# Walkout

Marble Workers Battle [Militantly After Three Month Siege

By CYRUS RIGBY

the traditional home of granite- dustrial conditions and in particular like, rugged American individu- the developments in the industry in alism, was Tuesday also the scene which a given union operates. of oppressed Yankee workers in re- What, then, is taking place in the volt. For three months the workers garment industry today? For reaof the Vermont Marble Company, sons which space does not permit of Rutland, have been out on strike. us to go into, but among which the Each week their battle has been drawing closer to victory.

So close to victory, indeed, had been disciplined and constant. On Tuesday morning, a gang of scabe D. and H. gondola cars, which were accept government "regulation" and trades unions they ally themselves hitched to an engine under steam. The scabs were protected by a gunmen (called railroad police) thing like "prosperity" obtained for details. The dissipation of the left hidden in the cab of the locomotive. a couple of years. All morning a line of about 300 pickets marched back and forth along the tracks,

#### The Battle

About noon two scabs, Arthur Alwill and Radcliffe Lyons, the former a company superintendent, attempted to leave the marble yard in Alwill's car, escorted by armed deputies in automobiles following.. The scabs' car was stoned and mediately the deputies got out and slight restraints to which they were ordered the massed workers to disperse. As soon as they began laying hands on the nearest pickets, the battle commenced.

Workers used whatever weapons came into ther hands; deputies, reenforced by a torrent of new deputies that came pouring miraculously from the company office nearby, used nightsticks and blackjacks. One striker, unarmed except for his fists, was seen to fall twice under of playing off an unlimited number the issues. But when the conditions to break up the old situation and blows from a nightstick, only to of shoe-string contractors against in the trade worsen and employers toward developing a genuine left get up again and pursue the fight. each other, etc .- becomes ever demand real and open concessions wing, progressives must take the of it all. the bloody fray until the police not yet take the form of direct and and Dubinskys are prepared as ever must not regard merger as the end, desperate guardians of capitalism sistance against any further con- to equivocate successfully, to work ship of illusions. dern weapons into acand exploded in the midst of the workers. But the retreat, unavoirable in the face of this onslaught, the contract is maintained. The Lovestoneite officials such as Zimwas both orderly and dignified. Some strikers merely withdrew a few yards to await developments. Others marched into union headquarters to prepare for a fresh attack by the law.

# When the Smoke Cleared

When casualties were counted it was found that the working class depression level. The internal conbatting average was remarkably troversies which had rent the unions high: 12 deputy sheriffs were sent subsided, as they have a habit of to the hospital against 5 of the doing in a period of growth and in which they are engaging. It may know to whom to turn. militant strikers. It was impossible to count those on both sides with the top bureaucracy were able to more minor injuries, but those sent put up a plausible appearance of to the hospital were all in serious efficiency and progressivism. Were condition. Busines of arresting they not making demands on the strike leaders was begun as soon as employers and getting results? Wit-Sheriff Schoenfeld's bomb had pre- ness, in another industry, John L. pared the way for the State's At- Lewis even before he openly launchtorney's dramatic entrance on the ed his crusade for industrial unionset. Some of the ten strikers arrest- ism. (We are not speaking of the ed were unable to walk; one was essential role played by Hillman, still unconscious and bleeding as he Dubinsky, et. al. under the New

In spite of their notorious Ver- has frequently stated its position). mont smugness, the "disinterested" citizens of Rutland are more sym- of organizing, administrative and editors of one of our publications, sistently refused to cooperate with pathetic with the strike than it educational work to be done and the would seem from capitalist press officials turned to young workers, accounts. Reporters for the Rutland and intellectuals, Socialist party Daily Herald, for example, have members, Lovestonites in the needle attempted to stir up chauvenistic trades, etc. to assist; and the fact feeling against Polish workers in that these more politicalized workvolved in the strike-while at the ers could give militant talks to the same time they have been compelled workers and a militant collaboration to make public the arrest of two to the union was an additional reto children of striking marble work- velt in 1933. On their part militants the side of the strikers. Larger it fairly easy to keep their con-

# Students Support Strike

At various times since the strike began intellectuals living in Vermont plications of union policy would and neighboring states have come have to wait. Figures such as able, the Mayor was told, to show out in complete accord with the Zimmerman of Local 22, I.L.G.W.U. strike. Students of nearby Darth- and others less prominent, became other operative from the same mouth College have given their the administration in some of the support by a benefit performance of local unions.

"Waiting For Lefty." It seems to be a finish struggle and the workers are decidedly gaining ground. Reports that Gov. Charles M. Smith is to send in National Guardsmen from Montpelier were both denied and reaffirmed in Rutland on Thursday. Meanwhile the strikers were again assembling their picket lines.

READ THE NEW MILITANT

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# Fight Police Developments in the Needle Trades; In Vermont A Program for the Progressive A Program for the Progressives Behind the Scenes

By A. J. MUSTE

Developments are taking place in the needle trades unions which are in themselves important and are also in considerable measure typical of what is taking place or will in industry generally. When we seek to understand

trends in the union movement, we RUTLAND, Vt. - New England, have first of all to examine in-National Recovery Act was not the only or even the most important left wing forces and only the early one, the garment industry experienc beginnings of a new genuine left ed a decided upturn in 1933-4. wing adapted to the needs of the employers, at least important sec- an extremely conservative one. In activity of the genuine progressives tions of them, were prepared to not a few instances in the needle in this period. to deal with unions in return for openly with the S.P. old guardists an opportunity to put prices up and maintain them at some level. Some-

#### The Changing Situation

not been laid. There is a huge army of unemployed. The wage level remains far below that of 1929. The market remains a restricted which has occurred, however, causes today. employers to be impatient of the subjected in the early days of the Roosevelt administration. The N.R. A. is declared unconstitutional.

Even in the garment industry where their leadership by no means con- Stalinists are playing-their capthe nightmare of 1930-2 is not yet stitutes a dependable left wing itulation to the S.P. old guard, the entirely forgotten and N.R.A. con- fighting force. It is a hot-house union right wingers, their reactionditions are in considerable measure "voluntarily" maintained, competition becomes ever more severe. The urge to break all bonds-

essions as to wages, hours and con-

# Union Gains

The unions in the garment in then take. dustry made huge gains in 1963-4. They were instrumental in lowering hours and raising wages from the success. Even the Old Guard and was carried forcibly off to jail. Deal on which the New Militant

There was an immense amount selectmen, Dwyer and Thomas, over- commendation in the eyes of the the employees believe they had col- ly paper on the jobs, the "WPA seers of the poor, on charges of officials. We were supposed to be lective bargaining when this was Union News," which has met with having failed to provide clothing having a "revolution" under Rooseers. Farmers and Rutland towns, and progressives who did not hold people who work, as well as the a clear-cut and complete Marxist smaller merchants, are generally on position (in more than name) found business men, Rotarians and news- sciences quiet while not differentpaper owners are fighting for the lating themselves from the top burcaucrats. There were workers to be enrolled, strikes to be organized. One could agitate for a labor party. Discussion over deeper im-

# Test Yet to Come

We have pointed out that in the by the Consolidated-Edison system," the general unemployed movement, garment industry this is a transition Mr. Wersing's letter charged. appears to be a successful one, period. The real test of the unions "These additional 300 lay-offs com- from the results obtained here. in the industry, and of the various ing on top of last week's breakelements in the unions has there- down are clearly indicative of the the growing sentiment for joint fore not yet come. It will, when system's attitude of contemptuous action with the the employers go still further with indifference to the public safety. abrogating the contract in fact even This action is in effect a re-state- plaint went to Nile F. Maltbie,

OPEN FORUM Given by the Lumen Club The Role of Intellectuals in the Labor Movement" Speaker: MARTIN GLEE Sunday, Jan. 26, 8:30 P.M. 28 E. 14th Street, 4th floor Admission Free

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lutionary party, is needed.

Such a progresive movement does not exist in the needle trades today. We are as a matter of fact witnessing the disintegration of the old or even more reactionary elements. It is not necessary to dwell on the movement in the unions as a result of the insane policies pursued by the Stalinists over a period of years more difficult. They will not fully

#### A Hot House Plant

stoneites. for example. The so- not a progressive step. What is procalled progressive movement under gressive is to expose the role the Austria. plant fostered by the union admin- ary proposals of "no groups in the istration. It is not a rank and file union", etc. United action for spemovement born out of and hardened cific ends to test out the genuineness Women as well as men enaged in stronger. For the most part it does from the unions, and the Hillmans step in awareness of its meaning, hand in glove with the top bureausort to the more extreme methods of their way to seek to combat the is probably not far distant, however. still weak forces of the Workers Party in the needle trades, we get

Union Hits

(Continued from Page 1)

favorable attention in company

behalf of the workers in the com-

lowing that investigation they re-

dently had been formed to make

tion Company, a detective agency.

attesting that he was assigned to

shadow Solosy while the latter was

employed in the chemical depart-

ment of the Astoria Light, Heat,

the Consolidated Gas Co. Docu-

mentary evidence also was avail-

that Ewing was shadowed by an-

ported that the company union evi-

taken back.

Dismissals

circumstances would they ever be have walked off their jobs and come

circles because of their work as Workers Alliance, which has con-

The Gas Man; and because in No-the union and Unemployed League

vember, 1934, they were appointed in the WPA fight, due to the dis-

to investigate the conduct of the ruptive and slanderous tactics of

company union's general council in the C. P. members who have in-

pany's chemical department. Fol- and file is beginning to demand

Accompanying Mr. Wersing's let- weekly leaders' classes on unem-

er was a copy of an affidavit by ployment and labor problems are

Charles Smith, a former operative being held by the union at the

and Power Company, an affiliate of union has achieved genuine stabili-

"In the latter part of 1935 more with their particular problems,

han 1,500 workers were dropped while linked organizationally with

ment of the ssytem's implied con- chairman, Public Service Commis-

tention that it alone rules the light sion; Maurice P. Davidson, Com-

and power industry in Greater New missioner of Water Supply, Gas,

York, and it shows anew that the and Electricity; John H. Delancy,

Consolidated Edison alliance is con- chairman, Board of Transporation;

cerned not with supplying adequate John J. McElligott, Fire Commis-

service to consumers, but in reaping sioner; Dr. John L. Rice, Health

as large a profit as the traffic will Commissioner; and Mrs. Elinore

for the Railway Audit and Inspec- Toledo Workers School.

the leagues.

"Ewing and Solosy attracted un- ters to be organized.

if not in name, and presently de-| largely accounts also for the extent mand substantial "concessions" in to which the members in these the contract itself and seek to wipe unions are impressed by the Stalinist out the unions if they offer real proposals for unifying groups, even opposition. Such a testing period though this often takes the form of these unions passed through after unification with out-and-out right the war and post-war expansion, wing machine "clubs" and even on with what disastrous results for the occasion the proposal that "there workers is too well known. In such ought to be no groups in the union a period a well-organized progressive at all" which in practice always or left wing with a nucleus of re- means that there be no organized volutionary Marxists under the force opposed to the union "machguidance and discipline of a revo-ine!" The members sense that something is wrong; they feel vaguely that danger threatens. But the issues are not yet sharply defined. It must be, they feel, that there are

No one can lay down a set of company, and its vested legal al- Cut-throat competition had in the coming period. The Stalinists and in every specific case in this conlies, decided to act. Picketing had closing days of the Hoover era re those under their influence are no fused situation. There are, howsulted in such chaos that even the longer a left wing force, but rather ever, a few guiding ideas for the

"too many groups"; let us have

#### Guiding Ideas for Progressives

1. It must be frankly recognized that this is a transition period. Confusion, inability to make rapid headway, and so on, must not induce discouragement or impatience. 2. The desire of the workers for Gradually, however, the scene has is, however, a factor that cannot be unity cannot of course be met with been shifting. In the general econ- too strongly emphasized. The fact a negative, head-on attack. Proomy of the country the basis for that it is possible for the Stalinists gressives themselves must, however, genuine and lasting prosperity has still to masquerade as "the real not fall into the notion that the real revolutionists" makes the situation left wing is going to be built by an attempt to fuse heterogeneous eleexpose themselves until the crisis ments on any or no program. So in the industry and the unions is far as possible they must wean the one for every industry. The upturn much further advanced than it is workers away from illusions and sentimentality about "unity in the

The same holds true of the Love- Stalinist "rank and file" groups is

 Finally, a genuine left-progresstion. A tear gas bomb was hurled ditions and a steady pressure on crats and at the same time pose ive movement is built upon issues. jittery." union representatives in the shops as "progressives" and "Bolsheviks." The issues will emerge ever more encies and elements in the unions neath all the pompous ceremonies the hour for social revolution! sition period as we have sketched from others, to become the exponents pose of the forum. They become the workers. The order of the day mass pressure and defeat these accounts for the utterly confused of issues as they arise, to show business men discussing a big deal: is not the building of reformist picture presented by the various themselves as militant and respons- the dismemberment of the Socialist "Labor parties" which further con-'groups" and "clubs" in the needle ible leaders in the shops, so that as commonwealth and the accompany- fuse the masses. The order of the trades unions and the maneuvers the conflict deepens the members ing destruction of socialist tend-day is the building of the revolution-

Ohio WPA

(Continued from Page 1)

directly in a body to the headquar-

Reports of sentiments in the local

vaded it, indicate that the rank

joint action with the union and

The union is putting out a week-

tremendous response. Special

Likelihood of State WPA Strike

All indications point to a tre-

mendously rapid growth of the

union, with a corresponding growth

of the Unemployed Leagues. The

ty and the ideological character of

the membership is surprisingly ad-

vanced for such a large mass or-

ganization. The tactic of organizing the WPA workers into a sepa-

rate organizational form to deal

There is a great likelihood that

M. Herrick, regional chairman,

Unemployed

Wins Rise

# "Soviet Russia and Ethiopia the Goats"

By JAMES EVANS.

"Soviet Russia and Ethiopia would be the goats."

ers' republic would be spared from imperialist contradictions." Dutcher says rather truthfully for

Behind the Scenes "Statesmen are constantly tempted by the idea of agreements which would preserve peace in western Europe and localize war by giving Germany a free hand to attack Russia while tossing Ethiopia to the Fascist wolf. \* \* \*There are powerful elements both in England and France which hold that destruction of the Soviet government would be a fine thing for the world. The French Fascists will make their bid al politics.

escape union wage rates, the policy officials can still obscure and evade with such a group is the only way least flirting with the idea that a to sell oil to Fascist Italy. confinement of Hitler aggression to Russia would be the best way out for the international working class!

ly that Berlin is eager for an under- tion of Fascism and the factors for forces began to realize they were open cutting of wage rates or of a to help the employers "save the as good in itself, and they must so standing with London, and that the establishment of Communism. getting the worst of it. Then the fight against the unions, but of re- industry," then they will be unable far as possible disabuse the member- Moscow, forever worrying over the These are mutually antagonistic possibility of attack from Germany issues, not to be solved by support to do but ride around and spend

encies throughout the world.

Leagues now manifesting itself in

the Workers Alliance will shortly

pave the way for a state-wide unit-

ed front between the two organiza-

tions and the Ohio Building Trades

Councils in a state-wide WPA

Philadelphia

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Editor New International

MANNY GARRETT

Editor Young Spartacus

Loaded Dice

Moreover, the Soviet Union is Rodney Dutcher, Washington NEA being a window-dressing for the correspondent, thus predicts the contemplated attack upon its very results that would accompany the life. Its entrance into the League possible dissolution of the League gave that body an unwarranted of Nations in his column for Jan- prestige in the eyes of millions of uary 8. As the crisis of internation- workers. Voluntarily, Litvinoff al capitalism becomes more acute, agreed to play a game with loaded it is certain that neither a weak dice-for all the high-flown talk aggression. When thieves face Soviet government has relied upon simple rules which can be applied is crumbling along with the hold from the predatory system which

Certainly, anyone can see that the an employee of the capitalist press: French "Popular Front" amounts only to gradual emasculation of the revolutionary movement in that powerful imperialist country. With the Popular Front staving off the inevitable reckoning through the shameful truce entered into by Thorez and Blum, Laval is free to negotiate with Hitler at one door and Mussolini at the other.

Laval Rides His Time

When this is accomplished, the

only question among diplomats here for power, while Monsieur Laval is how influential those elements lights his cigar with the Franco-Sohave been and may be expected to viet pact. A concentrated attack be in the backrooms of internation upon the Soviet Union, fierce suppression of all working-class move-"An alternative plan calls for an ments, will be the tragic results of 'iron ring' around Germany, which the Soviet foreign policy. The would require appeasment of Mus- "democratic nations" eulogized at the solini and co-operation from Italy, Seventh Congress of the Comintern 3. As a general thing unity with The appeasment presumably would will there relieve themselves of the cover a benevolent Anglo-French painful incubus of democracy. Solattitude toward Italian designs on diers who might have been influenced for the proletarian revolution, "That alternative may yet be had not the Comintern abandoned chosen. The British and French its propaganda in the armies, will may have had it in mind when they march from their barracks to kill. tried to serve up Ethiopia on a the toilers both of their own nationplatter to Mussolini. But recent alities and of the Soviet Union. conversations between the French Moreover, the Soviet Union has by the struggle over issues. For of unity proposals may be resorted and the Germans have strengthened largely forfeited the confidence of move "out of town" in order to the present the Lovestoneite union to. If in a given local union merger a suspicion that all hands were at the colonial peoples by continuing The hour of decision has come

There lie potent within modern "But it can be said authoritative- society the factors for the realizais of international capitalist alliances and vague "united fronts" with These statements are plain and prosperous gentlemen who say every-

ary party. But the time is short!

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# Relief Rolls Are Pruned In Texas

placed in the melancholy position of Starvation, Graft, and Corruption Rife In State

> (Special to the New Militant) By JAMES EVANS

DALLAS, Texas-The Texas refeudal nor a highly developed work- about "taking advantage of the lief authorities are attempting to The appease the hordes of unemployed with a few meager victuals before desperate extremities, they take the personal integrity of sleek di- desperation flares into rebellion. desperate measures. Can any in- plomats instead of the revolutionary Adam R. Johnson, the Southern formed observer deny that the pare defense of the workers. It has aristocrat who directs relief activiticular type of thieves' honor, ex- depended upon Laval, Benes, and ties in this state, has announced emplified by the League of Nations, Baldwin to protect it against attack that surplus vegetables still in the local comissaries would be distributed to the unemployed who have been dropped from the rolls. Lest Colonel Johnson appear to be a post-Christmas Santa Claus, it should be remembered that something has to be done with the surplus beans now that direct relief is being suspended. This form of dole will help to perpetuate the illusions of a beneficent government among the workers, causing them to think that the Lord Roosevelt will continue to scatter some manna their way.

Pruning the Relief Rolls

Meanwhile, the relief rolls are being pruned feverishly to eliminate every individual worker who cannot comply with the intricate rulings of those who fatten on poverty. The state commission has instructed its army of local flunkies to submit a list of their clients with the reasons for retaining them on relief. Every client, certified since November 1st is being dropped from the WPA regardless of his personal circumstances. I know one young teacher, employed on an adult education project, who is entirely typical of those receiving the axe without even the formality of advance notice. This particular client has a pregnant wife, a child, his father, and his mother to support.

The case workers, who has thus turned five people into the breadline, is a woman who has never touched a broom nor picked a row of cotton in her life. When she was appointed to this position two years ago, she boasted to relief clients that she was very glad to have this employment. "I have had nothing money," she said.

## Passing the Buck

When a project worker protests to relax standards while formally And when we observe that already sharply. Then the various tend-apparent to any revolutionist. Be- thing and mean nothing. This is over his dismissal, the buck is passed from one official to the other. Each time when the employers will re merman find it necessary to go out will appear in their true colors, of the League sessions, and the For, as this paper has repeatedly plush-chair grafter politely contra-Since a new left wing must be built hypocritical oratory about sanctions, emphasized, the central issue is not dicts the other until finally the on the basis of a program, those still other sessions are being held- Fascism versus Democracy. It is worker abandons his appeal out of advanced workers who constitute gatherings at which the Soviet Union Fascism versus Communism. The rage or sheer disgust. For as long an inkling of the course they will the nucleus of that left-wing must is discussed but to which it is not workers can win only under the as workers can be fooled into believalready begin to differentiate them- invited. And in those sessions, the leadership of a party which marches ing that individual officials are The fact that this is such a tran- selves in the eyes of the members sik-hat bandits drop the idealistic unflaggingly to the historic goal of their friends, they will not resort to courteous purveyors of starvation.

The destitute members of the middle class are not required to sit with those in overalls while waiting their turn to beg for jobs. But this partiality ends at the office doors. Competent professionals, in dire need, are beng denied employment on the cultural projects merely because they have attained some professional standing - although they have simultaneously lost their incomes. On one writers' project, there is not a single bona-fide writer employed, while the supervisor is a very reactionary school teacher. In fact, there are probably not a dozen qualified writers in the state who are working on any of these "literary" projects.

From Red River to Rio Grande

Meanwhile, the old line labor leaders are attempting quickly to muffle the widespread strike sentiment. Any day may witness a spontaneous walkout of project workers, badly organized and led by men who lack strike experience. But, nevertheless, the WPA strike remains the order of the day in Texas, a strike which must be called and won through immediate coordination of all unemployed workers and progressive trade unionists. The only hope for the workers of Texas is a solid strike front from the Red River to the Rio Grande!

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