

## War Policy Causes Clash in Students Unity Conference

### Resolution Adopted Ambiguous on Crucial Question of Soviet Union; S.Y.L. and Yipsel Members Fight Stalinist Social Patriotism

COLUMBUS, Ohio.—In spite of all attempts to avoid a clash on the major political issue confronting the fusion convention of the Socialist Student League for Industrial Democracy and the Stalinist National Student League, held here over the Christmas holidays, an open fight on the question of war marked the last hour of the convention.

The Stalinists controlled a decisive majority of the four hundred and twenty-seven delegates. The S.L.I.D. had 116 delegates and the N.S.L. 141. The unattached delegates included liberals, conservatives and a host of Stalinist students.

The main tendencies represented at the Congress were the liberals, who wanted a liberal student movement; the Stalinists, who wanted the same type of organization but were ready to accept almost anything the young Stalinists demanded; the young Stalinists who in their majority desired a broad student organization which accepted the Oxford Pledge "against support of any war declared by the United States Government" and finally, the Spartacus Youth delegates who fought for fusion on the basis of a revolutionary program particularly on the question of war.

The separate conventions of the S.L.I.D. and the N.S.L. opened on Friday afternoon. At both conventions a draft program was presented which the membership had never seen or discussed. Spartacus delegates presented their position at both meetings.

### S.L.I.D. Convention

At the S.L.I.D. convention the original draft program accepted by the leaders of the two student organizations and whose interests we are anxious to serve was revised. A section stating that "we love our country as profoundly as anyone else" was deleted due to pressure of Left Socialists and the Spartacus delegates. Among the young Stalinists seven delegates led by Monroe Sweetland voted against fusion with the N.S.L. on the ground that the latter would accept any program but that their real program would lead them to support the U.S. government in case it was allied with the Soviet Union.

Another section of the young Stalinists agreed with the Spartacus program for the fusion—the class struggle in society, the alliance of the students with the working class and a revolutionary program against war. However, Yipsel discipline prevented them from voting for the Spartacus position.

The S.L.I.D. convention also accepted a resolution on war which concretized the Oxford Pledge. It outlined three possible types of wars which could arise under present conditions and a so-called "defensive war" of the United States; "democratic" wars against Fascist nations; in case of alliance between the U. S. and a "progressive or non-imperialist" power.

The steering committee of the S.L.I.D. for the fusion convention was empowered to prevent the fusion if the general line of this resolution was not adopted or call a caucus meeting of the S.L.I.D. delegates to consider the matter.

At the N.S.L. convention a spirit was adopted to accept the "split" of the report of the national secretary which included the draft program. Spirited discussion on the question of war was led by Spartacus delegates.

The first day of the fusion convention was occupied with the election of committees. On Sunday discussion was opened on the program for the fusion. The N.S.L. had accepted the changes made by the S.L.I.D. convention. The program traced the cause of present ills in the domination of the "inner oligarchy" over the "plain people."

"The American Student Union is not a political organization. Although it recognizes the need for basic social change, it leaves to political organizations the achieving of these changes." The Oxford Pledge was endorsed. The abolition of the R.O.T.C. was called for. The program was discussed section by section. The opposition to the program from the right quoted the statements of the leaders of the fusion that "we must include

(Continued on Page 2)

## Road Is Cleared for French Fascist Coup

### People's Front Abandons Defense Corps

By H. F. ROBERTS  
In Italy in 1921 Mussolini's Blackshirts organized and signed an agreement with the Italian Socialist Party for "mutual" disarmament. This pact, made under government auspices at a time when the country teetered on the brink of civil war, led to the disappearance of the workers' Red Militia. Their path thus smoothed, the Blackshirts two years later took power and smashed what was left of Italian workers' organizations.

In Germany in 1932 Heinrich Bruening's Bonapartist government decreed the "dissolution" of military-political formations. After this "victory" against the Fascists, the Rote Front, workers' combat organization, passed out of existence. And the Storm Troopers? Listen to Roehm, their leader:

"But only the uniforms and insignia had to disappear. After the dissolution, as before, the detachments of the Storm Troopers continued to train on the training grounds of the Reichswehr (German army) at Doberitz, as on other state training grounds. Only they were no longer called the Storm Troops but the League of Popular German Sport. (From Roehm's Memoirs.)

A year later the German Nazi representatives of the armed bourgeoisie state trampled underfoot the disbanded and disoriented organizations of the German working class. The Perfidious Example Followed.

In France last month the Socialist and Stalinist parties bound themselves to a similar agreement for "mutual" disarmament and dissolution. In a terrible scene of "reconciliation" in the Chamber of Deputies on Dec. 6 the Socialist and Stalinist bureaucracies joined and Fascists to set the seal on the betrayal of the French workers, a betrayal not reduced one whit by the smokescreen of confusion, apology and explanation with which the events were overlaid in the days that followed. The result was perfectly clear.

The result gave the French bourgeoisie a new weapon in its systematic drive against the French workers, in preparation for new turns in the screws of exploitation under a deepening crisis, and in preparation for war.

After they had publicly disavowed any desire to organize the French workers to fight for revolutionary aims, after proclaiming their desire to avert civil war and achieve "la reconciliation francoise," the Socialist and Stalinist parties claimed a great "victory" for the People's Front. This "victory" must be examined with the utmost attention, for like all Stalinist-reformist "victories" it is in

reality a shattering disaster, precursor of worse betrayals to come.

The Fascist Danger Over? To listen to the People's Frontists, the Fascist danger is practically over. "Under the action of the People's Front," declared Cachin, "French Fascism is going through a deep crisis and the Hour of Hitlerism (de la Rocque's zero hour) has been perforce postponed into the dim fogs of the future." (l'Humanite, Dec. 13.) How has this mirabile been performed? By a proletarian offensive against capital? In advance of the French working class has been proudly proclaimed by Blum, Cachin, Thorez and Co. It has come about through the passage of three laws by the Chamber of Deputies—three laws which upon examination turn out to be sharp weapons not against the Fascists but against the workers. And these laws were pushed through the Chamber by the People's Front! How well the bourgeoisie knows how to use its lackeys!

On Dec. 3 the debate on the

### Question for Stalinist Sages

In the latest issue of the Communist International (Nov. 5, 1935) Manuilsky informs us on page 1381:

"Such a measure as the closing of the Suez Canal demanded by the Second and Amsterdam International follows the line of the interests of British imperialism, which is displaying a very suspicious attitude for the 'independence' of Ethiopia."

And on page 1515 of the same number we are told: that "the Communist peace policy" includes the "closing of the Suez Canal!"

Will the Daily Worker Question Box resolve the contradiction? Or are we to conclude that "the Communist peace policy" falls in line with British imperialism?

"Factions leagues" opened in the French Chamber after Laval had won two successive votes of confidence with the aid of a large section of the Radical (People's Front) votes influenced by Herriot, whose role in support of Laval was consistently covered over in the columns of l'Humanite.

(One of these votes of confidence was on the Laval-Herriot decree laws and deflation policy which was sustained by a Radical vote despite the devastating charge by Vincent Auriol, Socialist, that the Laval economic program "violated property rights"—see Populaire, Nov. 30.)

The keynote of the debate on the political leagues was set by Ramette, Stalinist deputy, and Guernut, a Radical, whose declarations are prominently featured in bold type by l'Humanite on Dec. 4.

Waving the French Flag  
Ramette: "While the People's

## Blum, Thorez In New Betrayal

Front is realizing the union of Frenchmen behind the Tricolor and the Red Flag, the government is compromising itself with those who divide (the people) and foment civil war."

Guernut: "These (Fascist) militias, prepared for civil war, are not for civilization but for barbarism. That is why we denounce them, condemn them and demand their dissolution."

And in l'Humanite Vaillant-Couturier wrote: "This is not a matter of politics nor of economic demands. It is a question of troops for civil war, armed, trained, organized in military style... wounding or killing Frenchmen. . . . Against them the country raises its demand for disarmament and dissolution. The Chamber must heed."

That day l'Humanite sedulously avoided reporting that Edouard Herriot was moving heaven and earth to have his supporters support Laval. Even Populaire did not hesitate to report—and bemoan—that fact!

### La Rocque's Army

During the course of the speeches in the Chamber on the Croix de Feu, it was revealed that Col. de la Rocque's Fascist organization has grown to a force of 712,000 men, armed, trained, organized with guns, machine guns, equipped cars and even planes. This organization—directly linked to the General Staff and the big French bourgeoisie—was to be dissolved at the request of the People's Front by Laval, puppet of the same General Staff and the same big bourgeoisie. What a frightful comedy! But the session of Dec. 6—when the Stalinists tried afterward to dub "comedy"—heavily underscored the threat that the future still holds.

Ybarregray, a Croix de Feu deputy, rose and astounded his audience by introducing a law providing for the severe punishment of any private individual found in the possession of arms.

He denied that the Croix de Feu wanted civil war (!) and declared that his "friend and brother," de la Rocque, was interested only in "cleansing" the Republic and defending the regime.

"Can we not unite under the firm and salutary hand of the law?" asked the Fascist deputy. "Do you want to feel on your faces the hot breath of civil war?" He then declared that dissolution was an "ineffective and dangerous" solution but proposed disarmament by all political-military groupings.

Leung Suen rose to answer him—as he explained afterward in Populaire—spontaneously, out of a sheer upsurge of brotherly feeling. He

(Continued on Page 2)

## Olson Calls out Militia In Strutwear Hosiery Strike in Minneapolis

### Troops Summoned After Cops Prove Helpless In Protecting Scabs in Face of Courage And Militancy of Striking Workers

By CARL O'SHEA  
MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 29.—Following a hard-fought battle Thursday afternoon between pickets and scabs, at which half a dozen挑 were stoned and clubbed and several scabs injured, sixty National Guardsmen were called out by Governor Floyd B. Olson Friday noon to assist the local "law and order" agencies in preventing further "disorders" at the Strutwear plant. A strike of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers local has been in effect at the Strutwear Hosiery Company since August 15. The governor has announced that "until we have surveyed the situation and decided on a definite course, we will close the Strutwear plant."

Immediately after the sentencing of three pickets last Monday to four and six months in the workhouse, the Strutwear bosses, with the help of Mayor Latimer and the police, began their plan to gradually open the plant. On Tuesday a crew of 20 finks were sent in to clean the machinery. (The nature of the operations are such that a full crew cannot begin work immediately. It takes about 30 days to build up the operations to a point where the full working force can be used.)

## Latimer Urges Bosses Break Agreements

### Coal, Transfer Employers Reject Plan to End Contracts with 574

(From the Northwest Organizer.)  
MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 1.—Tuesday morning headlines in the capitalist press in Minneapolis screamed that a committee of fifty business men had berated Mayor Thomas Latimer in his office to demand protection from the "recklessness" and industrial peace destroying "tactics" of General Drivers Union, Local 574.

The papers went on to say that this committee of business men protested vigorously to the Mayor about the activities of Local 574 and demanded of his honor that he give them protection.

These headlines, no doubt, made fine reading for those who desire the destruction of Local 574. They also, perhaps, created doubts in the minds of some of our staunchest supporters that everything was not as it should be. No doubt, the enemies of Local 574 were comforted by these bold headlines, thinking that at last our union was going to be dragged in the mud and the start of the breaking up process was in sight.

Those not familiar with the situation, however, overlooked one salient, incontestable fact. The whole story was a tissue of lies and falsehoods, fabricated out of whole cloth by the champion union busters of the United States, Meyer Lewis, John Geary, Pat Corcoran and Cliff Hall, sided and abetted, aided by that champion jelly-fish of politicians, Thomas E. Latimer. The only truth in the whole report is that there was a meeting that morning in the mayor's office, the above mentioned union lead-

(Continued on Page 2)

## 2 Year Strike Is Called Off

PATERSON, N. J.—The strike of the Typographical Employees of the two Paterson dailies, was called off yesterday, when the union admitted defeat and officially withdrew the pickets from the struck plants.

The strike, which was poorly conducted throughout, had lasted for close to two years, dragging on wearily and hopelessly, without militancy and without leadership. Instead of concentrating their forces on winning the strike, the union, under Stalinist influence, busied itself trying to compete with the publishers, and was finally successful in getting a few dollars together, mostly from labor sources, with the result that a new paper is now in existence in Paterson, the Paterson Press. In spite of its almost completely labor backing the new paper is not going to be a labor paper, but a "People's Paper," according to the new line.

It is important to note that the strike, broken from the start by the fact that other crafts were allowed to work while the typos were out, failed to utilize the sympathy of other strikers when the dyers local was on strike, almost never attempted mass picketing and kept itself in a sort of precarious existence on the strike benefit of the International and on voluntary contributions from a number of locals throughout the country.

## Utica Conference of "Militants" Deepens Rupture in Socialist Party

The split in the New York organization of the Socialist party was deepened and broadened to a state-wide basis at the state conference of the Norman Thomas "militant" group held at Utica last week end. At the same time, the "Old Guard," assembled in mass meeting at Cooper Union Sunday, with sympathetic delegations of right wing socialists from other states, denounced Thomas as a "traitor" and threatened to make a split in the national organization if the N. E. C. recognizes the rival organization in New York.

It appears from the representation at the Utica conference that the Thomas group has the edge over the "Old Guard" in the state as well as in New York City. 88 delegates were in attendance at the conference according to the official report, 43 from New York City and 45 from upstate locals. Political issues were kept in the background, the strategy of the "militants" apparently being to strive for the broadest possible support of the upstate locals on purely organizational questions. The inactivity of the "Old Guard" state committee and its autocratic methods have alienated many of the locals whose members, as shown by the discussion at the conference, are far from understanding the political implications of the split. The personal popularity of Norman Thomas has also been a big factor in swinging a majority of the members of the upstate as well as the New York City organization to the

side of the new committee.

"Activism" the keynote  
The delegates, bent on having an "active" socialist party that will be democratic in its procedure and "inclusive" in its membership, manifested a determination to carry through the split and to have done with the dead weight of the "Old Guard" and for all. The resolution adopted puts the issue squarely up to the National Executive Committee with a demand for the official recognition of the new committee. The resolution follows:

WHEREAS the State Committee of the Socialist Party of New York has by its neglect of its duty to advance Socialism in the State of New York; by its continuing sabotage of the National Party and by its wholly unconstitutional act in directing and supporting a wholesale exclusion of the most active Party members in New York State under the guise of reorganizing the Party, has forfeited its legal and moral right to recognition as a State Committee in New York;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we assume the responsibilities of an emergency convention of the Socialist Party of the State of New York and proceed to elect a representative State Committee and take such further action as may be necessary to save the Party in New York, and we instruct the State Committee to appear before the NEC at its next meeting to claim

recognition as the State Committee of New York.

Issue up to N. E. C.

Interest in the socialist controversy now shifts to Philadelphia where the National Executive Committee meets the coming week end. The new state committee set up at the Utica conference will have a delegation there to demand recognition. Waldman, leader of the New York right wing has announced in the press that the present "official" state committee will not attend and has declared that the recognition of the new committee will be the signal for a nationwide split. The Pennsylvania state committee, dominated by the right wing, has also warned the N. E. C. to give no support to the "secessionists" in New York. Mayor Hoan of Milwaukee, a powerful figure in the N. E. C. and in the party, has declared for "unity" and will probably attempt to force a reconciliation of the two contending organizations. This was indicated in a personal letter from him to a party member which was read at the Utica conference. The action taken at the Philadelphia meeting of the N. E. C. will very probably determine whether the split will be healed for the time being, localized to New York or extended on a national scale. In the event of the latter eventuality Norman Thomas will undoubtedly carry a large majority of the party with him in support of the new state committee set up at Utica.

## Strike Nears In Texas WPA Crisis

### State Relief Administration "Plays Ball" While Workers Starve

(Special to New Militant)  
By JAMES EVANS

DALLAS, Tex.—Prospects for a general WPA strike in Texas are enormously increased with the refusal of H. P. Drought, state administrator, to make any concessions to the aroused workers. Drought has refused bluntly either to decrease the working hours or to increase wages of skilled labor to the union scale. Abrogating one of the Federal rules, the sicker and his assistants are also forcing the workers to make time lost during rainy weather or under circumstances beyond the control of the crews.

There is a deep-seated resentment both against the state WPA and relief administrations, each of which is passing the buck to the other in the matter of providing employment. "They are playing ball while we are starving," is an expression that I heard outside of a local relief office several days ago. The WPA has abandoned numerous projects because its administrators claimed that they could not get sufficient labor from the relief rolls. This gives the relief authorities option to drop these clients on the grounds that there are no WPA jobs for them. Meanwhile the case-workers refuse to certify for relief even in actual and dire need. Even the meagerly sums appropriated for the hungry are thus kept frozen in the treasury, while individual case workers are awarded silver loving cups for "cutting the loaders."

### Persecution of Mexican Workers

The Mexican workers, most poverty-stricken of the Texas working class, are the especial objects of a vicious attack. Local offices of the National Employment Service are refusing to register non-citizens as a preliminary to their obtaining relief, although this miserly assistance is supposedly available to every needy person. Mexicans who protest are threatened with deportation while agents of the set-up proceed to inflame the more backward American workers with the Fascist expression, "This is a white man's country." In many cases, Mexicans actually born in this country have been denied assistance because they could not produce birth certificates.

These are the factors existing in Texas during the most severe winter since the advent of the depression. Favorable factors exist for winning the impending strike. But there are other factors which the workers should understand and be ready to combat.

The first factor is the extreme selfishness of the old line American Federation of Labor leaders. These well-paid representatives of labor are not particularly interested in

(Continued on Page 2)

## Issue Call for Packing Meet

A call has been issued to all packing house organizations and unorganized packing house workers in the Mid-West to meet in conference at Mason City, Ia., Saturday and Sunday, January 11 and 12 starting at 6 P.M. on Saturday.

This invitation was issued by representatives of the Mid-West Union of All Packing House Workers of Cedar Rapids, Ia., and the Independent Union of All Workers of Austin.