

Are You Ready for War?

A Discussion on Imperialist War, Past and Present, on the Presidential "Peace-Lovers" and How They Prepare the Minds of the Masses in Support of a New World-Wide War for Plunder and Exploitation.

Not "Red" But Yellow

Many people, who have become accustomed to regarding the Communist Party as the "reds", the arch-revolutionists, may not be aware that in recent years they have thrown aside their whole revolutionary past and have instead taken over completely the ideas of the pinkest reformist socialists. The Massachusetts investigation found them stoutly insisting that they believed in achieving Socialism through "peaceful means," through the election process, that they were against the overthrow of the government "by force or otherwise," and against world revolution. These things, they said, had been believed by the Communist International only in its "infancy"—that is, while it was led by Lenin. Today, Stalin, having grown "wiser", is devoting his time to wiping out the revolutionary past of the Communists by framing up and shooting all the men who led the great Russian Revolution.

This degeneration of a movement has happened before. The Second (Socialist) International too was founded as a Marxist organization; before the World War it too was regarded as a red bogey, and its shameful support of imperialism in the World War came as a shocking surprise to all. Today the Communist International announces its betrayal of the working class in advance. Both the Second International and the Third (Communist) International have gone the way of social-patriotism and support of imperialist war.

But the working class struggle for Socialism and against war demands a revolutionary International to organize that fight on a world-wide scale and revolutionary parties in all countries that will take up the red banner. We of the movement for the Fourth International have our own answer to the questions that were asked Dave Grant—the answer of our leader Lenin.

The Answer of Revolutionary Marxism

Do we differentiate between the capitalist "democracy" of the imperialist countries and the soviet democracy of a workers state? We certainly do. Capitalist democracy is a sham which is not believed in by the capitalists themselves, who are ever ready to throw aside all democratic pretenses in strikes, in the lily-white South, in its Cubas; it is a cover for the cruelest exploitation of the masses of people. We do not defend capitalism, democratic or otherwise, whether it is allied with the Soviet Union for its own imperialist reasons or not. But we do defend the Soviet Union against imperialist attacks: within the Soviet Union we support its war against the imperialists; in the capitalist countries we carry on the revolutionary struggle to establish a working-class state as the only possible reliable ally of the Soviet Union. Under capitalism the workers have no fatherland; we have a country to defend

only when the working class has taken power.

Are we for the abolition of the ROTC and the other government agencies seeking to militarize the young people? The fight against war must be carried on NOW, not only after war is declared, through a concrete struggle against militarism. Against ROTC, both compulsory and optional, as the goose-step agency on the campus. Against the militarization of the CCC camps, which are under army control for the purpose (as army officers have boasted) of preparing the youth for war. Against Roosevelt's sky-rocketing military appropriations, and his plans for military-industrial dictatorship in war-time. Around such issues wide united fronts can be forged.

Do we in the A.S.U. support the Oxford Pledge "to refuse to support any war conducted by the U. S. government"? This pledge, which has combined on different grounds revolutionists and pacifists in the immediate struggle against the concrete imperialist war which is being prepared, has more than anything else in the student movement provoked the Hearsts and ROTC colonels to frothing denunciations. They could see no more favorable symptom in the student movement than the abandonment of this platform. The YCL is now doing this work for them. We call upon all sincere anti-war fighters in student ranks to smash this drive in the A.S.U.

Opposition to War Requires Fighting Organization

But the Oxford Pledge is a correct statement only of what NOT to do when war comes. One must go far beyond it. We do not look upon an imperialist war merely as a horrible catastrophe, though it is that; to us it represents a crisis of the capitalist system, when it is staking its all, when the workers are given arms and told to fight for the bosses. Our aim is to utilize this crisis for the purpose of abolishing the capitalist war-system itself, to teach the armed workers to turn their guns not against their fellow workers in the opposite trenches but against their enemy at home. Our aim in opposing imperialist war is the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism. Do we believe in turning imperialist war into civil war? This is the way by which the Russian workers secured peace in 1917 while their brothers in other lands were still struggling under the yoke of imperialism. This is the only way by which permanent peace can be gained and war abolished from the face of the earth.

This fight is not an easy one. It is not sufficient to stand on the sidelines and say "Attaboy" every once in a while at a mass meeting or while reading a pamphlet. Our enemies are the organized forces of capitalist terrorism, military dictatorship, war hysteria, betrayers within the working class who act as direct agents of the war-machine. Our answer, if it is not merely fatalistic or defeatist, must be a fighting organization.

Filling Station Workers Win Frisco Strike

SAN FRANCISCO.—Expression of a strong sentiment for unity of the rank and file in CIO and AFL unions against both sets of bureaucrats led to the speedy and favorable settlement of a strike in a General Petroleum service station here last week. The four men in the station struck when Jerry Driscoll, member of the Filling Station Employees Union, Local 410, CIO, was fired for union activity.

Bridges agreed to support the action but attempted to turn it into a CIO-AFL beef when the AF of L officials sent members of their Garage Employees Union to work behind the CIO picket line.

In reply to this splitting maneuver the men on strike issued a leaflet to the rank and file of the AF of L Union declaring they were for presenting the station owners with a set of joint demands and "demanding of the leadership of both unions that this unity be brought about" in order for the workers to present a "solid front to gain their demands."

The day this leaflet was distributed, the AF of L men were withdrawn from the station and one day later the strikers were back on the job with their demands won. There is nothing like an alert and militantly led rank and file to bring the bureaucrats and their bosses into line.

Good Meeting For H. Milton In St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—On the evening of November 30, Harry Milton addressed an enthusiastic meeting sponsored by the St. Louis District of the Socialist Party (Left Wing). About 70 persons attended.

Taking as his general topic "The Truth About Spain", Milton gave a devastating analysis of the miserable history of the Popular Front regime in Spain, and in particular, of the role played by the Spanish Stalinists.

In the discussion period the spokesmen for the CP, unwilling or unable to deal with specific cases, confined themselves, at the beginning, to long-winded and very "reasonable" dissertations on the theme that since the policy of the Popular Front Government is correct, any measures it may take to enforce that policy are justified. Finally, after Milton had introduced the testimony of Henry Beattie, Canadian ex-Stalinist and veteran of the International Brigade who recently exposed the frame-ups against the revolutionists in Spain, the representatives of the CP dropped their League-Against-War-and-Fascism disguise and proceeded rapidly to lose control of themselves.

Homer Martin's Wisdom

"The International Union is ready and willing to accept responsibility and will make every effort not only to fix responsibility for unauthorized action on the part of the members of the union, but will gladly recommend joint penalties by the union and the corporation... as every one knows this is no time for strikes. Business, government and labor should cooperate honestly to stabilize employment and to minimize the evils of the present business recession." Bill Green, himself, could do no better.

Left Jobs

Life Under Hitler

Synthetic bacon made from pig's blood and synthetic eggs made from fish are among the blessings enjoyed by German labor since Heiling Hitler has been substituted for thinking, and goose-stepping for labor unions in Germany.

Life Under Mussolini

Conditions close to serfdom, growing poverty, miserable subsistence wages, increased hours of labor, uncertainty of employment, decline in quantity and quality of food consumption, worsening of conditions of sharecroppers, impoverishment of small farmers, are among the blessings bestowed on the masses of Italy by Mussolini and the Fascist regime according to Dr. Carl Schmidt of Columbia University who spent eight months studying conditions in Il Duce's paradise.

"Patriotism: Last Refuge of a Scoundrel"

"If Communism is 100 per cent Americanism on a national scale—and it is—then why shouldn't our lower units develop the same kind of patriotism for their neighborhoods?" — Clarence Hathaway in the Sunday Worker. If old Sam Johnson was alive today would he not change his definition to, "Patriotism is the last refuge of a Stalinist?"

Mickey Mouse in Concentration Camp

Believe it or not, here's the headline from the Times: "Writer in trouble over Mickey Mouse. Times Man is Ordered from Yugoslavia after his Story of Ban on Comic Strip." That's tough on Mickey and the reporter but watch the Storm troops and executioner go into action if Hitler ever hears Donald Duck go Quack! Qua-a-ak!!! Qua-a-a-a-ak!!!!

Shopping Notes

Morning papers report that Leopold of Belgium and his brother Charles are in England in search of brides. "They will attend the Workshop shopping festival to be opened by Lady Anne Cavendish-Bentrick." We hope they find some bargains. Our own supply of 5 and 10 heireses is completely gone, not even a used one on hand. But if the boys can't pick up something at the festival, we might mention that our Mr. Simpson is on his way to Europe.

Pins and Needles

If you live in or near New York or if you are visiting our village, don't fail to see "Pins and Needles," the I.L.G.W.U. Players hit. It shows only on Friday and Saturday because the players are working men and women who make dresses five days a week. All the theatre critics have given it high praise and what's more important, workers from the shops are enthusiastic. It's a musical review though we are sure Hitler and Mussolini would find other names for it. All numbers are good but the Mussolini Handicap or the Baby Marathon and the Four Little Angels of Peace—Eden, Hitler, Mussolini and Japan are the two best or in any case the most popular.

The National Industrial Conference Board reports unemployment for the month of October increased by 293,000 over the September figures.

Try To Bolster Midwest Frame-Ups With "Confession" In Frisco; Plot Fizzles

SAN FRANCISCO.—Facts are stubborn things. And James O'Neil, personal publicity man for Harry Bridges, is rapidly learning how true this is. Less than twenty-four hours after making the startling accusation over the radio that he was in possession of a "confession" which linked Minneapolis Teamster officials with a plot to kill his boss, reports in the press were already refuting the stupid but nonetheless significant attempt at a frame-up.

During his Thursday night broadcast on the CIO's "Tune in on the Truth" hour, O'Neil said that CIO officials were in possession of a "confession" signed by Robert John Bell of Minneapolis. Bell is reputed to have said that he was sent by teamster officials there to the West Coast. That they gave him a \$1,000 which he cashed and told him to report

to Dave Beck in Seattle. He gave \$600 to his wife before leaving on this mission, it is alleged.

After a prolonged stay in the Northwest, O'Neil said, he was called into the office of a union official, given a police revolver and told to "get" Bridges. Instead, according to O'Neil's report, he refused and ran immediately to a CIO representative and told all.

Without naming the Minneapolis union heads he was implicating O'Neil ran off a typical Stalinist amalgam in summing up his statement. He linked Bell through the Minneapolis Teamsters to William Green, Dave Beck, Mayor Dore etc.

Friday morning press reports were already shattering this obvious frame-up attempt. The Marquette Bank at which Bell claimed he cashed his check declares it has no record of the

transaction.

And Bell's own wife denied that he gave her any \$600. She even stated before the publication of the "confession" that her husband had gone to Minneapolis, according to the S. F. Chronicle.

Clarence Hathaway and Al Richmond will have some difficulty giving their Daily Worker and Western Worker prostitutes a line that will explain how their frame-up got nipped in the bud. Steps are already being taken in San Francisco to set up a commission to gather and publish the facts about how the Communist Party works in the labor movement. Progressives of all shades of opinion are being approached to join this movement which will have as its aim the exposure of the methods of Stalinism right here at home and isolation of their influence from the labor movement.