

# Congress Convenes to Pass Relief Slashes And Help Bosses

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...ratic, are essentially the same. Their purpose is identical, namely to save capitalism.

Many workers have wondered why Wall Street has insisted that Roosevelt balance the budget. Does not the meaning become clear today? Balance the budget means to cut down relief programs so the taxes can be eliminated which hurt the pocket-books of the rich.

"Our tax revenues come largely from individual earnings and business profits. We do not wish to impose levies which tend to dry up the sources of revenue," Morgenthau point out. So instead of taxing the rich, the government decides to starve the poor.

More than that, Roosevelt wishes, "to encourage the expansion of business through revising taxes found to be inequitable." But business considers all taxes they pay as "inequitable." That's why Wall Street maintains powerful lobbies in Washington to fight against taxes.

## Business "Opposition" Disappears

Is it any wonder the business opposition to the special session of Congress has disappeared? The financiers and industrialists worried that perhaps Roosevelt might do something which would hurt them.

Instead, his message and his program as outlined by Morgenthau, told them, in advance, that the special session would be for the capitalists' benefit and against the interests of the working people.

Talk of legislation for a 30 hour week died completely many months before this session of Congress began. The 40-hour week, too, is considered impractical by the Roosevelt administration! Even a modified wage and hour bill received but vague support in the Roosevelt message!

The industrial rulers of America are thus being given a silent approval of their campaign to lengthen the hours of work in the factories. Every economic gain that the organized Labor movement won by determined struggle in the past two years has been placed in acute jeopardy by the Roosevelt policies.

Why does Roosevelt pursue these policies? Why has he

made the slogan, "Aid Business," the theme of his legislative program?

Roosevelt understands that capitalism is a system based on private property of the means of production from which profit is made through the exploitation of labor.

## What "Prosperity" Means

"Prosperity" under capitalism can only mean that private industry is making enough profit to maintain production schedules which give the workers the means of subsistence.

"The basic need today is to foster the full application of the driving force of private capital. We want to see capital go into productive channels of private industry. We want to see private business expanded. We believe that much of the remaining unemployment will disappear as private capital funds are increasingly employed in productive enterprises." Morgenthau explained the basic motives of the Roosevelt policy. What does it mean? Is it possible?

Certainly the guarantee that taxes will be reduced is an incentive to big business to use capital for private industry. More important, however, is the basic consideration that profit can only be made by exploiting labor, by having long hours, low wages and poor working conditions: By not paying labor its full due.

The Roosevelt program of ignoring the 30-hour week demand, of passing up a wage and hour bill, assures the capitalists of little opposition from the political direction to their attempts to lower wages etc.

The Roosevelt policy of reducing relief has the effect of making labor cheaper too. The bargaining power of the workers is less when millions are unemployed. It is harder to fight the bosses through strikes to maintain or increase wages when millions of unemployed want jobs. Potential scabs are too plentiful.

## Workers Must Prepare

In other words, Roosevelt's program can do only one thing: attempt to save capitalism at the expense of the working people and the masses of unemployed. That's his encouragement to Big Business.

Even this is impossible, however. The millions of unemployed

can't buy whatever industry produces. Each time that capital spends money in private industry to produce goods, it introduces labor-saving machinery which continues to throw more men out of work permanently.

The home market can't absorb the goods produced: the foreign markets are tied up by other capitalist nations and a crisis develops, as it has periodically for many decades.

When the crisis can't be solved by political measures, by allowing millions of working people to starve during what is called a depression: when the workers begin to rebel against the damnable injustices of this vicious capitalist system, the capitalists have two answers.

Either they plunge America into another world war to obtain bigger and more lucrative foreign markets for the goods they produce (which the exploited workers at home can't buy) or they crush the workers through fascist forces.

Organized Labor can't and won't stand for the betrayal of the working people by Roosevelt's policies. A militant struggle against them must come.

Then, it will be necessary to prepare to keep America out of the next imperialist war, which shall be declared under the guise of "Fighting for Peace and Democracy."

The workers' answer to imperialist war and fascism must be the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism, the system of unemployment, misery, starvation, as so strikingly revealed today.

In its struggle against the betrayal policies of Roosevelt, the workers will develop the class-consciousness, the power, and the self-confidence which shall prepare them for the task of overthrowing the capitalist system.

In the vanguard of this struggle, will be found the revolutionary socialists around whose program and banner the fight against capitalism can succeed, as it did 20 years ago in Russia.

## Open Letter to All Workers' Organizations

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store, and elaborate the best methods of parrying and resisting the Moscow gangsters.

It is necessary to publish appropriate literature and collect funds for its publication. In each country a book should be issued, exposing completely the respective section of the Comintern.

We possess neither a state apparatus nor hired friends. Nevertheless we confidently fling our challenge to the Stalinist gang before all mankind. Our hands will not hang. Some among us may still fall in this struggle. But its general outcome is predetermined. Stalinism will be laid low, crushed, and covered forever with infamy. The world working class will march out onto the open road.

Coyoacan, Nov. 2, 1937.

# Worker Wants Relief; Sent to Lunatic Asylum

By Neil Harrison

Harry Roffman has been confined to Bellevue Prison Ward for mental observation for the last sixteen days because he is unemployed and asked for relief. About five days before election, Roffman, a member of the Workers Alliance, went to the Single men's relief bureau to inquire why he had been cut off relief. Being cut off meant for Roffman either to starve or steal. He refused to do either. He demanded to be put back on relief. He was ordered out of the bureau. In desperation, on being shoved out of the door, he threw a copy of Wells' Outline of History through the glass pane of the door. Thereupon he was arrested and taken to the Tombs. He was there five days and then brought before Magistrate Ford. At this point His Mightiness, Magistrate Ford, asked him:

## Roffman's "Crimes"

"Do you believe that the government should feed the unemployed and give them jobs?" To which Roffman replied: "Yes." Thereupon, Justice Ford said:

"Commit him to Bellevue for observation"

Roffman is still in Bellevue. The Stalinist leaders of the Workers Alliance had refused to lift a finger in his behalf. Before election day they advised caution so as not to embarrass LaGuardia. With LaGuardia well taken care of by these misleaders of the unemployed, they have still refused to do a thing for a rank and file member of the Alliance.

## Progressives Rally Aid

It was only the Progressive Group of the Workers Alliance, organized to protect the real real interests of the rank and file in the Alliance, that went to bat for Roffman. After getting the facts from him, they immediately got in touch with a lawyer from the Workers Defense League, Attorney Fleischman. Fleischman is handling the legal aspects of the case. The Progressive Group is carrying on a campaign of mass pressure through publicity, leaflets and mass picket lines before the Single Men's bureau.

# Paula Aragon, Young Socialist Leader And Labor Organizer, Sentenced To Jail

Paula Aragon, National Executive Committee member of the Young Peoples Socialist League, serving now as a Los Angeles organizer of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, is to begin serving a sentence in the Los Angeles County jail this week.

Arrested several months ago on charges of battery and disturbing the peace, Paula Aragon was placed on trial. After a vicious patriotic tirade by the prosecutor she was found guilty by a jury who listened with open mouths to the statement of the city attorney that "Miss Aragon probably never saluted the American Flag."

The witnesses of the prosecutor attempted to prove that the defendant had attempted to beat up a scab working in the Darling Dress shop during a strike. In spite of the testimony of the state's own witnesses, who testified that the union organizer had been held by a police officer while the scab had struck the militant trade union organizer several times in the face, Judge Guerin

severely condemned the defendant for her trade union activity and sentenced her to 90 days in the county jail, 45 days suspended and a year probation.

The case was appealed because of alleged improper instruction given to the jury and because of the refusal of the Judge to permit the defendant's attorney, James Carter, to question the jurors in an effort to elicit their bias and prejudice against trade unions. The court of Appeals recently upheld the decision of the lower court and without much chance of securing a new hearing Paula Aragon must begin serving her term.

In all charges of battery and disturbance of the peace the usual sentence is a fine of \$25 or \$50. Unquestionably the unusually severe sentence against the union organizer is an effort to handicap the organization work of the I.L.G.W.U. which has been successful in the past several months in securing contracts with several factories in Los Angeles whose employees were never organized.

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AUSPICES: Convention Arrangements Committee  
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