

NEW MILITANT

Official Organ of the Workers Party of the U.S.

VOL. 1, NO. 29

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1935

PRICE 3 CENTS

Head of Young Communist International to French Socialist Youth: "If war occurs against the U.S.S.R. and you make your revolution, you will be traitors."

Mooney Wins New Hearing

State Confesses to Destruction of Evidence

SAN FRANCISCO.—The California state supreme court has consented to hear new testimony through a referee on Sept. 3 to prove that Tom Mooney is innocent of the crime for which he has spent 19 years in San Quentin prison.

The court made this concession when Mooney's attorneys, on behalf of the famous labor prisoner, asked a writ of habeas corpus.

Attorney John Finerty of Washington, D. C., Frank P. Walsh of New York City, and George T. Davis of San Francisco unsuccessfully tried to force the court to produce Mooney for the hearing. The lawyers held that the court could not waive Mooney's right to be present, but the judges asserted that it is an unwritten law of the court that the petitioner does not have to appear personally in a habeas corpus proceeding.

"If, in the future, Mooney's presence is necessary, he will be brought here and all his rights safeguarded," Chief Justice Waste said.

Over strenuous protests of the three lawyers, the court refused to sit to hear the testimony. A special referee will be appointed for this purpose. Testimony will take three weeks, Mooney's attorneys asserted.

"This court, in light of its past rulings, is going to have to reverse itself to hear our evidence, and therefore the whole court should hear the case," Finerty contended.

State Destroys Evidence

The state, in effect, confessed that it had destroyed some of the most vital defense evidence. When Mooney's lawyers asked that the state be directed to bring to the September hearing the negatives of the pictures which showed Tom and Anna Mooney on a roof a mile from the scene of the crime, the answer came: "The negatives have disappeared."

During the arguments before the court, Atty.-Gen. William Cleary reiterated former statements to the effect that the state will oppose Mooney's release even if perjury is proven.

"Mooney must prove not only perjury, but that it was committed with the knowledge and connivance of the state officials," was Cleary's assertion.

Finerty jumped to his feet with the statement:

"Two years ago, in Mooney's trial on an indictment remaining against him, Matthew Brady, district attorney of San Francisco, admitted the witnesses in Mooney's first trial had been impeached as perjurers. For the state to admit that it was not bound by that admission will bring down upon the attorney general of California another castigation at the hands of the U. S. Supreme Court."

Finerty and his associates said that they have 18 witnesses to give testimony. Two of the most important witnesses are seriously ill, and will testify only through depositions. They are John McDonald, waiter, who has admitted he perjured himself when he placed Mooney at the scene of the 1916 bombing, and F. E. Rigall, who can prove that Frank Oxman, now dead, who was one of the main witnesses against Mooney and Billings, perjured himself.

Wagner Bill Ignored in Akron

AKRON, Ohio, July 8.—Enactment of the Wagner strike-breaking labor disputes bill provoked little attention among rubberworkers here, even conservatives realized it was but a futile gesture of the government to pretend having an interest in labor's welfare.

Strong company unions at Good-year, Goodrich and Firestone continued to exist without a murmur of protest from the A. F. of L. bureaucrats. Meanwhile uncertainty was evident among union workers over progress towards establishing an international union as Washington A. F. of L. headquarters withheld word, for no apparent reason, of a convention call.

Old Guard Pounds Militants As Socialist Party N.C. Meets

Right Wing Riding High; National "Militant" Caucus Breaks; Hoan with Waldman; Thomas Attacks Left

The National Executive Committee of the Socialist party is convening for its quarterly meeting in New York, July 13-15.

The most important point on its agenda is the report of the "Committee of Inquiry and Mediation," appointed at the last meeting to solve the internecine struggle in New York City.

The N.E.C. is exiled to the Bronx or Queens, the City Central Committee, under control of the right wing, having refused to act as host to their national leadership.

This meeting takes place one year after the national convention at Detroit, when the Milwaukee machine of Mayor Hoan, the "Chicago left," the New York "Militant" group, and Norman Thomas' followers made a horse-trading combination which captured the N.E.C. The theoretical excuse for this capture of power was the passage of a Declaration of Principles which, couched in deliberately ambiguous phraseology, enabled the "Militants" to claim it was a "revolutionary document," while Norman Thomas and Dan Hoan could assert it was traditional socialism.

Old Guard Position Clear

The Old Guard will have no centrist ambiguities, but demands a frank avowal of unshamed loyalty to the capitalist state and its democracy. The Old Guard served notice at Detroit of war to the death against the Declaration and has carried on its fight with principled intransigence, refusing to accept any of the compromises offered it by the N.E.C. Systematic expulsions of left wingers, in New York and upstate; lifting of charges of anti-Old Guard locals long enough to secure a majority of the City Central Committee; forcible expulsion of the Young Peoples Socialist League from their headquarters in the Iland School and the organization of a rival youth organization under Old Guard leadership; systematic onslaughts in the Forward and the New Leader; alliance with the most corrupt A. F. of L. bureaucrats to put pressure on the N.E.C. (the United Hebrew Trades, for example, passing a resolution denouncing the Declaration of Principles); organization of inter-state conferences of Old Guard state organizations to set up programs in competition with the N.E.C.—in these and a hundred other ways the Old Guard has hammered away, like a battering ram, against their opponents.

Under this steady barrage, their opponents have offered one shameful compromise after another, and when their proposals have been thrown back in their faces, have retreated still further. The Old Guard has given to the capitalist press a series of statements declaring their refusal to abide by the convention decision on the Declaration of Principles. When the convention decision was supplemented by a referendum which gave a majority for the Declaration, the Old Guard merely reiterated its stand.

The answer of Norman Thomas and Dan Hoan was . . . to propose to have the N.E.C. make changes in the Declaration! When, "after agreement was almost reached," as Norman Thomas recently revealed, the Old Guard refused to compromise and continued to violate the party's principles, Thomas and Hoan decided to act. They . . . "appointed a committee to consider suggestions of changes well in advance of the next convention of the Party so that the matter may be adjusted with as little dispute as possible" (Thomas)!

Then, at the last meeting of the N.E.C. instead of carrying on a struggle against the Old Guard, they appointed a committee to "mediate" between the slugging Old Guard and the battered left.

(Continued on Page 3)

Heavy Prison Terms Given to Group of Polish "Trotskyites"

GENEVA (I.C.L.).—Information has just been received here that at the beginning of the month of May, nine persons, accused of belonging to the "Trotskyist" organization, were brought to trial in Warsaw. Without any proofs submitted, they were condemned to especially severe prison terms: one woman to five years in prison, three of the accused to four years, and three to three years each.

The attorney general of the republic, in his act of indictment, dwelled on the character of "Trotskyism" which he described as much more dangerous than official communism which merely wants to "defend the U.S.S.R.," whereas the "Trotskyists" "aim at inflaming the entire world." It's above all on this point that the big press dwelled in its court reports.

Workers' Security Bill Drafted By Nat'l Unemployed League

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.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled that the maximum hours of labor of those employed by the government of the United States, state, county, municipal and other governmental units in the United States and of those employed for wages by an employer in industry, mining, transportation, agriculture, domestic, technical, clerical and professional service, and all other occupations, shall be 30 hours per week.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted that the sum of 10 billion dollars be appropriated for the purpose of carrying forward a program of public works.

(1) The monies available or to be appropriated for the purposes of this bill shall be expended within one year from the date of its enactment.

(2) The objects for which the money available or to be appropriated under this act shall be spent shall be the provision 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.

(3) No monies available or to be appropriated under this act shall be spent for military or naval purposes.

(4) The hours of labor under all projects established under this bill shall be not more than 30 per week.

(5) The compensation of all those employed under the provisions of this act shall be not less than \$30.00 per week and the prevailing union rate of wages wherever said rate exceeds \$30.00 per week.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted that the Secretary of Labor is hereby authorized and directed to provide for the immediate establishment of a system of unemployment and social insurance for the purpose of providing insurance for all workers and farmers unemployed through no fault of their own in amounts equal to average local wages. Such insurance shall be administered by workers and farmers and controlled by them under rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Labor in conformity with the purposes and provisions of this Act, through unemployment insurance commissions composed of the rank and file members of workers' and farmers' organizations. Funds for such insurance shall hereafter be provided at the expense of the Government and of employers, and it is the sense of Congress that funds to be raised by the Government shall be secured by taxing inheritance and gifts, and by taxing individual and corporation incomes of \$5,000 per year and over. No tax or contribution in any form shall be levied on workers for the purposes of this Act. In no case shall the unemployment insurance be less than \$10 per week plus \$3 for each dependent.

The benefits of this Act shall be (Continued on Page 2)

U. S. Aids Terror of Mendieta

Brutal Regime Slays and Jails Scores of Workers

Right on the heels of the deportation of the liberal U. S. delegation from Cuba comes the sensational report, printed herewith, of assassination, wholesale arrests and horrible persecution of workers and revolutionists by the militarist regime of Cuba. This reactionary clique, emulating "Butcher" Machado, has suppressed all trade union and political organizations and prohibited the right of free speech, press and assemblage. This terror proceeds with the open support of the Roosevelt Administration through its Ambassador Jefferson Caffrey.—Ed.

By R. S. DE LA TORRE

The proletariat of Cuba is today confronted with a situation in many ways similar although more difficult than in other colonial or imperialist countries. The government of Mendieta which rose to power under the pressure of the United States Ambassador, Jefferson Caffrey, has been converted into a most efficient instrument of imperialist oppression. In order to accomplish this destructive mission against the aspirations of the oppressed masses, the government has organized the largest oppressive machinery ever known in Cuba, under the leadership of Batista, commander of the army. It extends over every inch of the country, from the large cities to the most remote sugar plantations.

The army of Cuba (a country that has no national frontiers) reaches the exorbitant numbers of 18,000 soldiers, with a budget of \$18,000,000 which is in effect a greater expenditure per soldier than any country in either Europe or America. To this we have to add a few thousand more technical and secret intelligence service men, devoted exclusively to political persecution of all those persons and organizations opposed to the government. Apart from this there is the urban police, controlled by the municipal government, which is a mere department of the general staff of the army, cooperating loyally in the persecution of all the oppositionists. As a general rule, the soldiers as well as the police, are recruited from the most degenerated social strata, from the lumpen proletariat of the cities and the hungry peons of the countryside. They are paid very generously and given all kinds of privileges, thus assuring their unconditional submission to the government.

In order to round out the oppressive apparatus, directed essentially against the working class, they have created Emergency Tribunals, which judge all matters of a political nature. These tribunals have (Continued on Page 3)

Thrift Pays

Little Diana Didn't Save A Dime But Inherits \$30,000 A Year

NEW YORK.—It pays to work hard and be thrifty.

Fourteen-year-old Brenda Diana Duc Frasier of New York can tell you that—and she can tell you that thrift brings its own rewards, though she's never had to work or think of pennies and dimes. For her mother, who's the divorced wife of a big banker, has just received an approved order from a surrogate's court for expenses for little Brenda Diana.

Fifty five thousand dollars is all she gets to spend in the next 18 months. Her dresses will cost her \$5,500; she'll be able to get by on her vacation if she spends her \$5,250 carefully; and on \$900 for music lessons she may be able to pick up a tune or two.

Only one item is really small and economical. Brenda will spend just \$375 for Christmas presents and charitable contributions!

Powers Yield to Italy's Aggression in Ethiopia

Shall Ethiopia Perish? Against Italian Fascism, Negroes Are Fighting Battle of World Proletariat

The devouring flames of war are burning on two continents. In Northern Asia, the troops of Japanese imperialism continue their relentless drive to the west and the south in order to assuage the ruling caste's rapacious appetite for an empire in Siberia and China. Afraid of bringing to its feet a powerful people's movement that might mean its own end, the pitiable Chinese bourgeoisie dampens the ardor of resistance of the masses and retreats precipitately before the Japanese invader.

And now the plains and mountainsides of Ethiopia are being approached as the scene of the Fascist war upon the last of even semi-independent countries on the African continent. Tens of thousands of Mussolini's troops, equipped with the most modern machinery of warfare, are on the march against the Ethiopians, determined to subdue them as once Eritrea and Somaliland were subdued—to accomplish now with the Fascist legions what they failed to do in the war upon Abyssinia towards the end of the last century.

The invasion is now generally recognized as inevitable. All talk about conciliation, about a peaceable settlement of the dispute, has been nothing more—it is now clear—than so much verbiage behind which Mussolini was taking all the measures necessary to dispatch to Africa an army which, when it reaches its full strength, will number some 200,000 men. From the Netherlands comes the official announcement that the Italo-Ethiopian Conciliation Commission has finally decided to adjourn its sessions indefinitely, after having met for two weeks, without coming to a conclusion. The whole matter is now referred to . . . the League of Nations.

And the League of Nations? What is to be expected from this "great instrument of peace"? Approximately the same result that was produced by it in the case of the war in the Gran Chaco; approximately the same result that was produced by it in the case of the appeal of ravished China against the brutal invasion by Japan.

For years the League of Nations has been advertized to the world as the only, "even if not entirely satisfactory" agency for the preservation of world peace. Each time it encountered a situation which brought new discredit upon it, it took care to take some new action which would restore its failing credit in the eyes of the masses. For a time, the assembled imperialist bandits covered their bristling armor with the solemn pledges of the Kellogg Pact which "renounced" aggression as an instrument of national policy. Where is the Kellogg Pact today—the pact to which both Italy and Ethiopia were signatories? A scrap of paper, a fraud, a deception. (Continued on Page 4)

3 Leading Members of North Dakota C.P. Resign; Join W.P.

Fresh evidence of the revulsion of revolutionary workers to the latest acts of treachery by the Stalin bureaucracy is contained in the statement of resignation of three leading militants in the North Dakota District from the Communist Party. Excerpts from their statement quitting the C. P. and joining the Workers Party are printed below.—Ed.

Flaxton, N. D.
Workers Party of U. S.
New York City
Comrade:

We have finally become convinced after due and careful investigation and mature consideration of all the facts that the Communist Party of the United States, and the Third International dominated and constituted as it is now, cannot and will not organize and lead the workers of this country or the world, for or to the seizure of power and the building of socialism on an international basis. Another vanguard party of the proletariat must be organized and built by the workers and farmers of this country.

For that task, and we are convinced after careful and mature consideration, that the Workers Party of the U. S., already organized by honest and capable revolutionists, and now functioning, is such a vanguard party of the working class, that can and will organize and lead the workers of America for the seizure of power and the building of socialism on an international basis. And being fully convinced of the necessity of the establishment of the Fourth International to organize and lead the workers of the world on an inter-

Il Duce Moves For Conquest In September

'White Man's Burden' Alibi for Fascist Exploitation

By MARTIN A. GLEE

The situation with regard Ethiopia grows more tense daily. Whereas it could be stated a few days ago that Italy's penetration into the kingdom of the Negus would not start until October; today reliable reports have it that operations will more than likely begin a month sooner.

As the usually well-informed Mr. Frederick T. Birchall of the London bureau of the Times puts it: "The last hope of averting a military attack by Italy upon Ethiopia faded out today." His reference is to the fact that the meeting of the conciliation commission appointed by the League of Nations broke up when the Italian delegation refused so much as to listen to the statements of the Ethiopian delegate who insisted on establishing the fact that Ual Ual, the scene of the first clash, was within Ethiopian territory.

Il Duce Ready for Action

So far as Italy is concerned the negotiations are over and dead. Il Duce is now completely occupied with the strengthening of his forces in Africa, building his army up to about 250,000 (already about 150,000 Italian soldiers are encamped in Eritrea and Italian Somaliland). Moreover, Italy is compelled to prepare a sufficient water supply for drinking purposes, provision its African commissaries with food and medical supplies and continue road improvements for military purposes. For this she is compelled to wait a month or two longer. Besides, the rainy season will not begin subsiding until the early fall.

All of which means that Italy is prepared to strike now. The reply of Washington to the Ethiopian note was grist to Mussolini's mill. The apparent change of front on the part of England, in reconciling herself to the Italian adventure, can possibly be explained by the fact that Italy has assured Great Britain that it will not defect the waters of Lake Tsana toward its own territory and that it is ready to assume treaty obligations to that effect.

Wants Only a "Crumb"

Italy will probably attempt to connect its colonies bounding Ethiopia on the north and south by building a railroad and highway across the Ethiopian kingdom. This will greatly facilitate Mussolini's "civilizing" invaders reaching the capital, Addis Ababa, and taking complete control. Few more callous exhibitions of imperialistic methods of conquest could be cited unless one were to go back to the Boer War. One of the jingoos for the Italian Fascist press puts it neatly and unhypercritically when he declares that "justice would require Britain, possessing the world's greatest colonial empire, to stand aside when Italy attempts to obtain a small crumb left over from Britain's gargantuan meal."

The "small crumb" is Ethiopia. Despite the hypocritical talk of Washington that it expects the matter to be ironed out between the parties involved and that it sees no cause for alarm, Cornelius Van H. Engert, a shrewd expert of U. S. imperialism in the Far East has been shipped from his post in Egypt to become Charge d'Affaires and Consul General at Addis Ababa.

The question of Ethiopia comes up in the next day or two in the House of Commons in London. France is still standing by Italy. Germany and Japan look on with hawk-like attention.

The backward colonial country of Ethiopia stands like a sparrow with clipped wings surrounded by hungry cats on all sides and its one friend whom it has a right to rely on, the Soviet Union, does nothing because of a conservative bureaucracy at its top. Litvinov, in the League of Nations, remains silent!

EIGHT-PAGE NEW MILITANT FIRST STEP TO DAILY