

WAR and the Stalin-Laval Communique

By JAMES P. CANNON
More poisoned fruit from the reactionary theory of "socialism in one country."

Another deadly blow at the international working class movement.

A new step in preparation for another social-patriotic betrayal.

In the joint communique issued in Moscow on May 15 in the names of Stalin, Molotov and Litvinov for the Soviet Union, and Laval, the Foreign Minister of Imperial France, the Stalinist betrayal of proletarian internationalism stands out in fuller measure than ever before. For a long time it has been clear to revolutionary internationalists that the course of Stalin was based on a renunciation of the international revolution and could only lead to the disorientation of the workers in the struggle against their own exploiters. Now it is written down, black on white.

The fatal leadership of Stalin was never so clearly revealed as in this infamous communique. It is a warning signal to the workers' vanguard of the whole world to free itself completely from the influence of the Stalinist bureaucracy before it leads them to catastrophe on another "Fourth of August."

Read this paragraph in the joint communique, as published in the New York Times, May 16:

"Above all, the duty falls upon them (the Soviet Union and France), in the interest and maintenance of peace, not to allow the means of their national defense to weaken in any sense. In this regard M. STALIN UN- DERSTANDS AND FULLY APPROVES THE NATIONAL DEFENSE POLICY OF FRANCE IN KEEPING HER ARMED FORCES AT A LEVEL REQUIRED FOR SECURITY."

There can be no misunderstanding of the meaning of these words. It is clear alike to the workers and to their class enemies. The bourgeois journalists had no difficulty in interpreting it. Ralph W. Barnes, Moscow correspondent of the New York Herald-Tribune explained it bluntly as follows:

"This is an indirect way, of course, of explaining to the French Communists that, in the existing circumstances, subversive propaganda directed to the French military and naval forces is harmful to the Soviet Union as well as to France."

That's it, precisely; the paragraph cannot have any other meaning. The "leader of the international proletariat" says to the French workers: "Do not interfere in any way with the military preparations of France imperialism: M. Stalin understands and fully approves."

Nothing is to be done to interfere with military preparations of the French imperialists. And from that it follows (Continued on Page 4)

Next Week!

In view of the tremendous significance for the international labor and revolutionary movements of the Franco-Soviet military alliance and the joint statement on it issued by Pierre Laval and Joseph Stalin, the National Committee of the Workers Party is drawing up an official statement of its position. This statement, which will deal exhaustively with the problems presented by the alliance, will appear in the coming issue of the New Militant. Readers are urged to give it their closest attention and to see to it that it is disseminated as widely as possible.

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Toledo Auto Progressives Organize

Unemployed Leader



GERRY ALLARD

St. Louis Gas Strike is Solid Despite Terror

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The strike of the St. Louis Gas House Workers runs into its third month with ranks as firm and determined as ever. A short history of the slanders, provocation, and violence against the union reveals something of the spirit that has carried the union through with flying colors.

The Laclede Company, after recovering from the surprise attack of the union, hired scabs and an army of thugs to protect them. The company thugs discovered a "bomb plot." When this collapsed the Company had three union members arrested for "possessing dynamite." Although the state refused to prosecute on so flimsy a charge the men were continued under arrest. The Company obtained an injunction "bidding the union its legal picket." The police began mass arrests of the strikers. The Company thugs organized attacks on the homes of the strikers, breaking windows, and endangering their families. The police began beating the strikers at the point of guns, as many as six at one time in the open street. The company thugs stunk bombed the union headquarters and picket stations. And so on—The Company, their thugs and the police all in one band against the strike—he kept press playing up every scrap of anti-union hysteria.

Strike Paper Invaluable

During all this storm and stress, the daily strike paper has proved invaluable in holding the union firm, in recruiting support of other unions, and of the general public. The first week's trial brought in over a thousand subscriptions. More than fifty unions have pledged support. In addition many storekeepers have assisted the strikers with food and supplies.

The lighter side of the strike is revealed in the following story from

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Jobless Renew Relief March For Showdown

Will Lay Siege to Ill. State Capitol Says I.W.A. Leader

By GERRY ALLARD
SPRINGFIELD, Ill., May 15.—Having staged two marches on the state capital as well as scores of local demonstrations, the Illinois Workers Alliance was again rallying its forces this week-end for another gigantic march for a showdown on the relief crisis now facing this state.

The mass upsurge of the jobless in Illinois was precipitated by the shutting down of relief stations in the state as the Democratic administration maneuvered to force a further levy down the throats of a stubborn legislature in the form of an increase in the sales tax from 2 per cent to 3.

Ragged, hungry and weary workers trekked into Springfield last week from various sections of the state to protest against the closing of relief stations, against the sales tax and for improvements in relief standards. A march took place through the heart of town to the capital. While approximately 1,000 jobless workers cheered speakers who spoke from the huge monument of Abe Lincoln a delegation was received by the Governor.

Present Their Demands

The delegation presented the demands of the demonstrators for reopening of relief stations, defeat of the sales tax, abolition of the national guards, clothing for school children graduating, proper medical care, comfortable shelter, \$1 for unskilled and \$1.25 for skilled labor on projects with a minimum of 24 hours and a maximum of 30-hours per week, representation on local, county, district and state relief boards and for a levy on income, gift and inheritance. The Governor of the state showed respect for the committee now representing 150,000 organized workers, but the substance of his decisions as to immediate redress was nothing. "I am a servant of the people, not a king," he said. The excuse was a poor one because a few months before he had dispatched hundreds of troops to the coal fields in a most tyrannical invasion against the self rule of the population of the coal fields.

Thousands of Illinois workers faced actual starvation. Yet the Governor took the position that not "one red cent" would be further expended by the state on relief until the tax against labor's bread and beans was passed. At the very moment \$7,500,000 was laying idle in the coffers of the state treasury. In Chicago former Vice-President Daves played the fiddle to the tune of the 90,000,000 dollars he had received from the R.F.C. without making an effort to repay the "loan" enough to carry Illinois' relief burden for 29 months. Newspapers

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Applying the "Merit Clause"



Lessons of the Great Toledo Battle

All the forces of the General Motors Corporation, the resources of the U. S. Department of Labor's ace "trouble shooter," Edward F. McGrady, a barrage from the Toledo newspapers threatening a permanent shutdown of the Chevrolet transmission plant, and unbelievably dirty trickery and brazen terrorization on the part of Francis J. Dillon, representative of the American Federation of Labor bureaucracy, were needed Monday night to brow-beat and trick the Toledo Chevrolet strikers into voting acceptance of compromise proposals. Rejection, advocated by the large group of militants among the strikers in close touch with the Workers Party branch, would have meant in all probability a nation-wide strike against General Motors, one of the most terrific battles in the history of class struggle in the U. S., since the outcome would determine the whole issue of unionism in the basic industries. While a thorough analysis of the dramatic onslaught of the Toledo vanguard upon the citadel of open-shoppers must wait, it is already possible to draw the main conclusions. It is essential that all party comrades and progressive workers understand the conclusions in order that they may be by so much better equipped for the battles to come.

1. When account is taken on the one hand of the forces with which we had to work and on the other hand of those arrayed against us, we can safely assert that the Toledo militants met the challenge presented to them and that the Toledo strikers put up a magnificent battle. William Green had the strike votes of the Federal auto unions in his pocket. Not only, however, did he not call a strike but he and his representatives did everything in their power to prevent it from spreading and to tone down its militancy. The Chevrolet workers had joined the union only a few days before the strike broke. Very few among them had had previous union experience. Yet they shut down the Chevrolet plant. They tied up Chevrolet production throughout the country for three weeks. They brought 30,000 workers out with them. They measurably cut down production of the steel and glass corporations. General Motors said it would not confer with them until they went back to work. General Motors was forced to change its mind. It had to negotiate with the Strike Committee and grant additional concessions.

Not only was a great automobile corporation shaken, but a more open and more nearly (Continued on Page 4)

Dillon and Co. Wreck Chance To Win Strike

Temporary Setback is Signal to Cement Ranks

By ART PREIS
TOLEDO, May 14.—After three weeks of magnificent battling, the union auto workers of the Chevrolet Motor Ohio Company, whose mass picket lines had stopped the production of Chevrolet transmissions and closed down almost the entire Chevrolet Corporation, voted last night to accept the offer of a four cents an hour wage-increase and other slight concessions and to return to work. For three weeks these inexperienced workers, who have been in the union but a month, fought back blow for blow against the financial might of General Motors, the pressure of the government, the cunning propaganda of the capitalist press. They went down to temporary and partial defeat at last through the treachery of Francis Dillon, national organizer for the A. F. of L. in the auto industry, and Fred Schwake, the business agent of their local whom they had trusted. But they went down fighting.

In one of the most spectacular and rousing floor fights ever waged, the militant progressives in the union, denounced as "Muste men" by Dillon, took the meeting last night by storm, hooted Dillon from the Civic Auditorium at the outset of the session, and were on the verge of tearing to pieces the General Motors offer, which failed to grant them one important concession, including their demands for union recognition, a signed contract and straight seniority without the notorious "merit clause."

Lack of Experience
Their lack of experience and desire for "democracy" and "fair play," which was appealed to by equally inexperienced members of the strike committee, caused them to rescind a previous motion which they had passed excluding all persons from speaking on the proposals but the strikers and the members of the strike committee. Dillon was recalled into the meeting and given the chance to speak on the agreement which he, Edward F. McGrady, assistant secretary of labor, and William S. Knudsen, executive vice-president of General Motors, had devised last Saturday. Dillon had already expressed his sentiments on this union-busting agreement Monday in the daily press, which featured his statement urging the strikers to accept the terms of the proposal, and hinted that the progressives who fought its acceptance, including every one of the elected strike committee but one, were "reds," through a vague allusion to "those who presume without authority to speak in the interests of the workers the language of a Soviet Dictatorship." His public statement was in direct violation of an agreement made with the strike committee not to express himself on the proposed settlement prior to the meeting.

Fulminates at Muste
Dillon was given the platform to speak. Two hours before he had raged from the auditorium howling that the union was expelled from the A. F. of L. The press reported him as saying then, before he entered a cab to go to his hotel, "Let Muste run their outfit. If they want an I.W.W. or a communist outfit let them have it. They're out! They're out! I disown them." Three times during his ensuing speech Dillon was booed and hissed down. But with infinite cunning, demagoguery and the basest lies he shouted and threatened. His big club was the threat to withdraw the charter of the entire local if the strikers did not accept the company's offer. The local has members in nineteen Toledo plants. Slowly he ground into the minds of many of the strikers the fear that he would smash their union if they did not end the strike. In return for the "democratic" gesture of the strikers, Dillon used the foulest and most undemocratic tactics ever devised to force the company agreement down the strikers' throats. He used their very union loyalty, their desire to maintain their union at all costs, to betray them.

During the course of his tirade, Dillon snarled an attack at A. J. (Continued on Page 2)

W.P. Supports Election Battle Against Mpls. Reactionaries

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The coming election in Minneapolis will see a battle to the finish between the reactionary candidates of the Citizens Alliance and the candidates of the Farmer-Labor Party. Every worker in every trade union in the city is up in arms against the present Citizens Alliance administration, headed by Mayor Bainbridge and police chief "Bloody Mike" Johannes, who were responsible during Local 574 truck drivers' strike of last year for the shooting of fifty workers and the death of two. Both sides are marshalling all their forces for the election, on which depends the immediate fortune of the labor movement and the Citizens Alliance.

In view of the questions at stake and of the narrow majority which will determine the result, the Minneapolis Branch of the Workers Party has decided to throw its electoral weight behind the Farmer-Labor candidates, at the same time conducting its own campaign, warning the workers against the dangerous illusions of Farmer-Laborism. The campaign of the Workers Party is being carried on along the

lines of their election leaflet. After introducing as the main immediate task the defeat of the Citizens Alliance, the Workers Party clearly distinguishes itself from the Farmer-Laborites. "The Farmer-Labor officials will not and cannot give the working class any real, lasting benefits—these will have to be won by the workers themselves through their fighting organizations: the unions, unemployed organizations, and the revolutionary workers' party."

The Party presents its own program although running no independent candidates in this election.

1. The thirty hour, thirty dollar minimum week.
2. A ten billion dollar public works program.
3. Unemployment and social insurance at the expense of employers.
4. Immediate relief of \$10 per week with \$3 for every dependent.
5. An end to red tape in relief administration: adequate medical care for the unemployed.
6. Full rights of free speech.

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Dillon Men Slug Toledo Workers in Flint Meet

FLINT, Mich., May 14.—For the third time in the past two weeks, members of the Buick local here were prevented from going on strike through the action of Francis Dillon and his organizer, Louis Hart.

When a progressive member of the Toledo local, Wilbur Patton, with a delegation including Dick Myers and Herbert Munson, attempted to speak at the meeting here last night to give a report of the Toledo strike, he was assaulted by members of Dillon's machine, led by Louis Hart.

Patton was injured about the head when he was struck by a chair. In order to break up the meeting, Dillon's men turned on the lights and threw chairs about. The meeting was broken up in confusion.

One of the methods employed by Dillon to discourage strike action here was to circulate a story, played up widely in the local press, that the Toledo strike was in control of "reds," "communists" and "professional agitators."

Expel Allentown Professor for Activity in Labor Movement

ALLENTOWN, Pa., May 15.—Dr. Winslow N. Hallett, treasurer of the Allentown local of the American Federation of Teachers and its delegate to the Central Trades and Labor Council, has been dismissed from his position as professor of psychology at Cedar Crest College because of his labor activities.

His dismissal by the board of trustees has been denounced by the student body. More than half of the 185 students enrolled at the college have signed petitions demanding his reinstatement.

Asked by President William F. Curtis to resign, Dr. Hallett refused, requesting specific charges be brought against him. The formal notification of dismissal, on May 11, contained no charges. Pressed for an explanation of the board's action, President Curtis admitted that Dr. Hallett's work was satisfactory at the college and that the dismissal was due to Dr. Hallett's prominent role in the organized labor movement.

In addition to his position in the Non-Partisan Labor Defense to rally support for his case in the labor movement, Dr. Hallett has asked the Non-Partisan Labor Defense to rally support for his case in the labor movement.