

NEW MILITANT

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Spotlight on Akron

WILL the rubber workers strike? American labor everywhere awaits that decision. Feverish preparations are reported from Akron—the elements of a small-scale civil war are present. The situation is loaded with dynamite not only for Akron—but for the entire country.

If the 30,000 rubber mill slaves break the chains then the first major strike battle of the year will shatter the illusory peace of 1935. Next to the textile strike it will be the biggest single struggle under the New Deal. The first strike in a basic industry, Akron will give the signal and point the way to the workers in automobile and possibly steel. Courage and audacity in rubber and the million-headed labor movement will follow the lead in a movement which will spread like wild-fire—against the NRA.

The Akron workers are long suffering, patient until they can no longer endure it. Labor boards, regional and national decisions and counter-decisions—if the workers anywhere know that NRA means National Run Around, they are in Akron. An ominous sign for the strike is the activity of Mrs. Francis Perkins. The rubber trust means to smash unionism in the worst way. Arbitration under these circumstances, under the same set-up that has so long held the workers at bay, can yield nothing but more promises and a crushing blow to labor.

It becomes increasingly clear as the days go by that the danger to the rubber workers comes from an enemy within the ranks of labor itself. That enemy is the bureaucracy at the head of the A. F. of L. and of the rubber union itself. Against it the workers must be vigilant to the last. The treacherous silence of Pres. William Green in the face of a situation that cries out for the maximum support, is characteristic. If allowed his way this Baptist gentleman would be content to leave the Akron strike still-born. In the automobile and the coal situations labor was left high and dry by the course pursued by Green and Co. Strike and the struggle that goes with strike is as foreign to them as it is to capitalist government officials. They fear it even more.

Either the strike comes now or the new union will take the sad consequences, as it did in the automobile industry. There is no other road. For months on end the rubber workers have been promised and stalled, stalled and promised. Their faith in the union was fast diminishing until the recent strike talk filled the air. It has now leaped to a new high. The A. F. of L. bureaucrats cannot again postpone this strike without undermining this confidence for a long time to come.

The responsibility of the militants and progressives in all the unions for the Akron situation is indeed tremendous. The fate of their organizations and the future of unionism in the basic industries will be gravely affected by the struggle and its outcome in rubber. Victory for the bosses in the struggle, or by means of an indefinite postponement of it, will herald a more ruthless attack on unionism than the workers have to date experienced. Victory for the workers and a new day will unfold for organized labor.

The pledge of support by the Cleveland Federation of Labor is a step in the right direction. Let its example be taken up everywhere and transferred from paper to life. And let the support go side by side with the insistence that the strike take place. This is half the battle.

The Danzig Elections

THE press is almost unanimous in its evaluation of the election results in Danzig as a defeat for the Nazis. Soberly and realistically speaking, it is, however, only a temporary check on Hitler's drive to integrate the German-speaking territories into his Third Reich. As several of the foreign correspondents remark, the decline of the Nazi vote in the presidential elections of 1932 was also deemed a defeat for the Brown Shirt forces in its time. Looked at from the point of view of political perspective, the present incident is no more indicative of a trend than was that of 1932.

The Nazis fell short of their goal, which was the immediate "Gleichschaltung" of the Hanseatic city. But the figures show that they gained an increase of over 30,000 votes above the amount they piled up the last time. Yet, the Socialist and Stalinist newspapers join with the others in rating this achievement as a failure! In so doing they show that they are entirely under the sway of the enemy's spirit.

From the Fuehrer's standpoint it was a failure, because he had concentrated all his forces, his best organizers, his best orators for

a complete victory. The social democrats and the so-called communists merely echo the dissatisfaction of the conquerors when they hail this incomplete victory as a defeat. This attitude betrays the miserable slavishness and helpless prostitution of their position. They exult in the fact that the victors haven't gobbled them up altogether.

And how did they fare in the elections? The reports say: the social democrats held their own and the communists lost. That is far more indicative for the international working class than the camouflage of a Nazi defeat with which these two miserable bankrupts try to cover up the fact.

Coming after the show of abject impotence they displayed in the Saar, the revolutionary workers can only be strengthened in their determination to rid themselves of these two parties of illusion and betrayal. Without falling prey to despair they will unflinchingly draw the only conclusion left for fighters: To prepare for real struggle against Fascism and the war that is brewing, by building anew, by straining every force toward the speedy creation of the Fourth International.

Reversion to Type

COMING events cast their shadow before.

Those who lived through the pre-war days and today watch the witches' cauldron of war being stirred again well know how true this aphorism is.

With equal force these words apply to the social democracy. The betrayal of 1914 is being prepared again and the official apology, now, unlike the pre-1914 days, is ready long in advance of the outbreak of war.

The latest issue of the New Leader carries a scare-headline saying: "No Peace with Hitler." This caption is a direct quotation from an appeal issued by the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party from Prague. It is addressed not to the working class but to the "world", presumably on the occasion of the initiation of the international diplomatic parleys.

"The road to peace," continues this manifesto which the New Leader says "may well prove historic", "lies over the destruction of the existing despotism. There is no other." Superficially considered this is indeed a very radical declaration, especially as it comes from those whose capitulation made this "despotism" possible.

What is significant here is the fact that this plea is addressed to the world, a euphemistic way of saying the international capitalist class. The appeal is "No peace" or in simple English: "War". The motive: "despotism".

Thus when the imperialists of the entire world have drawn swords, the social democracy urges them, with France at their head, to hasten the day of the conflict. It does not call on the working class to war on its own capitalism but in the spirit for which it is so noted, it exhorts one capitalism to make war on another.

As if the capitalist class of any other country is interested fundamentally in "despotism" or freedom! Profits, the maintenance and extension of profits, is their one criterion. Germany today threatens to upset the division of spoils demanding a greater share for itself. Capitalist interests that dominate the French and Italian nations are ready to embroil the world in a bloody conflagration so that this shall not happen.

Should such a war break out it is as certain as tomorrow that they (Mussolini too!) will speak of "Hitlerite tyranny", "despotism", etc. The very same shibboleths employed once before, only now Der Fuehrer substitutes for Der Kaiser. The social democracy were loyal flunkies then. They are preparing for the same role again, in other cabinets but for the same rulers.

"But," says the German social democracy—and this "but" is the necessary face-saver—"it is false and unjust to hold the whole German people responsible for a criminal regime under which the best portion of the people suffer most."

A significant parallel may be drawn here between the social democrats and their war idol—Woodrow Wilson. Did he not proclaim in his war message to Congress that the U. S. had no grievance with the German people, but rather with the irresponsible despotism that ruled over them?

The declarations are the same, the results are the same and even the actors are the same. Philip Scheidemann, traducer of the German proletariat and butcher of the Spartacans is the true inspiration of this manifesto. On July 9, 1933 he declared in the New York Times: "It must be the task of the entire world to paralyze these adventurers [Hitler, Goering and Co.]. That this may not exclude a bloody civil war is self-evident."

Learn from the past! These people have changed their fatherlands temporarily. They remain, however, staunch as before, in their support of capitalism—in war as in peace.

To be against Hitlerism inside Germany and outside of it is to be for class war and against imperialist war in every land, as well as in Germany itself.

Lamentations, and appeals to world capitalists to launch a "democratic" crusade against Hitler is not merely a pitiful confession of bankruptcy. It also reveals that the social democracy is helping whip the working class into shape for service in imperialist war. Seventeen years have passed since the end of the last world war, but the Second International is still playing its despicable role!

15 Points of Father Coughlin

Analysis of Program of Detroit Priest Reveals Fascist Trend in Fundamental Aims and Method

By DAN EASTMAN

The platform of Father Coughlin's League For Social Justice:

- 1. Liberty of conscience and education. 2. A living annual wage. 3. Nationalization of banking, currency, and natural resources. 4. Private ownership of all other property. 5. Control of private property for public good. 6. Government banking. 7. Congressional control of coinage. 8. Cost of production plus a fair profit for agriculture. 9. Labor unions under government protection. 10. Recall of non-productive bonds. 11. Abolition of tax free bonds. 12. Social taxation. 13. Simplification of government. 14. Conscription of wealth in war. 15. Human rights preferred to property rights.

Consummate Hypocrisy

Point No. 1—Liberty of conscience and education: A Catholic who stands for liberty of conscience is a hypocrite. The Catholic Church is unalterably and everlastingly opposed to liberty of conscience, as the Spanish Inquisition, which tore, racked and tortured men for their beliefs, bears witness.

As for liberty of education: this is indeed consummate hypocrisy from a Catholic and a close friend of William Randolph Hearst. Since the Year One the Catholic Church has moved heaven and earth to maintain a monopoly on education, so that Catholicism might be indelibly stamped on the impressionable mind of youth. Liberty of education is hypocrisy from a Catholic, but when that Catholic contemplates with friendship and approval the attacks of William Randolph Hearst on every sort of lukewarm liberal teacher, that Catholic is simply insulting his audience when he pretends to support liberty of education.

The Wages of Slavery

Point No. 2—A living annual wage: What is a living annual wage? Many workers "live" on four hundred dollars a year.

On February 5, 1934, Father Coughlin called for a change in the provisions of the NRA which would fix minimum wages at 80c and maximum hours at 30. "40c an hour," he said, "is slavery!"

At this time his Shrine of the Little Flower was being constructed by scab labor. He announced that "he would increase the wages of men working on the church Shrine of the Little Flower, by 10% effective the next day, thus setting the minimum wage at 55c an hour." The Shrine was about half finished when he made this move. The workers continued on the forty and forty eight hour week.

A few questions: If 40c is slavery, what is 55c? If 80c is a fair minimum, is 55c a living wage? Does Father Coughlin think, that by employing scab labor he is helping workers to get a 30 hour week?

Point No. 3—Nationalization of banking currency and natural resources: Nationalization of banking is remedied proposed by money cranks. Instead of having bank president part of the time and senators the rest of the time, these cranks expect to save capitalism by having the bank presidents senators all of the time. A strange

remedy indeed. As for nationalization of natural resources: what are natural resources? In an interview Father Coughlin admitted that he did not include mines in natural resources. By natural resources, it seems Father Coughlin means those natural resources which are already in public hands: water works, generating stations, etc.

No Offense Intended

Point No. 4—Private ownership of all other property:

Father Coughlin hastens to reassure the capitalists that he has no intention of appropriating their factories, mines or forests under the head of nationalization.

Point No. 5—Control of private property for public good: Father Coughlin runs back to reassure the workers that the private property he has just granted to the capitalists will be controlled for public good. (By a new NRA perhaps?)

Point No. 6—Government banking: This is just repetition of point No. 3, for what reason we do not know, unless Father Coughlin ran out of harmless planks and had to pad out his platform with repetitions.

Point No. 7—Congressional control of coinage: Repetition of point No. 3 again. When Father Coughlin gets hold of an idea he uses it for all its worth: Congressional control of coinage is not in itself a reform. All depends on what congress does in the matter of coinage. At best currency reform is only a minor matter that could not have the slightest permanent effect on the basic economic fallacies of capitalism.

"Fair" Slavery?

Point No. 8—Cost of production plus a fair profit for agriculture: We are tempted to ask, so what? We remark that everybody, including J. P. Morgan, is for "Living annual wages", and "Fair profits for agriculture etc." when it is merely a matter of talk. How is Father Coughlin going to obtain this "cost of production plus a fair profit"? And how big a profit is "fair"? Profits are, we thought, unpaid labor, or the time the worker toils gratis for the boss. How can any profit be "fair"? By intensifying the AAA, which has succeeded along these lines to a certain extent in the case of the rich capitalist farmers?

"Coordinated Unions"

Point No. 9—Labor unions under government protection: Now we are getting to the core of the matter. Labor unions are under government protection in Germany, Austria, Italy, in every Fascist state. In fact the very life of Fascism is the government "protection" of trade unions, protection against strikes, shorter hours and higher wages, "protection" that cuts wages in half, doubles working hours and slaughters strikers. Father Coughlin was active during the period when a strike in the Detroit automobile industry appeared imminent. He was active in "protecting" the workers from independent unionism, and from a strike. Just what his protection has brought them the workers can best answer.

We quote the Detroit Times at this period: "Make the Department of Labor a real power," says Father Coughlin. "Let it take over the functions of collective bargaining, the functions which the A. F. of L. is now trying to fill. Let it supplant the A. F. of L. entirely." Father Coughlin wants government

boards to supplant unionism entirely. That is what he calls protection.

Point No. 10—Recall of non-productive bonds: another bigging financial reform. He speaks of "the heresy that profits or interest should be gained from non-productive borrowings, such as war and relief bonds." Just how the government would raise money for relief if it did not issue bonds and pay interest on them Father Coughlin does not mention. Perhaps from silver speculation, or inflation.

Point No. 11—Abolition of tax free bonds: Whatever might be the value of this measure, let it be recorded that Father Coughlin has not hesitated to invest in tax free bonds, as we have already mentioned in connection with the account of his speculations in 1933.

Point No. 12—Social taxation: What is social taxation? If Father Coughlin means income taxes he might say so. Of course he doesn't mean any such thing, in fact he doesn't mean anything at all. By social taxation he hopes capitalists will know he means sales taxes and workers will think he means income taxes. A gag to fool the scissor-bill, and nothing more.

A "Simple" Government

Point No. 13—Simplification of government: The simplest form of government, we remark, is dictatorship. Fascism itself is not very complicated.

Point No. 14—Conscription of wealth in war: If Father Coughlin wants to conscript wealth in war, why not in peace as well? If ten million are starving on relief there is no conscription of wealth; but if ten million are being slaughtered in war, then there is reason to conscript wealth. The idea of conscripting wealth is nonsense unless it is the workers who do the conscripting or "expropriating". Otherwise, if "conscription of wealth" is not merely a campaign slogan it is a plan to cheapen the cost of war for bankers and profiteers.

Point No. 15—Human rights preferred to property rights: There is one economy, the socialist economy, which really does prefer human welfare to property rights but Father Coughlin is no socialist. On the contrary, he wants to continue to prefer the human rights of the scab labor employed on his Shrine by raising their wages from slavery (40c) to 50c (semi-slavery or human-rights?).

It is not by chance that Father Coughlin's platform is a closer copy of a true fascist program, as it appears in Europe, than the program of any other American demagogue. Father Coughlin has had the assistance of the Catholic Church in the preparation of his program, and the Catholic Church is already an old hand at Fascism. It is persecuted in Germany it is true, but in Italy it gives tacit support to Mussolini, in Spain it gives open support to the reaction, in Portugal it practically owns the fascist government, etc. etc.

It remains to be seen whether Father Coughlin has not appeared too early on the scene with his mature fascist program. It remains to be seen whether the masses still developing to the left will not choose their course and their leaders, will not carry through the American revolution, and cast down Father Coughlin and all his kind. The choice is plain: a workers' society or concentration camps decorated with holy holy crosses.

Toledo Auto Strike Looms

(Continued from Page 1)

of the giant General Motors Corp. As an evidence of the growing progressiveness in the union, the colored sweepers in the Chevrolet plant were brought into the Federal Auto Union along with the fellow-white workers.

Over 400 of the new union men appeared today in the plant this morning wearing their red union buttons for April. Hundreds of workers from the Willys-Overland plant are likewise joining the Federal Auto union. With the addition of these two major corporations, the entire auto parts and production industry of Toledo, excepting the Champion Spark Plug Corp., will be unionized.

The rush to the genuine union has followed the calling of an election, by the Detroit Auto Labor Board, in the Chevrolet and Willys-Overland plants on April 9, for the supposed purpose of determining which group the workers wish to represent them in collective bargaining. This election was engineered by officials of the two plants, which up until a few weeks ago were non-union, and the Auto Labor Board, in an effort to foist company unionism upon the workers. The real union has publicly repudiated these elections, which it did not call for, and has flatly stated that its members will not participate in

them nor abide by their results.

This fake maneuvering on the part of the companies has served as a boomerang against the bosses, because it angered the workers and drove them voluntarily into the federal union. Terrific speedup, differentials in wages and unbearable working conditions have aided to the workers' desire for genuine organization.

Jim Roland, Chevrolet employee, who is famous for his "one-man picket line" on the Chevrolet plant last June whereby he compelled the company to reinstate him after he had been fired for joining the union, is the acting chairman of the Chevrolet shop section of the union. Among the union members who have taken an active part in organizing these key plants have been several Workers Party members.

Organization of the Toledo Chevrolet plant is of major importance for the entire motor industry, as this plant produces all the transmission parts for the Chevrolet Corp. Demands for a 6 hour day, 30-hour week, union recognition and wage increases are being drawn up to be presented to the Chevrolet company. It is very probable that the intensive union drive is the prelude to a strike which will break in the immediate future.

NEW HEADQUARTERS

With the paint still wet on the walls, Branch 1 on Tuesday held its first meeting in its new headquarters at 420 East 19th St. The headquarters have been taken jointly with the Manhattan branch of the Spartacus Youth League.

Labor Backs Gas Workers

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The company has been importing a herd of scabs and strike-breakers, who are quartered on company property. Last week a "bomb plot" was discovered at the plant, and the Laeche company lost no time in advertising it in all the capitalist papers. The plot looked suspiciously like the work of one of the drunken gun-toters who swarm around the works, and proved a complete failure so far as its general effects were concerned. As the Gas House Worker remarked: "Who saw the bomber? A company gunman. Who reported finding the bomb? A bomber hired by the gas company to uncover bombers. Was the guilty one caught? Of course not, that would spoil the plot."

One Scab—Fifteen Cops

The gunman-scabs have been receiving the protection of the police. Every service call is now answered not by one repair man, but by one scab repair man and fifteen police, another little item the company can charge up to its fight against unionism. Like all scabs, the St. Louis brand has behaved badly, brandishing pistols and guns, and menacing the safety of all in their vicinity.

FOLLOW THE NEWS IN THE NEW MILITANT.

LEFT . . . JABS

This Changing World

The average Stalinist must stand in awe as he views the vast changes in his own world. The "social fascist" of yesterday is the "class brother" of today. The A. F. of L. "company and fascist unions" become "militant workers' organizations". "Red revolutionary unions" are buried with Browder's slogan "seize the warehouses". The "untold front from below" is as dead as the dodo. The labor party which yesterday was denounced as a delusion and a snare, is now the road to revolution, etc., etc. In Soviet diplomatic affairs it is even worse. Sir Austin Chamberlain, who yesterday was the very symbol of imperialist hatred of the Soviet Union, is now quoted approvingly by Soviet leaders. "God save the King" is played in Moscow in honor of Captain Eden, arch-conservative leader of the British Tory "fascist" government. These rapid changes are reported to have affected a Bronx Stalinist to such an extent that he was found in front of the Prospect Workers Club raising his glass to the health of His Britannic Majesty, Earl Browder and our own beloved leader, King George.

Diplomatic Dress

Reports of the Berlin visits of Sir John Simon and Captain Eden and the visits of the latter to Moscow and Warsaw are covered in great detail in newspapers everywhere. Apparently not in the words of the diplomats but in their dress are we to seek the real import of these visits. Thus, arriving in Berlin, Sir John and the Captain wore civilian clothing, but were met by a guard of Death Head Hussars dressed in somber black. The "pacifist" character of the Bloomin' Empire and the warlike aims of Hitler are apparent. In Moscow Captain Eden arrived wearing a scab black hat and a cloth top coat, but immediately changed into a long fur coat and a Cossack Astrakhan headpiece. The love of British imperialism for the Soviet Union was evidenced by that swift change. In Warsaw Captain Eden was welcomed by a party of officials wearing top hats with the exception of Foreign Secretary, Col. Beck, who wore a black derby. The absence of a top hat on Beck's cranium showed that his welcome was personal and that the Polish government was not according an official warm welcome to Eden and his policies. This nonsense is solemnly written by highly paid capitalist writers in Europe and cabled across to America. Its purpose is to cover up the cold blooded war preparations of all these cynical hat changing statesmen.

Words and Action

The New York "Mayor's Committee on Unemployment Relief" issued a report of thousands of words. The report stated that the relief allowance for food, clothing and shelter was too low, so low in fact that the unemployed were forced to live in condemned fire-traps, dress in rags, while thousands of their children suffered from malnutrition. The Mayor went into action at once. He set up a stool pigeon bureau with a policeman at the head to receive anonymous and other complaints against relief "chiselers". A "chiseller" being anyone who tries to eke out a starvation relief allowance by any other means. "This bureau is my own child," said the mayor; and indeed it must be admitted that whether it is his own or just another adoption from the city bankers, it certainly resembles the rest of his family. It has that "friend of labor" smell to it.

Anti-Fascist Meetings

March 1934: Socialist Party and trades unions hold anti-fascist meeting in Madison Square Garden. Speakers list includes Mayor LaGuardia, Matthew Woll and S. P. and trade union leaders. The Stalinists broke up this meeting in wild disorder, charging that Fascists and "Social Fascists" were speaking and Communists barred.

April, 1935: C. P. controlled League Against War and Fascism and Civil Liberties Union hold anti-fascist meeting in Madison Square Garden. Speakers list includes a Methodist bishop, Republican Congressmen, Farmer-Labor representative, Gorman of the U.T.W., ("betrayed of the textile strike"), professors, social workers, and other liberals, but no C. P. speakers. Why didn't Hathaway lead the embattled hosts to capture the platform for the C. P. at this meeting? Or does the Stalinist "change in line" leave to Methodist Bishops and Republican Congressmen such "little matters" as the struggle against war and fascism?

MAY DAY RALLY

Dancing, Skits, Refreshments Saturday, April 27, at 8 P.M. Presentation of May Day Banner by Workers Party to S. Y. L. at 2, West 15th Street. Admission 15c