

NEW MILITANT

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We Accuse William Green

UPON the request of Hooley Long, William Green, A. F. of L. president, sent a letter to the N. Y. Evening Post in which he says that Long's "legislative record upon legislation sponsored and supported by labor" is "thus far 100 percent favorable to labor"

Not a word about the Lane Cotton Mill workers in Louisiana where Long's word is law, kept in a state of peonage, their strike smashed by the strike forces.

Not a word about the Longshoremen's strike last year smashed by the militia in the state where Long's word is law.

Not a word about the utter backwardness of Louisiana in such matters as old age pension legislation, unemployment insurance, child labor.

Not a word about the way in which Long is skillfully trying to make the workers believe that his Share The Wealth Clubs and Long For President movement are the road to salvation.

Not a word about the fact that a mere vote for an A. F. of L. bill under circumstances where it means nothing is enough to get a credit on the A. F. of L. legislative committee's record.

Who gives William Green the authority to put a "labor" stamp of approval upon this demagogue? And in doing that to hide the most important facts, practically all the important facts, about his labor record?

Once again, and in the most outrageous fashion, Green plays the role of a misleader of labor.

Friends of Labor

THE A. F. of L. has long pursued the policy of playing up liberal politicians of the old parties. The Communist Party with its new "labor" party line is beginning to do the same thing.

The other day a few of these politicians gave an exhibition of how they can be counted on in the pinch to sabotage even the most elementary of labor's proposals. Wagner, author of the new labor relations bill purporting to outlaw company unions and on which the A. F. of L. today bases all its hopes for unionism in the basic industries, Bob La Follette, white hope of many third partyites, and author of the 30-hour bill, switched their votes in the U. S. Senate and thus helped to defeat the McCarran prevailing wage amendment to the Public Works Bill!

To the last, the A. F. of L. leaders plead for the amendment. They should now, logically, be attacking Wagner, La Follette and Black as betrayers of labor. They are doing nothing of the sort, because they have nobody but these same men to depend upon for support of the 30-hour bill and the Wagner labor relations bill.

And what assurance have the A. F. of L. leaders that these men in the pinch will not again back down? The answer is: Not only is there no assurance that they will not back down; it is certain that they will on anything that really matters. Capitalism is no longer in a position to give substantial concessions to the workers. Liberals, for all their good intentions and noble emotions, will simply serve as smoke-screens for the insistent drive against the standards of the masses.

The worker must build their own political party; but not a reformist "labor" party which also cannot play a progressive role today. The workers must build their own revolutionary party for the overthrow of capitalism.

Good Work Franklin



By Jim Karl

QUESTION BOX

Conducted by A. Weaver MILTON B. BRONX— Question: Is it true that M. Olgin, editor of the "Freiheit", took a patriotic position during the war? Can you give proof?

Answer: Not only did Olgin, who is now one of the chief of Stalin's Trotsky-slayers, take a patriotic position, but he reached heights of eloquence in urging the American workers to shed their blood for Morgan's profits. Here is a typical excerpt from his writings of that time:

"The war has lost for the Socialist world its threatening appearance. It is not a war for enslaving but a war for freedom. One must be blind or insane not to see progressive character of this war. The world at present is not sunk in the depths of darkness but in a severe and risky struggle which must bring light to out-grown humanity."

A different sort of bravery and a different sort of beauty calls and entices: the bravery of the battlefield, the beauty of people who sacrifice their lives for their country, for that which their country has declared to be their holy duty.

"There is a world of idealistic enthusiasm poured over the present war, a stream of sincere belief in the ideal of freedom. The American is firmly convinced that his country has no egoistic motives in the present war."

"A strenuous task-war. But in it appear many fine sides of both people and nations." (M. Olgin, N. Y. Forward, June 1, 1918.)

It is no accident, therefore, that Olgin occupies his present position.

B. H., BOSTON—

Question: What is the significance of the recent "Gold Clause" decision of the Supreme Court? Is it true that the way to further inflation is opened by it?

Answer: The existence of the clause in contracts requiring that debts be paid in gold of a certain weight and fineness was a certain deterrent to inflation since the latter without repudiation of the gold payment provision, would automatically increase the government debt considerably (all "gold-clause" debts would be increased about 67 percent), and engender new financial convulsions, so that the support given by the Supreme Court to the cancellation of the "clause" removed this barrier.

It was necessary, of course, that this be done in an indirect manner, and this explains the delay and hesitation in finding the proper formula, since a direct approval of the cancellation of the "gold clause" would have given a legal sanction to the repudiation of debts by the European countries and would have stamped as legal the prior claim of society over the property rights of the individual, a dangerous precedent, which might be interpreted by the workers as the right to expropriate capitalist private property. The approval was therefore given by saying that such cancellation was illegal but that nothing could be done about it since the perpetrator of the unlawful act, i.e. Congress itself, was the only power to judge or nullify it.

It would be a mistake, nevertheless, to overemphasize the importance of this legal decision, since, as evidenced by the fact that the dollar in the gold content of the change was made prior to such decision, the existence of the "gold clause" was insufficient to prevent inflation. With or without the opinion of the court, inflation is and will be decided by the laws of money and currency as they are conditioned by the decline of capitalism internationally, and by the juggling of currencies as part of the struggle of the imperialists for a greater share of the world market.

However, the decision has other extremely significant aspects. In the first place it is living proof of the Marxian concept that laws are merely an expression of existing facts ("... the ideal is nothing else than the material world reflected by the human mind, and reflected into forms of thought."); Faced with an accomplished fact, the court rendered a decision compatible with it and maintaining the status-quo.

In the second place the court action, like the NRA, is legal recognition of the decline of capitalism. Capitalism, based upon commodity production, requires that contracts, i.e. the right of the commodity owner to his own property, be sacred. The repudiation by Congress of the "gold clause" in contracts was a partial cancellation of this fundamental law and the decision of the court that such repudiation was illegal but that it could

AF of L Leaders Hope for New Gov't. Sell Out Board. Want Labor to Confide In Capitalism

WASHINGTON.—"A bill to create confidence in law, on the part of American workers". That is how Pres. John P. Frey of the Metal Trades Dept., A. F. of L., described the Wagner bill to strengthen the National Labor Relations Board, when he testified before the Senate education and labor committee March 19.

Pres. John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers also stressed repeatedly the idea of confidence in the government. He asked particularly that the proposed strong National Labor Relations Board be made part of the U. S. Dept. of Labor, in which he declared labor has "particular pride" (He means the A. F. of L. bureaucrats.—Ed.)

"Labor has confidence in the Dept. of Labor," Lewis said. "Labor has confidence in the Secretary of Labor; and that goes for whoever becomes Secretary of Labor, as labor believes the president of the United States will always appoint someone in whom labor has confidence." (Bill Doak, for instance.) He also expressed his own confidence in labor board appointments of "present and future presidents"

Besides asking amendment of the bill to put the board in the Labor Dept., Lewis also advocated representation of trade unions and employers on the N.L.R.B. Non-labor members, no matter how well-meaning, could have no background in the understanding of labor problems, he said

Under the present conditions and those proposed in the Wagner Bill, Lewis said, there is a "situation where only men who are ignorant of their subject can be appointed to boards of this character"

There are exceptions. Despite his expressions of confidence in the government and his stressing of creation of confidence

among the workers, Lewis mentioned one government official in whom he had no confidence, Roosevelt's close adviser, Donald Richberg, often dubbed "assistant president", was given a severe drubbing.

"Richberg has sold labor down the river," Lewis said. "In his attitude and his interpretations, he has driven a knife to the heart of labor."

Frey called for passage of the Wagner bill to create confidence in law as an antidote to radicalism. "There is no point at which the radical can reach labor more quickly," he said, "than to be able to point out that the workers are an unprivileged class—that they can't enjoy certain privileges (such as the right to organize) which the employers enjoy."

J. A. Farquharson, national legislative representative of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, offered testimony in particular support of the section of the bill preserving the right to closed shop union agreements. Under the Railway Labor Act, he pointed out, the closed shop was not permitted. The F. of R. T. had 23 such contracts previously, which were set aside.

"Where minority groups contract, they can destroy the conditions of the majority," he said.

Vice Pres. E. J. Helek of the Axton-Fisher Tobacco Co. also spoke in favor of the Wagner bill

CAPITOL NEWS

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withstanding the Senate's first "re-volt", that the Senate would long hold out against the President's express wishes. The Senate and the President are spokesmen, after all, for one and the same kind of economic system. They are puppets operated by one and the same set of master hands. The earlier "re-volt" was just a bit of play acting, for the benefit of the back-home votes controlled by the building trades unions. Having staged their gesture, the revolvers can now say that the President forced their hands. Unless they gave in, they can explain, there would have been no Work Relief bill at all.

The imminent enactment of the measures raises certain fascinating speculations. It is proposed to pay \$50 a month to unemployed wage-earners who go on "work" relief. This sum, it is assumed, will be sufficient to maintain them in "decent" if not in "comfort". How low will the payments be to wage-earners for whom no suitable "work" relief can be found? How much lower will the payments be to the "unemployables"?

The history of the whole Work Relief program is a beautiful example of the progressive intellectual bankruptcy of the New Deal. PWA got going as a grandiose project in "planned public works". The government was going to spend its way back to prosperity thanks to roads, tunnels, bridges, dams, power plants and the like. FERA got going as an equally grandiose project for alleviating the evils of unemployment. The government would see to it that every unemployed

He said that his firm had had 36 years of dealing with the union, and not once had there been any strikes or lockouts, or any labor disturbances. The company has found the arrangement most profitable, he testified.

Progress Seen At Pittsburg

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The P. C. is checked also to make a careful check-up of the political, organizational, financial and technical considerations involved in a project of such magnitude and importance and to take into account the increase of size of the weekly New Militant as an alternative. If the results of the check-up are favorable the P. C. is authorized after a referendum of the full National Committee to act in the matter of a daily paper.

Important decisions were also made looking toward the implementation of that portion of the Declaration of Principles and the Constitution of the W. P. which, although action on any organizational affiliation must be submitted to the National Convention of the Party, authorizes the N. C. to cooperate with groups and parties in other countries standing on the same fundamental program as our own, in the elaboration of a complete world program and in steps looking toward the speediest possible establishment of the new revolutionary international.

In line with suggestions contained in communications from the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Holland through its secretary, Comrade H. Sneevliet, and in a personal communication from Comrade L. Trotsky, the P. C. is authorized in cooperation with the newly founded Dutch party, to take the lead in discussions with the above parties and groups of an international program and of steps which might be taken toward the setting up of a Joint Committee, which in the beginning would have no administrative functions but would concern itself with the preparation of basic documents and perhaps the publication of an international bulletin. Action on the correspondence of the P. C. along these lines is to be taken at the next N. C. meeting in June where also a full report on all sister groups and parties, and groups and parties moving in our direction is to be made.

Recognizing the terribly swift pace of international developments and that any day may bring world-shattering events, the N.C. authorized the P.C. in the interim to take a referendum vote of the N.C. immediately if some major event such as a declaration of war should make it imperative to establish more formal relations with sister parties and groups and to set up more definite machinery at once.

Meanwhile an internal party bulletin which will deal with international affairs, particularly developments in the international revolutionary movement, has been provided for.

The N. C. placed its stamp of approval on the work of the Secretariat and the Political Committee

Currency Inflation War of Today Leads Inevitably to Military War of Tomorrow

NEW YORK.—The world money war is on—in full force.

While rapidly grooming their armed forces for the great conflict they know is coming, the world powers are fighting another semi-secret war in the money capitals of the world. They have not yet called into action their armies, navies and air forces, but they have put their money experts on the battlefield. In Washington, New York, London, Paris and Tokyo the bat-

tle is being fought out, gaining intensity every month.

Although much of the battle is fought behind closed doors and the actual maneuvers are kept secret, occasional incidents and trends reveal the way it is going. The sudden decline in the value of the British pound from over \$5 to around \$4.75 immediately after the U. S. Supreme Court gold decision is such an indicator. Another is the flood of rumors in Wall Street that the Roosevelt administration will in the not-too-distant future further devalue the currency of this country, perhaps to 50c, perhaps lower.

Stabilization Funds

The use of gigantic stabilization funds helps the governments to jockey their currencies into positions they desire. The British government has such a fund, estimated to be above a billion dollars. The United States' fund, since devaluation of gold, probably amounts to at least two billions.

The governments can and do use these funds in speculation. They can help to push a currency up in value, or down, by their buying or selling of other currencies. Each nation's aim is, of course, to get into a position where its large corporations can sell their products as cheaply as possible to buyers in other countries.

The fall of the British pound followed the United States gold decision and the announcement in England that their depression was still severe, previous optimistic reports notwithstanding. A flight of capital from the pound resulted, and the stabilization fund was not called into play—the British government, in other words, assenting to the currency's drop in value. With that drop Britain gained a favorable position in the battle for foreign markets which it had not had since the United States abandoned the

gold standard in 1933. At that time the price of the pound was as low as \$3.50.

The low price of the pound, and the even lower price of the Japanese yen, which has been depreciated to an extremely great degree, has had its effect on American markets. Reports from South America and the Far East indicate that American trade is falling off very rapidly. They indicate, too, that American industrialists will soon pull the strings that will devalue the American dollar even farther. And after that has been done once or twice another method of retaining markets or of gaining new ones will probably be tried.

That method is war.

N. U. L. Blasts Roosevelt

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less than \$10 a week plus \$3 for each dependent.

Administered by Workers and Farmers

Administration of the insurance is to be by workers and farmers under rules prescribed by the Secretary of Labor, through unemployment insurance commissions committees.

Like the 30-hour week provisions, the unemployment insurance section covers all types of workers and farmers. It further specifies that workers shall not be disqualified from receiving insurance because of refusal to work in place of strikers, at less than normal or trade union rates, under unsafe or unsanitary conditions, or where hours are longer than the prevailing union standards, or at any unreasonable distance from home.

Pending establishment of the insurance system, provision is made for an appropriation of five billion dollars for cash relief for all unemployed at the rate of not less than \$10 per week with \$3 additional for each dependent.

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Second World War Looms

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7,500 in 1914 to about 25,000 in 1918.

As stated above, these facts have been and are being repeated daily. They are the stock in trade of the liberals and the pacifists who operate on the belief that if enough people can be made acquainted with them or if they can be used to get legislation passed to "take the profits out of war" the Second World War can be prevented.

Those who continue to hold such beliefs are either knaves or incapable of seeing or understanding plain everyday facts. War under capitalism is as inevitable as the rising and setting of the sun. The belief that war can be reformed or legislated out of capitalism is just as foolish and as fatal as the belief of that southern preacher who trusted in God to protect him from the poisonous fangs of a rattlesnake.

Just so long as capitalism lasts there will be wars. This is the fact that workers and the peoples of the world must learn. And the fight to destroy capitalism therefore, is the only fight or war in which the masses can win. That is their war. That is the war for humanity, for

Monroe Clears Up Press Lie

A recent issue of the New Militant reported that Lillian Monroe, former C. P. section organizer, had joined the W. P. recently. The Fresno, Calif. Bee printed a garbled statement regarding Comrade Monroe's attitude toward Communism and the Communist Party. That our readers may know her exact position, we are printing here her letter to the editor of the Fresno Bee.

Fresno, California March 10, 1935

Editor, Fresno Bee Fresno, California

Mr. Editor:

The article you publish about me in your Sunday's issue, March 10, is distorted and incorrect. I ask that you publish this letter in correction.

Firstly, and let's make this clear, I denounce the bankrupt official Communist Party of America and the Third International as a whole as misleaders of the working class. This does not mean however, as you distort it, that I denounce Communism. The corrupt Communist Party has discredited and blackened the doctrine of Communism as advocated and practiced by Marx and Lenin. While I condemn and denounce the Communist Party as misleaders you must get this straight: I am in wholehearted agreement with Marxian-Leninist communism.

Secondly, your article is dominated by an overtone to the effect that I am finished with the class struggle. This is absolutely not so. Always shall I be sincerely devoted to the struggles of the working class in our fight for betterment and final emancipation from wage slavery and the profit system.

I am applying for membership into the Workers Party of the United States and I now advocate the necessity of a new, a Fourth International, as advocated by Leon Trotsky. I am convinced that the program of the Workers Party will lead the American working class to victory.

Sincerely, (Signed) LILLIAN MONROE.

Advertisement for James P. Cannon, featuring the text: 'Sunday, 8 p.m., March 24th -- Irving Plaza JAMES P. CANNON On His Return from a Coast to Coast Tour Will Speak On The Class Struggle in the West'