

NEW MILITANT

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Relief in Dakota Ceases

Work at Slave Wage Or Starve, Governor Orders

The chickens are now coming home to roost for the unemployed who have been depending upon Roosevelt's relief program.

Announcement has come from Washington of Draconian measures to be taken to remove jobless wholesale from the relief rolls.

In our definite effort to liquidate relief rolls, an official declared. "While we don't expect private industry to take up the slack at once, we think that private employment will increase as the work program continues."

Thus upon the good wishes and the rainbow hopes of the relief administration the unemployed are to be given the boot, left to shift for themselves until they can find jobs.

The official "thinks" that jobs are in sight but no provisions are made for the difficulties that will ensue if no such jobs can be obtained or if private industry which can be filled up to capacity although comparatively only few of its previous employees are rehired.

Roosevelt is here killing two birds with one stone. On the one hand he is cutting down on the budget, thereby saving wealthy taxpayers money and on the other hand providing cheap labor—cheaper even than the relief hand-outs—to slave-driving employers.

Without hesitating very long officials in five states, South Dakota, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa began to carve a hole into the relief rolls in their states.

In South Dakota all relief has stopped completely. This has been done to meet the demands of the farmers for a labor force adequate to handle the harvest.

These farmers want "hands" in the field or wages at the same level or below that granted by Federal or state relief. The unemployed met this demand with what the state officials have termed a "revolt."

With perfect right they refused to apply themselves to this strenuous backbreaking toil for from 12 to 14 hours at the same pittance, hardly enough to keep body and soul together, which they receive when the state supports them.

For this they are disparaged by the chair-sitting governor of the State, Berry as refusing to work "because it is . . . easier to live on relief."

Now that relief has been cut off completely the state officials look with complacency at the fate of the unemployed—the sick, halt and the blind—who are to be taken care of by the degenerating "poor laws" of the state.

On the other side the rich farmers will continue no such slave-driving ultimatums of "go-to-work-at-whatever-wages-offered," receiving all the time subsistence from the Rural Resettlement Administration and subsidies from other government sources.

Mr. Ketchum, state relief administrator for South Dakota, out of the meanness of his heart's magnanimity conceded "that the order would probably (!) work a hardship upon some (!) individuals or communities, but he said that this course appeared the only practical (!) one to follow until investigations (!) demonstrated a necessity for a change in the rule."

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'Militants' Capture YPSL Convention

By JOSEPH CARTER PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Fresh from the crushing blows meted to them at the "harmony" meeting of the National Committee of the Socialist Party, the New York "Militants" won signal organizational victories at the eighth national convention of the Young Peoples Socialist League held here during the week-end of July 19 to 21.

Approximately one hundred delegates, a little less than half of them New Yorkers, were present at the convention. However, most of the delegates did not participate in the proceedings and were constantly in a state of expectancy. They did not know precisely what to expect. No pre-convention documents had been prepared. No pre-convention discussion had taken place. In many cases delegates were elected

because they and none other were able to go to Pittsburgh.

No Political Discussions

The convention was run by the New York and Chicago top caucuses. The arrangements made impossible any adequate discussions of the problems confronting the socialist movement and the Yipsels in particular. The three evenings of the convention period were devoted to social affairs, a mass meeting, public affair and banquet respectively. The rules of the convention limited speakers on resolutions to three minutes, seven minutes allotted to reporters on resolutions and a total of one hour for any one resolution.

However, even these provisions were not carried out. No political resolutions came before the convention.

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Seventh Congress of Comintern Opens in Moscow

The following article, by a prominent European Marxist, was written prior to the appearance of the call for the World Congress of the Third International and serves as an introduction to it. Coming issues of the NEW MILITANT will contain detailed reports and analyses of the Moscow congress now in session.—Ed.

After an interval of exactly seven years it looks as if the Seventh Congress of the Comintern will be convened after all.

It can be stated with complete confidence that had our organization not existed, had not the banner of the Fourth International been unfurled, had there not been the latest successes of our French comrades, the Third International would still be waiting for the Seventh Congress. The Seventh Congress, just as the last Congress of the French Socialist party will revolve primarily, if not exclusively, around the Bolshevik-Leninists and the Fourth International.

After Hitler's victory we proclaimed the political death of the Third International. But the example of the Second International proves that the demise of political organizations with a mass basis—in the sense of the arresting of their progressive development—does not coincide with the end of their conservative self-preservation. The Third International, despite its pitiful bankruptcy, retains tremendous reserves in the form of the Soviet Union which by itself can give it great possibilities not only for continued political existence but also for dealing heavy blows to the world proletariat. The whole question is: does the Soviet bureaucracy still need the Third International?

The Soviet bureaucracy in this respect finds itself in an acute contradiction. Its present policy, particularly its foreign policy, which is assuming a decisive role, makes the Third International an obstacle rather than an aid. But should the Comintern disappear its place would immediately be occupied by the Fourth International which would result in a complete ideological catastrophe for Stalin and his clique, i.e., the bankruptcy of all falsifications and calumnies which lie at the basis of the "general line." Only on one condition would Stalin have no fear of such an eventuality: if he were prepared to come out as a consistent Bonaparte, i.e., break openly with the traditions of October and place on himself some kind of crown. Despite the growth of the "ideologic" and political preconditions for an open Bonapartism overturn there are too many risks on such a road as this. The Soviet proletariat is, at any rate, a more definite and stable political factor than the petty bourgeoisie was in France at the beginning of the last century, and corresponding with this the Bolshevik tradition is of greater weight than that of the Jacobins of that period. Stalin must hold on to the appearance of Bolshevism and therefore convene the Seventh Congress in face of the danger of the Fourth International.

War will, of course, be the basic question. Here one must be prepared for a tactical retreat. Stalin

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Terre Haute Strikers Victimized After General Strike Betrayal; City Tense as Militia Holds Sway

Camden Strike Holds Up Big Navy Program

4600 Men in Shipyard Stop Production for 11 Weeks

CAMDEN, N. J.—Directly challenging Roosevelt's war program, the 4,600 workers in the Camden Shipyards are now holding out for the eleventh week, militantly defying every attempt to open the yards and begin work.

The most recent attempt of the company to import strike-breakers met with disaster as the automobiles bearing the scabs were overturned and the occupants given a lesson in unionism.

Frantic is the word that best characterizes the state of mind of the ship-builders who have resorted to every method of coercion and intimidations known in industrial disputes. In vain they have appealed to loyalty to a government which has no regard to the wages its contractors pays the workers nor under what conditions they toil. How just is the attitude of the strikers and how far they are willing to go is evidenced in their willingness to agree to the Perkins Plan for arbitration where the bosses have flatly refused to consider it.

The strike is led by the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers and has been conducted militantly throughout. Demands are fifteen percent wage increase, preferential union shop and abolition of piecework.

Latest in the attempts to crush the strike is an injunction which the company has served on the strike leaders. Although they refused to accept it and ground it under foot when it fell to the ground the company will go through with the action.

If the methods that have prevailed up to now in fighting strike-breakers are continued with greater intensity after the injunction, the U. S. government will have to continue whistling for its orders from the New York Shipbuilding Company's yards at Camden.

TROOPS JAIL SCORES

Labor Skates Time Treacherous Action With Onslaught of Press and Soldiers on Workers

For forty-eight hours, the Dream of Debs—the General Strike, not a street car moving, not a printing press turning—came true in Terre Haute itself. Eugene Victor Debs' own home town.

Then, just as suddenly but not quite as unexpectedly, the strike was called off to the great relief of the bosses.

Called off by the head of the Central Labor Union, over whose resistance the strike was declared, without advice or consultation of the strikers, without any of their demands being granted Terre Haute now waits expectantly for its resumption.

Though a surprise to the outside world the declaration of the general strike was no surprise at all to the workers of Terre Haute. For seventeen long weeks a battle had been in progress between the Enameling and Stamping Plant and its employees. The workers could be quite as dogged in their resistance as the bosses. Their strike, however, had gained the support and admiration of the workers in all crafts and unions. And where three days ago fifty-eight armed guards marched a crew of scabs into the plant, the labor movement rose to action.

Town Stands Still

A conference of unions took place and the workers left their jobs to a man. The town was tied up tight as a drum. From gasoline station attendants to retail clerks no one worked. Even the printing crafts, which with the abominable attitude that characterizes the so-called "aristocracy of labor" refused to join the swelling ranks, could not print the labor-baiting newspapers because the teamsters would not deliver paper for the rags.

No sooner was the strike declared than three agencies of capitalism went into action against the protesting ranks of labor.

First, the yellow press from New York to Oregon began to scream

like they had once before during the San Francisco general strike of the shortage of food. Utterly oblivious of the starvation rampant throughout the year occasioned by the crisis of capitalism brass check journalism suddenly became very much concerned over the slight inconvenience caused by a strike intended to improve conditions generally. Not so long ago Editor and Publisher, organ of the newspaper publishers, let the cat out of the bag when it issued its boast that the newspapers had been responsible for breaking the Frisco and the Toledo strikes.

"Napoleon" Declares Martial Law

Hand-in-hand with the subtle intimidation of the press goes the outright coercion of the state apparatus. No sooner was the general strike put in effect than "Little Napoleon" Governor McNutt declared martial law in Vigo county and shipped truckloads of National Guardsmen into that territory.

With extraordinary dispatch they proceeded to disperse picket lines with tear gas and rifle bolts showing no concern at all for sex or age. After forty-eight hours of fierce battling, unarmed and to a large extent unorganized, against thugs from Chicago armed with machine guns and National Guardsmen flinging tear gas at the slightest provocation, or at no provocation at all, Max Schaffer, vice-President of the Vigo County Central Labor Union and Thomas N. Taylor, special representative of William Green in conjunction with two Department of Labor conciliators from Washington, called the strike off.

When the 60,000 strikers paralyzed the town the officials of the C.L.U. washed their hands of the strike, declaring it was unauthorized despite the fact that all the other unions, including four locals of the United Mine Workers had given it their authorization. Unlike the Frisco strike, where labor

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Ohio Jobless Prepare Huge State Confab

20,000 Are Expected To Heed League Call For Demonstration

In Columbus, Ohio, beginning on July 29 and continuing for three days, the Ohio Unemployed League will hold the largest demonstration and mass convention of unemployed in the history of the United States. Over 20,000 are expected to invade Columbus in the march of the Grand Relief Army. Labor's demands will be formulated and presented to the lawmakers of Ohio—and in no "hat-in-hand" manner.

Local leagues are already rearing for the march, setting up tents flying the rattlesnake flag at every relief station, and keeping up in the face of sheriffs and frantic relief slogans, will be relieved by first-aid trucks now being recruited. Funds are coming in from all over the state—twenty-five locals have already responded a total of \$125.00. The response from the locals has been even more enthusiastic than was expected. Erie County has pledged 500 marchers, Clinton and Williams County each expect 500, Putnam County pledges 300, and a total turnout of a thousand unemployed under the rattlesnake flag is expected from Athens County.

Tag days, rallies, and mass meetings are held with enthusiastic response. Brass bands are being organized by a number of locals. The marchers will press forward into Columbus flying the flag of the first American revolution, while the bands blend with twenty thousand voices in the songs of the coming revolution. The Unemployed Leagues intend to show the legislators of Ohio that, far from tolerating the general cut in relief that the Roosevelt administration is trying to put over, they still demand the 30 hour-\$30 week. And they intend to get it. In the official call to the Convention, the O.U.L. poses the question to the working class: employed as well as unemployed; slavery or freedom? And its answer, and that of the whole working class of Ohio, is FREEDOM. So far from being intimidated by the government, the unemployed are out to reverse the process. At the Columbus convention, the legislature will hear the voice it fears—mass action by the workers!

The O.U.L. does not pin its final goal to a "fair day's pay" policy; like all sections of the National Unemployed League, it recognizes that the battle for decent conditions can only be won when the working class controls the government, and that the present government is the tool of the bosses. And it does not pay merely verbal respect to this fundamental fact. In battle after battle, it has fought for the rights of the unemployed, militantly and savagely.

Two years ago, the O.U.L. in a similar demonstration, mobilized 7,000. This year, there will be 20,000 jobless solid beneath its banner. After Columbus, what!

W. P. TO HOLD ANTI-WAR MEETING IN ALLENTOWN

On Friday night, August 3rd, at 8 P.M., the Allentown Branch of the Workers Party will hold a huge anti-war mass meeting on Center Square. Max Shachtman, editor of the New International and Sam Gorden, W. P. organizer, will be the main speakers.

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Social Patriotism in Full Flower in France

French capitalism has been threshing for years now in the steel vice of the world crisis. Its foreign trade steadily decreasing with no immediate prospect of relief in sight is dealing a crushing blow to the peasantry. Unemployment is hiking on a long upward climb while wages are precipitately dropping. French financial and political hegemony on the European continent is rapidly vanishing. The full burden of the crisis must be loaded upon the working class. The way out for French imperialism is on the hide and bones of the workers.

For years the French financiers have been greedily speculating about the salaries of the state employees. They could not touch this fat plum so long as the working class organizations remained vigilant, aware of the fact that a blow in that direction could only be followed by a general slash in wage levels and living conditions. Moreover, the Chamber of Deputies was somewhat of an obstacle because of the fear of the politicians that resentment of their constituents would be aroused if such measures were approved. The deputies, however, found the way to "absolve

themselves." They agreed to the dissolution of the parliament for an indefinite period of time and granted Laval extraordinary powers which his predecessors failed to obtain.

Laval, premier of France, lost no time in using the "extraordinary powers granted him. He applied the economy knife to the salaries of the Civil Employees—with the more extensive assault upon the living standards of the working class to follow in short order. The French imperialists with their fascist hirelings are, of course, keeping close watch upon the ease with which the government can put over the initial preparatory steps.

Striking indeed is the parallel between pre-fascist Germany and present day France. In Germany too, in preparation for Hitler, there was a series of "strong men" who like Laval, were supplied with "emergency powers"; and who likewise slashed salaries and wages without the consent of the Reichstag. Their slogan was Notverordnung. And like Laval, they posed as the impartial arbiters between the camps of fascism and the working class. They slashed wages and salaries, always making a pretence at fair-

ness by ordering reductions in prices and rents. Of course, the rents and the prices were never lowered: on the contrary they kept rising. And a double burden was thus imposed upon the masses.

It is indeed significant that Laval's action followed hard upon the July 14, "Bastille Day" demonstration. 200,000 marched in the "Peoples Front"; a glorious parade, a united front that included all parties, even the bourgeois radicals, and eclipsing the fascist demonstration by far. Laval paid his respects to it by slashing salaries. In this action is summarized the attitude of French capitalism to the "People's Front."

Laval, in one executive order, pricked the bubble of Stalinist pretension. A short two weeks before the Stalinists blew up the "People's front" as the newest panacea which would cure all ills, meet all the requirements of the situation and deal a death blow to French fascism. Here is how P. Vaillant-Couturier, editor of l'Humanite, hailed it on July 1:

"Just as our party is a new party so the People's Front is something new, something which responds to a new situation cre-

ated by the economic crisis and the advent of fascist regimes in the world. We can never insist enough on its character of realism, on the ideal that animates it, on its taking what is living from the traditions of the people of France. . . . The People's Front is French because it expresses the will of a people that know how to commemorate the July 14th demonstration, who have made four revolutions to preserve and consolidate their conquests, and it has the benefit of the international experience of those peoples who are temporarily under the heel of fascism, as well of those who are finally liberated from capitalism."

In Germany, in the face of what they called a "revolutionary upsurge" the Stalinists tore to shreds every proposal, every attempt at a united front with the social democracy, a party with hundreds of thousands of workers in its ranks and controlling a trade union movement of close to five million. In France, where they swear no pre-revolutionary situation exists—just "Trotskyist hysteria and provocation"—they are fighting like tigers "to consolidate and preserve" unity

with the petty bourgeois serfs, flunkies of imperialism, the party of Stavisky, the forgers, the stock-exchange gamblers, the fortune hunters and the parvenues—the "true sons of France." Listen to Thorez snarl to ward off the furious attack of reaction on the Radical Party. In l'Humanite for July 3, Thorez bares his teeth at the Fascist attempt to "Divide and Rule":

"In order to create an obstacle to the People's Front the reactionaries and the fascists hope for a split in the Radical Party. We, Communists, hope that the ENTIRE Radical party will resolutely take to the road of the People's Front. We hope that this evening the Executive Committee of the Radical party will seal an orientation that will permit the joining together of all good will, of all energies in the struggle for a peaceful France."

Today Thorez can fight fascism only hand in hand with Deladier and no reactionary or fascist dare come between them. Yesterday this very same Daladier, then an "assassin of the people" for accidentally shooting a few fascists, fled all in a panic, abdicating the premier-

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Wed., July 31, 8 P.M. 15th St. & Irving Pl. Irving Plaza Hall

What Next In The Socialist Party?

An Analysis of The New York National Committee Meeting of the S.P. And the Pittsburgh Convention of the Y.P.S.L.

Speakers: MAX SHACHTMAN Bill Streeter, S.Y.L.