

NEW MILITANT

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

VOL. 1, NO. 30

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1935

PRICE 3 CENTS

NUL Calls National Caravan

Convention in Wash. D.C. to be Held Same Time

Once again the National Unemployed League is about to embark on an action that will make history for the million-headed jobless of this country. Entering a counter-offensive against the pauper wages of the Roosevelt administration, the N.U.L. will bring its protest to the front door of American capitalism: in October a mass caravan will march on Washington, D. C. Simultaneous with the caravan the Third National Convention of the Leagues will be held in the same city. The call for the National Convention follows:

NATL UNEMPLOYED LEAGUE
232 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio
July 16, 1935

To All Local Leagues
Dear Fellow-workers:
By action of the National Committee of the National Unemployed League, the 3rd Annual Convention of the NUL has been postponed until October. The place of the Convention has been set for Washington, D. C. The Caravan to Washington has been set for the same time.

The reasons for this action are as follows:

1) The great amount of work which has been and is now taking place in the various states must go forward to build the Leagues throughout the country and to prepare for the greatest National Convention of the unemployed which has ever been held.

The West Virginia Unemployed League held its annual Convention on June 7-8 and is now preparing for a state Hunger March.

The Pennsylvania Unemployed League held the largest and most successful convention in its history on June 8-9 and is now conducting a big organizational campaign.

The Ohio Unemployed League is undertaking the greatest task ever attempted by any State organization of unemployed. It will hold a mass Hunger March and Convention at Columbus on July 29-Aug. 2. Thousands are expected to join in the demonstration which should start the ball rolling for such demonstrations and action throughout the country as will force a complete change in relief and works programs throughout the country and make another step toward the 30 hour-\$30 week.

In Indiana, Kentucky, Connecticut, New Jersey, Michigan, Mississippi, Alabama, Missouri, Massachusetts, Maine, New York and other states the Unemployed Leagues are growing. State conventions are being planned.

At no time in the history of the N.U.L. have we had so much activity and the need of giving every possible assistance to the organizational work. The National Unemployed League is stronger today than ever before. It is by far the strongest National organization of the unemployed in the country and is becoming one of the greatest.

Continued on Page 3

Plans for Eight Page Completed; Now Funds!

The California Workers Party District Committee requests that a special section be set aside for news of class struggle events on the Pacific Coast in the coming 8-page weekly. The comrades will undertake to edit regularly material for this section. This is acceptable. But the first duty for the comrades on the Pacific Coast is to put their shoulder to the wheel and put over the campaign to provide the funds necessary for the 8-page weekly.

This duty rests upon Party branches everywhere. We ask all sympathizers of the movement and readers of the NEW MILITANT to give their assistance. Contributions received are still below ten per cent of the total needed. The report in this issue shows \$195.48 collected at the time of going to press. The total required is \$2,000.00. From this it is obvious that much more speed in the campaign is necessary. We still await a response from the majority of the Party branches. We ask the question: What do the several thousand NEW MILITANT readers say?

Only the New York and Boston branches have recorded somewhat of a response so far. The Philadelphia and New-Haven branches have each made an initial small contribution, and even as far as New York City is concerned the bigger branches are still far behind in the campaign. The Harlem branch, which is one of the smallest numerically but most active in make-up, holds the lead with \$23.98 collected to date.

Since the report made a fortnight ago, we have received the following amounts:

Contributions:	
Center Branch, N. Y. C.	\$6.50
Brownville Branch, N. Y. C.	1.00
Flatbush Branch, N. Y. C.	1.25
W. Grey, Minotola, N. J.	5.00
A. Abrams, Cleveland, Ohio	5.00
B. Weisbroth, N. Y. C.	2.00
S. B., N. Y. C.	1.00
New Haven Branch	2.50
West Side Branch, N. Y. C.	11.50
Bronx Branch, N. Y. C.	9.00
Boro Park Branch, N. Y. C.	10.50
Astoria Branch, N. Y. C.	4.00
Harlem Branch, N. Y. C.	12.70
H. Smith, Hutchinson, Kansas	1.00
Total	72.95
Greetings	
Philadelphia Branches	2.75
Subscriptions (Club Plan)	
Davenport Branch	1.50
Philadelphia Branches	4.50
Previously Reported	113.78
Total	\$195.48

(Continued on Page 2)

Africans Called to the Colors

'Better Die Free Than Live as Slaves,' Sellassie Says

Tribesmen of all Ethiopia are prepared to drop the ploughshare and seize the sword to drive back the Fascist manrunder and preserve the independence of their nation.

To a man they responded to the battle cry of Haile Sellassie, who exhorted them with the appeal: "Better die free than live as slaves."

Meanwhile in Italy—

Close to two hundred thousand Italian troops are now in eastern Africa prepared to assume military operations against the legions of Haile Sellassie. Three hundred planes are being dispatched by Mussolini to overcome hazards of desert fighting. Corroding acid to burn the soles off the feet of the Ethiopian soldiers is being turned out in large quantities and shipped to Eritrea and Italian Somaliland.

In the meanwhile Emperor Sellassie is preparing his troops for the coming struggle which even the most sceptical declare will in all likelihood break out in September.

In Europe the three imperialist powers most concerned, Italy, England and France, are busy finding an out for their little institution known as the League of Nations and dubbed by Lenin the "thieves kitchen of Geneva." The "thieves" seem to have come to an agreement and it is reported, is preparing to fly to Africa to personally supervise the impending hostilities.

It is quite likely that Mussolini's proposed flight is motivated by more than personal ambition. Reports emanating from Italian territory in east Africa declare that demoralization is setting in among the troops stationed there. The fascist chief undoubtedly reckons that his presence there will help build up a declining morale. But the swamps and mosquitos and the heat may yet prove too much of a match for Mussolini's vocal cords.

Unquestionably England and France would much rather come to an agreement with Italy—even so far as granting it a complete protectorate over Ethiopia is concerned. Hostilities in Africa may prove too costly for both France and England. What these powers fear most is a colonial uprising that may well put an end to their imperialist domination forever.

The forthcoming meeting of the League of Nations is scheduled to take up the Ethiopian question. The attitude of England, France and Italy has already been expressed above. What will M. Litvinoff say—or do?

The unctuous Harry Gannes writing in the Daily Worker complains at the Social-democratic ministers in the Scandinavian cabinets not raising the issue of Ethiopia and taking a firm stand in defense of the people of Abyssinia. Yes, it is correct to demand of those old hands at social-patriotism that they take a stand on this question.

But what about the neophytes of the Stalinist school who have taken to social-patriotism with the zeal of an infidel coming late to Christ? What about the representative of the Soviet bureaucracy in the League of Nations? Haile Sellassie has appealed to him. Has he replied? Yes—his only statement on the Ethiopian question in the League of Imperialist Bandits was lavish praise for Sir Anthony Eden's proposals!

No Share-the-Wealth Here

NEW ORLEANS.—Eight-year-old Clarabelle Newchurch and her brother Leo, aged two, are in New Orleans Charity Hospital suffering from malnutrition—for Huey Long's much advertised "share-the-wealth" plan never got around to them.

Joseph Newchurch, the children's father, told police he'd been jobless since June 15, living only on grocery orders from the FERA. Then the orders expired, and so did the family food supply.

Third Party Meet Sows Confusion; F.D.R. Safe

By A. J. MUSTE
The chief accomplishment of the convention of the Third partyites just held in Chicago with Professor Paul Douglas of the University of Chicago as chairman and Alfred Bingham of Common Sense magazine as secretary, are to furnish some fresh evidence that Roosevelt has as yet little cause to worry over the outcome of the 1936 election and to give the Daily Worker another job of trying to make it clear that "this is not the kind of a labor party we are for."

The two hundred and fifty representatives of Farmer-Labor groups and the Farmer-Labor Political Federation, League for Independent Political Action and People's Political Alliance of Chicago, the last three all manned by the same group of liberals, who met in Chicago described themselves as "native American radicals," and "the direct descendants of the populist tradition." They aim at a new social order based on "production for use." They wish to "unite all the groups who want a change to come through the ballot box, which excludes Communists". A delegate from Idaho, with the eagerness for quick and big results at the polls which characterizes the "native American radicals" argued eloquently for the exclusion of "all members of the Communist Party and also those who do not believe in the democratic process of government" (did he mean to imply that the C. P. with the new turn does believe in the democratic process?) on the ground that each Communist included in the new organization would cost ten thousand votes and "ruin the new movement."

While not all the delegates supported these mathematical speculations, Plank Eight in the Platform for a Third Party drawn up by the group which, by the way, now calls itself the American Commonwealth Political Federation (in addition possibly to its other names) begins the declaration: "We reaffirm our faith in the democratic form of government." This is a frank statement. It might seem that it would take some courage to make such a statement in these days. At any rate, it is well to have so unequivocally on record these people who often speak of themselves as the "true revolutionists," who know how really to "stop fascism" in the U. S. and who regard Marxism as hopelessly discredited and dead. Congressmen such as Lundeen and Marcantonio, who have been C. P. pets recently, are among them. And it is said that the younger, "very radical" ones, among them receive advice and counsel from the Reverend Doctor Harry F. Ward, master mind of the League Against War and Fascism.

Despite their radical talk on their playing at revolution, this outfit consists of liberals, nothing more. In such a period as the present it cannot persuade any considerable number that it has more to offer than Roosevelt. If the crisis is again intensified, the chances are that Douglas and Co. will be swept aside like chips on a raging forest, as the genuinely revolutionary forces and those of reaction come to grips. If by chance and in combination with certain labor and farmer organizations, they were to succeed in forming a sizeable party some day, it could only serve to create illusions among the masses about salvation by "democratic" means.

Old Guard Swamps Militants at SP Meet

Complete victory for the Old Guard, with Norman Thomas and the other erstwhile allies of the "Militant" Socialists voting with the reactionaries on every decisive issue, was the outcome of the quarterly meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, July 13-15.

As predicted by the NEW MILITANT, the N.E.C. majority elected by the "Militants" and publicly identified with them in a single bloc since the Detroit convention last June, capitulated to the Old Guard. This was the inevitable result of the systematic struggle waged by the Old Guard, while the "Militants" carried on no independent struggle but put their trust in Norman Thomas, despite the fact that Thomas has always demonstrated that he has no principled differences with the Old Guard.

Dismiss Indictment Against Robins-Gras

NEW YORK.—Dismissal of the indictment in General Sessions Court of July 12, terminates victoriously the Robins-Gras case which arose out of the hotel strike 18 months ago and which was one of the first important activities of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense.

Harold Robins and Andrea Gras were convicted of slugging a non-union worker, served eight months in Sing Sing while their appeal was pending, due to Judge Valente's refusal to issue a certificate of reasonable doubt, which would have made bail possible. It now turns out that there is not even the basis of a prosecution. For the workers who sat in the "pen" and for the strikers at whom the frame-up however, there is no compensation for what they suffered at the hands of the police and courts.

After conviction, Robins and Gras appealed to the N.P.L.D. for aid. The Robins-Gras Defense Committee set up by the N.P.L.D. had the backing of the Socialist Party, Workers Party, Communist Party Opposition, General Defense Committee, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, I.L.G.W.U. and others.

As a result of the fight and the able brief drawn by Attorneys Abraham Abramowitz of the Socialist Lawyers Association and Louis Glickhouse, both of whom donated their services, a reversal was won. The higher court handed down a decision last December which was widely hailed as setting an important precedent. It castigated the trial judge, the late Joseph E. Corrigan, for his violent prejudice and dishonest tactics. So complete was the exposure of the frame-up engineered by the hotel owners and the prosecution, that the District Attorney finally had to drop the case altogether.

New Party Gains in Holland

Fourth Int'l Vote Increases in Many Municipalities

AMSTERDAM.—The municipal elections have followed close on the heels of the provincial elections. In them the Revolutionary Socialist Workers Party made an excellent showing, electing their candidates in many cities.

The R.S.A.P. now commands a total of 25 seats in various municipal administrations, an increase of 9 over the last election. Some of the preliminary results follow:

In Deventer the vote rose from 2,098 in the provincial elections to 2,624 in the municipal contest. Compared with the vote received by the C. P. in this city, which increased from 707 to 756 and the S. P. whose results remained stationary: 5561 to 5556. But the proportion between reformist votes on the one side and revolutionary votes on the other is three times as favorable for the R.S.A.P. than for the C.P. The number of votes for the capitalist parties remained quite substantial: 8870 out of a total of 17,806 votes.

Another significant incident in the voting was in Zeandam. Here the R.S.A.P. increased its total from 1,180 to 1,397 while the number of votes for the Stalinist party fell from 1,726 to 1,590. The president of the building workers union, one of the social democratic candidates was beaten by our comrade. The reply of this bureaucrat was the expulsion of four R.A.A.P. members from the union.

In Westlingwerf R.S.A.P. votes rose from 539 to 988 while the reformists lost—2,680 to 2,192—and the Stalinists dropped from 396 to 325 votes.

Highly gratifying increases were obtained in other municipalities throughout the country.

A serious setback, however, was suffered in Amsterdam where the R.S.A.P. dropped a few thousand votes. A serious disappointment to the Dutch Party, it has had a totally salutary effect in jacking up the morale of the comrades and imbuing them with the determination to build solid and strong in this center, to make the party a more effective instrument in the class struggle and a more serious factor in the coming elections.

It Pays to Be A Plutocrat

DETROIT.—It pays to be a General Motors bigshot!
For the top group of 130 director and executives received in 1934 \$4,980,737 for their work—or an average of \$38,389 a man.
When Chevrolet workers struck recently, the management termed their demands "unreasonable."

NEW ORLEANS (FP)—The New Orleans local of the International Assn. of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America has been organized.

Leading Oregon Lovestonite Quits; Joins Workers Party

Another important recruit to the ranks of the Workers Party comes with the application of Earl Lane of Portland, Oregon, formerly a leading member of the Lovestonite group.—Ed.

Portland, Oregon
July 12, 1935

The Secretariat,
Workers Party of the U. S.
Dear Comrades:

I recently resigned from the Communist Party Opposition and wish to apply for membership in the Workers Party of the U. S.

The pernicious policy pursued by the Third International in recent years beginning with the Kuo Min Tang policy and continuing down through the long series of disasters in Germany, Austria, the Saar, etc.,

and culminating with the present line in France, leads every clear thinking revolutionary worker to make a clean break with the Stalinist International and, abandoning all illusions concerning the possibility of reforming it, to bend all energies toward the building of a new revolutionary International.

The position of the Communist Party Opposition toward the Third International can have but one logical outcome if adhered to: capitulation to the Stalinist bureaucracy and its policies.

Pledging myself to work to the best of my ability to rally the workers around the banner of the Workers Party and the Fourth International, I am,

Comradely yours,
EARL LANE.

Muir's Maneuvers

Abe Muir, vice-president of the Carpenters and Joiners, who had been made Northwest organizer of the lumber workers, immediately began to sabotage the strike. He and his henchmen began a series of conferences with the employers and E. P. Marsh of the U. S. Department of Labor that were designed to sow confusion in the union's ranks and prevent the walkout from being effective in the key production centers. On the very day before the strike was scheduled to start he announced that only mills whose owners refused to negotiate would be called out. As if the time to begin negotiations was on the day when a general walkout of the industry was due to start! He even went so far as to say that he expected several mills already closed by spontaneous walkouts of the workers to reopen on the strike date.

These maneuvers were to a large extent successful for only 12,000 walked out on May 6. Four days

Continued on Page 2

EIGHT-PAGE NEW MILITANT FIRST STEP TO DAILY