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Call for Revolutionary Mass Action in France

Fourth Internationalists Alone Follow Liebknecht Slogan in Rhineland Crisis

With the courage that immortalized the name of Liebknecht, the Fourth Internationalists of France—the Bolshevik-Leninist Group and Revolutionary Socialist Youth—hoisted the banner of revolutionary action while Stalinist and social democratic leaders climbed on the patriotic bandwagon and Hitler occupied the Rhineland. Their appeal to the workers, peasants and soldiers of France is reproduced in full below:

Hitler Germany's repudiation of the Locarno and Versailles treaties which "demilitarized" the left bank of the Rhine brings the world to the brink of war once more.

Once more capitalism under the guise of fascism or the cloak of "democracy" blindfolds the masses of the different countries for a new slaughter.

Hitler and the Nazis have smashed the German working class parties with terror and corruption. Now the Brown-shirt leader of the international counter-revolution imposes new and more crushing burdens upon the German working class and blindfolds it for coming destruction and death on the plains of Eastern Europe or on the Rhine.

The French bourgeoisie, the Schneiders, the de Wendels, the Herrlots, the la Rocques, the Laval and the Sarrauts are redoubling their efforts to blindfold the French proletariat for the new holocaust.

Bribing and promising, the French bourgeoisie once more preaches Sacred Union of the exploiters and the exploited, of the oppressors and the oppressed. The leaders of the French working class parties of the Second and Third Internationals, prostituted to the pseudo-democracy of the Bourgeoisie and the capitalist press, rally to Sarraut as they rallied to Laval on Dec. 8th, 1935.

Thus the monstrous pact of 1914 between the men who pretend to speak in the name of the workers and the governing capitalist and militarist oppressors of the workers is consummated once more.

We, Bolshevik-Leninists and Revolutionary Socialist Youth, soldiers of the growing Fourth International, we on the contrary speak from the heart of the exploited masses. In their name we reply to the capitalist governments, to Sarraut and his agents: Off with the masks! The proletariat will take no part in preparing your war, unless in the name of rapacious capitalism which oppresses hundreds of millions throughout the entire world. Today as in 1914, the hired press pretends that "democracy" is legitimately defending itself against

Picket N.Y. W.P.A. Unions Aid Sac'to Victim

For the past few weeks the W.P.A. Administration in New York, with Victor Ridder at its head had initiated a campaign to fire forty thousand W.P.A. workers in the local vicinity. Already the axe has fallen on some thousands and will continue to fall each week until June 15, when the estimated "economy program" of the Administration will be completed.

Faced with the prospect of "seasonal pickup" in the Spring and Summer, the Administration has sent out releases to the effect that the workers they are "releasing" will have no difficulty in finding work at their normal trades. The absurdity of this statement is obvious.

Daily picket lines are being maintained before the Port Authority Building. Workers picketing have been slugged by armed guards. Daily arrests have been made. The police in several instances have taken up their patrol wagons on the huge freight elevators and arrested the representatives of the City Projects Council and the Workers Alliance. An order for the use of tear gas against pickets and demonstrators was reported though Mr. Ridder testily denied that he had issued any such order.

It is obvious that on the projects that are well organized, the order to pare off ten or twenty percent will not go through. On Project 1621 over thirty enumerators were fired. At this writing it is reported that they are to be reinstated in a week without the loss of pay.

On April 4 a huge demonstration is planned at the office of the W.P.A. All unemployed workers, all W.P.A. workers, white collar and laborers should attend.

Do not let the "economy program" go through. It is economy at the expense of the workers! Be there on April 4th.

"barbarism." With this criminal lie the opportunist parties would make the French soldiers once more the docile slaves of the General Staff, of Creusot and the Bank of France. History repeats itself not as a farce, but as a gruesome tragedy. The Jouhauxs, the Blums and Cachins of yesterday repeat their roles. Thorez, Ducloux, Doriot and others lend them new and energetic support.

Against the Kaiser, in 1914, these same men preached defense of "republican traditions," of "liberty," of "democracy." And for the defense of liberty they led us under an all-powerful militarist dictatorship to frightful suffering and the slaughter of a million and a half of our men and of ten million throughout the world.

Today as yesterday we must unmask this shameless lie, a hundred times more cynical in 1936 than in 1914.

Italian and German fascism prepare and launch the war; but so does the French Republic, the English Monarchy, the American Democracy, so do the Balkan tyrant lackeys of French and English capital.

It is not the form of government that is responsible for war. It is imperialism, capitalism, the inhuman exploitation of man by man, that breeds war as "clouds breed the storm." Capitalism rules not only in Hitler's Germany but also in Sarraut's France.

The Lie of the Defense of Democracy

In every country of the world armament grows incessantly. In the United States billions have just been appropriated for an immense armament increase. In Great Britain too a gigantic plan has just been formulated for the investment of billions in airplanes, cannon and battleships. In Japan the army and navy can no longer restrain their impatient lust to conquer Asia. Italy continues to put the Ethiopian people to fire and sword. In Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Balkans, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, ev-

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Strike Sweeps Pa. Projects

Spanish Masses Demand Results

Unemployed and Land Workers Begin to Take Matters into Own Hands; Azana Dismayed

By ALFREDO ROJAS

The Spanish proletariat has shoved its fist through the electoral agreement under which the republican bourgeoisie is elected and is governing.

Four weeks of demonstrations for unemployment relief, culminating in a huge march on Seville, forced the Azana government to throw into the discard its pompous declaration

This declaration was point V of the electoral agreement with the workers' parties, in the following terms:

"The Republics do not accept the subsidy to unemployed men solicited by the workers' delegation. They believe that the measures of agrarian policy and those to be carried out in industry, public works and, in sum, the whole plan of national reconstruction, will fulfill not only its own ends but will also the essential task of absorbing unemployment."

Unemployed Forcing Action

No systematic agitation against this position was carried on by the Socialist and Communist press either before or after the elections. But spontaneously the demonstrators which celebrated the electoral victory found the masses raising unemployment relief as one of their chief demands. With a million unemployed in a comparatively small population, relief to the unemployed became a burning issue, which broke the bounds of the agreement and of the passivity of the proletarian leaders.

Finally, on March 23, the whole countryside converged on Seville and marched on the office of the civil governor, who was forced to promise that the government would alleviate the situation. The governor also ordered the owners of a closed pottery factory to re-open and pay wages.

Shortly afterward, the cabinet announced it would ask the Cortes to create a special fund out of which to pay emergency unemployment relief.

Struggle Sharpens in S.P.

The speed with which the masses drove the government to take action on this basic question is evidenced by the fact that it caught the right-wing Socialists completely unawares. Only two days before, the Socialist organization of Gallarta in Vizcaya Province, stronghold of the "moderate," Indalecio Prieto, passed a resolution for "old-age assistance" but passed by in silence the question of unemployment relief.

The movement of the masses is reflected in the sharpening of the struggle inside the Socialist party. The Gallarta organization passed a resolution denouncing the left-Socialist groups of Madrid on the pretext of violations of party discipline. They also voted to recommend that the national convention approve organic union between the Socialist Party and the Stalinists, and to authorize the Socialists to enter a bourgeois coalition cabinet.

The left-Socialists of Madrid have refused to accept the right-

Easy Terms for Socialists Victory for Austrian Labor

The trial of the thirty Austrian social democrats in Vienna last week came to a surprising conclusion. Eighteen of the defendants were acquitted and twelve received six to twenty month sentences.

This must be considered a victory for the Austrian working class—for the judge was reported to be unusually harsh on political prisoners and at least to two of the defendants were liable to death.

The prisoners have not yet been freed, and they can be sent back to concentration camps by the police under the present Austrian law.

The whole proceeding was a tribute to the fighting strength of the Austrian workers, who instilled a healthy respect in the Austrian capitalists on February 1934. Compare the conditions of this trial with the conditions in Nazi Germany, where the working class went down without struggle.

The policy of the defense in the

courtroom, however, completely failed to recognize its own strength. The New York Times correspondent reported on March 17th that the defendants said in substance, "Restore democracy and our stolen property and we'll fight even under your standards against the increasing Nazi danger. . . . Other prisoners pointed out that the present weak regime in Austria could not rely on its small professional army for defense. . . . They said such defense could come only from the mass of Austrian workers." On March 18th it was reported, "Roman Felleis, one of the leading defendants. . . said the underground movement was not directed at the state but was an opposition party of men holding the same principles as those who in democracies could enter parliament and even form governments. The socialists in Austria demand the same right to agitate as. . . the

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From Fish to Browder

Marcantonio Takes Another Leap on His Flying Trapeze

The local Stalinists in their frantic efforts to find an American edition of a French Daladier, a Czech Benes or a Spanish Azana upon whom to hang the mantle of People's Front leadership, finally found it in the person of one Vito Marcantonio.

Who is Vito? Vito is everything. A Republican congressman, a south-sayer for Italian fascism, a Stalinist stooge, a one hundred and some odd percent American, a silver-tongued demagogue and a shrewd vote-catcher, in other words, the best possible representative (of Stalinism) to lead a local all-inclusive, all-class, petty bourgeois and not-so-petty bourgeois; intellectual and illiterate; "incipient fascist" and anti-fascist farmer and labor party.

Wherever local Stalinism rears its head in the mass organizations there Marcantonio rides the crest of the waves. This Marcantonio is chief spokesman. There Marcantonio leads. . . . whether it be in the singing of the Star Spangled Banner or in calling for the above mentioned farmer and labor party.

Marcantonio hails formation of farmer-labor party, screeches the Daily Worker and immediately the ex-"gin-soaked social fascist" and now comrade and class-brother Heywood Brown rises to nominate Vito as candidate for mayor on the farmer-labor ticket.

Marcantonio hails. . . the king of Italy. Marcantonio aids. . . the Italian (fascist) red-cross. Marcantonio toasts. . . the regime in Italy, reports an Italian fascist paper.

Marcantonio defends the rights of the "peepul" in congress, hiccoughs the New Masses.

Marcantonio urges support of people's candidates in fight for farmer labor party, gurgles the Daily Worker.

Marcantonio urges support of arch red-baiter, Hamilton Fish Jr. as a delegate to the Republican national convention, reports the New York Times.

Marcantonio gives Ham Fish clean bill of health for his past anti-labor activities by declaring: "He (Fish) has served in congress for sixteen years and has stood for social and industrial justice and a square deal for labor and small business interests." The white-haired boy of People's Front and Farmer-labor Stalinism.

Marcantonio is for Stalin in Russia—for Mussolini in Italy and for William Edgar Borah in the United States.

Sit Down Wins In Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS, March 25.—The first sit down strike here ended in a complete victory for the three hundred workers of the J. R. Clark woodware factory on March 25, after three days' occupation of the plant during which the members of Furniture Workers Local 1859 burned checkers, ping pong, and cards while waiting for the management to come across.

The strike was called after a union member was fired for "using foul and obscene language" to a supervisor. The supervisor had been trying to provoke an outburst so that the company could have an excuse for an attack on the union which had previously gained a written agreement by the threat of a strike.

The sit-down was called for March 23 when the men all entered the factory, sat down at their machines, but refused to work. Out of three hundred workers, three hundred refused to work.

All doors to the plant were guarded from the inside by strikers and a large sign saying "No help wanted" was hung out for the attention of any would-be-scabs.

Food was carried in to the strikers by members of Local 574. An officer of Local 574 was also active in negotiating the agreement which contained all the union's demands including the reinstatement of the fired worker and a provision that future firing would have to be referred to a union committee which would have final say until the arbitration.

Eastern Part of State Tied Up

7,000 WPA Workers Respond to Call of Joint Action Committee of Unemployed and Unions

ALLENTOWN, March 24.—More than two thousand WPA workers on sixty-two Lehigh County projects went out yesterday in a well-planned strike against the Federal time order and for better conditions. Today they were joined by five thousand more WPA men from Carbon county as the strike is spreading throughout Eastern Pennsylvania.

The strike came after a mass meeting in Allentown on March 22 had been called by a joint Action Council of Pennsylvania unemployed organizations. The men reported for work on the morning of March 23 when their elected shop stewards on each project informed the authorities that they were going out. "Mr. Mack's Funeral Procession," the strikers' name for a flying squad, closed down all the outlying projects in the county.

The authorities are reported to be frantic. The Federal Administrator for the district, Henry J. Mack, hastened to issue a statement saying he was not "excited" about the strike, and threatening to cut all strikers off WPA and relief.

A significant event during the strike was the march on the City Hall of eight hundred WPA workers, who camped there until five over-worked clerks had changed their registration from Democratic and Republican to Socialist.

The authorities' threats to cut the men off relief were answered by preparations for a tremendous three county mass action for relief. "You can't starve 10,000 workers and get away with it," was the statement of one of the unemployed leaders.

The strike is unusually well organized, with job stewards on each project, a joint action committee to coordinate the activities of all unemployed organizations in the field, and highly efficient flying squads which have been formed entirely by the WPA workers. Although police were put on extra duty and served out nightsticks at the first news of the strike, the authorities retracted this order when they found that the strikers' ranks were solidly organized and so well-coordinated that there was little chance of provoking a riot.

Blacklist Ruled Out in Akron Fact

Workers Feel Strengthened Though Settlement is Compromise

AKRON.—After five weeks of valiant battle the striking rubber workers finally compelled the Goodyear company to offer terms of an agreement, which by no means represented all that the strikers desired, but nevertheless became acceptable to them. This agreement was ratified by an overwhelming majority vote in a meeting of 5,000 Goodyear strikers. It is a compromise, and while it does not rectify many of the serious evils out of which the strike arose, the qualified union recognition that it contains, marks a distinct forward step for the rubber workers union.

Perhaps the best testimony to this fact is given by the enormous strides this union made during the strike and immediately upon the conclusion of the agreement. The Goodyear local experienced a veritable mushroom growth and it counts within its ranks at the time of this writing 5,000 more members than when the strike began. Many new members also joined the Firestone and Goodrich locals. And finally, following the meeting which ratified the agreement, strikers and sympathizers numbering over 10,000 staged a mammoth demonstration fanning the entire downtown district and displaying their defiance in front of the vigilante headquarters. Showing their continued solidarity the demonstrators shouted: "We will make this the greatest victory possible."

No Discrimination

The agreement arrived at contains several points that are vague and capable of interpretation by the company to suit its purposes. But the very first point provides for the return of all strikers without discrimination. Usually this is considered a cardinal feature of a strike settlement and this guarantee means a distinct gain scored by the Akron strikers. Besides this guarantee cancels the series of lay-off notices which precipitated the strike and it marks a considerable change of attitude from the recent announcements made by the company spokesmen that under no condition would

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ALLENTOWN, Pa., March 20.—Thousands of WPA workers throughout Eastern Pennsylvania are preparing for strike action under the leadership of a regional Joint Action Committee set up by the affiliates in this district of the Pennsylvania Unemployed League; the Pennsylvania Security League and Central Trades and Labor Councils of the American Federation of Labor.

The bone of contention between the project workers and the Works Progress Administration is the new order issued as WPA Bulletin No. 812, which requires that time lost by workers through "circumstances beyond their control" shall be made up, the hours not to "exceed the maximum of eight per day and 40 hours per week. Organizations of the project workers as well as organized labor as a whole, feel that this step is but a preliminary to the imposition of the forty-hour week in place of the thirty-hour week now in force on WPA. Organized labor feels that should this move succeed, a serious blow would be dealt to the thirty-hour week movement endorsed by the American Federation of Labor.

County organizations of project workers that have already been affiliated to the Joint Action Committee and joined in the strike movement include those of Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon, Monroe, Berks and Bucks counties. Organizations in outlying regions have requested representation on the Regional Committee and are also preparing for action.

Demands Formulated by Committee

1. The enforcement of the principle of the "Security Wage," no time lost by "circumstances beyond their (the workers') control" to be made up.
2. Strict enforcement of the original WPA provisions for the thirty-hour week and 120-hour month.
3. The minimum \$94-a-month wage for all project workers.
4. The ouster of state WPA administrator Edward N. Jones for his "record of vicious anti-labor activities."

Ouster of Jones One of Main Demands

The demands for the ouster of Administrator Jones is the culmination of a long dispute between labor organizations and Mr. Jones over the entire period of his incumbency. This dispute was brought to a high pitch when Mr. Jones recently issued a circular under the letterhead of the WPA, attacking Mr. Stephen Rauschenbusch, formerly counsel for the Senate Committee investigating the munitions manufacturers and their financial backers. Mr. Rauschenbusch is at the

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