

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

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## Plan Relief Cuts

### N. Y. Police Ban Mass Pickets, Guard Scabs, Arrest Strikers

Smashing through the picket lines of the United Electric and Radio Workers Union at the Presto Lock Corporation plant in Brooklyn the LaGuardia police force escorted scabs into the factory and dragged 15 pickets to jail as the first instalment of labor's reward for its fulsome graise and its support of LaGuardia in the last election.

The pickets fought back militantly against the strike breakers and their escorting police and despite the attack of both mounted and foot police, only four strike breakers got through the lines and into the plant. The arrested pickets were also dragged inside the plant and held there by the police until reinforcements and squad cars arrived to take them to the police station. There they were charged with felonious assault, inciting to riot, malicious mischief and rioting.

That the action of LaGuardia's police in the Presto Lock strike was not the isolated strike breaking of an individual police official but the considered policy of the Police Department was confirmed by the publication of a new order issued by the Department abolishing the right of workers to employ the weapon of mass picketing.

According to reports published in the New York press last Tuesday, police department officials have been instructed not to permit more than six pickets to cover any one industrial or commercial establishment; not to allow pickets to lock arms on the line; and not to permit picketing demonstrations to move from one branch to another of a chain establishment.

The immediate cause of the order appears to be the trouble the police have been having with pickets of the Horn and Hardart Automats. If the order means anything, it means that the administration, acting as an agency of the cafeteria bosses, is intent upon smashing the Automat strike.

Even before the ballots have been completely counted, the city government has thus given a demonstration whom the LaGuardia victory will actually serve.

As so often before, it does not take long to show how disastrous is the policy of class collaboration for the working class. LaGuardia and the capitalist politicians could not be expected to act otherwise—that would mean to betray their class interests. In endorsing LaGuardia and in collaborating with the capitalist politicians to corral the working class vote under the illusion of "Labor Party," the trade union leaders, the Stalinists and the Right Wing Socialists have,

however, betrayed the class interests of the working class. More proofs of this perfidy will not be wanting in the future, just as they were not lacking in the past.

### Newark Students Fight For School

In the middle of September, all students of the Essex County Junior College received notices announcing that school would not open in the fall. The Young Peoples Socialist League understood immediately that this meant a permanent closing of the school and initiated a united front movement in the interests of the 700 students against this measure.

Over 100 delegates from various unions, unemployed organizations and student groups attended a conference to re-open Junior College. Endorsements of the purpose of the conference poured in from numerous district committees of unions and federations. Only the Stalinist-controlled American Youth Congress refused to support the conference. Meanwhile the forces of the conference swung into action. A picket line at WPA headquarters forced a statement that money for the school was available. Two delegations visited the City Commissioners, who promised to provide money for light and heat and a place for the school.

Plans are now under way to start an experimental college that will give the students a means of receiving some education until Essex re-opens. The students are showing their desire for education despite the State Board of education—and the American Youth Congress.

### F. D. R.'s "Planned" Economy

Roosevelt, who boasted that returning prosperity was planned by the administration, sings a different tune as depression sweeps across the country. The scope of the present recession, which is fast wiping out all gains of the upturn, is clearly revealed by the following examples gathered from recent reports.

In ten weeks, Steel, the leader in the upturn, has dismissed 185,000 workers. In two weeks, the closely related coal industry has laid off 130,000 miners, while the balance have been placed on a two-day week work-basis.

Washington announces what every garment worker knew already: a severe slump in the clothing industry. Textile mills are in a similar or worse condition. Auto production drops rapidly, as thousands of auto workers face a workless winter. Unions in the oil, rubber, electrical and radio lines report thousands fired daily. Machine manufacturing is no exception.

C.I.O. leaders in St. Louis seek relief for thousands of members and non-members recently dropped from the payroll. In San Francisco, the state unemployment service reports 300,000 out of work. Chicago reports a sharp rise in unemployment. Ohio tells the same story. Textile mills in New England are, as in Hoover's days, seeking "voluntary" wage reductions. Minneapolis joins the general trend with thousands of new relief applicants.

Decadent capitalism again hammers home the lesson which workers must learn: not through "New Deals" or demagogic promises, but only through the revolutionary overthrow of the outlived capitalist order can peace, prosperity and security be won.

H. Stern.

### Morgenthau Speech Forecasts Congress Attacks on Workers

By B. J. Widick

A brazen attempt to save the profits of Big Business by reducing its taxes and cutting down the already meagre relief program is being made by the Roosevelt administration at the special session of Congress that began this week.

Roosevelt admitted in his message to Congress that he was alarmed by the current business recession with its accompanying tremendous layoffs which reflect the deepening of the basic crisis of capitalism.

The "New Deal" program to meet this crisis was outlined by Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. in his authoritative speech to the Academy of Political Science a few days prior to the opening of Congress.

"A determined movement towards balancing the budget is one of the needed solutions for today's problems," Morgenthau told Wall Street, "to foster the full application of the driving force of private capital."

#### Cries: Reduce Relief!

The Roosevelt regime hopes to balance the budget through, "reducing relief, farm and public works expenditures," Morgenthau declared, "and would try to encourage expansion of private industry through revising taxes found to be inequitable."

This declaration met with the unanimous approval of the American capitalist newspapers. Especially such reactionary papers as the New York Herald Tribune. Why?

Because Big Business has been given a public assurance that the Roosevelt administration will help them maintain profits. Can the capitalists be blamed for cheering?

But what about the workers?

And the unemployed? What has the Roosevelt regime to offer them? What does it propose to do about the hundreds of thousands of lay-offs? About the already drastic cuts in relief that have brought misery and starvation?

Every worker who cast his ballot last fall for the re-election of Roosevelt believed that the "great humanitarian and champion of the common people," would do something to alleviate the burdens of the worker's lot under capitalism.

In plain, clear, and cold-blooded terms that only the blind could fail to see and understand, Roosevelt informed the workers, through his spokesman Morgenthau, that, "It is necessary to reduce the budget by \$700,000,000," which can be done, he adds, "through reducing relief, farm and public works expenditures."

Was any betrayal ever announced so frankly and openly? Roosevelt admits that hundreds of thousands have been laid off. That there are millions unemployed. He points that out in his message.

#### "Aid Business," Keynote

Yet Roosevelt proposes to cut down on the amount of relief in the face of a great increase in the need for relief! "Let them starve," Roosevelt should have declared frankly. He meant that. His program, if carried out, will bring that.

"Aid Business," is the key-note of the Roosevelt message to Congress. This, at a time when financial reports indicate that the rubber, auto, steel, oil and other industries are making over 50% more profit this year than in 1936.

"Aid Business," shouts Roosevelt (to the cheers of Wall St.) while millions of workers face the cold of winter, the misery of starvation, and the other tragedies of unemployment, without even the prospect of a few bread crumbs in the form of relief!

#### Real Program: Save Capitalism

How does the present Roosevelt program differ one iota from that advocated by the "great engineer" Herbert Hoover, late unlamented Republican president of the United States, when he was confronted by the 1929 depression?

Such a strong defender of Roosevelt as the New York Post compares the Roosevelt and Hoover policies as essentially the same!

The revolutionary socialists go one step further. We point out that the programs of all the presidents, Republican, Democ-

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### Protest Grows Against Spanish GPU

PARIS.—The left socialist, anarchist and Fourth Internationalist movement here joined together in a great mass meeting, October 22, at the Salle Wagram, in defense of working class prisoners in Spain.

Jean Rous spoke for the P.O.I. (Internationalist Workers Party for the Fourth International), with Marceau Pivert speaking for the left socialists. Daniel Guerin represented the Committee for Inquiry into the Moscow Trials.

A telegram to the Negrin government was read, demanding legal guarantees for the antifascist prisoners, signed by Andre Gide, Paul Rivet, Roger Martin du Gard, and Georges Duhamel of the French Academy. A similar telegram was also sent by

Francois Mauriac of the French Academy.

To cover up the government's responsibility for the disastrous military defeats, the Stalinists have launched a new lynch campaign against the POUM and other prisoners. L'Humanité of October 25 publishes a new series of accusations: destruction of bridges, military espionage on the Aragon front, attempts to assassinate military leaders and a minister.

#### Covering Up

The little "detail" that the POUM leadership has been imprisoned since June does not stop the Stalinists from blaming them for divulging military secrets leading to recent setbacks! The

chief purpose of this charge appears to be to provide an alibi for the sensational desertion from the Stalinist Karl Marx Division on the Aragon front in mid-October, for which numerous officers of the division were shot and its PSUC political commissar, Trueba, dismissed.

While the Stalinists thus slander the POUM, its members continue to die at the front. La Correspondence de Valencia, UGT organ, of October 19, reports the death of one of the most heroic fighters of the war, the POUM member, Jose Alcantarilla, commander of a battalion of the 27th division. His prestige, won on the battlefield, was so great that the government dared not touch him during the round-up of POUM leaders.