

# Socialist Youth of Paris Raise Banner of Revolution; Urge General Strike Against Laval's Decree Laws

## Youth Leader Appeals for Revolutionary Action

By FRED ZELLER  
Secretary of Seine Federation of Young Socialists (From "Revolution")

The French political situation is unwinding at the pace we long ago predicted. After the experiences of Flandin and Bouisson comes Laval and his decree-laws. New wage reductions are imposed on the workers in order to make up the financial deficit. To save the franc and maintain the regime. At the same time they are reducing the buying power of the toiling masses and aggravating the crisis, one of the fruits of the system.

Placed before this dilemma: an incipiently and decaying capitalism dragging millions of people in the wake of its fall, or the destruction of the regime by revolution, Laval and his lackeys have chosen. They feel themselves supported by big financial capital and by the militarized fascist gangs and armies, and they count on the weakness and lack of resistance of the workers' organizations. They will pursue their offensive up to the very end and by that very fact we are every day approaching closer to the inevitable denouement.

Revolt is mounting in all corners of France. Everywhere the workers, dissatisfied with their living conditions are reacting violently. In Paris at La Place de l'Opera the public service employees took to the streets. In Brest, in Lorient, in Toulon the munition workers declared strikes and demonstrated in tens of thousands in the streets and were attacked by the Garde Mobile and the army. Blood flows, the dead strew the streets. The coercive apparatus functions in full swing. The bourgeoisie, trembling with fear, wants to drown in blood the rightful revolt of those who will not bend to its will. When a regime must resort to such extreme solutions it has already lost control of the forces it believed domesticated.

Redouble the fire. Enough pacifist meetings and platonic demonstrations. The French working

class wants to fight with the maximum chances for victory; the glorious demonstrations at Brest, Toulon, etc., have just proved that to the hilt.

All the workers must be mobilized for resistance to the government offensive. Never has the situation been more favorable than now for revolutionary struggle. Away with half-measures, away with palliatives, away with nerve-quieting sedatives! The millions of exploited feel that now they must seize complete power to bring order into the situation, to eradicate privileges and abuses of all kinds and to exterminate fascism. They feel that the problem before them is entirely one of revolution. Let us coordinate the efforts of the workers over the entire country and prepare for the insurrectional general strike, different from the "demonstrative strike" of February 12 which was made against and not for something. The enormous crowd which passed in review at La Place de la Nation and in all of France lacked a precise aim, perspectives and a revolutionary direction.

Some will say that dignity must be maintained. Dignity for us is the struggle against fascist barbarism and for the salvation of civilization! Let us denounce the Radical leaders who are at once in the Peoples' Front and in solidarity with the murderers of Brest and Toulon!

We will obtain Bread, Peace and Liberty only by expropriating the capitalist bourgeoisie by force, by the general strike.

Workers violence will expropriate the Banques, the Financiers, the Merciers, the Schneiders, the Wendels who support the fascist regime.

The hour of the transference of power has arrived. Now let us organize in the factories, the yards, the shops, the neighborhoods, strike committees on which the government of workers and peasants will rest.

Forward for the heroic and decisive struggles under the banner of the socialist revolution!

the flag of Versailles, the symbol of rotting capitalism and of the decree-laws.

L'Avant-Garde is silent. Probably the Radical leaders who are covering up in the government the assassinations ordered by Laval. Can you tolerate this declaration of L'Humanite: "They (the fascists) outrage the tricolor flag which the workers placed at the head of their procession beside the red flag on July 14 and these provocateurs are protected by M. Laval. . . ." (L'Humanite, organ of the C. P. of France, August 16.)

The young worker, Chevalier, a provocateur? Struck down on the orders of Laval-Herriot? Chevalier an enemy of the people for wanting to tear down the tricolor flag of the exploiters!

Decidedly, L'Avant-Garde is on a fine road. Vanguard or Rearguard?

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## Editor's Note

The articles published herewith are reprinted from a special two-page edition of "Revolution," organ of the Socialist Youth of the Seine District of France. Devoted to the revolt against the decree-laws of the bonapartist Laval-Herriot government at Toulon, Brest and le Havre, they breathe the very spirit of revolution. Together with the Bolshevik-Leninist group they raised the only revolutionary voice in all of France, the Stalinists and the Social Democratic leaders being too interested in covering up Herriot, Paganon, etc.—ministers in the government and responsible for the murder of the workers in the seaport and arsenal cities—with whom they are in alliance in the so-called "Peoples' Front."

In fact, L'Humanite, organ of the C.P., has not a word of criticism for Herriot and company. All of their miserable scribbling is taken up with the obnoxious pink tea liberal aim of establishing the blame for the murders—as if there could be any doubt on this score—and none of it with calling for solidarity and more extensive strike action against the decree-laws throughout the country.

Although the issue of "Revolution" containing the articles below was confiscated by the police

the Young Socialists managed to distribute more than 5,000 copies. Simultaneous with the appearance of this paper, the Bolshevik-Leninists pasted up posters all over Paris calling for the general strike and a struggle against class peace. These were mutilated and torn down systematically by the Stalinists, the fascists and the police. A fitting alliance indeed!

As one of the articles explains the Socialist Youth of the Seine are solid behind their expelled leaders. The committee appointed by the C.A.P. (National Committee) of the S.P. to explore the possibilities for reinstatement has already met and refused to intervene for the expelled comrades. This committee was composed of notorious reformists including Leon Blum, who after some highly hypocritical remarks on how good a conciliator he admits himself to be and how much he inconvenienced himself and how difficult the task was made for him, states the reasons for the committee's decision:

"First we clashed, as is shown in the letter from Zeller, with the condition posed by him and his friends as a prerequisite and which we could not even consider: the pure and simple null and

voiding of the decisions of Lille.

"Then, because in the course of the conversations a poster appeared on Saturday in the name of the Youth of the Seine and the issue of 'Revolution' published the same day, did not permit us the hope that any agreement to henceforth respect the discipline of the party would be made in good faith."

With crocodile tears the lackey of the bourgeoisie concludes: "This declaration cut me to the quick. But it was necessary." (Populaire, organ of the S. P., Aug. 15.)

In touching unanimity the organ of the Young Stalinists of France, l'Avant-Garde, echoes Blum's outspoken hatred of the expelled revolutionists with the difference that their depraved frenzy lacks Mr. Blum's polished restraint. They speak about the "justice" and the "correctness" of the expulsion and quote approvingly one of the worst reactionaries in the Socialist Youth who vents his bile on the Bolsheviks.

Their howls are in vain. The spirit that animates 'Revolution' is the spirit that animated the Bolsheviks in October 1917. Not all of the combined Mensheviks in France in 1935 will be able to withstand its irresistible force.

## Chronicle of Events - Brest and Toulon

# The Price of the Decree-Laws

(From "Revolution")

July 14: The Peoples' Front demonstrates for liberty but forgets to protest against the decree-laws. . .

July 17: MM. Laval, Herriot, Regnier, Paganon, etc. . . decide to retrieve nine billions from the bones of the poor.

Immediately, protests of the workers break out throughout the land. Everywhere meetings and demonstrations. But nothing is done to organize an irresistible strike movement.

July 19: Despite the government prohibition, 50,000 small function-government of murderers.

August 7: Huge funeral services for Barraer in Brest. The workers have returned to work on the orders of the trade unions.

In Toulon, provoked by the military orders, the workers demon-

strate.

Postal employees, railroad men, public service employees, workers in private industry demonstrate every day in an ever widening scope. They demand the abolition of the decree-laws.

The Radical leaders maneuver through the Peoples' Front to hamstring the movement.

In the vanguard of the protest movement are the great ports. Already, in Havre, the personnel of the "Normandie" had gone on strike.

The workers of the arsenals, submitting to a rigorous discipline, but also determined and disciplined, full of hatred for the military system, demonstrate vigorously against the starvation government.

August 3-4: The workers demonstrate in Brest and Toulon against the reduction in their wages. The protest is unanimous. The maritime police chief, the police organize systematic provocations, by occupying the arsenal at Brest.

August 5: The Brest workers are driven back, bayoneted at the gates of the arsenal; the workers react en masse. They reply to the military proclamation, to the provocations of the bourgeoisie; at the station they fraternize with the railroad workers and delay the departure of the train to Paris. They bear onward to the sub-police station, resisting the charges of the troops and shouting for the abolition of the decree-laws.

Barraer is killed by a musket ball; hundreds of workers are wounded; more than a hundred arrests are made.

The trade union leadership gives no concrete goal to the movement, contenting itself with inviting the workers to join them.

August 6: The repercussions of the struggles at Brest are enormous in the entire country and in all the ports. In the absence of a general strike movement of solidarity the workers in Toulon and Cherbourg demonstrate vigorously. Resentment mounts.

The workers want their demonstrations to attain its real aims. They want to defeat the government of the decree-laws, Laval-Herriot, which has become the strata vigorously, en masse. The authorities charge into them and

the blood of two dead redden the pavement. Fearing for the fleet, the naval officers give orders to weigh anchor. Street battles continue all through the night.

August 8-9: Thanks to the pressure of the Peoples' Front, the workers return to work.

There are 3 dead, 200 wounded, 100 workers arrested. . . And the delegation of lefts . . . decides to send an investigation committee!!

## The Entente Continues

(From "Revolution")

At the National Congress at Lille the bureaucracy expelled from the Socialist Youth (J.S.) our comrades Fred Zeller, Corvin, Rousselet, Lissansky, Genia, Van, Braudo, Rigol, Ivan and Maria Craipeau, Perle, Makarowsky, Bressler, members of the Executive Committee of the Seine district or of the Federal Committee of the Seine-et-Oise district, on the pretext of violation of discipline.

We consider this decision scandalous, illegal and unconstitutional. Our comrades were expelled because together with the J.S. of the Seine they fought against national defense and class peace. We do not accept this decision and we consider our comrades as always and more than ever members of the Socialist Youth! 65 groups out of 70 in the Seine District are in solidarity with them and 30 groups in the Seine-et-Oise district have declared themselves similarly as well as numerous federations and groups in the provinces.

The groups must not listen to the wreckers and the splitters. They have only one Executive Committee and only one Federal Bureau; those which have been regularly elected at the last Administrative Congress at Boulogne and which continues to direct the activities of the Entente.

We will return in detail to the Congress of Lille and its scandalous sessions in the next number of "Revolution."

## A Word to the Young Communists

(From "Revolution")

Under the title: "Revolution or Counter-Revolution," "L'Avant-Garde" (Vanguard, organ of the Young Communist League (J. C.) of France) for this week attacks our periodical and devotes an extensive article to the internal life of the Entente of the Youth of the Seine. The editors of L'Avant-Garde dare to state "Without mixing into the internal affairs of the J. C.," and then, out of mutilated and falsified quotations they build up an edifice of absurd tales. We would not dare to invoke the name of Lenin!!

"Without mixing into the internal affairs of the J.C.," we would like to pose several questions to the militants of the J. C.: Are the young communists in agreement with the transformation of L'Avant-Garde into a petty bourgeois democratic paper, a tribune of Pierre Cot (a violent partisan of French imperialism and former Radical minister)? Are the J.C. satisfied when L'Avant-Garde limits itself to printing in bold characters: "Make the rich pay" without saying who will make the rich pay, nor how?

Comrades of the J. C., without going any further, are you in agreement with the attitude of your press on the bloody events at Brest and at Toulon? L'Avant-Garde refrains from commenting on the action of the young Brest worker Chevalier, struck by rifle fire when he ripped down the tricolor flag,

the flag of Versailles, the symbol of rotting capitalism and of the decree-laws.

L'Avant-Garde is silent. Probably the Radical leaders who are covering up in the government the assassinations ordered by Laval. Can you tolerate this declaration of L'Humanite: "They (the fascists) outrage the tricolor flag which the workers placed at the head of their procession beside the red flag on July 14 and these provocateurs are protected by M. Laval. . . ." (L'Humanite, organ of the C. P. of France, August 16.)

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## Greetings to Chevalier

(From "Revolution")

The young worker Chevalier was shot in the act of ripping down the tricolor flag (the symbol of everything that has become odious) from the police station at Brest. The young socialists of the Seine salute his courageous act and shout with him: Down with the tricolor flag! Down with the flag of Gallifet, Finlay, Mercier, Laval! This flag drips with the blood of our brothers and we swear that it will never fly over our heads, we swear that we will never betray our red flag of class struggle for the flag of the three colors, the flag of class peace!

We have only one flag, the Red Flag! Only one aim, relentless class struggle!

The bullet which hit him was sent by orders of a traitor, but rest assured, we will avenge him. The Young Socialists will beat down the tricolor flag and in its place will fly, free and proud, the Red Flag of the exploited who tomorrow will be masters of the world!

—Executive Committee of the Young Socialists of the Seine.

## NUL Demonstrates at Newark City Hall

NEWARK, N. J.—As the first bombardment in an intensive campaign against the WPA slave wages, the Association for Adequate Relief, Newark section of the National Unemployed Leagues picketed seven of Newark's eleven relief stations, and city hall in advertisement of a mass meeting held in the Newark City Hall.

The mass meeting held at night was attended by 200 workers who enthusiastically approved of the plans for further organization of the unemployed and a militant campaign of action against the entire relief setup.

Tony Ramaglia, president of the NUL, evoked a storm of applause when he said "they call us reds for doing things like this, but damn it, I'd rather be red than yellow, and fight for the right to live decently." The speeches of I. Rosenberg and J. Kotz of the Association for Ade-

quate Relief and of Bill Morgan of the Bloomfield City Workers Assn. were also well received. The meeting wound up with announcements of classes, lectures and socials to be run at the Unemployed League speakers, indicates that the unemployed of New Jersey are on the move and more will be heard from them in the near future

James P. Cannon, editor of the NEW MILITANT, will deliver the first of a series of four Sunday night lectures on the Fourth International on September 22. The series will cover: the bankruptcy of the Comintern, the 4th International and the coming war, the 4th International and the struggle against Fascism and forces and prospects for the 4th International.

Comitation tickets for the series will be sold for forty-five cents each. Admission to individual lectures will be fifteen cents. The series will be given at Irving Plaza, Irving Place and 15th St.

## Defense Conference To Aid Jailed Clerks

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 26.—This Friday, August 30, 8 P.M. at 140 South 11th Street, a conference is being arranged to aid the five arrested fruit clerks facing jail terms.

The conference is being called by the Fruit Clerks Union of Philadelphia, Local 713, in conjunction with the N.P.L.D. and other labor organizations and prominent liberals.

Lou Dubin, Paul Hirsch, Isadore Klein, Tom Holmes, and Al Lichtman are the five fruit clerks awaiting court. Lichtman is charged with "threat to kill"; Dubin is charged with "malicious mischief"; Holmes, Klein, and Hirsch are charged with "malicious mischief, disorderly conduct, inciting to riot." If convicted they face long terms in prison.

The arrests arise from a militant strike conducted by the Fruit Clerks Union at the Blue Ribbon Fruit Market, Upper Darby, Pa.

and the Public Market, Phila.

That these cases are frame-ups which were utilized by the bosses and the police to break the strikes are obvious from the fact that in Lichtman's case there is no evidence at all against him and in Dubin's case the boss himself is the only witness and in the cases

of the other three, the bosses' wife is the only witness.

The Fruit Clerks Union calls upon organized labor to help smash the frame-ups, which are attempts to break the union. Money is being necessary. Send funds to Lou Roberts, Secretary of the union, at 4156 Poplar St., Philadelphia, Pa.

## MASS MEETING

# HANDS OFF ETHIOPIA! Protest Mussolini's War on Ethiopia

Speakers:  
A. J. MUSTE  
National Secretary of the W.P.  
E. R. MCKINNEY  
Editor of "Mass Action"

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, at 8:00 P.M.  
Irving Plaza Hall, Irving Place & 15th St.  
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## TO THE SOLDIERS

# The Workers in Uniform Will Not Fire At Their Brothers in Civilian Clothes

(From "Revolution")

As the blood of the workers flows in the various regions of France we address ourselves to you, sons of workers in uniform. Comrade soldiers! They are deceiving you! They are forcing you to march in the name of the "nation" against your brothers. There is no united nation; there are only exploiters on the one side and exploited on the other, the parasites and the workers, those who spill the blood of the workers and those who want to defend their lives by relentless class struggle. There are two sides of the barricades!

Will you play the game of the exploiters? Will you march with those who would reduce to misery your fathers and your brothers? And when you have received "the distinction of the fatherland," as veterans, they will cover you with flowers, if they need you, if not they will reduce your pensions so that Monsieur Schneider can continue to coin money out of your blood and your skin. Will you be the tools of those who murder your own?

No! Under the uniforms beat the hearts of workers. You have nothing in common with the officers who are in the pay of the butchers. They keep you under arms for two years. Hundreds of your own kind perish there like dogs and the Schneiders thrive like crows from your young bodies.

Comrade soldiers! Your place is at our side! You are part of the great family of workers! There are no barriers between the proletarians under arms and those in the factories! We demand for you political rights, the right to express yourselves, the right to make felt your ardent desire for peace and your ferocious hatred of those who are preparing for war, playing with your skin as an unimportant commodity. We demand for you the right to mingle in the life of the country, you, whom they call "heroes" but will not grant any voice.

Soldiers, do not forget that you are not alone! The workers grasp your hand. Your brothers are defending you and calling upon you for common struggle! Listen to this appeal!

Soldiers with us!  
—The Executive Committee of the Young Socialists of the Seine.

## Teachers Win Victory Over Green Machine

(Continued from Page 1)

"psychological moment" proved a boomerang for the Right wing. Delegate Kiker, legislative representative of the Ohio State Federation of Teachers, declared in an interview:

Denounces Green as Hitler  
"What I said on the floor of the convention was that according to the fundamental law of the land, anyone has a right to belong to any political party or to practice any political philosophy he desires. There is no regulation of the A. F. of L. to determine political affiliation. Yes, I spoke of the telegram as being from Mr. Hitler. I cannot see where Mr. Green had any right to step into the question."

The struggle over the revocation of the charter of Local 5, the outstanding issue before the convention, began in the sessions of the Executive Council which met before and during the convention, but which was deadlocked over the issue by a tie vote. The representatives of the United Committee to Save the Union, Chas. J. Hendley, Celia Lewis and Ben Davidson, were given an opportunity to present their case to the Executive Council and the Convention. Their arguments made a profound impression upon the delegates. Many delegates resented the fact that the matter had been brought to the convention without authorization from the membership of Local 5.

The Lefkowitz delegation arguments for revocation were a rehash of the old red herring of Communist domination now worn threadbare throughout the labor movement. They quoted from C. P. publications appearing during the "third period" to prove that the progressive elements were out to wreck the unions of the A. F. of L. They charged the opposition with seeking to foster these policies in Local 5 despite the fact that the United Committee to Save the Union was made of elements representing all shades of opinion, seeking to save the union from mass expulsions, which would have wrecked it. The Lefkowitz administration threatened to resign if they did not have their way.

Repeal Administration Lies  
In the debate the progressive delegates brought out these facts: That the membership of Local 5 had not given the Lefkowitz delegation any authority to ask for the revocation of the charter; that no responsible organ of the union such as the Executive Board and the Delegate Assembly which the administration controls had ever voted for such a proposition; that the overwhelming majority of the membership opposed the investigation as well as the revocation.

It was stressed that the Lefkowitz delegation had brought revocation issue to the convention because they had lost the confidence of the membership of Local 5 and because they realized that they would soon be ousted from office. The signifi-

cance of the Green telegram was seen as one which not only concerned Local 5 and the existence of the American Federation of Teachers but one which concerned the entire trade union movement. In other words, Green, Borchard and Lefkowitz had issued an ultimatum to the trade unions of the country that unless the militants were expelled from all unions that they would wreck them.

It was a tragic spectacle to see Lefkowitz and Lenville, who had once played a progressive role in the labor movement, even to the extent of having been affiliated with the Conference for Progressive Labor Action, and basing itself on a militant trade union program; these erstwhile progressives were now allied with the reactionary Green-Woll machine; not only to defeat the progressive labor movement but wreck the very organization with which they had been associated for many years and had helped to build up.

Green's Avowed Treachery  
In a private interview which the writer had with a delegate whose reliability can be vouched for, an account was given of an interview this delegate had had with President Green in Washington this summer. He quoted Green as saying that in his opinion the most important issue before the A. F. of L. at present was that of industrial unionism versus craft unionism. If the industrial unionists won out, then Green and his cohorts would secede from and split the A.F.T.

The treachery and disloyalty of these labor fakery to the A. F. of L. was never better illustrated than by these remarks. That is why the action of the A.F.T. in repudiating the Green policies are so extremely significant for the entire labor movement in the present and future struggles. A victory for Green would have meant the immediate wholesale expulsions of all progressives. But the fight of the progressives is not by any means over, it has just begun. Green is determined upon expulsions.

Today it is the duty of all progressives of different shades of opinion to unite their forces as they did at the A.F.T. convention because great battles are ahead. This must be considered as being only a partial victory, much greater and more difficult battles are ahead of us. A complete and permanent victory can only be assured if the progressive forces will unite on a realistic basis to realize their aims. A complete review of the convention will appear in the next issues of the NEW MILITANT.

## NEW MILITANT

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