A I A R M Steel Truce Signals in the In Deadlock Soviet Union!

By A. J. Muste & James P. Cannon

ECENT events in the Soviet Union, commencing with the assas-sination of Kirov and followed by secret executions totalling 103 at the present writing, cause the deepest alarm to the thinking revolutionary workers of the entire world for whom the Soviet Union is and has been since 1917 the star of hoje and inspiration.

The alarm that every revolutionary worker feels at any indication of danger to the Soviet Workers' State is increased and intensified enormously by the secrecy and my tery in which the present happenings have been shrouded. For days after Kirov's assassination there was complete lack of any explanation as to the identity of the assassin or the reason for his act. Then the Soviet authorities placed the blame upon White Guards, counter-revolutionists left from the old Czarist regime. Later it was hinted that representatives of some foreign capitalist power were engaged in dastardly counter-revolutionary activities in the Soviet Union.

If the Soviet Union is in danger the advanced workers throughout the world will rally to its defense as they have always done and they will not object to drastic measures against conspirators.

The right and the duty of the proletarian state to adopt the sternest methods of repression against its class enemies is indisputable for a revolutionary worker. Lenin and Trotsky taught it. And history will applaud them for it, for the young revolution fighting for its very existence, and learning from the terrible mistakes of the Paris Commune that leniency to the class enemy ends in the bloody massacre of the workers, had to crush the resistance of the overthrown class with swift and terrible blows. But, once the power of the revolution was consolidated, after the working class had triumphed in the civil war and the wars of intervention, the prosecution of counter-revolutionists was conducted in court. From the beginning, moreover, Lenin and Trotsky always proved the necessity of their actions; they explained everything clearly, fully and honestly to the international working class as well as to the workers in the Soviet Union and were supported

Workers who see the operation of the white terror in a large part of the world, the mass murder of the victims of fascism and reaction in Germany, Austria, Spain and other countries-not to speak of the killing of strikers in the "democratic" United States-will not shed tears over the fate of a few White Guards and counter revolutionists who seek to restore the capitalist order in the Soviet Union. They need only to be convinced that the victims are really White Guards and that it is really necessary to resort to such drastic measures

The revolutionary workers have nothing in common with the hypocritical outcries of anti-Soviet elements, whether they be Social Democrats or capitalist editors, who come forward now with increased aggressiveness to renew their agitation for bourgeois "democracy" as against workers' dictatorship. These critics were effectively silenced in the past, or at least deprived of all influence among the advanced workers. If methods are now employed which enable them to raise their heads again it is only another count in the indictment of these responsible for the methods.

In the Summer of 1922, more than twelve years ago, the trial of the leaders of the Social-Revolutionary Party, charged with responsibility for an organized campaign of terrorism and sabotage, took place in Moscow. It was held in open court in the one-time "Hall of the Nobles", then and now the headquarters of the Moscow trade unions. The accused, at the request of the parties and organizations of the Second International, were allowed to have foreign counsel-ironically enough one of the attorneys for the accused S.R.'s was Vandervelde. Minister of the Belgian King during the war and the present head of the Second International to whom the Comintern recently offered a "non-aggression pact". The guilt of the accused was established at the public trial beyond any doubt, in part by their own confessions. They were convicted of responsibility for and the direct organization of the assassination of Voladarsky, the attempts on the lives of Lenin and other Soviet leaders, the dynamiting of bridges and other acts of terrorism and violence against the workers' state. As a result of this open trial, conducted before the eyes of the world, the revolutionary vigilance of the Soviet Government was approved and endorsed by the international working class; the moral position of the counter-revolutionists, including the Mensheviks and the Social-Revolutionaries, was completely destroyed.

So strong was the position of the Soviet Government then, in 1922, when the country was still suffering from the devastation of civil war and famine, when industrial production was at its lowest point, far below pre-war standards, before anybody had even thought of "socialism in one country", not to speak of proclaiming its existence-so strong was the position of the victorious revolution that the Soviet Government, with the approval of the Communist International, found it possible to commute the death sentences passed on the terrorists by the proletarian court.

It was Trotsky who came before the Executive Committee of the (Continued on Page 4)

Muste Calls for Funds To Carry on Mass Work

The contents of this issue of the, and the political field, in the unions the drive for the \$5,000 Party Foun- groups, at home in the United dation Fund must be put over, and States and abroad, the evidence furnish at the same time conclusive piles up that the new party was sabotage of the defense of the 18 evidence that it will be. Consider the situation: One of the founders of the Communist Party in this country, prominent leader in its trade union work, has joined the W. P. In at least two basic industries this week, automobiles and steel, the workers have again been put off with empty promises and gestures by the capitalists and the Roosevelt administration.

In automobiles, for example, one of the million and one Roosevelt commissions is holding hearings on "stabilization of employment", but refuses to listen to the testimony of workers regarding the anti-unionism of the bosses which is the every sympathizer, must get busy. root of the turmoil in the industry. Bring in every dollar, every penny Discontent mounts among the that can be raised. Forward money workers. "Send an experienced or- to the national office as quickly as ganizer," cry our Toledo comrades, "to get busy on this situation."

Look abroad and we witness the swift, amazing developments which have followed the assassination of Kirov in the Soviet Union and which constitute the subject of an important statement in this issue. On every hand, on the economic

New Militant give the reason why and in other political parties and moment, that in the midst of contusion and disintegration every-Principles sets forth clearly and meeting of the C. P. at Berkeley

COMRADES, WE MUST NOT SHIRK OUR GREAT RESPONSI-BILITIES NOW BY FAILING TO RALLY ALL OUR RESOURCES AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT TO GET OUR REVOLUTIONARY MESSAGE TO THE MASSES.

Now every branch, every member, you get it. A dollar given early in the drive will do the work of two. FOR THE WORKERS PARTY

OF THE U. S.! FOR WORKING CLASS SOLI-DARITY!

> A. J. MUSTE, National Secretary

At Capitol

Roosevelt's Plan is Balked By Failure to Agree on Company Unions

WASHINGTON. - A three-point 'truce' program for the steel industry ended in a conference deadlock when labor leaders, mindful of pressure from below, refused to industry.

sonal desire, announced in October, tion. to extend the "truce" between workers and employers throughout

conference of leading steel barons and A. F. of L. leaders. Sanctions Company Unions The three points in the Presi-

dent's plan, which would have bound the steel workers for a period of six months, were: 1. The employers would bargain with all groups of employees. This proviso would have given

in steel. 2. Both labor and employers would recognize the National Steel Relations Board as the arbitration agency of the industry.

Federal sanction to company unions

The proviso was submitted despite the fact that the Steel Board has been unsatisfactory to labor. The Board was appointed by the President at the time of the threatened strike in steel last June and since that time has been swamped Rail Company, where the workers | bor circles in New York where he won over the company union.

3. Both sides would agree on a six months' "truce", during which no elections of representatives for collective bargaining purposes would be held.

Myron Taylor, chairman of the board of the United States Steel Corporation, had been campaigning for several months for both the "truce", as outlined by Roosevelt, and the proposal that the employers should have clear governmental sanction of company unions.

Asks More Conferences

When it became evident that the conference had reached a deadlock. President Roosevelt asked the Steel Board to continue its "good work" and to arrange further conferences. ed to pressure from the rank and toward changing. file, which is fast becoming more old-line union leaders.

What the next steps of President Roosevelt and the Steel Board will reported in steel.

Hit Sabotage In C.P. Trial

BERKELEY, Calif.- Indignation of the rank and file members of the Communist Party at the incompetence, mismanagement and outright launched at the most opportune comrades on trial in the Criminal Syndicalism case at Sacramento has reached the point of explosion. where else, our Declaration of Last week the general membership sharply the answer to the questions adopted a resolution calling the of the day in the revolutionary district leadership to account in the most scathing terms and categorically demanding a radical change to Detroit. They did have some of policy and attitude toward the trouble about 7-a. Matthew Smith, case and towards the defendants

The leading defendants, among them Caroline Decker, are allowed to lie in jail for lack of bail while ney, protested vigorously, and they favorites of the C. P. clique are taken out. Nothing is done to promote a broad united front with other working class organizations in behalf of the prisoners, the case committee heard plenty, as witnessis deliberately played down in the es for the M.E.S.A. and the A. F. party press and a venomous cam- of L. Federal Auto Union told what paign of slanderous insinuation is the conditions in the automobile conducted against the leading de- industry really are. fendants in the case. The reason: they are "suspected" of deviations M.E.S.A. proposed: that there in the direction of the Workers should be an annual guaranteed Party!

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MERRY CHRISTMAS-WHERE?

By DAN EASTMAN

optimism, bright hope, and reassur- a ragged cap over his eyes. He just around the corner, unprecedented Christmas boom, business and government cooperate for the week," he said, "depending on the common welfare, department stores show rise, and so on and on.

in carrying out the President's per- gaged the bootblack in conversa- take a different point of view.

His name, he said, was Bill I'm here at seven in the morning. The fifth Christmas of the depression and the third of the New Deal poor farm in upstate New York. In the insurance building there. If his body, to prevent its freezing.

"I make three to five dollars a barely three last week. I'd rather of Labor Perkins as the first step to have his shoes shined, and en- if my health fails me, I'll have to

"It's pretty tough in winter.

member of the Communist Party.

New York City

To the National Committee

Workers Party of the U.S.A.

I hereby present my application

to join the Workers Party, having

resigned from the Communist

I have been a member of the C.P.

U.S.A. since its inception. Before

that I was a member of the Left

Wing of the S. P. My differences

with the leadership of the C.P. ori-

ginated on the Trade Union ques-

expulsion 24 hours after the con-

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At Philly Meet

PHILADELPHIA.-A crowd

300, including members of every po-

litical current in the world of labor

- Syndicalists, Stalinists, Social-

turned out to hear A. J. Muste and

James P. Cannon present the pro-

Mostly workers were present-

militant trade unionists-Negro and

The speakers told of the fusion of

he former American Workers Party

principled basis of revolutionary

Marxism to build the Workers

Party of the United States. The

addresses were warmly applauded

and sale of the new party literature

The Lehigh County Unemployed

League asks that readers of the

NEW MILITANT will help them

build a library by sending them

books, pamphlets, etc. Send them

to: Ed. Moser, L. C. U. L., 341

Union Street, Allentown, Penna.

white, many unemployed and pro-

tessional people.

was good.

Comrades:

December 20, 1934

industry. It was submitted by the President at a special White House conference of leading steel borons. Joins the Workers Party

The trend of the revolutionary by the knowledge that he does not workers toward the new Workers stand alone. The C. P. will have Party was illustrated in the most striking manner this week by the action of Joseph Zack, one of the most prominent veterans of the American Communist movement, in withdrawing from the Communist Party and simultaneously joining the W. P.

As will be seen from the statement of comrade Zack which appears in another column he came to this decision after a thorough study of the fundamental problems which have arisen in the last decade and, in doing so, arrived at the same conclusions on all the prinis known to every militant who has taken active part in the movement COMRADE ZACK'S STATEMENT during the past 20 years. The panic of the leaders of the C. P., signalized by their hasty announcement of his "expulsion" after his resignation from the party, is increased

Auto Hearing Farce With Ban on 7a

Uncle Franklin Roosevelt, sitting tion more than two years ago, leadon his fence down in Washington, ing up to the 1934 Party Convention seems to have heard rumors that held in Cleveland. As a result of The deadlock over the question of the boys in the automobile and auto my brief talk as a delegate to that "majority rule" was caused mainly parts factories are getting restless convention, organization measures by the fact that Green, Tighe and again. The automobile code, due were taken against me in plain and other A. F. of L. representatives in to expire Sept. 4, had been extend- flagrant violation of inner party the conference were being subject- ed and there was still no action democracy. I was threatened with

Something had to be done. So vention if I did not retract the progressive and militant than the Uncle Franklin told Leon Hender- views I had expressed at the conson, chief of the NRA Planning and vention the day before. I was im-Research Division to take Dr. Isi- mediately removed from all party dor Lubin, statistical director of activity. As a result the whole be was not announced. Unrest the Labor Department, and Rich- question of the inner party regime pointing toward a general strike is ard H. Lansburgh, Henderson's associate director, up to Detroit and Toledo and Flint and other auto centers and let the workers tell 9 Join Party dent evidently knows a bit about psychology and letting people talk to keep them from acting.)

Then, he said, they should go to the manufacturers. And they should figure out some way to stabilize employment in the automotive field.

This Was Important

But, he said-and this was very, very important-they must be care- ists and ex-radicals of all shadesful not to let the boys talk about Section 7a or Dr. Leo Wolman's National Automobile Labor Board. That would be against the rules, and furthermore it might be embarrassing.

So Uncle Franklin's helpers went general secretary of the Mechanics Educational Society of America, the strongest union in the field, and Maur'ce Sugar, the union's attormade it clear they expected nothing and the Communist League on a from the hearing.

Committee Heard Plenty Even without 7-a, the president's

They made proposals, too. The

wage of \$2,000 for semi-skilled and

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is a very merry one indeed-in A tall, gaunt yankee, with a white it snows or rains its much harder: some classes. Looking through the stubble on his jaws, he was wrap- but hanging around in doorways I newspapers one finds nothing but ped in an old army coat, and wore can pick up thirty or forty cents. "I calculate if I can get through ance. Steel is turning up, Henry kept his shoe cream bottle in an February I am all right. February Ford is reemploying, recovery is inside pocket, near the warmth of is the month," he shivered. How does he live?

Eats at Horse Markets "Well," he said, "I used to have

weather. Make less in winter, a swell room over on Second Ave., but it cost me three dollars a week. Somewhat overwhelmed by all bootblack than go on home relief. I had to give it up. Right now agree to "company unions" in the this good cheer, your reporter de- They ask you too damn many ques- I'm down at the Washington flop termined to carry the message of tions, and even then you have to house, twenty-five cents a night. 1 The plan was submitted by Christmas down to the people. In wait around for months before eat in the horse markets, the old President Roosevelt and Secretary Madison Square Park he stopped they give you anything. Of course coffee-and joints." l asked about horse markets.

"I don't know why they call them horse markets. I guess they used to serve horse meat." He thought for a moment, "I guess maybe they still do."

What about the New Deal, the Christmas upturn, the recovery just around the corner?

To Keep People Quiet he said, "Just a lot of newspaper the dole, the funds to be provided talk to keep the people quit."

plenty of "expulsions" to announce for you," I said. in the near future, and the names "No, Christmas is just like any of some of the most active and miliother day for me. I'll come out and tant workers in the trade union try to pick up a few cents. 'Can't movement will appear on the lists. afford to let a day go by." Joseph Zack was a foundation

The Muni I traveled on across town to the municipal free flop house.

He was a member of the Central Committee in the underground days The soup kitchen is on an old and afterward. For years he was wharf at the blind end of East 25th. the head of the party trade union The street is bound by high brick work in the New York district and factory walls, and runs like an alsecretary of the T.U.U.L. Later he ley to hell, down to the East River ited States Chamber of Commerce, held the same office in the Cleve- dock. The walls are lined with the Manufacturers' Association, land district whence he was "ex- men, mostly older men, leaning up railroads, banks, utilities and the iled" for the capital offense of hav- in the sun, settling the stew handing opinions and talking about them. out they receive at the wharf. All country's industries. Permanent with complaints and petitions from union locals in the steel centers, but has held only one election, at a but has been swamped ciple questions as those outlined in the party's Declaration of Principles. The action of comrade Zack which will articles by comrade Zack which will one side of the street is a dark, it was said, "can no longer misinter-indication of the street is a dark, it was said, "can no longer misinter-indication." small concern, the West Virginia produced a sensation in radical la-

There are a good many drunks, old bleary-eyed hulks. It is hard adopted. to tell just which are drunks and which insane; for there is quite a

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Printers' O. K. Aids Striking Reporters

By LEO ROBERTS

NEWARK, N.J.-Five weeks on the picket line have taught the striking employees of the Newark Ledger more about capitalism and labor than many of them learned in years in the editorial room. Never again will they refer to scabs as "loyal workers".

They have learned from L. T. Russell, publisher of the Ledger, who, after ten days of complete public silence, inserted pald ads in all Newark newspapers saying, "There is nothing to mediate or arbitrate between the Ledger and the guild at this late date as the Ledger completely restaffed its editorial room and since the guild does not represent these employees I have no more reason to deal with the guild."

They have learned from the Allied Printing Trades Council, which sitting in special session, unanimously passed a resolution "extending sympathy and all possible sup port to the Newark Newspaper Guild's fight for recognition of their organization".

Their First Strike

They know now, these men and women who are picketing in the gram of the new revolutionary first organized strike of editorial party here on December 16. Nine room workers in the United States. new members were added and that it is only by fighting side by \$73.50 pledged to the party building side with other workers, not by depending on collaboration with win their rights.

On January 13, a labor parade is put in the cage with some of the being planned under the auspices of suspect beef, but the mice, caged the Essex County Trades Council and cagy, turned up their soft pink The guild is concentrating on getting a good turn-out.

This strike is being watched closely by proponents and opponents of affiliation of the American Newspaper Guild, which has 9,000 members all over the country, with the American Federation of Labor. At the guild's first convention in ened to split the guild.

Results of Class-Collaboration The leadership of the Ledger strike recognizes the need for co-

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Super Lobby Seeks Wage

Capitalists in United Front Against Labor to Put Screws on Congress

WASHINGTON. - The "superlobby" set up by the capitalists who met last week at White Sulpher Springs, W. Va., will lay before President Roosevelt and Congress when it convenes plans to put the unemployed on doles and to perpetuate company unions.

The united front of industry against labor was formed with the aid of members of Roosevelt's Cabinet. Ninety leading industrialists and bankers of the nation attended the conference.

Will Ask for Dole

For the unemployed, the lobby will demand that Federal relief be "That's a lot of newspaper talk," reduced and gradually replaced by by local charity and the state "There won't be much Christmas through "strongly centralized bu-

For the workers in industry business will ask that the Administration continue the NRA codes another year, with labor having the right, as at present, to bargain collectively with employers through organizations of their "choice", including company formed unions.

United Front

The lobby will speak for the Uncorporations which control the

"Let industry take the lead in recovery," was in effect the slogan

Screws on Congress

A simple analysis of the united front and preparations being made to put the screws on Congress to halt government spending and stop labor organization reveals that the capitalists have got together to slash wages and living standards all down the line. A "wild" Congress is coming in, a Congress under pressure from the "people back home" to appropriate more and more funds to relieve distress and furnish work for the millions and somehow make President Roosevelt's golden political phrases and promises come to life.

The danger, as seen by the superbusiness lobby, is not that this can be done while they hold the reigns of wealth and industry, but that the people might begin to believe it is possible and so expect "too

Pressure on the Administration recently forced Harry L. Hopkins, Relief Administrator, to cut relief wages below \$12 a week.

The Journal of Commerce, which interprets business and political trends for Wall Street, predicted in the early fall that the Administration would soon be "forced" to reduce relief wages to help industry stabilize industrial wages at a "reasonable

Cats Eat Relief Meat--Live

TOLEDO, Ohio. - Toledo relief authorities have found a new way to test the fitness of meat for the bellies of unemployed workers and their children.

When unemployed workers here brought tainted relief beef to the authorities the relief agents set out the bosses, that they can hope to to demonstrate to the workers that the meat was edible. Mice were noses at the meat. Determined to show that the meat could be eaten, some alley cats were captured and fed the meat.

The cats, noting the simularity to their regular fare, of garbage, pronounced the meat good. The nameless tabby martyrs convinced the relief authorities that the p ef St. Paul last year, a motion to af- is-(a) not good for mice, (b) edfiliate was tabled when it threat- ible by cats, (c) perfect for unemployed workers and their children.

> FOLLOW THE NEWS IN THE NEW MILITANT.

> JOIN THE WORKERS PARTY.

Sunday, December 25rd, 8.00 p. m.

IRVING PLAZA Irving Pl. & 15 th St.

J. P. CANNON A. J. MUSTE