

## SOCIALIST APPEAL

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### Jobless Must Be Roused Into Action

Elsewhere in this issue as well as in previous issues of the *Socialist Appeal*, facts and figures have been cited to picture the frightful plight of the American workers as the economic crisis deepens. The ominous sweep of the lay-off campaign is matched by the equally disastrous sky-rocketing of the cost of living.

Laid-off workers met the onrush of the great crisis of 1929 with a wave of militancy and struggle that will long be an inspiration for American labor and for the working class throughout the world. It was precisely this vigorous determination of the unemployed wage slaves to stand up and fight that forced the concessions upon that system of inhumanity called capitalism, resulting in the setting up of the federal relief and W.P.A. agencies.

Once more, and even more acutely than before, the spectre of starvation hovers over working class households. No one will drive it off, this time as at all times, except the workers themselves, organized in fighting demonstrations, rallied to solidarity by militant organizations.

The Workers Alliance, completely in the stranglehold of a Stalinist leadership which is more concerned in helping United States capitalism prepare for war than it is in obtaining the most elementary rights for its rank and file, has issued no call for action. This alleged organization of the unemployed has organized no campaign and sent out no directives to arouse the unemployed and the workers who are constantly being laid off to planned, concerted national demonstrations of struggle such as the seriousness of the situation requires. Instead, the Stalinist leaders of the Alliance are dilly-dallying with the so-called "progressive" capitalist politicians; lobbying endlessly while hunger grows; lulling the unemployed into illusory reliance upon Roosevelt benevolence and LaGuardia magnanimity.

The Stalinist helpmates of the capitalist politician cannot be expected to give the jobless that indispensable leadership and spirit of struggle which the four demands. Already, in spite of them, sit-downs are taking place in local relief bureaus all over the country to force the administration to an adjustment in relief grants commensurate with the new needs. Resentment against the impending cuts on W.P.A. are mounting on every project. But the sentiment as well as the actions are still too scattered. The cohesion necessary for effective results is still lacking.

Revolutionists, militants in the unemployed movement, face a heavy responsibility and a great task in the coming months. It is incumbent upon them to agitate for militant action on a national scale in the ranks of the Workers Alliance. Theirs is the duty to provide the necessary leadership to the unemployed movement in the struggles ahead. Now is the time for the militants in the W.A.A. to organize their forces in a challenge to the Stalinists, whom the fighting jobless men and women will of necessity discard both inside and outside the present organization.

The revolutionary socialists are needed in the van of the unemployed. It is up to them to put their shoulder to wheel if the laid-off auto, rubber, steel workers are to get W.P.A. jobs at prevailing union rates; if those now on W.P.A. are to head off curtailment of work relief; if the latter and those on direct relief are to prevent the cuts in relief appropriations now being planned cold-bloodedly by the Administration; if relief grants and W.P.A. wages are to be brought in line with the rising cost of living; if the entire organized labor movement is to be lined up in support of the unemployed.

### Bad Week for Frame-Up Artists

It was a bad week for the frame-up artists. First, eleven union officials in Minneapolis repudiated their signatures to the Stalinist "Volunteer Committee's" union-wrecking document. Next, the Harry Bridges "assassination" hoax was pretty thoroughly exposed on the West Coast. Finally, a crushing blow came with the exposure of the Stalinist murder gang by two Soviet diplomats in Paris.

## Pittsburgh Congress for "Peace And Democracy" Prepares War

Roosevelt's policy of "quarantine the aggressor" was embodied in the program of the American League for Democracy and Peace (formerly "Against War and Fascism") at its fourth congress held in Pittsburgh last week end. Last year the Congress as a whole did not accept the concept of aggressor and defender nations but instead adopted the pacifist proposal: "To demand that neutrality legislation effectively cover all war supplies, loans and credits, and permit no discretion of the President". Though even then it contradicted its own program the Communist party voted for this!

Today Roosevelt has helped fill the breach. The Communist party's program, now more than ever in harmony with the interests of American imperialism, was adopted by the fourth congress:

### Adopts F. D. R. War Program

"Demand a foreign policy based upon: (A) Distinction between aggressor and victims. (B) Denying markets to the aggressors. (C) Concerted action to quarantine the aggressor." (Daily Worker, Nov. 29, 1937).

The differences between the liberal pacifists and the Stalinists is indicated by the odd formula in point eight of the program: "Seek to remove restrictions on access of the Chinese and Spanish governments to the purchase of American goods and at the same time remove the risk of becoming involved in war." (Our emphasis).

What does this platonic reservation mean? All supporters of the Spanish and Chinese people are in favor of removing the obstacles to their purchase of material in the United States. (Obstacles, by the way, which were created by the "neutrality legislation" called for by the third congress of the League).

The American League program instead of removing "the risk of becoming involved in war", by its advocacy of "concerted action to quarantine the aggressor" (point nine), aids the Roosevelt administration in mobilizing the masses for its imperialist aims.

The fact that one third of the delegates are reported to have come from trade unions does not

change the pro-war significance of the Congress. During the last war, the labor and "socialist" forces were mobilized behind Wilson through the "American Alliance for Labor and Democracy". The declaration of principles of the American Alliance (adopted at its first congress September 5-7, 1917) clearly reveals the plagiarism of our present day social patriots:

"As labor unionists, social reformers, and Socialists we pledge our loyal support and service to the United States Government and its allies in the present conflict. (The American League as such is not so frank. But wait... have patience!)

"We declare that one overshadowing issue is the preservation of democracy... We declare that the great war must be fought to a decisive result: that until autocracy is defeated there can be no hope of an honorable peace, and that to compromise the issue is to sow the seed for bloodier and more devastating wars in the future."

"We strongly denounce the words and actions of those enemies of the Republic who, falsely assuming to speak in the name of labor and democracy are now ceaselessly striving to obstruct the operations of the government's purposes." (Browder has already—before the war!—used stronger language).

### Beware of Repetition of 1917 Fraud

In the preparations for the new war not only do the armament programs outstrip the last pre-war period but the social patriotism of the Social Democracy and Stalinism is far more blatant than could be found in the labor movement before the last war. In the American League itself the Stalinists still have to keep in line with the pacifists.

Yesterday, the American imperialists wanted "neutrality", so this was the program of the League. Today, it demands "quarantine of the aggressor" or collective security, so the League obliges. And tomorrow... The experience of the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy will be duplicated by the American League for Democracy and War Against Fascism.

### NEW YORK DANCE TO AID CONVENTION

Christmas Eve promises to be a gala occasion for New Yorkers. All revolutionary socialists and their friends will converge on Irving Plaza for an evening of celebration before the New York delegation leaves for the National Convention in Chicago.

The Committee in charge of the dance assures us that every step has been taken to make this dance the outstanding affair of its kind.

A first class band has been engaged and attempts are being made to secure a number of well-known professional entertainers.

The full proceeds will be turned over to the National Convention. Tickets are 55c in advance and 75c at the door. They may be secured from the Labor Book Shop, 28 East 12th Street and at the office of the Party, 116 University Place.

## Christmas Eve Dance

Friday, December 24th, at 9 P. M.

IRVING PLAZA

15th STREET AND IRVING PLACE

Tickets: In Advance 55 cents — At the door 75 cents

For Sale at: Labor Book Shop, 28 East 12th St.

AUSPICES: Convention Arrangements Committee  
Socialist Party (Left Wing)

## Nanking's Fall Ends First Phase of War

By Li Fu-jen

With the capture of Nanking, China's capital, by Japan's invading legions, the first phase of the Sino-Japanese war is drawing to a close. Through five months of struggle, the Kuomintang government and Chinese bourgeoisie have demonstrated, not for the first time, their utter incapacity to conduct with any degree of success the liberating campaign for China's national independence against imperialism.

Already there is talk that Chiang Kai-shek, having fled from Nanking, is about to go into "retirement." According to a Shanghai dispatch to the *New York Times*, a reorganized government will assume "the onerous task of negotiating the best peace terms available." The same message relates that the "Japanese authorities have already been approached with this plan, and it is understood they suggested that General Ho Ying-ching (Minister of War in the Nanking government) succeed General Chiang Kai-shek in control of the army."

There can be no illusions as to the terms which the Japanese imperialists will impose. The Kuomintang government will be obliged to abandon the military struggle and put its signature to an agreement which will make it a pliant tool in the hands of Japan. There will be the first fruits of the war as it has been conducted hitherto by the Kuomintang and Stalinists under the banner of the "People's Anti-Japanese Front."

### New Phase Opening

The surrender and capitulation of Chiang Kai-shek and the Kuomintang, however, will not mean the end of China's struggle against imperialism. A new phase is opening, in which the exploited masses of China, held in passivity by the Kuomintang and the Stalinists, will march to the front of the war stage. Reports from North China already indicate the opening of guerrilla warfare over a widespread area. This movement will grow and extend throughout the country. Goaded by the bestialities of the armies of Japanese imperialism, the masses will arise everywhere against the invaders.

The task of the Chinese revolutionists is to link themselves to the masses by means of a practical program of struggle based on revolutionary perspectives, to organize and mobilize the workers and peasants for the struggle, to blast the last illusions which the masses still retain concerning the Kuomintang and the Stalinists, who stand exposed before the entire country as the organizers of defeat.

### Japanese Victories Episodic

Military victories won so far by the armies of Japan have only an episodic character. Japanese imperialism, in attempting to subdue all China, will encounter difficulties a thousand times greater than it has encountered in Manchuria. The first serious reverses will set in train a series of social explosions in Japan, whose economic fabric has already been terribly strained by the war. Thirty million Chinese in Manchuria, 21,000,000 inhabitants of Korea and 5,000,000 inhabitants of Formosa will rise up against their Japanese oppressors.

The activity of the Chinese Bolshevik-Leninists in organizing the masses for struggle against Japanese imperialism around revolutionary slogans must be linked with the struggles of the Japanese proletariat and peasantry and with the corresponding struggles of Japan's colonial slaves. Together, these masses represent a force which all the hosts of imperialist Japan will not be able to vanquish—provided they are armed, not only with guns, but with revolutionary objectives.

### The New International

Our heartiest greetings, this week, go to the revived *New International*, the first issue of which has just come off the press. Graceful in its new format and more vigorous than ever in its contents, the theoretical organ of revolutionary Marxism fills a need which the partisans of the Fourth International throughout the world have felt very deeply during the year and a half of its suspension. In the stirring days of social ferment and class struggle ahead of us, it will be an indispensable weapon for proletarian fighters. More power to it!