

NEW MILITANT

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The Coal Strike

AFTER repeated postponements by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, the bituminous coal strike was finally called at midnight last Sunday. The one hundred percent walk-out is a magnificent exhibition of solidarity on the part of the 400,000 miners involved.

The militancy of the miners is not, however, what Lewis depends upon. He fears it. He is engaged in shadow-boxing with the operators in order to impress the Roosevelt administration with his "influence," his power to keep the miners in check.

The result of repeated postponements of the strike in order that the Guffey Act, "the little NRA" for the soft coal industry, might be passed is that on the eve of the strike thirty-three and a quarter million tons of coal were above ground, representing an almost two months' supply, nine million tons more than on the same date in 1934 and thirteen and a half million tons more than in 1933.

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slandorous backbiting to physical onslaughts. It has grown and increased its activity. Its name is known and respected in the radical and labor movements of New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Allentown, Fargo, San Francisco, Oakland and other cities where it has participated in important struggles.

True, the N.P.L.D. has not achieved its objective of uniting many political currents in a single defense organization based on class conceptions broader than any partisan viewpoint. But the fault is not the N.P.L.D.'s.

Its moral right to the adjective "non-partisan" is unassailable. That the Socialist Party, which a year ago this month agreed upon a plan for entering and building the N.P.L.D., has not done so, is the responsibility of the Socialist N.E.C. The N.P.L.D. has shown by its policy in aiding members of the Workers Party, anarchists, Socialists and more than once-misled Stalinist workers called upon it when the I.L.D. was betraying them, that it has a genuinely non-partisan viewpoint.

The Workers Party, consequently, continues its firm support of the N.P.L.D. And today this means, above all else, supporting the National Sacramento Appeal Committee of which the N.P.L.D. is one constituent and a driving force. The work of that committee can mean not only the freedom of our comrade, Norman Mini, but a step forward for labor throughout California, a blow to the Hearst-inspired reaction.

The N.S.A.C. has plenty of obstacles to overcome. During the Sacramento trial the Stalinists called Norman Mini a stool-pigeon. For a time, just after he rejected probation and went to San Quentin, they felt forced to tone down to the insulting remark that he was "an honest, misled class prisoner." Now, again, they have begun an undercover attack on Mini; while their press religiously avoids all mention of his name, one of their people has just sabotaged the work of the N.S.A.C. in a San Francisco workers' organization by a speech about "Mini's dubious conduct at the trial."

Despite the fact that the I.L.D. is glad to have the aid of the N.P.L.D. when it finds itself in a jam in one of its cases, this is the way Stalinism treats the sole defense of a class prisoner now in San Quentin!

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The Role of the P. M. A.

THE little bureaucrats at the head of the Progressive Miners of America (the independent union in Illinois) have a policy of keeping their members at work during the strike, though not all of them are following it out. These little bureaucrats play upon the resentment still felt by many of their members over the fact that in 1932 members of the U.M. W. worked under Lewis orders while they fought a bitter strike.

Under these circumstances, it is heartening just now to learn that the left wing movement in the P. M. A. is on the up grade, that there is a split between Percy and Keck in the ranks of the little bureaucrats, and that a petition movement for a special constitutional convention of the P.M.A. will probably succeed.

The miners have nothing to gain from a separation which has no other basis any more than a private quarrel between big thieves and little thieves. A united union and a united left wing to make that union clean, militant, powerful, is the need of the hour.

Help Our Chinese Comrades

ONE of our Chinese comrades, just released after four years in a Kuomintang prison, describes in a letter how he was hung up by the thumbs and suspended from a beam until he lost consciousness. During his whole four years in prison he was kept chained at the ankles so that when released he was unable to walk. This treatment, he writes, is the common fate of all the political prisoners who were in there with him.

This is the fate now faced by our comrades who were recently arrested in Peking and Shanghai, Niel Sih, Sze Chao-sing, Wang Yao-hua, Hu Hwang-chang and Liu Chia-lang. The Communist League of China, an organization committed, like our own, to the fight for the Fourth International, has appealed to us to mobilize aid and protests on behalf of these comrades. We cannot let this appeal go unanswered. Organize demonstrations before your local Chinese consulates! Adopt resolutions of protest, send them directly to the Executive Yuan, Nanking, China, demanding the release of our comrades and send copies to party headquarters in New York. Call for the release of Chen Tu-hsu, of Niel Sih, Sze Chao-sing and the other imprisoned Bolshevik-Leninists, and for the release of all political prisoners!

Progressives Win Rubber Workers Elections at Akron

AKRON, Ohio, Sept. 24.—After progressive forces made a virtual clean sweep of offices in the United Rubber Workers of America and the convention closed, attention was turned this week to the problem of obtaining financial support from the A. F. of L. and solving the status of the newly-formed international union.

The three executive officers went to Washington, D.C. to discuss with William Green his promise to aid the rubber workers and make plans for actual changing of the federal unions into affiliates with the international United Rubber Workers of America.

The officers, who represent the choice of the progressives, are Sherman H. Dalrymple, president, formerly Goodrich local president; Thomas F. Burns, vice-president, key anti-bureaucracy fighter at the convention; and Frank Grillo, secretary-treasurer, of Los Angeles.

Six delegates were chosen on the executive council. Only one of them could be termed a Green henchman. He is George B. Roberts, an organizer and assistant of Coleman Claherty, whose plans, following his repudiation by the rubber workers, are uncertain. The other members of the council were very prominent in the fight against Green.

When Green left Akron he claimed the convention had voted down financial support when they turned down a resolution asking him to appoint Claherty as president. This is purely a threat. To include a financial clause in a resolution on elections is illegal, progressives argued, and they expect to take this question before the national convention of the A. F. of L. in October, if Green doesn't give them any satisfaction.

Dillon at Akron

AKRON, Ohio.—Although the Toledo Chevrolet strike was ended nearly four months ago, Francis D. Dillon, reactionary president of the auto workers international, still smarts strongly under the criticism given him by the Workers Party for his treacherous role in compromising the strike.

Dillon told rubber workers at the convention here that "the auto workers heeded the words of A. J. Muste and listened to direct action talk. They wouldn't follow me and the A. F. of L. leadership."

He implored the rubber workers not to listen to such talk in Akron. "They said the strike would have been won if I didn't come or the scene. They charged I was selling the boys out. They said I was reactionary," Dillon cried.

He didn't attempt refutation of the charges. All he could say was, "I challenge any man to prove those charges."

Dillon spoke on behalf of Green's leadership and urged the delegates to be satisfied with anything Green did. "It'll be for your own good." He was referring to the possible appointment of Claherty. His talk fell on deaf ears.

Brownsville Lecture "The Seventh Congress of the Communist International" Speaker: James P. Cannon Friday, Oct. 11th, 1935—at 8 P.M. 1776 Pitkin Avenue—near Stone Auspices: Brownsville Branch, W.P.

CHICAGO MASS MEETING "The Truth About the Minneapolis Strikes" Speaker: FRANCIS HEISLER Attorney THURSDAY, OCT. 3, at 8 P.M. Lincoln Center Auditorium 700 Oakwood Boulevard Auspices: Chicago Committee for Non-Partisan Labor Defense.

"UNSER WORT"

Halbmonatsschrift der Internationalen Kommunisten Deutschlands (Bolschewiki Leninisten) Bestellungen an: J. Meichler, B. P. 14 248 Rue des Pyrenees Paris 20e Preis des Abonnements fur 1 Jahr \$1.20; 1/2 Jahr 60c

Sunday Night Lecture Series

On The Road To The Fourth International Sept. 29-Working Class Policy in the Impending World War (REVOLUTIONARY DEFEATISM VS. SOCIAL PATRIOTISM) Oct. 6 - The Struggle Against Fascism (HISTORICAL LESSONS FOR AMERICA) Oct. 13—THE ROAD TO THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL (Forces and Prospects for a New World Party Under the Banner of Marx and Lenin) Speaker: James P. Cannon Editor of New Militant Irving Plaza, Irving Place and 15th Street Admission 15 cents per lecture Auspices: Workers Party, New York District.

Mixing Quotations

By HANK RICE Somebody once said that mixing quotations was worse than mixing drinks. In the one case you have only yourself to befooled, in the other you befooled and confuse an entire rank an file. Here are a couple of mixed "drinks" that I rescued from that fountain of wisdom, the Daily Worker. I submit them without further comment.

The first one is from the copy of Nov. 10, 1934. John Little, District Organizer for the Y.C.L., explains in an Open Letter to the Y.P.S.L. why he can't engage in a united front with the "renegades." About three-quarters of the way down he says:

"The Y.P.S.L. cannot insist that the Y.C.L. shall abandon what we consider our correct policy of fighting against bourgeois democracy and for the proletarian dictatorship, a policy which the Y.P.S.L. erroneously considers to be the cause of the rise to power of Fascism. Neither do we insist that the Y.P.S.L. shall abandon what we consider its thoroughly false and dangerous theory that it is possible to fight against Fascism by supporting bourgeois democracy through the theory of the lesser evil and the way for the rise to power of Fascism as in Germany and Austria. This policy is what we call social Fascist! Our characterization of it flows from our basic principles. We will not and cannot change our position on this question."

Now get a load of this from A. B. Magill's article in the Daily Worker of August 16, 1935:

"Where parliamentarism and remnants of democratic freedom exist, there, in spite of the capitalist interference, where it is possible for open fighting organizations of the proletariat to exist, there we defend parliamentarism and democracy against Fascism and continue to struggle for the proletarian dictatorship."

Latimer Grets Jobless

From the Minneapolis Tribune, Friday, Sept. 13, we quote the following report of the reception prepared by the Farmer-Labor administration of Minneapolis for a delegation of unemployed.

"Before the marchers made their appearance at the City Hall, extensive police precautions were taken. The 4th and 5th Street entrance doors were locked and policemen stationed at the 3rd and 4th Avenue entrances to question persons seeking to enter the City Hall. Sheriff Wall called in 70 deputies, who supplemented the police. He said machine guns were ready if 'anything breaks.'"

"About 75 policemen were thrown about the building, most of them carrying riot clubs that resembled short baseball bats. . . . Cordons of police and deputy sheriffs armed with machine guns and riot weapons stood by."

WORKERS

Protect Yourself Against the Hazards of Life, Join the WORKMEN'S SICK & DEATH BENEFIT FUND OF THE U.S. 1884-1935 Organized, managed by and for workers with only one purpose: to render protection to members and their families, and to support all endeavors and struggles for the improvement of toilers. About 50,000 members organized in 350 branches. Reserves \$3,400,000. Death benefit graded according to age at entry. Sick benefit payments from \$360 to \$900—to men and women, according to classes. Monthly assessments from 45c to \$2.20. For further information apply to Main Office: 714 Seneca Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Chaining the Workers to Imperialist War Machine

(Continued from Page 1)

French C.G.T. is even warning its workers to be ready to put the boycott into effect the moment that Geneva acts. But in our opinion the League will not invoke against Italy the boycott that it failed to invoke against Japan and Germany, both of whom quit the League. More, neither France, nor Britain, nor even the U.S.S.R., want to estrange Mussolini; not with their present international policy.

But let us suppose that Geneva really does decide on a boycott of Italy. Is Germany going to observe the decisions of the League to which it does not belong? Will the United States and Japan, neither of them members of the League, observe them? In no case will the League boycott hinder the Italian march on Ethiopia. Even the closing of the Suez canal would not work, for in order to close it effectively the war front would have to be extended until it led into a new European conflagration. And France, Britain, and the U.S.S.R., the guardians of the status quo in Europe, have no desire to lose the collaboration of Italy.

Arbitration Ineffective

From the preceding it follows that: arbitration is ineffective in as much as the aggressor is already known; it is useless to count on a boycott to stop the war. On the contrary, the war, now limited to Ethiopia, would become European and world-wide by action of the so-called "powers interested in the maintenance of peace."

Hitler, taking advantage of the diversion created by Mussolini in Ethiopia, might suddenly launch an attack toward the East or into Central Europe.

The powerlessness of Geneva is plain. Geneva is no more able to stop war than capitalism is able to stop war. What is then to be done? The appeal of the L.S.I. concludes: "In case of such a failure the International calls on the working class to avoid war." The appeal terminates by telling the working class that it is within its power to stop the war. To the failure of the League is added the failure of the L.S.I., which fails and has failed, by the admission at the end of its own appeal.

But, you say, the L.S.I. calls on its parties to organize protest demonstrations against Mussolini. That is clearly practical and worthwhile; but only on the condition that such demonstrations are not used to mask the class peace concluded by the Socialist parties and their auxiliary organizations with the bourgeoisie of their respective countries; as is the case with the British Laborites who are even now acting in concert with the leaders of their imperialist government. Demonstrations against Mussolini and for Ethiopia must be organized, of that there can be no doubt; but such demonstrations can only be effective and profitable as the working class demonstrates as an independent and autonomous class; not as an auxiliary in the service of this or that imperialism, satisfied (Britain) or unsatisfied (Italy) with its colonial loot. Only under such conditions can international protests be of assistance to the Italian people in their struggle against Fascism and aid in their deliverance. Any other conditions, which enable Mussolini to represent the workers of foreign nations as the allies of their imperialist governments, can only facilitate Rome's work instead of hindering it. This is what would happen if the example of the British Laborites, acting in accord with their imperialist government, were followed; and if the directions of the L.S.I. were followed and the actions of the pro-

letariat were subordinated to the League.

In order to preserve peace we must not rely on the intervention of Paris or London; we must coordinate action of the working class of every nation with action of the U.S.S.R. No other course is possible. And to do this we need not wait for the League, nor for the African war to actually break out. A boycott of Italian imperialism should be decided upon by proletarian organizations and applied internationally. But do not associate the action of the international proletariat with the interested maneuvers of this or that imperialism. To do this is to render the action of the international proletariat suspect in the eyes of the Italian workers, and consequently useless in the cause of peace and the overthrow of Italian Fascism.

There is little to be said for the Comintern. The Seventh Congress closed without one word, one whisper, on the war in Ethiopia. The Italian delegate, Ercoli, in making his closing speech on the discussion of the war question, called on the preceding speakers to "be concrete." In order to give them an example of concreteness, the Italian valet of Stalin ignored the war danger, and forgot to discuss any methods of combating Mussolini on an international scale, in the "concrete" case of an African war.

The Seventh Congress of the Comintern simply confirmed for the thousandth time the death of this organization as an instrument of guidance and struggle for the international working class; and confirmed, on the other hand, its complete subservience to Soviet bureaucracy and diplomacy. The slogans of the Comintern are determined by Soviet foreign policy—and for the present the U.S.S.R. does not wish to alienate Mussolini in the international race. That is the truth of the matter.

Another "Decorative" Conference In the meanwhile the Italian Socialist and Communist parties, living in exile, have called a Congress of Italians in Foreign Lands. It is the latest style. Since Stalin has said that "we love our country" every Stalinist party, aping the master, has forgotten that outside of Russia, the first task of the workers is to conquer their country. This Congress of Italians in Foreign Lands, put off from month to month, is to meet the end of September, when Mussolini will in all probability already have started his African war. The Congress, if it ever does meet, will be nothing more than a congress of the Socialist and Communist parties. For the sake of decoration there will probably be a representative of the L.S.I. and a representative from France for the Comintern. But the whole affair will move in the language and in the spirit of the People's Front: one more demonstration, without any concrete goal and without results.

The duty of the international proletariat is not to limit itself to protest meetings. The ranks of the international proletariat must be reformed in action, in the boycott of Italian imperialism and its accomplices. To this end the coordinated efforts of the French, the British, and the American proletarians could do much. But it must be the coordinated efforts of the proletariat—not of their governments! War has become once more the touchstone of true proletarian internationalism. It is in the struggle against war that the true internationalists will come forward and that the idea of the Fourth International will take on concrete form.

N.Y. District School to Open Oct. 21

The Winter 1934 term of the International Workers School in New York will open the week of October 21. The curriculum includes five regular classroom courses, several lecture series in political, philosophical and cultural subjects as well as symposia and debates. Sidney Hook, James Burnham, James Rorty, Charles Malamuth and other prominent speakers will deliver lectures for the school. The schedule for the regular courses are: Monday, 8:40-10:10 P.M., Fundamental Elements of Marxism—Ben Borkeson, instructor.

Monday, 7-8:30 P.M., Organization Principles, Structure and Methods of Party Work—Martin Abern, instructor. Wednesday, 7-8:30 P.M., Programmatic Foundations of the Workers Party—J. G. Wright, instructor. Thursday, 7-8:30 P.M., Theoretical System of Karl Marx—Rubin Grote, instructor. Friday, 7-8:30 P.M., State and Revolution—Jack Weber, instructor. In addition to the five courses, a lecture series on Trends in the American Trade Union Movement, under the supervision of A. J. Muste will begin Wednesday, October 23.

BANQUET

To Greet THE THIRD PLENARY MEETING of the National Committee of the Workers Party THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, at 7:30 P.M. Speakers to include: VINCENT DUNNE, of Minneapolis, Minn. JERRY ALLARD, from Illinois coal fields. MAURICE SPECTOR, Chairman Workers Party of Canada. ARNOLD JOHNSON, National Secretary, N. U. L. JAMES P. CANNON, Editor of the New Militant. A. J. MUSTE, National Secretary of Workers Party. MAX SHACHTMAN, Toastmaster. IRVING PLAZA HALL, Irving Place and 15th Street Tickets 50c at 55 E. 11th St., or Pioneer Publishers, 100 Fifth Ave.

Push Fight For Sacramento Appeal

A San Francisco sub-committee of the National Sacramento Appeal Committee, set up at a conference on Sept. 22, has begun functioning in the fight for liberation of the Sacramento workers now in San Quentin and Tehachapi prisons on 14-year sentences for organizing a union. An East Bay Committee and a Los Angeles Committee will be set up at conferences to be held in the near future. The Workers Party, the Socialist Party, I.W.W., Y.P.S.L., and S.Y.L. constitute the San Francisco sub-committee of the national joint defense body, which includes nine organizations. Efforts will be made to widen the front in San Francisco. Tom Kerry, Pacific coast correspondent of the National Sacramento Appeal Committee as well as of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, is secretary of the new San Francisco committee.

The local committees will circulate collection lists, sell the official pamphlet of the N.S.A.C., approach unions for moral and financial aid for the defense, and lay the basis for mass-meetings to be held on the eve of the appeal hearing.

Pressure on the Stalinists

As a result of the activities of the National Sacramento Appeal Committee, the Communist party and I.L.D. have at last been forced into action on the Sacramento case. Last January, when the N.P.L.D. was called into the Sacramento trial by Norman Mini, now Prisoner 57606 in San Quentin, the C. P. suddenly terminated its apathy (caused by the "deviations" of some of the prisoners), and became quite active, especially in attacking the N.P.L.D. and Mini. Ever since the convictions in April, the Stalinists have played the case down, as they did before January. The formation of the National

Sacramento Appeal Committee and the circulation far and wide of "Union-Smashing in Sacramento," the Committee's pamphlet written by Herbert Solow of the N.P.L.D., has created deep discontent in the Stalinist ranks in California and forced the C.P. to speak up on the Sacramento case. The C. P. has announced its usual "united front" conference on the Sacramento case. This, too, under the pressure of the N.S.A.C.'s activity. The Stalinists are, however, careful not to go too far in popularizing a case, the history of which is a record of their own shame. Consequently, point 20 of the platform of the San Francisco United Labor Ticket, their latest adventure into reformist politics, comes out for the freedom of Tom Mooney and the Modesto prisoners but does not mention the historic Sacramento case or the eight workers now in prison as a result of it! RALLY SUPPORT FOR THE BIGHT PAGE NEW MILITANT!