Burning Problems Face Fifty-Fifth A.F.L. Convention

MARCH OF EVENTS

F.D.R. Warns Soviets... | sions and as near to Japan as pos-Roosevelt has given warning to the in mind also. H. B. Hinton, writ-Soviet Union that he expects Rus- ing in the New York Times of Sept. sla to keep its pledge given at the time recognition was granted. Hull makes it perfectly plain in his statement to the press that what America had in mind in demanding Litvinov's signature to Article 4 of the pledge was one institution and one institution only: the Comin- Affairs, obtained at least two years tern. "The language of the abovequoted paragraph irrefutably covers activities of the Communist International, which was then, and still is, the outstanding world communist organization, with headquarters at Moscow." Since Kres- Eastern dispute was settled. . . ." tinsky rejected the protest of the What Hinton fails to add is that influence. Not content merely with States against the holding the balding of Labor port to be a label of the States against the holding the label of the label United States against the holding of the Seventh World Congress of the C.I. in Moscow, Hull warns that the official relations between the two countries may be seriously im-

paired. Meantime Walter Duranty expresses for the Stalinists their utter all other tasks to this major task: amazement that this Seventh Con- the defeat of Japanese imperialism. grees should in any way be con- The neutrality law-so-called-is a fused with the earlier congresses move subordinated to this same which really aimed at advancing aim. The United States wants to the interests of the world proletar- have no entanglements in Europe. ian revolution. Duranty tells the Her interest in peace is the same bourgeoisie to look beneath the left profession in words and violation phrases at the political realities as in deeds as that of Mussolini who expressed in the entire course of pours his troops into Africa, or Stalinism, and not to take too ser. Baldwin who rushes the British iously the mere echoes of the past navy into the Mediterranean. Simthat have no more real content so ilarly Roosevelt is setting the guns far as the C.I. is concerned. But in the Pacific and smoothing the in the matter of relations between path for the air and naval raiders the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., it is in the coming war. not so much any violations of a Sept. 2, 1935 pledge that counts, as does the main aim and objective of the Amture. These aims concern the per-

Aim of U.S. Capitalism . . .

Roosevelt was motivated in his ghost of Long or the dreams of profits. present move against the Soviet Townsend, but to the sane and Naturally, a few details are not Union by the exigencies of the sound original share-the-wealther yet taken care of. Unemployment coming Presidential elections. He and old-age-pensioner, Franklin D. seems to remain close to its low desired to rob his reactionary crit- Roosevelt. He is a past master at levels. Real wages have been deics of one of their main arguments stealing thunder; and making it clining during the present year. proving Roosevelt to be "radical": crack for him. attitude towards the Soviet Union. But it should be clear that while this is undoubtedly involved, Roosevelt would never have taken this further step towards the break of relations with the Soviet Union if it had not been in line with the what Roosevelt actually does with major interests of the capitalist the high-sounding phrases he is so class. It follows on the beels of the refusal to grant Russia credits, and on the heel of the withdrawal of consuls and military attaches from the Soviet Union. It is thus a renewed guarantee to Japan that the United States will not aid Russia when the Japanese start the attack.

Recognition of the Soviets came at a time when Japan was threatening a rapid advance and deeper American capitalist class found it necessary to impede the advance of Japanese imperialism by threatening a military alliance with Russia. This move succeeded for the time being, but could not be a permanent solution of the problem of the Pacific. When Japan resumed its conquest and plunder of China, America changed its course and decided to push Japan into a war of intervention against the Soviet Union. This would weaken both and permit the United States to step in at the moment of exhaustion to defeat its Japanese rival as well as the Soviet Union which would meantime be taken care of from the West through the attack by Hitler.

It is with this strategy in mind that the U.S. is now engaged in a vast project of militarizing the entire Pacific, establishing air bases and naval bases in all its posses-

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1, emphasizes this: "Far Eastern from a perspective including Japan. Our official students of Russian afof security on his Far Eastern the teachers union administered a border when he negotiated the serious rebuke to the "red scare" with Japan almost immediately vote his arrogant demand for ex-

speed of this march. American diplomacy subordinates

(Continued from Page 1)

The heaviest blows to the bureau-

recognition of his government with campaign of Bill Green and Co. Pres. Roosevelt. Russian relations and rejected by a firm majority took on a better aspect, the Chinese pulsion of its New York local which he charged to be under Communist the American imperialists also se- this rebuke the convention elected cured by this means the holding the entire progressive slate for ofback for the same period of Japan's ficers and executive board. When march into Asia, at least of the this happened Bill Green had not yet finished his personal supervision of the convention of the newly constituted automobile workers' union. There also he suffered a reverse. The assembed delegates re-Green had his way by use of sheer dustries.

Political Policy Challenged

Their policy is challenged or at Through Secretary of State Hull, sible. Every move with respect to faces its fifty-fifth annual convening, elsewhere. The Oregon State recent convention came out in concratic domination and control of demnation of the profit system and the movement have come from two voted to establish a new political tion and the situation was viewed widely different directions: from party. No doubt there was as yet the teachers union and from the little clarity on what kind of a newly constituted international un- party is needed, but the outworn ion of automobile workers. The policy of rewarding friends and whole question of working class lies to the support of the capitalist the People's Commissar for Foreign first was, by far the most decisive. punishing enemies amongst the agents of privilege does not at all find cisely in this respect that the in- who so shrewdly put over again the At its recent national convention the same favor as before in trade competence of the A. F. of L. lead-old capital and labor relations in a union ranks. That holds true also ership is the most glaring and brand new clothing. It backs up for the Connecticut State Federa- where its turn to greater perfidy Roosevelt's declaration that the tion of Labor. It has decided to and a more reactionary position is economic emergency is passed and conduct a referendum vote of all the most outstanding. The logic of supports his promise of a "breathlocal A. F. of L. unions in the state the opposition encountered in the ing spell" for business. It is preon the question of creating a labor living movement drives it inexor- paring to strengthen his political State Federation of Labor, now in the capitalists, this leadership has temptible fashion it hails the presconvention, is giving serious con-vested interests to protect. sideration to the labor party ques-

conscious aim of creating a large age great parliamentary victories. direction of new parties and labor parties represent a desire to break with the policies of the past and to get a square deal by their own efforts. This aspect invests these manifestations with their greatest

Retreat in Face of Bosses Assault

These latter manifestations be quarters against the coolie wage dent payments in August exceeded come doubly significant in view of level set by the Roosevelt adminis- last year by \$11,000,000," says the Green's constant reiteration of fic- tration on the WPA relief projects. Executive Council report preparing titious labor gains achieved by leg- Much active lobbying was conduct- to whoop it up at the coming con- to be decided in the future. The islation in the capitalist Congress ed in Congress and at its commit-vention; for are not these higher coming A. F. of L. convention may fused to give a vote of confidence and presented by him as real. These tee hearings. The scale of \$19 to officials all interested in dividend proceed in comparative calm and to his handpicked crew of officials. he hails as new progress in rela- \$94 repeated Green, and all his payments? What other feature is without the serious conflicts yet tions between capital and labor, cronies after him,—and they were "healthy" about this upswing? It coming to the fore. Nevertheless Undoubtedly the Executive Council correct-will tear down the whole cannot be the employment feature, the reactionary course of its corrupt tude of the delegates constituted a report to the convention will at American standard of wages. But for in regard to this the Executive regime lays the trade union movechallenge to his leadership and tempt to bolster up its record with the coolie scale went into effect. Council states: "Employment this ment ever more open to new capigave him an indication of what he these fictitious gains. The trade And, out of sheer incompetence to Spring has been below last year's talist assaults. 'What direction the may expect in the future from the unionists may not understand so ward it off and downright sabotage level although production was high. workers will take when facing these workers in the mass production in- well the lawyers language of the of the struggle against it by the er." In other words: with the uplaws that have been entered on the A. F. of L. officialdom, the Ameri- swing, proclaimed as healthy by statute books. Their attitude is can workers now face this scale as Green and company, unemployment from their attitude and their acmuch more likely motivated by a their basic standard. In this field is growing and the speed-up system These, however, are not the only realization of the effects of these things are much more real than are is growing with it. And the Council manifestations disturbing the tran- laws on their organizations and on the so-called favorable labor laws statement further makes clear that and leadership will be put to the quility of Green and company, their attempts to struggle for bet- on the statute books. And in this while the cost of living continues test.

Fear of Progressive Tendencies in sary to assume that they have a Bankrupt Union Leadership Must Be Labor Movement Disturbs Officials retormist party or that they envis- Challenged by Awakened Membership

tained in hard-fought struggles.

Faith in System of Exploitation

But the A. F. of L. Executive Council does not intend to tolerate any of the new manifestations in They are closely tied-up with the the trade union movement. It ralent upswing as the "healthlest thus Many grandiose proclamations far," for it is "due chiefly to inwere issued from A. F. of L. head- herent economic strength. . . . Divi-

Rather the manifestations in the field the miserable capitulation to to rise, recording in July this year the coolie wage scale sacrificed im- 52 percent above last year, the portant trade union principles and share of the workers in the total squandered many real gains at national income had dropped from its 21.9 percent in 1929 to 18.1 per cent in 1934. A "healthy upswing" indeed.

Crucial Issues Still Remain

In face of these facts the decrepit A. F. of L. leadership, proclaims as healthy an upswing accomplished entirely at the expense of the workers, through increased exploitation, and it reiterates its faith in this system of exploitation. This, let us not forget, comes also as a prelude to the coming convention. It makes only so much more clear that this leadership remains wedded to capitalism in theory and practice and depends upon the active forces of capitalism to sharpen its own dass in order to deal the more effectively with any opposition to its reactionary policies and bureaucratic com-

But the crucial issues still remain That can be clearly ascertained tions up to now.

In the coming battles both ideas

erican bourgeoisie in the near full Roosevelt Assures Business ist World War for redivision of the It Will Get New "Breather"

(Continued from Page 1) Press comment stresses that get old-age pensions, go not to the least long enough to add up the

The easiest way to expose the Roosevelt hypocrisy,, on the share the wealth Tax Program as on old standards. age pensions or any other presumably liberal reform, is to compare fond of. The Roosevelt Tax Program is a fake through and through. It does nothing whatever about eliminating tax-exempt securities, the ly correspond. means whereby the majority of the very rich escape practically all income taxation. It does next to nothing to regulate so-called "personal ite device whereby the wealthy repenetration into China. Involved of its provisions worked as the duct. But now, in the decline of in the domestic crisis and unprepared for a military conclusion, the Program would net only a little self-reviving powers of capitalist port imperialist "sanctions" against over \$200,000,000 yearly-a mere drop in the bucket of the Federal becomes a grotesque caricature even himself gives.

This does not mean, of course, that the present Tax Program is the last in the rise of Income and Inheritance Taxes. This will come, will have to come, but it will wait for the most part until after 1936. glaring and open, And at that time it will be not the higher brackets that will share the burden, but the lower income range. The ones who will be really hit will be from the same middle class which Roosevelt now so winningly working class to make judgment. tries to charm with his paper blows at the Tories.

Roosevelt does not, however, in his letter to Howard, stop on a Left note. As in the case of the Soviet correspondence, he is anxious to assure the public that, though he is a real reforming liberal, through and through, yet he is a safe and sane liberal-nothing that a sensible business man, or an owner of a large newspaper chain, need be worried about. He has no new upsetting acts up his sleeve; he grants business a breathing spell; his program is substantially com-

Profits Mount And well might Roosevelt feel that, for the moment at any rate, his program is substantially completed. Profits are once more rolling in. The automobile companies are doing their biggest business since 1930; steel, since 1931. General Motors and General Electric have just raised their dividends. The Stock Market is continuing its ing to age at entry. Sick benefit longest sustained advance since the crash. Merchandising expects the biggest year since 1930. The army and navy have the largest appropriations in peace-time history, and a new high in personnel. The chemical companies are operating full time. Electric output has been up, during several weeks, to all time highs. Business will indeed have

to have a breathing spell-for at

The Schechter Decision has given an impetus to a wide-spread increase in hours. The influence of WPA is rapidly lowering relief

present partial revival of prosper- pendence of this small country of

And this is no accident. Capitalist prosperity was always of a kind that gave 90 percent of its relative benefits to the capitalists, and a holding companies," another favor. poor 10 percent to the masses. It always meant a prosperity for proport "No Income" while they live fits,, with perhaps a few dollars on \$10,000,000 a year. And, if all extra for the workers as a by-proeconomy exhausted, "prosperity" income, which would leave "sharing of its former self. Prosperity-that of the burden" within a fraction of is, profits-can be rehabilitated only the percentages which Roosevelt by the impoverishment of the mass-

> stop, then, to taste the flavor of the iron heel of Wall Street. New Era he promised. It is for the

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comments on the Ethiopian situation:

and Military Rule Over Ethiopia." On September 14, 1935, page 4, in the column conducted by Harry

of Italian Faselsm has given way. In an unwilling, but quite definite speech, Premier Laval has spoken with the voice of the French masses, and not his own nor that of de la Rocque; and the de Wendels, of the Comite des Forges, the war munitions makers and the pro-Fascist ex-

And what of Ethiopia, the pawn Indeed, somehow or other, the in the imperialist game? The indeened by Mussolini.

If Mussolini is to be repelled it can be accomplished only by international working class action. The quarrel between France and England against Italy is a conflict of imperialist powers; war between them is imperialist war, regardless Italy is to pledge support for this imperialist war which will go far beyond a "defense of independent

The genuine independence of Ethes. No possible business upturn lopia requires arousing the colonial can absorb any large section of the masses of Africa against their pre- torial page: unemployed, and the contradictions datory masters, the French, English between wages and profits-always and Italian imperialists and an acpresent but often hidden during the tive movement of solidarity by the advance of capitalism - becomes workers in the advanced countries. Such a movement will also have its Roosevelt's program is substan. effect on the masses in the colonies ing the proper reply to this questially complete—at least it is his and semi-colonies of imperialist Am- tion. The answer is: own words that say so. We can erica who are oppressed under the

New War Alliances

On one and the same day, the Daily Worker printed the following

"The last important bulwark of the League for a possible support

(Continued from Page 1)

The slogan of "Boycott Goods for ity seems to be leaving out the less than 11 million people, living by the International Communist erty and his assistants whose poliworking class altogether. It is a under semi-feudal conditions, has League. Everything in our power cies have reduced the unions from prosperity exclusively designed for in the last decades been dependent must be done to arouse the masses over a 30,000 membership to a scant the "business men" about whom on the conflicts among the imper- for the revolutionary struggle in few thousand. Howard and Roosevelt so solicitous ialist powers themselves. Even this defense of the Ethiopian people and tenuous independence is now threat- against imperialist war. This is possible only by an uncompromising struggle against

people in the struggle for independ-

those in the ranks of the labor

movement who wittingly or unwit-

pare for a new world slaughter and

betrayal. In every working class

organization, the militant voice of

fraternity with the Ethiopian people

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The September 11 issue of the

"Can it be that the Russian

New York Times asks, on its edi-

Comintern over which the Soviet

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"No. The Russian wheat is be-

ing sold to Italy by the Soviet Gov-

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Government has no control?"

should be raised.

has no control."

On September 14, 1935, page 1: "Laval Asks Concessions for Italy

ptoiters."

The task of the workers of the ernment over which the Comintern United States is to expose the hypocrisy of the Roosevelt government in its "neutrality" position, to get the railroad men. longshoremen and seamen to refuse to handle any munitions, arms or foodstuffs going to Italy. Means must be found to JOIN THE WORKERS PARTY give material aid to the Ethiopian

Rubber Workers Convention Rejects Appointed Officials

(Continued from Page 1) lackeys despite any fight the rub- comes. ber workers make against his dic-

"the rubberworkers need the adleaders in the formative period of the international," so says Green. In practice it means a continuation Fascist Italy" has been launched of the bankrupt leadership of Clah-

Another false argument to rationalize the dictatorship of the bureaucracy is the same one used in Detroit. "The A. F of L. executive council will finance the convention and pay the officers," Green says. After he said that in Detroit the tingly aid in the deception of the autoworkers found they had to pay masses as to the aims of French the bills. and British imperialism and pre-

Seek to Appoint Officials

An international charter carrying a provision that the A. F. of L. executive council through Green can appoint all officers "temporarily" Green for adoption with the warn- of minor concessions to the rabber

ing, "take this or nothing." Against this provision will be wheat is being sold to Italy by the to prevent Green from automatical. delegates. ly appointing the officers.

Another move being watched for is that Green's henchmen will sup- rubberworkers recall vividly to port George Roberts, an assistant mind the two-year history of their to Claherty, for the presidency struggle for an international union since he is a delegate from Goodrich local and his election would remove the unsavory stench caused by Green in Detroit through his flagrant methods. Such an action, however, would not bind any of the rubber workers who expect it.

Industrial Unionism Industrial unionism is the second major issue before the delegates, trol. There are seven craft unions in the rubber industry. Since some of

above Green to assimilate one or nounced that the new rubber work- two of them in the international ers international will be set up un- union as a sop to the workers. der A. F. of L. control; in other This depends on how strong the opwords he will force into office his position to the bureaucracy be-

Plans to carry a protest to the national convention of the American This will be done under the guise Federation of Labor are being made vice and counsel of experienced use the outrageous methods which marked their actions at the autoworkers convention.

The rubber workers likewise feel certain that the convention will be packed with delegates from locals miraculously revived by Claherty out of town in order to assure the bureaucrats of automatic control of the sessions.

Rubber .Workers Aroused

The indignation aroused Green's treacherous methods in Detroit has been reflected among the workers here who have seized eagerly all reports from the autoworkers convention and most of the delegates realize what sort of a convention they are facing.

The ample warning received by the delegates from the experience of autoworkers will probably have will, no doubt, be presented by a two-fold effect. Oil in the form workers will be used by Green to smooth the "troubled waters." A centered all the strength of the pro- orystallization of more anti-bureaugressives. If this fails, and it cracy forces will strengthen the seems probable, a fight will ensue small progressive bloc elected as

Feeling for an independent union has not been entirely allayed as which threatens to be climaxed with

another betrayal. Expulsions in the spring of 1934 thwarted a move for an international union. Then the United Rubberworkers Council was formed at a national convention to head the unions but Claherty became president and again kept the reins of con-

Now after months of delay, a convention is to be held which all them are very weak and virtually indications say will be another "Deinconsequential, it would not be troit affair."

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