

By JAMES P. CANNON

The military alliance between the Soviet Union and the French government, formally effected by the signing of the mutual assistance agreement on May 2, raises fundamental problems of the present epoch before the advanced workers of the world in the sharpest form. It was precisely on the question of war, which is only the other side of the question of proletarian revolution, that International Social Democracy consummated its historic betrayal in 1914. Will Stalinism, hand in hand with the unregenerate reformists, lead the masses to a similar catastrophe in the impending war?

A military alliance between the Soviet Union and one or more capitalist countries against others is not the main question here. In the absence of support in the form of revolutionary movements in the capitalist countries the Soviet Union might have no alternative in the event of war. That such a policy is deemed necessary now only testifies to the weakened position of the Soviet Union which ensued from the catastrophic defeats to which the Comintern under Stalin's domination has led the international working class. The betrayal of the Chinese revolution bore fruit in the aggressions of Japanese imperialism. The shameful capitulation of the Comintern in Germany, supplementing the treachery of Social Democracy, prepared the conditions for a Hitler offensive against the Soviet Union. The pact with the French government takes place on the basis of these defeats!

The Soviet Union agrees to defend the territory of imperialist France with the troops of the Red Army in return for a corresponding promise of the French government regarding the territory of the Soviet Union. Such an agreement could be made only because the heads of the Soviet government do not, or feel that they cannot, rely on the European working class to come to its defense. But in that case it is necessary to say: the heavy defeats inflicted on the working class movement by the policy of Stalinism have weakened the international position of the Soviet Union and compelled it to depend on the flimsy structure of a pact with imperialist France.

That is the blunt truth and the workers ought to know it. But the Stalinists, true to their policy and practice of deceiving the workers and leading them blind-folded to the abyss, do not talk this language. They point up the rapacious French imperialists as advocates of "peace" and represent the pact with them as a "victory for socialism," an "advance," etc. That is a lie, a deception, a fraud! By such perfidious methods the French workers can be dragged into the trenches to fight for "peace-loving" French imperialism; they cannot be led into a revolutionary struggle to overthrow it.

What position should the French working class take in the light of the military pact? That is the main question for France at the present time, and will very likely be the main question later in America. That is the heart of the problem of the coming war as it will be presented concretely in those countries which are lined up in the same bloc with the Soviet Union.

The Workers Party alone has given a clear answer to this question in its Declaration of Principles. We say, with Liebknecht and Lenin: The enemy

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Strikers Reject Union Busting 'Peace'

20 Workers Party Pickets Arrested in N. Y. Demonstration against General Motors

NEW YORK, May 6.—Twenty Workers Party and Spartacus Youth League members were arrested here today while picketing the General Motors office on Broadway, between 57th and 58th Streets. Led by Sam Gordon, managing editor of the *New Militant* and Al Dasch, W. P. organizer, over a hundred workers participated in a picket line flung around the G.M.C. building, shouting "Support the Toledo Chevrolet Strikers," "Smash General Motors Company Unions" and other militant slogans.

After forty-five minutes of picketing, the demonstration had attracted a noon-day crowd of 2,000 onlookers expressing their approval and tying up traffic in the immediate area. A squad of 25 uniformed police headed by a plainclothes captain, several mounted officers and two radio cars were soon rushed to the scene. Without any previous notice, the captain seized Gordon and placed him under arrest.

The picket line could not, however, be broken up in this manner. As the ranks reformed in single file, Gordon, guarded by the captain and two uniformed officers, held a ten minute speech, calling attention to the heroic struggle of the Toledo strikers and appealing to the workers assembled to support the strike. He was then promptly whisked into a nearby store by the police and held for the patrol wagon. Al Dasch, leading the line of march at this time, protested against Gordon's arrest and was immediately pulled in to join the latter.

Undaunted by these tactics, the line reformed once more, taking up the chant "Free Our Prisoners." Thereupon the whole squad of cops charged into the ranks and ran in 18 additional pickets into the patrol wagon which had pulled up in the meantime.

In Magistrate's Court, on 54th Street, where Attorney Mendel Lurie of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense represented the prisoners, the 18 were immediately released because of insufficient evidence, while Gordon and Dasch were paroled for a hearing at a later date.

Dutch Party Gains 4 Seats In Elections

From Holland comes the gratifying news that our sister party there, the Revolutionary Socialist Workers Party, has gained 4 mandates in the provincial elections held recently.

What makes this simple piece of news more important than at first seems apparent is the fact that of all the parties standing in one form or another on a working class basis—it was the one upholding the banner of the Fourth International that made the most decisive gains.

The Communist Party increased its mandates by three. The Social Democratic party lost one.

The Nazis made considerable gains; but when it is understood that they have been heavily subsidized by Hitler's funds, thus enabling them to set up a huge propaganda machine, the results are not so surprising as it might seem at first blush.

This was the first election campaign for the newly organized revolutionary party in Holland. Like the Workers Party in the United States, the R.S.W.P. came about as a fusion of two currents in the labor movement. A gain of four mandates is only a beginning. It does, however, show clearly that what to others seemed only as an idea is steadily but surely impressing itself on the minds of workers all over the world—the Fourth International marches on.

'Wildcat' Miners Boo Solons at Hearing

HARRISBURG, Pa.—Five thousand coal truckers, who operate "mines" in which the whole family engages, trekked into Harrisburg where a hearing was held on a bill that would deprive them of the right to use the highways for the transportation of coal.

The bill was introduced by Representative George D. Holstrom of Lehigh who labelled the truckers as "bootleg miners." The object of the bill would require every independent miner and trucker to get a special permit to use the highway. The passage of the bill would make it necessary for each trucker to show "ability to pay for damages resulting from vehicle accidents." It is obvious that the bill was introduced at the behest of the coal barons of the state who hope by the passage of the bill to exclude the truckers from the sacred right of mining their own lots, thus safeguarding an intrusion on the profits of the coal barons. There are over 3,500 truckers engaged in earning a livelihood through this method.

Speakers for the bill were shouted down, the bill itself torn to pieces by Michael Demchak of the Workers Party and thrown at the feet of Representative Holstrom. Truckers speaking against the bill were applauded and cheered with gusto.

Allard Leads Illinois Jobless On Capitol

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., May 7.—Led by Gerry Allard, chairman of the four county organizations of the Illinois Workers Alliance, more than 1,000 unemployed demonstrated at the state capitol for the immediate resumption of relief.

With 200,000 human beings facing imminent starvation because of the policies of Harry Hopkins and Governor Horner, for whom the issuance of relief is a political football, this action is the first to force attention from the political pyrotechnicians.

Allard and a committee of five interviewed the governor and demanded from him that the legislature appropriate sufficient funds to reopen all relief stations in the state. Only in this way, it was pointed out would the jobless be saved from indescribable suffering. "I'm powerless to act," the governor told the men.

"If a foreign enemy were invading the state, you would find a way to act, would you not," Allard asked, and the smug executive began to squirm in his chair, the unemployed leader raised his voice sharply: "An enemy just as potent as a war is present right now in this state."

In that suave manner which makes a virtue of evasion in answer to the demands of workingmen, Governor Horner informed the committee that the only hope was the raising of the sales tax from two to three cents.

This answer, in the opinion of qualified observers, throws the entire question into the arena of the state legislature where the snarling republican and democratic parties may squabble over it. Furthermore, as a method of alleviating suffering, it follows the well-worn rule of transferring the burden from thousands of miserable unemployed to thousands of other slightly less miserable employed workers.

Hearing the report of the committee, the 1,000 demonstrators decided unanimously to organize a state-wide march on the capitol and to camp on its steps until the relief stations are reopened.

OAKLAND, Cal. (P).—Longshoremen at Crockett refused to work when the Matson liner Makawa prepared to take on oil handled by nonunion crews. The longshoremen struck in sympathy with striking oil tanker seamen.

The strike has nothing to do with the recent strike at Crockett of the warehousemen employed at the big sugar refinery.

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (FP).—The week-old strike of ribbon workers continue to spread, according to reports at a conference of national delegates of the United Ribbon Workers and the American Federation of Silk Workers in Allentown.

All but three small Paterson, N.J., shops are shut down, while at least 50% of the Allentown area is tied up, delegates stated.

Muste Rallies N. Y. Support For Auto Strike

400 Cheer Speaker to Echo in Inspiring Meeting

NEW YORK.—Solidarity struck the keynote of the Workers Party meeting in support of the Toledo Chevrolet strikers.

Beginning with a stirring message from a young comrade direct from the firing line enthusiasm remained unabated through the entire meeting which ended with the singing of "On the Line" by the entire audience of 400.

The hall at Irving Plaza rang with applause as comrade Cannon, chairman of the meeting, introduced A. J. Muste as the representative of the Workers Party in the Toledo strike. It did not take long for this ovation to re-echo once again in response to the vivid picture of the picket line painted by the National Secretary of the W.P.

Reviewing Toledo's Tradition With rapt attention the audience listened as comrade Muste described the background of the strike, the killing speed-up, the spy system and the company unions. Especially interesting here was the report of the state of mind of the Chevrolet workers during the great Auto-Lite strike of last year. Here it was stated that at that time the workers, under the influence of the Company union propaganda, tore up leaflets calling on them to support the embattled Auto-Lite men.

Only a year had elapsed, Muste pointed out, and these same workers formed one of the tightest picket lines the country has ever seen. So tight in fact that Knudsen, vice-president of General Motors was forced to secure permission from Jimmy Itoald, chairman of the Strike Committee, before he could enter the plant.

Warns Against Dillon

Continuing in his rounded description, Muste warned of the perfidious doings of Dillon and Co. who had come on the scene to spike the struggle or failing that to trim it of all militancy. That the Toledo battle has thus far steered clear of the Akron road is chiefly due to one factor, said Muste, and that is not some special quality in the Chevrolet workers, but to the presence of and influence of the revolutionary party, the Workers Party.

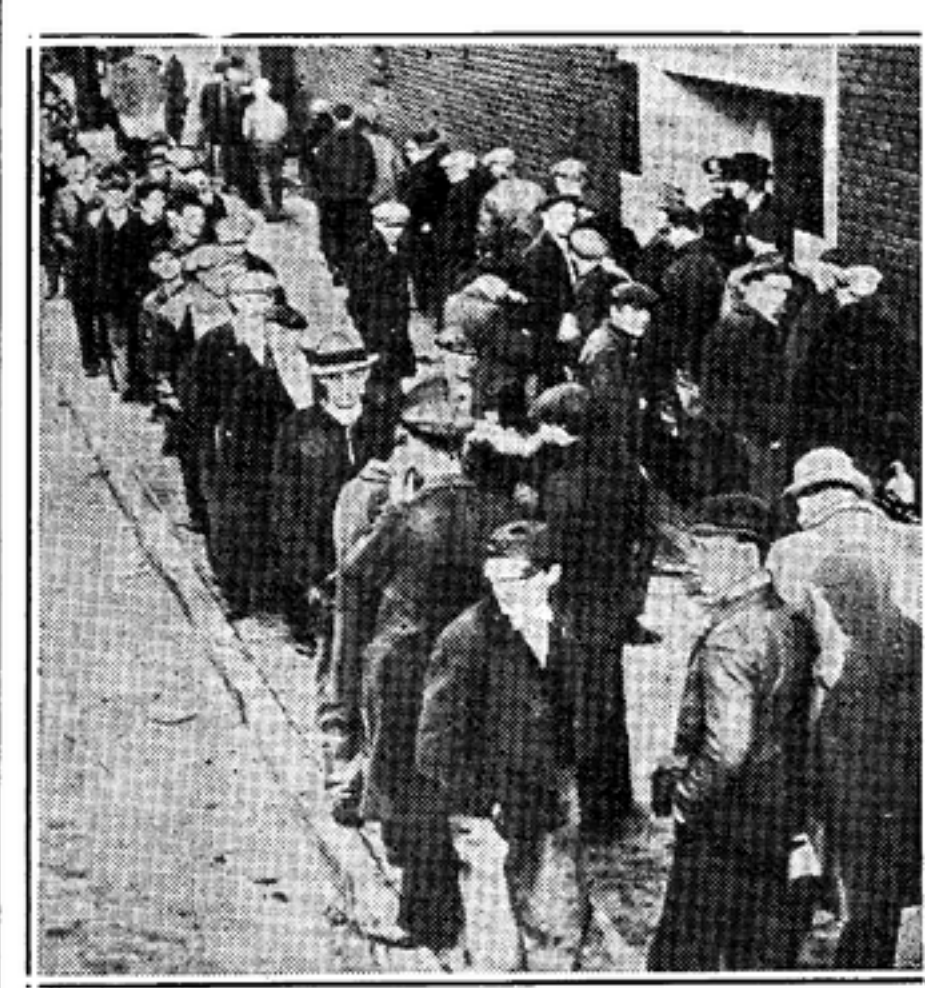
An instance of this fact was driven home when a telegram received the same afternoon from Toledo was read by the speaker. In it was disclosed the fact that a young comrade who had distributed a leaflet of the Workers Party warning the strikers of the company moves was held prisoner by strike officials. After presenting a Marxist argument, the telegram read, "he succeeded in convincing them of the correctness of the contents of the handbill and secured unanimous consent for the distribution of it." The crowd roared with cheers and laughter.

Ovation From Crowd

On a rising crescendo Muste pointed out that what the strikers needed most was support from other parts of the country and he appealed to the workers present to continue the good work thus far begun in picketing General Motors offices and salesrooms. For a full two minutes the chairman tried in vain to make himself heard over the prolonged ovation accorded Comrade Muste as he took his seat. The cheers and hand clapping was translated into something more substantial as Comrade Cannon introduced the unique feature of auctioning off a few score copies of the first issue of "Strike Truth" brought from Toledo. As high as ten dollars was paid for a single copy and the total reached over \$100 in the American currency.

HOUSTON, Tex. (FP).—Deputy sheriffs, declared by Wilbur Dickey, International Seamen's Union agent, to be working in connection with the shipping company, arrested four strikers at Houston on a charge of disturbing the peace.

The men were seized when they attempted to board the tanker Brandywine to get their clothes, following a walkout, according to Dickey. Trouble arose when the captain of the Brandywine and an official of the Norsworthy docks tried to keep the strikers from the ship, and one striker was injured when he fell while trying to dodge a blow, Dickey explained.



Above is part of the mass picket line that daily forms around the General Motors Chevrolet plant in Toledo, and has so tightly closed it that no one enters without permission of the picket committee.

Dillon Spikes Flint Strike Vote; Slurs Toledo Workers

DETROIT, May 7.—Burke Cochrane, Workers Party organizer, and Sam Beck, Spartacus Youth leader, were arrested today while picketing the Chevrolet plant here. The police interfered after some hours of militant picketing with banners demanding support for the Toledo strike. The company officials feared that the banners and slogans shouted by the marchers might have a "bad" effect on plant workers.

FLINT, Mich., May 6.—At a meeting of the Buick local in Flint Sunday night, Francis J. Dillon succeeded in smashing strong sentiment for a strike Monday morning. By refusing to allow the rank and file to speak from the floor, he railroaded through a plan to wait on a government election in Toledo of Chevrolet workers. Coming at a time when 35,000 workers were about to win a victory over General Motors, calling off of the Flint strike in favor of an election is calculated to prevent the spread of the strike and to break the fighting spirit of the Chevrolet local.

Until Dillon spoke, the crowded hall of Buick auto workers called loudly for strike Monday morning. At every mention of the Toledo strikers the crowd stamped their feet and cheered. Until Hart, Dillon's representative, and Dillon himself spoke the meeting was a strike meeting and the sentiment was for picket lines Monday morning.

Hart introduced the first anti-strike sentiment when he said, "I'm not so much concerned with whether you men go on strike but with a new set-up all-around for American labor." He turned to future hopes all around for all American labor and made no mention of tomorrow's strike, although a copy of the contract of immediate demands they were to strike for was in the hands of every Buick auto worker at the meeting.

Before Hart finished, Dillon entered the meeting with three newspaper men. The crowd instantly booed the reporters and cried: "Throw them out." Calls for an expulsion vote were denied by the chairman and Dillon spoke. The speech which followed was nicely calculated to destroy strike sentiment not only in Flint but for all auto workers fighting for their union against General Motors, and to hand the men instead a gold brick. It contained the following points:

Sensing the enthusiasm of the Buick workers for the Chevrolet strikers in Toledo, Dillon promptly took credit for the strike of Local 18384. He said: "We worked out a strategy for fighting General Motors weeks ago. The one place where they didn't think we would strike was Toledo. We fooled them. Now the Toledo strikers are putting up a magnificent fight." He took full credit on himself for the Toledo strike but failed to mention that for thirty days before Toledo went out he had in his pocket a general automobile strike vote which he never used. He failed to mention that the strike in Toledo was called without asking Dillon. Or that Norwood came on the picket line without asking Dillon.

Point 2 was railroading the government election through and telling the men "to go back to work."

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TRIM SCABS

Roland Sounds Fighting Note At Big Meeting

Resume 'Strike Truth' as Union Prepares to Spread Battle

BULLETIN
As we go to press, word comes from Toledo that the Chevrolet strikers have rejected the company's "peace" proposals by an overwhelming majority. The election conducted by the U. S. Department of Labor, showed a vote of 1,251 against acceptance and only 605 for. The strikers are jubilant at their victory. The militancy of their ranks has been strengthened all along the line.

Special to New Militant
TOLEDO, Ohio, May 7.—35,000 General Motors workers on strike or affected by plant closures due to lack of necessary parts, marked time today as they awaited the outcome of an election to be held here tomorrow under the auspices of the Department of Labor to determine whether the Toledo Chevrolet strikers desired to accept the G.M.C. proposals and return to work or to again reject them and continue their strike for union recognition and a signed contract.

After a week of decisive and militant action in which the Toledo strikers tied up almost the entire Chevrolet division of General Motors and spread the strike to Cleveland, Atlanta and Norwood, O., Francis Dillon, national A. P. of L. organizer in the automobile industry, succeeded in diverting the strike from the picket-lines to the ballot-booths and in curbing the walkout of 9,000 Buick workers in Flint who had previously voted to go on strike yesterday.

Dillon Accepts Seab Terms

The election was called for by Dillon following a meeting held here by a company union group last Saturday night at the Chamber of Commerce which was attended by some 1600 men, most of them former employees of the Toledo Chevrolet, strike-breakers and foremen. This group, organized by the G.M.C. officials as a scab-herding agency, put forth a demand for an election on the precise terms accepted by Dillon.

Dillon, together with Edward McGrady, assistant secretary of labor, and Thomas Williamson, federal conciliator, jammed the decision to hold the vote down the throats of all but three of the eight strike-committee men after almost seven hours of continuous verbal pounding on these new and inexperienced union men.

Dillon followed this maneuver to curb the militant tendencies of the strike by addressing a meeting of the Buick local at Flint of the United Automobile Workers Federal Labor Union in which he so misrepresented the sentiments and fighting qualities of the Toledo workers that he discouraged the Flint workers from taking strike action pending the results of the Toledo vote. In his remarks, Dillon called the Toledo strike a "circus," definitely implied that the Toledo strikers were yellow, had called for the election and wanted to return to work, and told the Flint workers not to strike until the Toledo Chevrolet workers had proved they were "serious" and would not go back on the Flint workers.

5,000 Rally Support
The answer to this infamous slander was given yesterday by the more than 1,000 Chevrolet workers on the mass picket-lines, the enthusiastic meeting of 1,400 union strikers last night who fiercely denounced the company's proposals, and a mass meeting of Toledo labor tonight which jammed over 5,000 workers into the Civic Auditorium in support of the Chevrolet strikers and for the continuance of the strike.

At the huge mass meeting tonight, at which Dillon was the principal speaker, he put forward a complete class collaboration point of view, one of conciliation with the employers in which he boasted of his impartiality, and spoke of the company's proposals which offered the workers even less than they had before the strike, as offering some

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