

Comments

On Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness

By BILL REICH

The Liberty League's committee of corporation lawyers offers: "If and when any American citizen, however humble, is without means to defend his constitutional rights in a court of justice, one or more of these lawyers will, without compensation from any source, defend the right of the individual, and in this way carry out, in the most effective way, their oath to support maintain and defend the Constitution" . . . In sixteen states property qualifications and poll taxes restrict the political rights of the unemployed . . . In fourteen states ancient pauper laws have been invoked denying the right to vote to persons on relief . . . The New York Economic Council has gone on record as favoring "withholding from all persons receiving public unemployment relief the right of suffrage" . . . Professor Donald Laird of Cornell contributes to the current Review of Reviews an article sub-titled "Should the Ballot be Restricted to Citizens Able to Take Care of Themselves? One out of Four Cannot!"

PROSPERITY . . .

"We are coming back more soundly than ever because we planned it that way," says President Roosevelt at Charleston, S. C. . . . According to Government figures, industrial production today has attained 90 per cent of the 1929 level while only 82 per cent as many people are employed. Payrolls are 74 per cent of the 1929 level while prices have risen steeply . . . "The banking situation generally is better than it has been for a long time," remarked Rudolph S. Hecht, president of the American Bankers Association after an hour's conference with Roosevelt . . . St. Louis school children lost \$92,500 penny savings through the failure of local banks . . . "There is no longer fear, and confidence in the future is due to the belief that times are getting better and better," says Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., head of General Motors. . . . The Alexander Hamilton Institute, America's chief "success school" is on the rocks. Its 1930 net profit was \$316,000; its 1933 net income \$4,018. . . .

PARABLE FOR PREACHERS . . .

A survey conducted by the Christian Century showed that of 5,500 Methodist ministers polled, 34 per cent voted Socialist. Alarmed, the Chicago Conference of Methodist Laymen, which includes many of the nation's leading business men, served notice on the preachers: Leave social and economic questions alone and preach the gospel or we who contribute the money will leave the church. . . . Last week the Conference mailed to all Methodist ministers "A Parable for Preachers." Excerpts: "A church called a certain man to be its minister . . . Instead of preaching Christ he preached Old Age Insurance, Unemployment Relief, the Abolition of the Profit Motive and Reduction of Armaments . . . and the hearts of the people were heavy for they longed for the old-fashioned gospel . . . they sent a delegation and asked him to preach something they did not read about six days out of seven . . . and the minister was angry and said 'I believe in Freedom of the Pulpit' . . . The minister agreed with a local painter for two shekels a day to paint some buildings white . . . instead of painting the buildings white the painter painted them red. . . . The minister rebuked the painter . . . he replied, 'I believe in the Freedom of the Painter, red is a better color than white' . . . suddenly there shined upon the minister a light from heaven and he said, 'I do see my sin this day. Why should I rebuke this man for painting my buildings red which I commanded him to paint white, when I am called to preach Christ and Him crucified and I preach the Social Gospel?'"

ATHLETES . . .

Dr. Irving Rattner, head of the American Legion post at New York City College, urges a program "Awake America" to extirpate communism from American schools. He suggests clubs "named from famous Generals" which should lay special stress on athletics "for athletes are always good Americans." . . . Athlete Joe Ruddy, swimmer, polo star and director of the New York Civil Service Commission banked \$104,006 between 1931 and 1934. His salary in this period amounted to \$11,351. . . . Athlete "Smookey" Saunders, Louisville Jockey, in a drunken stupor threw a Kentucky blond from his car and ran over her body repeatedly. . . . Athlete Jack Blackburn, trainer of Joe Louis, is being held in Chicago for the murder of Enoch Hausner. . . .

PAUL LUTTINGER, M.D. DANIEL LUTTINGER, M.D. 5 Washington Square North 1-2 and 6-8 Except Sundays and Holidays.

ON THE FIRING LINE

Shachtman Gets Rousing Reception In Minneapolis, Plentywood Meetings

MINNEAPOLIS

During comrade Shachtman's stop here, the Minneapolis branch held two of the most successful affairs the party has ever presented here. On Friday night, Nov. 1, comrade Shachtman spoke on the war question to an overflow crowd at the Pythian Hall. On Saturday a very successful party was held in honor of the touring comrades at the Minneapolis branch headquarters, with card playing, dancing, movies and refreshments. Over \$100 was raised to carry on the work of the Workers Party.

Plentywood, Montana

PLENTYWOOD, Mont.—The Producers News reports a large, enthusiastic and highly interested audience turned out to hear Max Shachtman, editor of the New Internationalist, in the Farmer-Labor Temple here.

With Charles Taylor, editor of the Producers News, official organ of the Farm Holiday Association of Montana, in the chair, Shachtman explained the causes and the forces making for imperialist war and the international conflicts arising out of the present colonial struggle in Ethiopia.

A Stalinist in the audience, who was so bold as to defend the social-patriotism of the Communist Party, was neatly demolished by the speaker.

The Producers News for Nov. 8 features a debate in its columns between a Stalinist, Harry Smith of Council Bluffs, Iowa, which takes the form of a letter to the paper and an answer by comrade Shachtman. In his letter Smith defends the Soviet Union's foreign

"What If a Foreign Army Invaded Our Country?" Stalinist Jingoists Ask

By SAM POLLOCK and ART PREIS

TOLEDO, O., Nov. 4. — "We can't be against government sanctions. What would we do if an invading army attacked our homes?" This was not the statement of the Liberty League, nor an appeal by "Stinker" Hearst against the Red and Yellow perils, nor even a quotation from the constitution of the National Civil Federation. It was the full-blown wisdom donated to the Northwest District Conference of the American League Against War and Fascism, November 2-3, by a leading Detroit member of the Communist Party.

Fearful lest his party comrades might not make the position of the C.P. on imperialist sanctions sufficiently clear, Francis Murphy, local secretary and organizer of the American League, stated, "The American League is not concerned with League of Nations sanctions. The U. S. is not a member of the League. Therefore, we are not concerned about the actions of the League of Nations." Reinforcements were brought from the rear to support Murphy, when Sam Sponsler, New America organizer, emphatically stated, "The American League is against all wars."

These were the arguments used to "prove" that a resolution against imperialist sanctions, submitted by Sam Pollock, a W.P. member who represented the Lucas County Unemployed League, was "pacifist." The resolution, which was undoubtedly the most important submitted and the only one even discussed or disputed, was permitted only six minutes of debate (two speakers from each side, limited to three minutes apiece) by the mechanical control of the C. P. and its stooges. The resolution, which exposed the entire jingoistic Stalinist structure of the American League, is here quoted in its entirety:

"I. Resolved: That this con-

WORKERS

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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.

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Death benefit graded according to age at entry. Sick benefit payments from \$360 to \$900—to men and women, according to classes.

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policy, its shipment of foodstuffs, etc. to Italy and a general apology for socialism in one country. Shachtman takes issue with his remarks from the revolutionary viewpoint, showing step by step the betrayal of Stalinism.

Salt Lake City

SALT LAKE CITY.—When comrade Shachtman spoke in Salt Lake City a year and a half ago, his meeting was broken up by Stalinists under the leadership of their organizer, Paul Crouch. His scheduled meeting on November 9 was broken up by a slight mountain blizzard which blocked the highways to Salt Lake, prevented a large crowd from appearing at the hall (despite the fine sale of tickets) and trapped the speaker at Preston, Idaho, a town not particularly hospitable toward revolutionists, as the mayor, far from offering Shachtman the key to the city, did not even offer to repair his windshield wiper. And at Salt Lake, the comrades wiped away the slow sweat of waiting for Shachtman and accepted the kind offer of a liberal club that he speak before them the following night, Sunday.

More than fifty students and workers listened raptly to Shachtman's vivid portrayal of the approaching war and the crisis betrayal of the Second and Third Internationals—their support of sanctions and of "good" capitalists—their turning of the workers' guns upon each other instead of upon the capitalist governments. The large collection that was taken proved the appreciation and interest of the crowd, even the Stalinists present contributing generously.

Andrew J. Budihias, First Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Unemployed League, acted as chairman and introduced the speaker to the local workers. Comrade Cannon's subject was "War and the Workers."

100 Hear Cannon in Allentown Meeting

ALLENTOWN, Pa., Nov. 9.—A crowd of about 100 workers turned out to hear comrade James P. Cannon, editor of the NEW MILITANT, present the Workers Party position on the war danger at the Silk Workers Hall last night. The meeting, one of many being conducted as part of the W.P.'s anti-war campaign, was held under the auspices of the Allentown branch.

In the course of his speech he demonstrated the inevitability of war under capitalism and imperialist rivalry and exposed the treacherous character of the pacifist "peace marches" dished up by the rabbis, the preachers, the social reformists and the so-called "Communist" as substitutes for the genuine struggle against war. He once more proclaimed the slogan of Lenin and Liebknecht: "The enemy is in our own country" as the guiding line for anti-war action on the part of the working class.

The speech was very well received by the audience. In the question and discussion period, several Stalinists (members of the so-called "Communist Party") took the floor in a pitiable attempt to defend the betrayal policy of the Communist International. Comrade Cannon made short shrift of the Stalinist stunts and publicly challenged them to an open debate, with equal time for both sides, before the workers of Allentown. The Stalinists swallowed hard, but to date they have not yet replied to the challenge.

A good number of NEW MILITANTS and party pamphlets were sold at the door upon the conclusion of the meeting.

Nazi Strikebreakers Used in Bakery Strike

NEW YORK—Use of Nazi agents to break the general strike of Cushman-Purity bakeries was charged today by Herman Gund, Secretary of Bakery Workers Union, Local 50, an industrial union affiliated to the Bakery International and the A. F. of L.

"The Cushman officials deliberately hired active Nazis as foremen in the 165th Street and Park Ave. plant, and in other plants which employed workers of German descent. Germans were given special privileges in order to enable them to take part in Nazi exercises and activities. As a result," declared Gund, "the majority of the strikebreakers in these plants are Germans under the leadership of these Nazi foremen."

"Some of these Nazis have openly stated to strikers that they are scabbing on the strike because the American Federation of Labor has declared a boycott of Nazi goods. Under the influence of the Nazi foremen, German workers were induced to drop out of the union and are now acting as scabs.

"This is a direct challenge to the American Federation of Labor. It is not merely a question of winning this particular strike. It is a question of smashing for good the use by the bosses of Fascist organizations against strikes."

Over 1,200 Cushman workers are out for the third week. An army of company "guards" have been harassing the strikers. While strikers are at meetings, their homes are visited and their wives and children terrorized by threats.

Pollock. "What was the use of voting? he meeting was stacked." Besides Sam Pollock, a militant trade unionist, representing a local of over 1,500 members, took the floor in support of the resolution, emphasizing in brief and straightforward terms, "Here the government is preparing 24 hours a day for a new war, with most of the money coming from relief funds in one form or another. This is the government which clubs us and jails us, and do you want us workers to support the sanctions of such a government?"

The only resolutions passed on the question of war were on a boycott of Italy and Germany and a protest to Japan. The whole question of sanctions was deliberately avoided.

While this farcical "conference" was dragging out its fruitless end, another meeting was being held a short distance away at the Toledo Workers School Hall, the regular Open Forum of the local W. P. Comrade Burke Cochran gave a splendid and eagerly attended talk on the 55th Convention of the A. F. of L. before a full audience of workers, the largest share of whom were active trade union progressives. There was no gag-rule at this meeting, for the floor was given over to an hour and a half of free and open discussion, with members of the auto union and other A. F. of L. groups and the M.E.S.A. participating.

Hold First Forum on N.W. Side, Chicago

CHICAGO, Nov. 13.—The Northwest Side branch of the Workers Party held its first open meeting of the season last night at its headquarters at 1237 California Avenue. In conjunction with the proposed anti-war campaign, this meeting was devoted to a discussion on the impending world war and the position and attitude of the different working class organizations. Comrade Albert Glotzer traced the threads which tied the imperialist powers and forced them into a new war and then discussed the methods of combating war.

In a discussion of the latest turn of the Stalinist International he explained to the audience how because of the false conceptions of the Stalinists with regard to building socialism in a single country the working class movement had suffered defeat after defeat in all of the capitalist countries and in the Soviet Union itself; that now the Stalinists have adopted a completely social-patriotic attitude towards war, pledging themselves at their last Congress to support the bourgeoisie of the democratic countries against the Fascist countries.

The Northwest Side branch of the W. P. intends holding such meetings every two weeks. At this first meeting some fifty workers were present and the future meetings promise to be even larger.

French C.P. Begs Laval

(Continued from Page 1)

derisively pointed out by the Fascists themselves who received the decrees not with shudders of mortal fear but with jeers. Laval issued them, said Echo de Paris on Oct. 23 "to calm Herriot and the Radicals."

How about the Stalinists? "Decree laws against the Fascists? They have been taken," writes l'Humanite, "but they are already violated." They are insufficient and ineffective. "It is necessary to disarm and dissolve the Fascist leagues." (l'Humanite, Oct. 25.) There's our anti-Fascist program! And oh yes, there's another fault that has to be rectified, says l'Humanite.

"Purify the Police Force!"

"The decrees threaten to be ineffective . . . these decrees are useless unless—what can be coming?—unless they are accompanied by a serious purification of the police." The police chiefs, it seems are Fascist, but the "great majority of the police are of republican tendencies." That is why the chiefs, it seems, are withholding some extra ammunition from the cops. l'Humanite won't stand for seeing the cops go short of bullets.

"It was only after the campaign conducted by l'Humanite that Guichard (high police official) finally consented to give nine new cartridges to his guardians of the peace—in order to face Fascists armed to the teeth!"

The police must be better armed and above all—purified. For this purification, "demanded by the policemen themselves—is an essential condition for the security of the French people."

These are only some of the vile lengths to which the degeneration of Stalinism has led. Columns could be given over here to quotations, nothing but quotations from the columns of l'Humanite which are enough to make any honest Communist want to spit upon everything he's ever been taught at the feet of the Great Leader, Stalin the Great, or Stalin the Little, alias Browder, Cachin or Pollitt.

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PARTY AT WORK

MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi section of the party, after a period of severe persecution, is adding new members, and incidentally, making an advance subscription to the NEW MILITANT a first demand upon every applicant for membership. The campaign against "reds" is carried on with excessive rigor in this and other Southern states by the A. F. of L. trade union bureaucrats at the top and the lesser bureaucrats. In spite of this the militants are indispensable in carrying on effective organization work in strikes and the rank and file of the unions constantly turn to them for help.

NEWARK, N. J.

The rapid growth of the Newark branch of the W. P. and the Spartacus Youth League has permeated the entire membership with such tremendous enthusiasm and energy, that recruiting quotas are smashed right and left—a bright augury for the vitalization of the dormant Newark labor movement. Branch meetings and educational meetings are attended by 100 per cent of the membership. Eighteen of the comrades are active in the splendid work of the Newark Unemployed Leagues. Others are active in the trade unions (this is just starting), in educational and other activities. Among the new members that have joined the party in the last couple of weeks are three Negroes, a member of the longshoreman's union, a couple of automobile workers, a couple of painters and other industrial workers. Forums are to get under way soon and all signs indicate a very successful season. The new members are all intelligent, energetic and active, and for the most part are workers in basic industries.

The Spartacus youth have also had a rapid growth and are very active with classes, social, sports and other activities. A basketball team has been organized and so has a Junior Spartacus group consisting of youngsters between the ages of 12 and 15 and numbering 15 members already. Between 25 and 30 Spartacans are actively engaged in youth work and the Juniors too, have successful meetings. Both party and youth members gather together about three times a week after meetings or other activities for discussions and plans.

The Newark branch of the Workers Party is running a theater party at the Civic Repertory theater on both Nov. 23, Thanksgiving day evening, and Nov. 30 matinee. The play is the Theater Union production of "Mother," based on the Gorki novel of that name.

Comrades wishing tickets can write to Lew Merritt, 545 Belmont Ave., Newark. Tickets sell for 30c, 45c, 60c, 75c and \$1.00.

MINNEAPOLIS

On Thursday, Nov. 7, the Minneapolis branch held an open meeting to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the Russian Bolshevik revolution. Aside from the regular party comrades, numerous sympathizers attended and honored with us the memory and the great lessons of October.

The entertainment committee of the Minneapolis branch has scheduled three parties for the remainder of the year, all to take place at the branch headquarters, 631 Third Avenue South. The parties will be held on Saturday evenings—Nov. 23, Dec. 7, and Dec. 23. All friends and sympathizers are to consider this notice their cordial invitation to attend these affairs.

Cannon Speaks at Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—James P. Cannon addressed a mass meeting Sunday night, Nov. 10 under the auspices of the Philadelphia branch in the campaign of the Workers Party on the war question.

Comrade Cannon drove home the Leninist teaching on the workers' attitude toward capitalist war and tore to shreds the perfidious attitude of the Second and Third Internationals. He showed that the policy of supporting government sanctions and the fraud of "good" and "bad" capitalist governments is simply the preparation to deliver the masses helpless to another imperialist slaughter as in 1914.

The question and discussion period brought out numerous angles of the proletarian attitude toward war. The lecture was received with enthusiasm and helped to strengthen the influence of the Workers Party in Philadelphia.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL FORUM

Sponsored by the Philadelphia Local Workers Party 431 Pine Street.

Sunday, Nov. 17—JAMES RORTY, well known author and journalist: "The Intellectuals and Their Place in the Revolutionary Movement."

Sunday, Dec. 1—A. J. MUSTE, National Secretary of the W. P.: "The A. F. of L. Convention in Atlantic City."

THE MANAGER'S CORNER

We have made a beginning in our campaign for 1,000 new subscribers. But it is only a small beginning and there is a little less than a month and a half left to do the job. Speed is now essential.

By December 1 we will have another special eight-page issue. What can our branches and bundle agents do toward a special distribution as a means of further stimulating the campaign? Special supplies of this issue should be ordered right away and careful plans made for distribution. A follow-up for subscriptions should net actual results.

The main point now is to get busy and build up a march larger circulation for the NEW MILITANT. As we have said before, 1,000 new subscribers by the time of the second party convention, Christmas week, will mark the first step toward accomplishing this aim. Moreover, it will net the funds necessary to start the regular eight-page weekly.

Below we give the quotas of new subscriptions assigned to the various branches together with the new subs turned in so far.

Table with columns: City, Quota, Turned in. Lists various cities and their subscription counts.

City have each made a good contribution toward the campaign for the regular eight-page weekly. This is for the particular information of the comrades who may think that we do not want any further contributions for this purpose. We do. We need much more money before the eight-page weekly can be assured.

Those who have the funds to spare please take note.

Since our last report we have received the following contributions: A Friend, N. Y. C. . . . \$20.00 Boro Park Branch, N.Y.C. . . . 1.50 Boston Branch 10.00 F. P., New York City 10.00 East Side Branch, N.Y.C. 50 Center Branch, N.Y.C. 45 Anonymous, N.Y.C. 25.00 Kensington Br., Philadelphia (received for greetings) . . . 3.50 Total 70.95 Previously reported \$768.75 Grand Total \$839.70

OPEN FORUM

WHITHER FRANCE?—Fascism or Workers Revolution? The French Hitlerites Are Ready! Are the Workers Ready? Speaker: JOHN G. WRIGHT Friday, Nov. 21, 8 P.M. Great Central Palace 96 Clinton St., N.Y.C. Auspices: Branch 2, W. P.

CONCERT

and DANCE given by BRANCH 1 at 320 East 14th St.

HEAR—Misha Nash, violinist Fresh from his triumphs abroad.

SEE—Spartacus Dance Group in a series of modern, streamline gyrations.

HEAR—E. Engelson, pianist outstanding artist of the Metropolitan area.

SEE—New Theatre Group in a new "Ultra-Leftist" Repertoire.

Dancing until 2 A.M. Refreshments of Course!

SATURDAY, NOV. 23rd

A F F A I R SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 Good Music, Food, Drinks Entertainment. at 320 East 14th Street, N.Y.C. Admission 15c Auspices: Branch 2, W. P.

A couple of friends in New York