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CAPITOL NEWS LETTER

By JACK ELDER

A BIGGER AND BETTER BOARD THE WORKS-RELIEF BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Organized labor, the A. F. of L. leaders once again inform the world at large, has no use for strikes as a method of bringing employers to terms. Organized labor would much rather depend on laws which "guarantee" the right of collective bargaining, and on government boards "empowered" to put such laws into effect.

So argue Green and Company in defense of the Wagner Labor Relations Bill, upon which the Senate Labor Committee is now conducting hearings. Pass this bill, they plead with the committee members. If you don't pass it, they warn, wage-earners will fly off the handle; they will become enraged and strike; and then what will become of the New Deal's pretty little dream of class collaboration?

The stupidity of the A. F. of L. leaders transcends all understanding. They have had almost two years of Section 7a and of Wagner boards, Garrison boards, Biddle boards, Wolman boards, Stacy boards, et al. The statute, on the one hand, and the boards on the other, have brought American trade unions absolutely nothing. Company unionism has flourished as never before; the technique for kidding wage earners out of striking has been perfected; employers have thrown the orders of the labor boards into the wastebasket; and President Roosevelt has condescended to deliver several swift kicks in the pants to his "Supreme Court" of industrial relations.

What does all this mean to Green and Co.? Not that "guarantees" of collective bargaining are hardly worth the paper they are written on. Not that labor boards are good for nothing but sugaring the pill of compulsory arbitration. Not that trade unions must, given a capitalist society, rely on their own capacity for direct and militant action.

Because Section 7a has not worked, the A. F. of L. leaders reason, let us have more of it. Because the law has been a dead-letter, let us have a bigger, better and more elaborate law of the same sort. Because labor boards have been incapable of forcing anti-union employers into collective bargaining, let us confer a permanent status upon the boards and redefine their purely theoretical powers.

Section 7a, it is true, provided the psychological push which started the great organizational campaigns of 1933 in the iron and steel, automobile manufacturing, bituminous coal and other industries. But by relying upon the abstract rights of Section 7a rather than upon self-help, the A. F. of L. stultified its ability to profit from that initial push. By proposing what is on the face of it a tacit bargain—enact the Wagner bill and you need not fear strikes any longer—the A. F. of L. prepares to paralyze the labor movement in the United States, once and for all time.

THE WORKS-RELIEF BILL

Successful for the time being, in their drive against high wages, Administration forces have induced the Senate to knock the "prevailing wages" amendment out of the Work-Relief bill. The substitute amendment which was passed leaves the whole matter of wage rates, for any practical purpose, to the President's sole discretion. This means, all things considered, that \$50 a month will receive official sanction as the government's idea of how large a living wage ought to be.

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—Business Manager.

Nations Totter On Brink of Another Imperialist War

Capitalists Profited \$12,000 For Every Death in Last

The imminence of the Second World War was vividly demonstrated last Saturday by the action of Hitler Germany when she tore up the Treaty of Versailles and threw it in the faces of the other European powers. Henceforth, announced the Nazi leader, compulsory military service will be introduced in Germany and the Third Reich will enter openly into the race for arms on land, sea and in the air.

This announcement came at the end of a week filled with talk—and acts—for rearmament. And it came as no surprise, despite their public expressions of righteous indignation, to the responsible—or to be exact, irresponsible—rulers of France, Italy, Great Britain—and the United States. That Germany has been arming ever since Hitler came to power has been an open secret for many months. The pretence that she was not had to end sooner or later. The fact that Hitler choose last Saturday to end it only illustrates the increasing tension.

The Second World War

Thus less than seventeen years after the end of the "war to end war," preparations for the second World War are now publicly proclaimed. The death merchants throughout the world are happy. The "dollar-a-year" boys are practicing oratory. And the war-psychology-making machines are being oiled.

Meanwhile the conditions of the masses of the people of the world become more desperate. Unemployment and destitution increases. Living standards of the employed workers are being driven down either by direct reductions in wages or by the increasing cost of food and clothing. Appropriations for relief of the victims of the profit system are curtailed while appropriations for battle ships, guns, etc., are doubled and tripled.

Yet the following facts, showing what war means to the masses of the people, have been repeated time and again:

What War Means

The fact that nearly 10,000,000 young men were killed in the First World War, that 20,000,000 more were wounded, and that prisoners or "missing" numbered nearly 6,000,000 does not deter the capitalists for one minute from making ready for the Second World War. In addition to soldiers killed, wounded, and "missing" in the last war, famine, disease and pestilence took a total of over 28,000,000 people "among the civil population alone," according to the Swedish statistician, Hersh.

Left fatherless as a result of the war were 9,000,000 children. War widows numbered about 5,000,000 and some 10,000,000 were rendered homeless due to the war.

Direct money cost of the war for all belligerent countries amounted to over \$200,000,000,000. For the U.S. alone, during the two years, the direct cost was over \$22,000,000,000. Total indirect costs (property damage, etc.) amounted to about \$50,000,000,000 for all countries. The total cost of the war in 1918 was \$224,000,000,000.

According to a pamphlet written by Senator Nye it cost about \$25,000 to kill a soldier.

Who Won?

But for every casualty a profit of \$12,000 was made by the capitalist class, according to Lehmann-Russbult, German expert on war. Profits of leading American corporations ranged from 25 per cent to 3,000 per cent and more. Eighteen leading United States companies increased their net profits of \$74,650,000 for the 1912-1914 period to \$337,000,000 for the period 1916-1918. The number of known millionaires in the U.S. increased from

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NEW CLASSES IN SCHOOL

Two new classes have been added to the courses in the International Workers School. The first in elementary Russian, will begin Thursday, March 28th at 7 P.M. under the guidance of Sara Weber. The other is a course in public speaking for members of the Workers Party and Spartacus Youth League, to begin Monday, April 1st at 8:40 P.M. with Martin Glee as instructor. Registrations should be sent to the School office at 2 West 15th Street.

Sacramento C. S. Trial Near End

Judge Rules Case to Continue Despite Ford's Illness

SACRAMENTO, Cal., March 15.—The Sacramento criminal syndicalism case is coming to a close. Practically the last two weeks have been spent reading to the jury. A significant and interesting point of the trial came when Attorney Gallagher, in trying to show that the Communist Party would never think of calling a revolution without the support of a majority, wanted to introduce evidence about Germany.

"I can't see where Germany has any bearing on the case," the judge said.

"It certainly has," Gallagher shouted. "We intend to show that in Germany, where the Communist Party was supported by 6,000,000 voters, the Party allowed Hitler to come to power without raising a finger, because it did not have a majority behind it!"

But most of the time has been spent by the L.L.D. attorneys going over the 205 exhibits of "communist literature" introduced by the prosecution. Scattered excerpts have been read to the jury on almost every conceivable topic: left social fascism has been followed by the Soviet Army, industrial unionism by self-determination in the black belt, conditions of the working youth by the Labor Party. Absolutely no attempt has been made to present a coherent picture of communism to the court. Everything has been garbled, confused, disorganized.

Early this week defendant A. G. Ford, weakened by his 6 months' confinement in jail, had to be taken to the hospital with a serious attack of pneumonia. In this situation the judge cynically ruled that the case should go on, minus defendant Ford!

A BRITISH PATRIOT

NEW YORK (FP).—Germany's rearmament move came on the heels of a loan of some \$200,000,000 granted by Sir Henry Deterding, international oil magnate and Standard Oil rival, to Johannes Steel in the New York Post.

20TH CENTURY CIVILIZATION

"Cuba, unfortunately, at present, like the United States and other civilized countries, has four or five persons for every job."—Pres. Mendieta of Cuba.

Cannon Rorty and Chas. Malamuth Will Tell of Cal. Terror

James P. Cannon, Editor of the New Militant, James Rorty, author and newspaperman and Charles Malamuth, well known journalist, will address a meeting at Irving Plaza this Sunday evening, March 24 on "Class Struggles in the West"

Comrade Cannon has just returned from a two months tour of the country, including one month in California, the heart of recent strikes, terror, and class war. He will touch on the aftermath of the great San Francisco general strike, the Sacramento criminal syndicalism trials, on his visit to Tom Mooney at San Quentin, on the famous Agricultural and Cannery Workers Union, on the vigilante terror, and (no picture of California is complete without them) on the Sinclair Epitaphs and the Utopian movement, and last on the rise of the Workers Party.

James Rorty and Charles Malamuth have just arrived in New York after their now famous expulsion from the Imperial Valley, where they were investigating the incredible peon system of slavery among the agricultural workers.

Democracy Violent In S.P.

Led by Julius Gerber a crew of Old Guard Socialists broke into the New York Ypsel office late last Monday and took possession of all the property therein. Milt Cohen, a young Socialist, who accidentally wandered into the office during the raid was severely beaten up.

These desperate steps taken by the "democratic socialist" gentlemen were an outcome of the conflict between the City Executive Committee of the Socialist Party and the Y.P.S.L. following the latter's unanimous denunciation of the "New Leader" as an organ of the Old Guard promoting splits in the S.P. and as unworthy of the support of the young Socialists.

The S.P. committee retaliated by preferring charges against the entire Ypsel committee; disqualified the candidates for city organizer and city secretary, in a pending election, because they voted for the resolution against the "New Leader," and called upon the Ypsels to postpone the elections. At the same time they appointed a special investigation committee. The Ypsels defied these decisions and proceeded with plans for the elections.

The Executive Committee of the S.P. met last Monday evening, according to the Ypsel office: "with only 7 members attending out of a total of 17, they accepted the report of the subcommittee appointed to investigate the YPSL, doing so by a vote of 6-1. The committee consisting of Algernon Lee, Bela Low

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WP Progress on All Fronts, National And International Marked at Ptsbg. Conference

NUL Blasts Roosevelt's Relief Plan

Like Trying to Fight A Forest Fire With Tea Cups

COLUMBUS, OHIO.—Criticizing the Administration's social security program as an attempt to "extinguish a forest fire with a tea-cup of water," the National Unemployed League has issued a tentative draft of the Workers Security Bill which it is sponsoring. This draft is being submitted to state and local Unemployed Leagues for approval and recommendations before being put into final form. Suggestions should be sent to the National Unemployed League, 232 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

An extensive drive to win public support for the bill is under way. Plans are going forward for the League's Caravan to Washington in May to push the bill before Congress adjourns.

The comprehensive bill drafted by the League is called "A bill to limit the hours of labor, to provide additional appropriations for public works, and for the relief of the unemployed and to establish a system of unemployment and social insurance."

30-Hour Week

It provides for the 30-hour week for all national, state and local government employees and all wage employees in industry, mining, transportation, agriculture, domestic, technical, clerical and professional services and "all other occupations."

The minimum wage is fixed at \$30 a week, with the prevailing rate wherever it is higher.

A ten-billion dollar public works program is provided, the money to be spent within one year. This program is to include the building of modern low-rental homes; an up-to-date, fully equipped county hospital in every county; modern libraries and recreational centers in every city and county; rural electrification, and elimination of grade crossings.

Nothing For War

It is specified that none of this money shall be spent for military or naval purposes.

Immediate establishment of a system of unemployment and social insurance by the Secretary of Labor is authorized. All unemployed workers and farmers are to be cared for with insurance equal to average local wages, the funds to be raised by a government tax on inheritances and gifts and on income of individuals and corporations where they exceed \$5,000. The insurance is in no case to be

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Membership, Trade Union, Strike, Unemployed Work Shows Gain; Daily Paper Up for Discussion

Nearly 100 active workers, representing all important industries such as steel, mining, automobiles, textiles, rubber, gathered in the Active Workers Conference of the Workers Party of the U.S. held at Pittsburgh in connection with the plenary session of the National Committee of the Party March 15-18. The outstanding impression left by the conference was that of the remarkable strides taken by the Party during the first three months of its existence in carrying out the six months Program of Action adopted by the founding convention of the Party last December.

The fusion of the former Communist League of America and the former American Workers Party on which the formal launching of the party was based has been accomplished at the center and in the branches. Fundamentally, the problems and issues now confronting the organization are those of the

New Party and not of the old organizations.

Membership Increases
An increase of nearly 40 percent in membership has been recorded. The work of projecting the party and its membership in the unions, unemployed leagues and other mass organizations is proceeding everywhere.

A great impetus has been given to unemployed work as is symbolized most dramatically perhaps by the appearance of Mass Action, the weekly organ of the National Unemployed League, to which the Party has given support and assistance. The Party membership has taken a prominent part in a score of strike struggles in every section of the country.

The Party as a whole, and especially its California section, has assumed a leading role in the labor defense movement in the United States in connection with the Sacramento criminal syndicalism trial. The destructive policies of the Communist Party in this trial have been made a national and will be made an international issue by the Workers Party.

The Party print shop has been reorganized and provided with new equipment and is now in a position to turn out regularly the party organs, its pamphlets, etc.

While the fulfillment of the pamphlet program has lagged somewhat, an educational department has been set up, an International Workers School giving 11 courses established in New York, one or more classes organized in practically every branch of the Party, three sets of lessons have been sent out and others are ready, and preparations for the first session of a national training school are under way.

S. Y. L. Doubled Membership

The youth organization, Spartacus Youth League, has doubled its membership, issued its monthly organ regularly and immensely improved its organizational set-up. Comrade Cannon, the editor of the New Militant, has made a coast to coast tour. Comrade Muste, the National Secretary, has visited practically all of the party centers as far west as Minneapolis, Davenport and St. Louis. One other tour as far west as Chicago has been carried out.

Fraternal relations have been established with the Secretariat of the I.C.L. in Europe, with the newly organized Revolutionary Party in Holland, product of the merger on March 10 of the Revolutionary Socialist Party and the Independent Socialist Party of Holland, and with parties and countries in Canada, South Africa, Australia, China and other countries who have declared for the Fourth International and stand on the same programmatic foundation as the Workers Party of the U.S.

Many important problems confronting the revolutionary movement in the United States and abroad were discussed by the National Committee, the Active Workers Conference, or both. These include the Labor Party, Third Party, Huey Long, Coughlin, etc. developments; the recent events in the Soviet Union; the war danger as exemplified in occurrences in the international arena; the tumult in the Socialist Party of the United States and the proper course to be pursued by the revolutionary party toward the splits which appear likely to occur in the S. P.; the present position in the trade unions and the unemployed organizations. The decisions of the National Committee on these points will be published in this and forthcoming issues of the New Militant or communicated to the membership and to the workers in other ways.

A Daily Paper

Impressed, on the one hand, by the numerous opportunities springing up before the Party and the eagerness of the Party membership and the workers for information about the Party and its position, and on the other hand by the swift pace of events both in the labor movement in the U. S. and on the international arena, the National Committee authorized the Political Committee to continue a convalescent which it had tentatively begun as a sustaining fund for a daily paper.

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Life, Liberty, the Pursuit of Happiness

By BILL REICH

HOUSING: A widow and two small children were found living in the Railroad Station at Allentown, Pa. . . . In Boston, Mrs. Blanche Campa, destitute, crawled into a freight yard and in a snuck bank bore a baby. . . . Doris Duke, richest U.S. girl, weds a son of the Statesbury's. Doris owns a 5,000 acre estate at Somerville, N. J. with 35 miles of private paved roadway, a summer palace at New Port, R. I., a Manhattan residence on 5th Ave. with art treasures worth millions, and a palatial estate in North Carolina. . . . Her husband's family owns a home with 145 rooms, 45 baths, 14 elevators and requires 100 servants for its upkeep. They also have homes at Bar Harbor, Maine and Palm Beach.

SOCIETY: Palm Beach reports the best season since the depression. . . . Florida begged and received another \$400,000 from Washington for relief, claiming it was "broke" . . .

SPORTS: More than \$8,000,000 was bet on the ponies at Miami during the racing season. . . . Joe Green of Pittsburgh was fined \$2 for betting on a horse race. "Anybody on relief who bets on the races deserves to be fined," says the judge. . . . J. E. Gibson of Paris, Texas, is given \$2 to buy fishing tackle so he could be removed from

relief roll. "The catfish are biting," he was told. . . .

FOOD: Jack Dempsey cooks 19 times a day and keeps two cooks constantly busy over a stove in his private home. . . . Mike Naggis, unemployed steel worker, was found dead in his workaholic home near Coatesville, Pa. "Starvation," said the coroner. . . . Food prices have risen 11 percent in the past year, reports the Department of Agriculture. . . . "Prices are still too low," says President Roosevelt. . . .

RELIEF: An expensive government survey reveals that 89 percent of those on relief are in this condition because of unemployment. . . . The Department of Labor announces that \$26.77 per week is needed to provide a family of 5 with the means of bare subsistence, \$31.22 for the minimum essentials for health and decency. . . . President Roosevelt's Public Works Relief Bill allows an average of \$12.37 per week per family. . . . The U. S. Chamber of Commerce urges a \$2,000,000,000 reduction in the Public Works Bill, this permitting a dot of \$6 per week per family. . . . The Philadelphia's 310,596 relief cases average \$2.50 per week per person, Oklahoma's \$2.50 per month per person. . . . "Excessive relief presents the gravest threat to the fiscal integrity of the government," says Richard Whitney, President of the N. Y. Stock Exchange. . . .

THE ARTS AND SCIENCES:

Sally Rand, fan dancer, has patented her new bubble dance. "Like a good businessman, I keep a graph of my popularity," she states. . . . College professors near Washington, D. C. have formed a club with Huey Long as honorary president. . . . "Charley Chaplin is the world's greatest economist," announces Will Rogers. . . . University of Georgia students riot because movie prices are increased. . . . Cuban college students are playing a leading part in the present revolt. . . .

BUSINESS AND FINANCE: "To grant the soldiers' bonus would be a national calamity," says Eugene Grace, President of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, which profited to the extent of \$49,427,000 on war orders. Grace received a bonus of \$3,600,000 from his company. "I wonder if it wouldn't be all right to pay a soldier \$5 a day," he asks. . . . Evidence discloses that the Wierton Steel Co. paid the officers of its company union \$25 per month, permitted them to meet on company time, and paid a \$6,000 printing bill for the union. . . . The Federal District Court of Delaware holds that the Wierton Company union was free from intimidation, domination or control by the management. . . . "Roosevelt is just the man we need now," announces the arch-reactionary magazine Steel, organ of the steel bosses.

Auto-Rubber Alliance in Akron

By JACK WILSON

AKRON, Ohio, March 8.—A significant turn with far-reaching implications was made by the American Federation of Labor here today with the establishment of an alliance between the auto and the rubber workers' unions to work together in the current campaigns for recognition and the "threatened" strikes in both industries.

Suddenly changing previous plans to bring John Lewis, U.M.W.A. president here, the A. F. of L. had Francis J. Dillon, chief auto organizer speak at a mass meeting of all rubber workers unions here and pledges were exchanged to aid each other's materialize.

Thus the A. F. of L. was finally forced to admit the close relationship between these two basic industries. Rubber tire production depends primarily on sales to the auto manufacturers and they have admitted that a strike in the auto industry, if begun, must likewise be met with a smaller strike in rubber as a tie-up of the auto industry would automatically close Akron factories.

This latest move can best be interpreted as an attempt of the A. F. of L. to bolster its weak position in the auto industry and its rapidly weakening role in rubber by building prestige through this vague "united front." It is also an attempt to display a strong front to manufacturers in the vain hope of thereby obtaining recognition without resorting to strikes.

However, Dillon told the rubber workers that April 1 was the date set for action in Detroit and this was followed by a speech of Coleman Claberty in which he said rubber manufacturers would be given one week to begin negotiations or a strike would be called.

That the workers mean to take these two organizers at their word was shown by the tremendous applause which greeted them whenever militant tones were adopted in their speech and especially when threat of a strike was made. The Goodyear, Goodrich and Firestone locals are sending committees to try to begin negotiations this week with the manufacturers. A strike has been threatened if manufacturers refuse.

ALLENTOWN PUSHES NEW MILITANT CIRCULATION DRIVE

Today we have news from Allentown that the branch has set a quota of one sub for every member in the next two weeks. This quota, when fulfilled, will put Allentown at the top of the list in the contest. . . . Evidence discloses that the Wierton Steel Co. paid the officers of its company union \$25 per month, permitted them to meet on company time, and paid a \$6,000 printing bill for the union. . . . The Federal District Court of Delaware holds that the Wierton Company union was free from intimidation, domination or control by the management. . . . "Roosevelt is just the man we need now," announces the arch-reactionary magazine Steel, organ of the steel bosses.

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