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MARCH OF EVENTS

By JACK WEBER

A Dangerous Alliance

An item in the press recently, in connection with the General Johnson-Huey Long controversy, reveals a growing line-up of forces that may prove of the utmost danger to the working class.

The danger to the proletariat from these elements can hardly be exaggerated. They are the symbols heralding the conversion or transformation of the capitalist offensive to terrorize the working class so as to stop further organizing of the unorganized, into a fascist mass movement.

The Labor Party Fallacy

Nothing reveals more clearly the utter fallacy and bankruptcy of those who call for the formation of an American labor party, than a speech by Alfred Bingham, Farmer-Laborite supporter and editor of Common Sense.

Mendieta Sustained By Wall Street Army Alone

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States had, since 1901, reserved the legal right to intervene in Cuba at any time it saw fit; and the Reciprocal Trade Treaty, signed between the U. S. and Cuba in August of last year for the purpose of saving Cuba and Mendieta for Wall Street.

The first of these measures gave Mendieta a short breathing space from the attacks of the middle class nationalist elements, while the second promised a small degree of economic improvement.

These two "concessions" were such in appearance only, as the trade treaty also reacted in favor of American exporters whose Cuban trade had fallen off five-sixths in four years, and the Platt Amendment had outgrown its usefulness and no longer fitted in with the "pacifist" policies of the U. S. State Department.

A Single Product Country But the general contradictions of capitalist economy are inevitably sharper in such "single product" countries as Cuba (over eighty percent of Cuba's economic life is sugar; eighty-five percent of the capital invested in Cuba is American controlled).

The Cuban masses stand alone in America, as masters of the technique of the political general strike. In this respect, as well as for their heroism and great sacrifices in the struggle against the common enemy—Wall Street—they stand out

the clutches of the capitalists through an apparently working class party which is in actuality a third capitalist party, the vanguard must gain control of the movement by rallying the toilers around a program of proper immediate demands.

To separate immediate demands from the revolutionary tasks of the proletariat means to foster illusions in the minds of workers. It means to hold out the hope that the worker can win security and a better life by fighting for concessions under capitalism.

Our task is not to traffic on the ignorance and backwardness of the masses, not to attempt to win them unawares and by stealth, but on the contrary, to enlighten them and to show them the necessary steps to take along the road to power.

Shall We Compete with Fascism?

When it comes to immediate demands as such, divorced from a revolutionary program, we cannot hope to compete with the fascist demagoguery of fake "promises". Our answer to the demagoguery of the Huey Longs and the Father Coughlins is not a different brand of demagoguery, but enlightenment and clear revolutionary answers concerning the meaning of events.

He was peeved that Long and Coughlin were stealing a march on the Farmer-Labor Party (which might be substituted by any other labor party). As the New York Times reported: "The movement for a third party under radical-progressive leadership that is rising in the West is in imminent danger of being captured by the 'demagogic movement' headed by Huey Long and Father Coughlin, it was asserted last night by leaders of the Farmer Labor Political Federation."

JOIN THE WORKERS PARTY.

ORDER W. P. PAMPHLETS NOW.

Why Join the Workers Party

By A. J. MUSTE

Letters to a Worker Correspondent

Fellow Worker:

In my last letter I wrote about how the Workers Party came into existence, after many years of splits and disintegration in the radical movement, as a new unifying center for the revolutionary forces.

When we speak of our party as "revolutionary" we mean, on the one hand, that its aim is revolutionary and on the other hand that we believe in the revolutionary method. We do not believe that the masses can be delivered from poverty, unemployment, degradation, war, by any reform of the capitalist system under which we live.

We do not believe that the workers and their allies can overthrow the capitalist state, governmental system, and the capitalist economic system by purely legal, "democratic", peaceful, parliamentary methods. They will have to take the revolutionary road to their goal.

An Example of Reform

As for curing the ills of the workers by reforming capitalism, we have just been living through two years of the Roosevelt New Deal which was to do just that. And you know only too well what has got us. "Salvation" has been provided not for the workers, but for the capitalist class.

There is always some one who promises the workers to fix things up. Hoover with his chicken in every pot and two cars in every garage. Roosevelt with his New Deal. Huey Long with a house, automobile and radio for everybody. Isn't it about time that the workers realized what Marx taught long ago that it does not make any difference how well-meaning these capitalist saviors may be, there is no way out for the masses under capitalism?

For example, you tell employers that we now have a New Deal, no one is to get below a certain minimum, everybody is to get high wages so "the masses may have purchasing power to buy the output of our mass production" and then turn around and tell the boss that he must run his business at a profit in competition with other bosses, and his chief concern is necessarily to put his prices up as high as possible and to keep his costs, including his labor costs, as low as possible.

If for the moment the wage rates are maintained, the boss looks for some other way to squeeze out profit, as by putting in "labor-saving" machinery and putting workers out on the street. The steel barons have a new process with which 1,600 men can turn out as much as 32,000 do now. Out of every 320 now employed 304 can be fired and the other 16 do the work!

General Trend Today

Under capitalism, in this its period of decline, the general trend is toward greater misery for the workers. Capitalists make their profits by paying the worker in wages a smaller value than he creates by laboring. The capitalist thus gets what Marx calls surplus value. It is the only way profit can be created.

At an earlier period capitalism found a way out by getting outlets for surplus capital, possibilities of exploitation, etc. in so-called "backward countries". But as the situation grows more tense in the advanced capitalist countries and the "backward countries" also become industrialized, it is a case of bigger and hungrier dogs fighting for fewer and fewer bones. Terrific and awful wars break out. Another is in the making.

Things might be better. Plenty and security can be had. But even if the American working class were willing to accept meekly the fifty percent cut in its standard of living since 1929, it will not be given the "privilege". Capitalism will force the standard lower and again lower. It will lead the masses to slaughter unless they take things into their own hands.

Thus the workers become convinced that capitalism cannot be reformed, it must be abolished.

For the most part, however, the workers who have reached this conviction have been under the influence of the "Social-Democratic" philosophy of the Socialist parties and the Second International. According to this philosophy, we can gradually replace capitalism with socialism and we can do it by peaceful, parliamentary, "democratic" means.

Hiding in Opposite Directions

What has happened in Germany and other countries since the war shows plainly enough that this philosophy of "Gradualism" means ruin for the workers and their movement. The idea of running a capitalist and a Socialist, a profit and non-profit, system side by side is crazy. It is like trying to ride on two horses going in opposite directions.

The Pacific Movement

Japanese Imperialism Stirs Up Race Hatred in America

By SIMON WILLIAMSON

The Pacific Movement of the Western World has been organized in the United States by Japanese agents and Negro nationalists to create solidarity among the "darker races" against the "white race". Seeking to establish itself as the imperialist power in the Orient, the Japanese government is endeavoring to make allies of the oppressed American Negroes on the basis of "color" relationship.

Branches of this movement are located in all of the large cities where Negroes reside. It is growing daily in numbers and influence among the Negro masses.

For Japan finds herself in a critical position. Her natural resources are limited and her opportunities for expansion are blocked by the imperialist aims of other world powers. She must undersell her American and European rivals to gain monopoly of the oriental market, or by demagogic maneuvers, entrench herself so as to make European and American economic aggression in the east impossible without a serious war.

"Friend" of the Negro

Thus Japan has taken advantage of the unrest existing among oppressed peoples in other capitalist nations, and, through her agents, poses as the "friend" of the American Negro. In this new venture, the powerful Japanese who control the government, and oppress the Japanese workingman, hide their ambition and greed behind the thin cloak of "friendship" for the American Negro workers.

Japan points with pride to her victory over Tsarist Russia. She teaches that this was a conflict between races, rather than rival imperialist interests, which served as a prelude for the overthrow of "White Civilization" and for the establishment of a "Darker Civilization" in its stead.

However, let us turn our attention to the history of the birth and development of Japanese imperialism in the Orient. When Admiral Perry entered Japan in 1854, he found the country in a state of feudalism, and for some years after, Japan remained reluctant to accept Western capitalist culture.

In 1894 she engaged in war with China. The price of her victory was Korea, which she gained from China in 1895. However, by 1900 the Chinese peasants joined hands with the Chinese bourgeoisie in a relentless effort to drive out Japanese overlords.

But if weak, backward China could not defend herself, Tsarist Russia was not going to stand by and see her "dear friend" China fall into the hands of Japan, since imperialist Russia also had her eye on the rich booty Japan had captured from the Chinese.

There was a time when capitalism was able to make concessions to the workers, better the standard of living, without cutting into profits. Then the "gradualism" of the social-democratic parties and the unions brought certain results. Now capitalism maintains itself only by taking away concessions—wage rates, social insurance benefits, etc.—which it once gave.

Furthermore, "democratic" methods accomplish nothing. For capitalism itself destroys every vestige, every pretense, of democracy and maintains itself at last by means of an open, brutal, fascist dictatorship. Capitalism will inevitably do this everywhere.

Why? Because capitalism must drive the standard of living lower all the time. In freedom of this, if the masses have any freedom at all, any union or party no matter how conservative, meek, legal, respectable, peaceful, they will offer resistance. They will fight for mere existence. Therefore capitalism wipes out "democracy", smashes every trade union, farmers' organization, political party. The workers cannot save themselves or their movement by being humble and cautious.

Right here in the U. S. today workers are killed in strikes when they try to assert their right to

collective bargaining under Section 7a of N.R.A. The militia is called out against them, not against the bosses! Radical parties are kept off the ballot. A big movement is on foot to deprive the unemployed of the right to vote.

Under these circumstances, to rely on "democracy", to say that we will gain our ends by electing a president and a majority of congress pretty soon, is to disarm the working class while capitalism arms itself to smash us. That is what the Social Democracy has done.

History gives us no instance of a ruling class which voluntarily gives up its power. It took the English Revolution, the French, the American, to smash feudalism. It took four years of civil war in these United States to smash the slaveholding aristocracy of the South (even after a president and congress representing a new class had been elected by parliamentary methods) and to put the new capitalist class in power.

The capitalists will not quietly land over their power to us, fellow worker. We cannot use the capitalist state, system of government, whose very purpose is to maintain capitalism, in order to overthrow it. We have to smash the capitalist state and put the workers' state in its place. Then we can begin to build a new society on new foundations.

(A third letter will be published in the next issue of the New Militant)

Wall Street's Priest

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July 1930, called on Father Coughlin to testify.

Although the police chiefs of Flint and Pontiac, the President of the Detroit Citizens Committee, and the personnel manager of General Motors, all testified that there was nothing to fear from the Communists (and who would be quicker to bolster a red scare than police chiefs, citizens committees and personnel managers?) Father Coughlin alone testified that the red menace was acute.

With an eye to publicity and perhaps to his own welfare, he charged that none other than Henry Ford was the man responsible for the insidious advance of communism in Detroit... because he had signed a contract for \$13,000,000 with the Soviet Union!

Why did he pick on Henry Ford? We can only record that four Fisher brothers, who all sit on the board of directors of General Motors, are Catholics, and their mother is a member of Father Coughlin's flock. General Motors, of course, did not sign a contract for \$13,000,000 with the Soviet Union.

On October 5, 1930, as a reward for his stalwart battle against Communism and the Red Serpent, Father Coughlin was promoted from a small three station hook-up to a nation-wide hook-up on the Columbia system. His affairs began to run into money. A \$750,000 Shrine under way, \$200,000 per year for the hook-up, perhaps \$100,000 more for publicity, mailing replies, secretaries, etc. Where does he get it?

We confess we don't know. There is a story, a sort of fairy tale goes the rounds, that his listeners, millions strong, support his colossal business with contributions, a few cents here, a few cents there. We can't deny his tale, for Father Coughlin has never allowed anyone to look into his affairs. However, if we don't know where he gets the original capital, we do know how he tried to increase it, how he has involved in a nice little deal in silver, some five hundred thousand ounces, which might have netted him a neat profit.

LIBERALS

(With Quotations From the Authorities)

LIBERALS are a sensible breed, Well-tempered and soft-spoken; Truth in the middle is their creed, And the peace that's never broken. They view with calm and liquid eye The smoke and storm of battle. Wretched millions scream and die; They see them die like cattle. And coldly talk of what they've seen In terms of the sum and total, Considered through the golden mean Of the dead Greek, Aristotle. They "deplore" and "find regrettable This epoch's wretched madness" That "for convictions most debatable Cause all this cosmic madness" And call "for a moment's thinking Of just an impartial sort To keep the ship of state from sinking

And bring it safe to port." If one would ask which ship of state Or which the proper port? "These questions only agitate, And they furthermore abort The movement to pacificate This raging social sea, Torn by greed and racial hate And partisanry." For "Violence is the Major crime, And Peace the major goal; And change will come in God's own time With Progress of mind and soul." Yes, Liberals are gods of common-sense, And so it isn't strange That wanting change without violence, They'll get violence without change. —LOUIS BREMER