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Japanese Invasion Threatens Soviet Union

Massed Goodyear Pickets Throw Back Police Army for First Major Victory in Rubber Strike

Support The Rubber Workers!

By FARRELL DOBBS
Secretary-Treasurer of Local 574

A VISIT to the front lines in the struggle for industrial unionism at the Goodyear Rubber plant in Akron lends new courage to union men who have struggled hard for the great day that is now dawning.

The almost unbelievable resourcefulness and the splendid courage and determination shown by the rubber workers proved beyond the question of a doubt that the strength of a giant lies smouldering within the ranks of the American workers in the basic industries.

The solid ranks of industrial unionism are fanning this spirit into a flame. We do not have to witness the demoralizing sight of the members of one craft union walking through the picket lines of another striking craft union to go to work. There is no question of craft distinction in this strike. If you work in the Goodyear plant, you are either in the rubber workers' union and out on the picket line or you are a scab.

On Tuesday morning, February 25, the embattled workers, picketing in violation of a court injunction, calculated to destroy their strength, faced down an army of police and special deputies sent out to enforce the injunction. The picket line holds solid with a picket post at each of the 168 gates of the plant. Around the eleven mile fighting front the slogan is: "Nobody goes in the plant." Those hard bitten cynics who say that the American worker will not fight shall have to change their minds after this forceful demonstration.

The suddenness with which the strike came made it difficult for the strikers to prepare adequate facilities for its conduct. These deficiencies are being rapidly overcome. The present headquarters is not adequate for an assembly hall for the strike but will serve very well as a commissary and headquarters for the strike leaders and field captains. A second and larger assembly place is needed for large gatherings of the strikers and, of equal importance, so that the workers from the other rubber plants and all other Akron workers may come to the proper place to get correct information regarding the strike and to get instructions as to how they may best assist.

On this question there is a second important factor. The management of the company has complete access to the radio, to the advertising columns of the daily papers and to a very large extent to the news and editorial columns also. It is vital that this propaganda of the bosses be counteracted by the strikers. The most effective weapon for this purpose is the daily strike bulletin issued at a regular hour and widely distributed. Once started, the strike bulletin easily becomes self-supporting. The experiences of the Minneapolis truck drivers, the Toledo Chevrolet strike, the St. Louis Gas House strike, and many others stand as living proof of the value of a daily strike bulletin. The rubber workers will find such a paper eagerly received and closely read by all workers.

Outside the city of Akron it is difficult to get accurate information about the strike because of the manner in which the daily papers are suppressing it. This is done because the bosses in steel, auto, and the other big industries do not want the workers to know of this powerful demonstration of industrial union strength. But the rubber workers do want the other workers to know about their fight and they want their support. The strike committee should send systematic press releases to all papers in the country. The daily strike bulletin is the best instrument with which to do this.

It is heartening to observe that the Committee for Industrial Organization is sending money and men to aid the Akron strikers. This strike is of vital interest to the industrial union movement and the most practical work that the C.I.O. can do is to give the strike unstinted support. The Akron strike must be won. The craft unionists must not be permitted to sell the strike out in an effort to stifle the rising sentiment for industrial unionism. There is a grave danger of such a thing happening. Especially when Secretary Perkins' "ace mediator," McGrady, is reported to have been ordered to Akron to effect a "settlement." A very large part of the responsibility in this strike rests with the C.I.O. The workers are furnishing the fighting forces. They must have leadership, a leadership conscious of the full import of the forces moving today in the national struggle and capable of guiding the strikers through the treacherous "settlement" proposals which have wrecked every attempt at unionizing the big industries.

The Goodyear strike in Akron must be won. All labor must rally to support the fight. The workers in every city can aid by opening an intensive organization drive in all Goodyear agencies.

Carry the fight to Goodyear! Get the strike news from the rubber workers, not from the bosses' papers! Fight to build industrial unionism!

Nations Jockey for War at London Naval Conference

The London Naval Conference is still dragging along. It has lost the participation of Japan and is about to lose the participation of Italy. It has degenerated into an open game for allies and positions in the next war—not that Naval Conferences are ever anything else, but the London Conference is the last of the series and comes nearer the actual outbreak of the war, when the nations are less concerned about concealing their true purposes. In the earlier conferences they made some pretense of peaceful intentions, now they practically admit that they are jockeying for war.

Liberals represent Naval Conferences as struggles between Good and Evil, struggles between peace and war. Actually they are nothing more than the sum of the warring forces involved. Japan has withdrawn from the London Conference because she couldn't get the United States and Great Britain to agree that she needed a bigger navy to protect her interests in the Pacific and in China from Great Britain and the United States. Italy is reported about to withdraw because "he can't get Britain and France to agree to withdraw sanctions against Italy." (Continued on Page 2)

Union Threatens General Strike if Militia is Called Out

By CARL O'SHEA
AKRON, Feb. 25.—The Goodyear rubber strike is more firmly entrenched tonight than ever, with 168 picket posts being maintained on an eleven-mile front. This morning the 15,000 strikers had a showdown with the forces of "law and order," which resulted in a smashing victory for the union. Early in the day word reached strike headquarters that Sheriff Flower Police Chief Boss, with 300 deputies and 130 cops, were going to charge the picket line at ten A.M. and attempt to break the back of the strike with violence.

As the zero hour neared, hundreds of pickets packed into the strike headquarters across from the struck plant. Thousands more took the streets in front of the picket posts. Each picket was well provided with "fire wood." Up the hill marched the forces of law and order. Grimly the strikers waited. The cops in the lead, the strike-breakers marched closer and closer to the massed rubber workers. The line refused to budge. Finally Boss halted his men a few feet from the taut strikers. Nervously, he looked the situation over. He was out-stared. Breaking down, he cried out, "I've never led anyone into a goddam slaughter-house, and I'm not going to now." The cops broke ranks, the deputies marched down the hill again, to the accompaniment of tremendous jeers and boo's from the massed pickets. One of the deputies suddenly clutched his stomach and became violently ill.

The strikers, with their magnificent demonstration of militancy and determination, had carried the day. Inside the strike headquarters this evening was a milling crowd of proud strikers enthusiastically discussing the way in which they had called the bluff of the hard-boiled Sheriff Jim Flowers, and his strike-breaker. Each picket post had its allotment of ten strikers, hurled around a stove inside a wind-break. Every two hours, cars came around delivering hot lunches.

Women Very Active
One of the best weapons that the (Continued on Page 2)

Perspectives of the Akron Strike

By JACK WILSON

It is highly significant that precisely in that factory—Goodyear—where the company union is 17 years old and the rubber workers' bonafide union admittedly the weakest, that the strike in the rubber industry should begin! This happened because Goodyear workers were given absolutely no concessions but driven downward constantly, thus storing up an explosive force which blew up when the last sitdown provided the spark. Other rubber workers' unions have obtained minor concessions and thus basic antagonisms were dulled.

Sit Down Hits Chem. Plant in Akron Boro

500 Barberton Workers Force Managers to Vacate

BARBERTON, Ohio, Feb. 22.—Company officials of the Columbia Chemical Co. in Barberton, a large industrial suburb of Akron, Ohio, finally moved to negotiate a strike which started last Wednesday when 500 workers seized control of the factory and forced the management to vacate. The men are firmly entrenched and refuse to leave the plant until the company, which is owned by the Mellon interests, grants a 4 cents hourly increase in wages and full pay for every day of the strike.

The "it-down" strike resulted when the management refused to meet the demand of 50 pipettists for a 4 cents hourly wage raise. The union took up the fight under the militant leadership of A. R. Lee, union president, and called for a general wage increase. Wednesday, 500 men entered the plant, stopped the machinery, and despite the threats and pleading of the company have remained in the factory since.

Meanwhile, 400 other workers are (Continued on Page 2)

War Looms as Anti-Soviet Gang Seizes Nippon Gov't

Military Clique Wreaks Vengeance on "Moderates" in First Step to Hasten Drive of Imperial Conquest and Assault on Soviet Union

By LO SEN

Establishment of an open military dictatorship in Japan as a result of Wednesday's putsch in Tokyo, will bring war against the Soviet Union on to the immediate order of the day for Japanese imperialism.

The drive of Japanese-controlled Manchu-Mongol forces across Chahar and Suiyuan for the conquest of Inner Mongolia will be accelerated. Border conflicts along the Manchukuo-Outer Mongolian frontier will be carried to the point of major hostilities.

Along that vast border between two worlds, from Vladivostok to Manchui, the long-heralded war of predatory imperialism against the Workers' State will finally blaze.

This is the immediate threat, the immediate meaning of Wednesday's bloody events in Tokyo. This is the immediate alarm for the working class of the entire world.

Green Urged To Organize Steel Plants

CIO Challenges Old Guard in Answer to Threat of Mass Expulsion

By ARNE SWABECK

Some new verbal broadsides have been fired in the ever sharpening conflict between the A. F. of L. craft union bureaucrats and the official leaders of the Committee for Industrial Organization. At the same time the repercussions from this conflict begin to penetrate deeply into the broadest layers of the movement.

In the name of the Executive Council, Wm. Green has issued a warning to all local and federal union, to all State Federations and city central labor bodies, that it will not tolerate any organization that "gives allegiance, assistance or support to the Committee for Industrial Organization, or any other organization which attempt to usurp the functions of the American Federation of Labor." While no exact penalties were specified, it is reported that the intention is to revoke the charters of any organization found guilty of giving such allegiance.

In reply the C. I. O. once again defied the Executive Council and indicated that it would continue its work. Not only did the C. I. O. refuse to dissolve but it challenged the A. F. of L. to undertake a serious campaign of organization in the steel industry, to which the committee would contribute a half million dollars and the services of trained organizers. Two conditions, however, the C. I. O. considered necessary for success: Firstly, that the "organization must be along industrial lines," and, secondly, "the leadership of the campaign must be such as to inspire confidence of success."

With these developments it becomes increasingly clear that fundamentally the conflict in the A. F. of L. centers around the issue of organization of the millions of unorganized workers, and especially those employed in the basic industries.

Steel Industry Pivotal

Naturally the steel industry occupies in this respect a pivotal position. To the trade unionists, real unity of organization is unthinkable without the inclusion of the steel industry. The full extension of the powers of union organization is well nigh impossible with the steel industry remaining unorganized. Moreover, the steel barons, fighting to preserve their feudal power, have for a long time been the backbone of the employers' resistance to every working class advance. An aggressive campaign for the organization of the steel industry is therefore becoming an ever more pressing necessity.

Thus the threat made by the craft union bureaucrats of disciplinary measures to be taken against the unions that may give allegiance and support to the C. I. O., has been met by a challenge to organize the unorganized. There need be little doubt which is the most effective. And this applies not only with (Continued on Page 4)

Early Wednesday morning a band of officers of the First Japanese Division, about to entrain for duty in Manchukuo, murdered Premier Okada, Finance Minister Takahashi, Lord Privy Seal Viscount Saito and Gen. Watanabe, a high-ranking military officer.

Cent onrship Clamps Down

Japan was immediately blanketed in one of the most complete censorship ever established in the Far East. For four hours the world waited to learn what had happened in Tokyo while hints of the morning's work seeped out through Manchukuo and along diplomatic circuits from Singapore to London.

Finally came a laconic War Office Communiqué, confirming the assassinations.

Fumio Goto, Minister of the Interior under Okada, was ordered to take over the premiership. He did. His first announcement was that "all was absolutely calm." A few hours later he resigned. Martial law was clamped down on Tokyo. Lieut. Gen. Kashi, commander of the capital garrison, was appointed Military Governor of the city with full authority to administer rigid martial law. The full First and Second Fleet were ordered to Tokyo and Osaka Bays and bluejackets were landed. Tokyo was completely in the hands of the Supreme War Council.

Military Wants No "Moderates"

At present writing, 24 hours after the events, Feb. 26 it was still not clear whether Japan would pass from a semi-military to an open, undisguised, untrammeled dictatorship of those representatives of Japanese finance capital who believe that the present moment is the moment to strike on continental Asia for the further glory of the Empire. Whatever government emerges from the coup, it is clear that its orientation will be in the direction of a hardening intransigence and surrender to the impatience of the military arm of Japanese imperialism.

Wednesday's coup was an answer to two tendencies which have recently shown signs of making headway in Japan.

One was the clear and unmistakable turn of the mass sea away from the propaganda in favor of the imperialist drive of expansion on the continent, as shown in the elections in which the more "moderate" Minseitō was given preference over the more "aggressive" Seiyūkai party and in which, what was more important, the Japanese Social Masses (Socialist) Party polled 629,000 votes, an increase of 500 per cent and an unmistakable sign of awakening in the rank of the Japanese workers.

Assassinated Ministers too "Slow"

The second tendency was represented to a certain extent by the government heads who were assassinated, Okada, Takahashi and Saito. This was the tendency to let the program of imperialist expansion proceed at a somewhat slower, less costly tempo, to consolidate the gains thus far won in China (conquest of Manchukuo and establishment of a virtual protectorate over North China) by getting the Nanking Government's signature on a treaty, and even to postpone for the time being the attack on the Soviet Union, at least until the European situation boiled over and created a European diversion which would serve Japanese imperialist purposes, as in 1914.

In pursuance of this policy, the Okada government had been pursuing a policy of exerting strong diplomatic pressure upon Nanking accompanied only by military demonstrations along the Manchukuo (Continued on Page 2)

Terror Rages as Arkansas Bosses Battle with Starving Sharecroppers

Death by Hunger Stalks On Pres. Roosevelt's Poor Farms

By James Evans.

EARLE, Ark.—The share croppers of Crittenden county are going through hell. This whole area is a picture of starvation, eviction, and terror. Every militant cropper lives under a perpetual sentence of death. Any day, he may be shot from ambush by one of the planter despots. Any night, some mob of landlords may drag him from his hovel and string him up to the nearest tree.

Two meetings were raided recently by mobs composed of planters, landlord, deputies, and riding bosses. Howard Kester, Secretary of the Central Defense Committee of the Union, and H.I. Goldberger, lawyer retained by the organization, were dragged from the platform of a church, beaten and threatened with lynching. The five hundred cropper attending the meeting were attacked with clubs and axe handles. One of the deputies, an extremely drunken Southern gentleman, threatened to bring machine guns if the cropper dared to hold another meeting.

The "Law" Breaks into a Meeting
At a second meeting held in St. Peter's Church, Constable Everett Hood and a posse entered with shotguns manifesting the evident intention of firing into the gathering. Hood was at first disarmed by Doorkeeper Jim Ball. The doorkeeper was arrested on charges of assault with intent to kill. After Ball had been jailed, the posse

scoured the road, firing on the croppers who were going home from the meeting. Two unarmed men were shot in the back by these hired guerrillas.

Simon Bas, leader of the Earle local, and three others were arrested the next day while returning from a conference with union officials in Memphis. The drumhead court at Marion refused them legal counsel and hurriedly sentenced them to one year each on charges of "rioting." This case is now under appeal, and widespread mass support is needed to prevent the reloading of these fighters against Southern feudalism. District Attorney Denver Dudley, alert to prosecute croppers and the Union, naturally refuses to take any action against the official banditti of this section.

Even middle-class humanitarians are being threatened if they try to assist the croppers. A liberal minister attempted to find temporary shelters for the evicted croppers. The planter deacons held a special meeting and forbade him from "engaging in further subversive activities." The minister complied; a revolutionist would have defied.

Meanwhile, the planters have decreed that all Union members must go. People are living in tents on cold dirt floors, in abandoned railway stations, and in church buildings belonging to share-cropper congregations. Some families are huddling nine to a room in cabins of croppers who have not yet been evicted. Very often, these dispossessed rural laborers must live entirely on hoe-cake and green beans.

A number of families have been settled on the Anderson Rehabilitation Farm, a project that was advertised to cure the ailments of the Earle County croppers. Contrary to the promises of the case workers, the remedy seem about to kill the victims. One six-year old child starved to death on this Roosevelt poor farm, last year. The tenant remaining find themselves up against the same old proposition: their cotton taken to pay for "furnish"—with Mr. President subtitled for Mr. Planter, Floyd Sharp, Arkansas State Administrator, lyingly maintains that all evicted families are being supplied with food and shelter.

The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union is very confused politically, still relying to a great extent on "law and order" although the croppers have been disfranchised by the sovereign state of Arkansas. Nevertheless, it is a growing challenge to the whole plantation system, perhaps the greatest expression of mass upheaval in the South since the pre-war slave rebellion. Highly significant is the formation of defense squads for exclusively Negro local by white croppers.

The dying agricultural system of the South must be overthrown, and its beneficiaries expropriated by the tenants themselves. This is a task for the future. Today, the Union must be supported by protest actions and by donations if it is to continue its work. Funds are urgently needed and should be sent to the Union at Box 5215, Memphis, Tennessee.