

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

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## Sit-Down Strikes Sweeping France

### "Robinson-Rubens" Frameup Prepared For U.S. Spy Scare

The psychological preparation of the American people for war goes on alongside the swift speed-up of the Roosevelt military and naval program designed for the ultimate showdown with Japan for imperialist domination of the Pacific.

The country has been treated to its first spy-scare in the form of a spectacular search on a Japanese ship. Destroyers of the Pacific fleet engage in mysterious "maneuvers" along the West coast. President Roosevelt announces that he will ask an enlargement of the already stupendous naval building program which now calls for the expenditure of more than half a billion dollars.

#### "No Peace at Any Price"

This followed Roosevelt's plain intimation that his government was not prepared to continue enjoying "peace at any price" and the studiously frigid "acceptance" of Japan's apology for the sinking of the gunboat Panay in the Yangtze River. The extension of Japan's robber war of conquest in China will provide more than ample opportunity for new incidents, new friction, new "accidents" which can at any time considered propitious be made the pretext for starting the conflict.

This week the Stalinists did their bit for the cause by getting the American Student Union to repudiate the Oxford Pledge and to adopt an openly jingoistic platform promising in advance the students' support to American imperialism in the coming war. At the same time the Daily Worker, more loudly, more shrilly than Hearst dares, lashes up the spy mania and calls upon the government at Washington to emulate Stalin's methods in dealing with "spies" and "traitors" i.e., all those who oppose Roosevelt's and Stalin's war aims, and most especially those who steadfastly dedicate themselves to the revolutionary struggle against capitalism.

#### The 'Robinson' Case

Developments in the mysterious "Robinson-Rubens" case during the past week indicate more and more clearly that the couple now sitting in a GPU cell in

Moscow are the center of a complex conspiracy with roots both in Moscow and the United States, designed to feed the spy-scare in this country. At one with Alf Landon in the sentiment that all

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### Algic Trial Hits Labor

Ship Strikers Condemned As Mutineers For Solidarity Move

BALTIMORE, Md.—The Roosevelt regime struck a heavy blow against the Organized Labor movement when it obtained the conviction here of 14 seamen of the S.S. Algic on charges of "mutiny" because they participated in a sit-down strike.

The case of the Algic seamen is of nation-wide importance because the convictions were an attempt to curb the militancy of the maritime workers and to "outlaw" the sit-down strike weapon.

The basic motive behind the arrest and trials of the Algic seamen was the desire of the Roosevelt war-mongering administration to smash the international solidarity displayed by the seamen when they pulled a

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### Paris Utilities Paralyzed By New Strikes

Paris transport facilities and public services were paralyzed by a general strike beginning at dawn on Dec. 29. This was the answer to the attempts of Camille Chauvets' People's Front Government to break the new wave of sit-in strikes sweeping over France.

Faced with rising prices which have wiped out the gains made by the great strikes of June, 1936, and new decree laws virtually abolishing the 40-hour week won at that time, the French workers are rising to the struggle.

The movement is only beginning but its general characteristics are already clear.

1. The character of the strikes is not episodic, but, on the contrary, reveals a determined mass upsurge on the part of the workers. The occupation of the factories is widespread. Although centered in Paris and its "red"

belt, with the Goodrich tire plant as a focal point, it has rapidly spread to include telephone workers, steel workers, chemical workers, department stores, movies, food warehouses, bakeries, river boatmen and all forms of transportation, especially the truck drivers. Thus the provinces, from Lille to Marseille, are involved.

2. The reaction of the workers reveals their revolutionary nature and aspirations. The Goodrich factory flies the red flag. With the experiences of the tremendous strike wave of June, 1936 under their belts, there can be no doubt that the workers have established factory committees. Sympathy strikes develop instantaneously and intuitively as the workers learn that the People's Front Government has sent mobile guards to evacuate the workers forcibly from the occupied factories. The N. Y. Times dispatch of December 26 proves the seriousness of the situation, when it says:

"Government arbitrators predicted the 'beginning of the end' of the strike movement which threatened to approach proportions of the wave of strikes in 1936, under the government of Leon Blum."

#### Government Intervenes

3. The strikes, although economic in origin, immediately become political in every respect. "Premier Chauvets, after conferences with Interior Minister Marx Dormoy and Air Minister Pierre Cot, insisted that the

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## Cooperation-With Whom?-Why?

An Editorial

"Parallel" moves are being made in Washington and in London to harmonize the policies of the world's two leading imperialist powers in the Far Eastern crisis, which is daily becoming more acute as the invading armies of Japanese imperialism continue their devastating march through China. These moves are the first fruits of the Japanese sinking of the U. S. gunboat Panay and their attacks on British warships in the Yangtze River.

What is the meaning of this Anglo-American entente? What bearing does it have on China's struggle against the barbarous invasion of the Japanese imperialists? What is its significance for the American and international working class?

In a considered editorial on December 24—an editorial having all the earmarks of a statement of policy approved by the State Department in Washington—the New York Times warns the Japanese imperialists:

"Those Japanese statesmen who are reported from Tokio as fearing joint action only would discover their error if, unhappily and unthinkably, their military forces were permitted to continue their cruel and illicit warfare against friendly nations."

This staid and respectable organ of American imperialism favors the widening of the Anglo-American entente:

"A concurrent policy of the United States and Great Britain needs only to be followed to im-

press with its logical force and sincerity other democracies with great stakes for peace in the Far East. The interests of France and the Netherlands, in the Pacific as well as in European waters, cannot be preserved in a world where the Yangtze attacks are tolerated or repeated. They must proceed along the same parallels if international banditry is to be brought to the halt which their sister democracies now seek to impose."

Who are these champions of justice and right who seek to end the "international banditry" of the Japanese imperialists?

The very mention of Britain evokes living memories of imperialist freebooting and plunder, of savage exploitation and oppression of weaker peoples. British imperial grandeur is the story of a vast empire of colonial slaves, an empire which spreads over two continents and embraces numerous insular territories as well. India—of Amritsar massacre fame, land of public floggings, of mass pauperism, where the Royal Air Force periodically bombs villages of lowly Northwest frontier tribesmen. Africa—land of forced labor and wretched poverty, where millions of Negroes are ground down in helotry. Palestine—where currently the Arabs are being subjected to naked military terror.

France—"democratic" France of the Third Republic and the Popular Front—and "democratic"

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