

# Roosevelt Prepares for New Imperialist War in Far-East Against Japan

# Widick Runs for Mayor in Akron

By Ed Thorn

(Cont. from page 1) shall kill him, we shall ourselves die, taking concerted, collective action against this vicious aggressor—for justice, for freedom, for the sanctity of international obligations, and for peace.

Above all, for peace "Peace" is the theme that runs through this Chicago war-cry. With a grim and bitter irony, it is for peace that the United States will wage the coming war, the war that will be more completely devastating than anything before known in history.

Absurd and intellectually contradictory as it may seem, the chief war slogan is the call for peace. And yet not so absurd nor so contradictory when "peace" is but a phase of the policy of imperialism. Already during the Ethiopian affair we saw in England how the search for peace becomes the demand for war. The great League of Nations "peace" society, comprising the bulk of adult English citizens, in a few weeks was transformed into a body clamoring for war.

They wanted peace; and to get it they demanded "action"—boycott, sanctions—against the "peace-breaking aggressor," Italy. But effective sanctions could be carried out only backed by military and naval force, only by war. Thus their conception of peace, bounded by an acceptance of imperialist society, leads straight toward war.

## Roosevelt Leads to War

It is not in the least different with Roosevelt's programs. How is the United States to "ensure peace"? Not by talk or pleading. The "aggressor nations" do not go to war by accident or for amusement. They go because driven by intolerable necessity, by the overpowering strain of their internal conflicts. For them it is a life and death question. They can be stopped, therefore, only by acts. And what acts? Only by force, by a force more powerful than their force: by guns, ships, airplanes. Only, that is to say, by war.

How easy it would be if the struggle were in truth over "peace", "justice", "morality", "respect for obligations", these easy rhetorical generalities that slip so readily from the tongues of statesmen. All could be settled in church or by a philosophical debate. Unfortunately, the genuine stakes are more palpable: markets, colonies, raw materials, fields for investment. And what one gets means that much less for the others; and there are not enough to go around. It is these that are at issue, the chances to utilize these to keep the profits of finance-capital threatened ever more roughly by the decay of the world capitalist order, from disappearing altogether. The Chicago address only anoints these real issues with the sacred oil of noble phrases.

## Pacifism Aids War

How ruthlessly does Roosevelt's address expose the true meaning of pacifism and social-patriotism! Here he springs the trap which imperialism has in readiness for pacifism, when the issue comes. What is left now of all shades and varieties of pacifism? Is not the leader of American imperialism the greatest pacifist of them all? Does not the call for Peace sound more roundly from his lips? He is one who takes his pacifism seriously. Yes, he is ready to make war for peace. And behind the chariot of his slogans he draws the whole motley of the pacifist groups and organizations; into his mobilization of opinion for the war he incorporates all of their ideology. This, indeed, is the function of

pacifism under imperialism: to aid in the ideological preparation for war. And this is what is shown so bluntly by Roosevelt's speech. All of the publications, meetings, articles, propaganda of the pacifists have only given moral standing to the slogans of war.

Far more directly, even, is this the case with the treachery of the social-patriots. What have they said that Roosevelt does not now say with more assurance and more authority? Their policy has been, in fact, merely the anticipation of the not yet publicly announced policy of American imperialism. And now, with the Chicago address, the alignment is far clearer: they stand there together, the head of the government and the social-patriots, ready to make the war.

Can this be doubted? Let anyone who doubts read the Daily Worker for the day following the Chicago address. Earl Browder writes on the front page:

"The Communist Party welcomes the President's declaration of a positive peace policy for the United States. There is not the slightest doubt that it embodies the essential features of what is the only way by which American can be kept out of war... Such a policy has been called for in the United States by the Communist Party, as well as by all clear-headed peace advocates. We can therefore only express our gratification that the President has given such a sharply formulated and popular expression to such a policy, and put it forward as his own." And the next day, the headline: "The President Has Spoken: Let the People Act."

## Traiters in Labor's Ranks

Let their be no illusions. Even Roosevelt and his class associates, with all their great popularity, could not unaided carry out the mobilization of public opinion for the war. They are the direct representatives of the bourgeoisie, and the masses, even in a country so little developed in class consciousness as this, are at least sufficiently aware of this to distrust them when face to face with the war. It is the traitors within the working class, the agents of Roosevelt and his class among the masses, the Greens, Lewises, Waldmans, Browders, who alone can complete the winning of the support of the masses to the war.

Among the traitors, the first place is taken most viciously by the Stalinists. Internationally as well as nationally, their entire policy centers around preparation for the war; acting as agents of the hangmen of the Kremlin, they concentrate their

every effort in the attempt to line up popular enthusiasm within the democratic imperialist powers for a war against the nations which Stalin expects will be his enemies. This is the bloody thread that runs through the Moscow frame-ups the crushing of the Spanish revolution, the lynching of Nin, the kidnapping of Wolf, the gangster murder of Reiss in Switzerland, the strike-breaking and flag-waving in France, the boot-licking of the American Legion, the labor bureaucrats and the capitalist politicians in this country.

And let no one imagine that their support of the war in this country will stop with words, with speeches on the virtues of the Constitution, and articles on the American Home. The vigilante groups and the American Legion will find time hanging on their hands as the war draws nearer and finally begins: for the Stalinists will be ahead of them at their work. The Stalinists will take the lead in building the lynch spirit against all those who oppose the war, and in the actual lynching as well.

Does this seem an exaggeration? Listen to Browder once more, to his speech to the Massachusetts State Convention of the Communist Party:

## Asks for Lyncher's Job

"The Communist Party repudiates now as in the past, all theories or proposals looking toward a forcible imposition of Socialism or any utopia upon the majority of the people. We repudiate the "reckless resolve to seize power" by any minority. If there should arise in America anything similar to the situation in Spain, where the democratic republic while repulsing the fascist invasion was stabbed in the back by the "uncontrollable extremists" (a minority of the anarchists and the Trotskyist P. O. U. M.) then we, like our brothers of the Spanish Communist Party would be in the forefront of the struggle to suppress such "extremists", who are really agents of fascism, and render them harmless."

Here is Browder's written guarantee to the ruling class, signed in the blood of the Spanish revolutionists.

In the fight against the war, there is no task more crucial and all-important than the constant, unremitting, uncompromising struggle against Stalinism.

In this country and in every imperialist nation, there is one force and one only that will compel the ruling class to draw back from the war. That force is the power of the revolutionary movement. The fear of revolution alone can delay for any lengthy

The Socialist Party of Akron, Ohio, today announced its entry into the Mayoralty campaign with the candidacy of B. J. Widick, left wing unionist.

The Socialist statement said: "The campaign thus far between Republican Mayor Schroy and Democratic candidate G. L. Patterson has been a mere fight between two capitalist parties for the right to act as the political agent of the rubber companies in exploiting the working class of Akron. The credit of the two major parties being bankrupt, Labor's Non-Partisan League has been utilized as a new tool for the enslavement of the working class of Akron.

"The crucial immediate problem facing this community is a question of lay-offs in the rubber industry, throwing thousands of men into the camp of the unemployed and starving, and creating a severe economic crisis locally. Yet neither of the two candidates has offered, nor can they offer, the workers a constructive solution to this problem created by a declining capitalist system....

"The questions raised by the local campaign are merely a small reflection of the problems confronting Roosevelt's New Dealism nationally; in the "solving" of which the working class of the United States is rapidly being led into an imperialist world war inconceivably more horrible than the last.

"Only revolutionary socialism can give working solutions to these questions. The accusation of "Communism" on the part of

both Republicans and Democrats against each other is sheer demagoguery. It is merely a question of two capitalist parties, one of them supported by the so-called 'Communist' (Stalinist) party, now degenerating to the level of the two capitalist parties....

"Our slogan is: Elect a Socialist Mayor!"

## HALL RYAN

With great sorrow we learn of the death of Comrade Hall Ryan, a prominent and active member of the Revolutionary Socialist Party.

Formerly engaged in full-time work building the Salt Lake City organization, comrade Ryan a short time ago came to Oakland to re-enforce the work there. He gave invaluable service to the Young Peoples Socialist League and to the Socialist Party. His death is a loss to his comrades, his friends and to the movement.

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period the outbreak of the war. In war the ruling class plays for high stakes and risk much; but in revolution it risks everything. A conscious, organized revolutionary party, with the confidence of the decisive sections of the working class, will stop the war, will even be able to achieve the victory of the revolution before the war and thus remove war forever from the world. A revolutionary party, even if without great mass influence, will nevertheless delay the war, and will make certain that from the war itself will issue the socialist revolution.

## War and Revolution

This is the cold and sober fact: the fight against the war, the only possible fight, is the fight for the socialist revolution. There is no other struggle against the war save for the class struggle for the workers for power and for socialism.

There is a deep historic significance in the fact that Roosevelt's address, launching the drive for the mobilization of public opinion for the war, comes

in the midst of the preparation for the Convention whose task it is to organize for the re-building of the revolutionary socialist party in this country. Our Convention, small as it may seem in the eyes of the philistines when compared with the strength of the enemy, is the reply, the only reply, to the war-makers.

The Convention must be made a rallying point for all those who in word and act are against the war, who are resolved to carry the struggle against the war to the end. History has placed this task upon our shoulders. This responsibility cannot be avoided or shifted. We must face it firmly, clearly, unflinchingly and with the profound confidence that springs from our knowledge of the goal which destiny has placed within the reach of the men who have the courage to fight for and grasp it.

**Against the War!**  
**Against the Roosevelt War Plans!**  
**Against Stalinism and every form of Social-Patriotism!**  
**For Peace through the World Socialist Revolution!**