of February.

"The industrial production index is pursuing a steady downward trend, which indicates contraction of trade. Bankruptcies have reached an all-time record. The stock market index is down, although bonds have risen slightly. Railway earnings and car loadings declined."

SECRET WAR PLANS

WASHINGTON.—Despite reports that the War Department will not permit the Senate committee investigating the munitions industry to have to the country the secret arrangements between the government and big business for the mobilization of 1,200 peace-time and munitions factories for the production of gases, guns and explosives in the next war, Senator Gerald P. Nye, North Dakota liberal, chairman of the committee, said that "plans" would be gone into. Nye will ask an appropriation of \$50,000 from Congress to continue the committee's work.

He said the committee would keep secret the allocation of wartime procurements among plants and the details of arrangements between the government and industry in regard to kinds and quantities of war materials to be produced.

labor seeks unity with black. That was true then as now. To make secure its position it exonerated white bourgeois philanthropy and renounced all efforts of solidarity of white and black labor. They preferred and still prefer seeing black labor remain subservient to the opulent whites.

Negro Workers in the Early American Labor Movement

Fight for Social and Economic Equality Since 1869

(Ed. Note.—This is the first of a series of articles by comrade Williamson on the history and problems of Negro labor in the United States.)

By SIMON WILLIAMSON

Negro labor in America showed the tendency to unite with white labor as early as 1869. It was then that four delegates, representing the interest of the black proletariat, appeared before the national convention of the National Labor Union. This organization averred itself as a purely industrial union, having for its only objective the securing for the producer his full share of all that he produced. However, after the first convention of the new labor organization no Negro delegates seemed to have appeared at any of its succeeding representative affairs. There seems to have existed a difference of opinion among the various strata of the organization on the Negro's position as an industrial worker.

This change of attitude toward the black proletariat was, no doubt, due to the peculiar psychology that the new industrial bourgeoisie was using upon the white worker for the purpose of weakening its class understanding and rendering it impotent in the face of all attacks.

Just emerging from slavery, the black worker, especially in the south, found himself master of the crafts of his era. This made him a fierce competitor of the white proletariat who was less skilled in workmanship. The Negro was not, however, conscious of his true position as a workman. His only interest was to find the necessities of life at whatever wage was available. Low wages to white artisans were lucrative salaries to Negro artisans just emerging from chattel slavery. Thus one could easily be played against the other.

Such laws, such attempts at what purports to be reform, always greeted clamorously by liberals and right wing Socialists, react inevitably to the greater advantage of capital.

The Lever Act was employed, just as the present proposed laws will be employed, against labor. Striking unions were held for "conspiring to make unfair profit". Many strikes were broken, even as late as 1920, two years after the war, the strike of the Pennsylvania anthracite miners was broken on just these grounds. Thus while 181 million dollar a year incomes went scot-free, trade unionists who tried to raise their wages a dollar or two, or cut their hours from ten to eight were accused of "conspiring to make unfair profits".

The President made his intention even more plain in completely neglecting the Nye committee. Evidently he could not afford to have any blunders associated with the delicate problem of making capitalist war palatable to the people.

The President overplayed his hand on the whole end-profit-in-war business. He made it quite plain that the government must and can only represent the capitalist class, and that New Deals, labor promises, welfare governments, all sorts of so-called reforms are not only predestined failures, but worse, come to serve more and more directly just those interests they pretend to regulate.

Foundation Fund Campaign

Fusion between the former American Workers Party and the Communist League of America, is consummated. The Workers Party of the U. S. is launched. The membership of the two organizations is now functioning in united branches and the enthusiasm engendered at the mass meeting which launched the party, is taking concrete form.

The eleven points outlined in the Program of Action, printed in the first issue of the New Militant are taking on life.

Reports from the country show that new applications for membership are being received everywhere. The organization of the two coast to coast tours is under way with a short three week Cannon-Muste tour as a forerunner to begin January 13. The Party's national educational committee is functioning and its program will soon be available for the branches. Two of the Party's concentration districts have been started. A pamphlet, embodying the Declaration of Principles and the Constitution of

the Party is on the press. The national Trade Union Committee is gathering its forces and the sixty-day Party Foundation Fund Campaign is swinging into action.

This covers six points in the Program of Action. There still remain five points to be acted upon.

To accomplish the Program in full we must bend all our forces and energies toward the raising of the \$5,000 within sixty days. A beginning has been made in that direction.

The New York District is collecting the Foundation Fund tax from its membership. More than \$400 has been pledged and about \$109 has been paid in cash as reported below.

Local Philadelphia has also taken action with about \$75 pledged. Other branches have not yet reported.

Antoinette Konikow of Boston sent a check for \$25 toward this fund.

A close New York sympathizer writes that the news of the fusion and the launching of the new party thrilled her to such an extent that she stands ready to contribute to the Party Foundation Fund \$200 for every equal amount we raise from others, up to a total of \$1,000.

We call upon all friends and sympathizers to rush their contributions so we can make up the first \$200 as fast as possible.

RUSH FUNDS! PARTY FOUNDATION CERTIFICATES will be issued for every donation over \$1. If you can't make a contribution, send for a collection list and a certificate will be issued to you for the amount collected.

DON'T DELAY! ACT TODAY.

Bound Volumes of THE MILITANT For 1933 and 1934 Each \$1.50 For July 1931-Dec. 1932 \$2.50 PIONEER PUBLISHERS 102 East 11th Street New York, N. Y.