

Workers  
Of the World Unite!

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

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## Green Backs War Program

AN EDITORIAL

Commenting at Miami on the enormous war budget proposed to Congress by Roosevelt, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor declared: "I feel that at this period, when we take into account what is happening internationally, we must have confidence in the judgment of the Chief Executive. He must have information on the world situation which we do not possess. It is really the duty of all of us to stand with the President in this trying world situation. If he feels that a billion dollars are necessary to protect America, I feel we ought to support him." (N. Y. Times, January 29, 1938.)

### Why Is Information Kept Secret?

In the first place, if Roosevelt has "information on the world situation which we do not possess", why does he not impart this information to the common mortals who have to do the fighting and dying in the war for which he is preparing? And if he doesn't impart it, is it not the elementary duty of a labor leader to demand the information before he asks the workers to put blind "confidence in the judgment of the Chief Executive"?

Why, even such capitalist politicians, progressive and conservative, as Borah, Nye and others, have asked Roosevelt at least to express his foreign policy before he is given a blank check of support!

In the second place, if support to the war program is to be given Roosevelt just because he "feels" that a billion dollars are necessary to "protect" the U. S., then what's the difference between our "democratic processes" and the way things are done under the rule of the Fascist Fuehrer in Germany?

In the third place, why should American labor put even a scrap of "confidence in the judgment of the Chief Executive" of the capitalist class? Has nothing been learned from the confidence in the Chief Executive which Samuel Gompers imposed on the labor movement during the last War to Make the World Safe For Democracy?

### No Confidence in Ruling Class

Has the regimenting, conscripting, gagging and chaining of labor in the last war, while the war profiteers became increasingly bloated with blood-stained wealth—has all that been forgotten? Have we forgotten that the last war for Wall Street was also launched on the pretext of "protecting" America?

Have we forgotten that while we were fighting for "democracy" in Flanders, Mooney was framed up in the United States, the Bisbee strikers deported, labor halls raided, labor papers suppressed, genuine labor leaders imprisoned or lynched, and all democratic rights for the masses suppressed—while Gompers "stood with the President" and with the assistant secretary of the navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt?

The government and the capitalist class it represents cannot plunge us into another imperialist war without guaranteeing themselves the support of labor in advance. Without peace at home—at labor's expense—an effective war cannot be prosecuted. Whoever ties the labor movement to the war program and the war machine, is helping bring war closer; he is handing over the working class, bound hand and foot with fake patriotic slogans, to the war-mongers.

That's the crime of William Green. That's the crime of all the other labor bureaucrats who, like the Lewis machine at the United Mine Workers convention, cheered themselves hoarse for Roosevelt at the very moment when he was launching an unprecedented armaments program.

### Forward To The Class War

No confidence in Roosevelt or the government! Confidence only in the solidarity and militancy of labor's own ranks! That's the requirement of the hour. If labor relies on itself to defend its own interests, it will save itself otherwise inevitable surprises, disappointments, betrayals.

Not an iota of support to the armaments program for war! We have a war of our own to fight: the war against poverty, suffering and exploitation. That war can be won only if it is fought against the capitalist class and its chief executive in Washington.

Roosevelt may "feel" that a "billion dollars are necessary to protect" American investments and imperialist interests abroad.

But every worker KNOWS that the billion dollars are necessary to protect the millions of unemployed right here from the unspeakable misery they suffer.

A billion dollars for war armaments?

A billion times NO!

Let us demand that the billion be shifted out of the war column in the budget and into the column for unemployment relief!

## 'Little Men' Fume and Bluster As F.D.R. Provides Steam Valve

To the tune of shouts, whines, and general thimble, the conference of a thousand "Little Business Men" last week provided Washington with its most disorderly show of the current season. For two days, these bathrobe manufacturers, country editors, photo supply dealers, salesmen and hardware store owners, wrangled, shouted at each other, shook their puffy fists, and struggled hundreds at a time to get the floor. On the third day, a delegation presented to the President a list of twenty-three "demands"—politely worded ver-

sions of "resolutions" issuing out of their mass meeting. This Conference was a most instructive contrast to the various Conferences of the big business men which had preceded it. The meetings of the latter, the real rulers of American capitalism, were models of order and decorum. There were no yells or rioting. The suave spokesmen gave their dignified generalities to the press in the most gracious manner.

The Little Business Men, alas,

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## WPA WORKERS USED FOR WAR PURPOSES

NEW YORK.—The speed with which the government is preparing for the outbreak of war, and the extent to which it is using the unemployed for war preparations, was revealed here last week.

More than 1,000 W. P. A. technicians, laborers, etc. are now employed on the construction of an army land and sea airbase, with 39 hangars, at the Curtis airport on Long Island.

Construction of the base, although technically coming under the jurisdiction of the W. P. A. and being financed with W. P. A. funds, is actually being supervised by the War Department.

The utmost secrecy and precaution enshrouds this "W. P. A. project," with army men imposing a maximum of discipline on all employed there. In line with general plans to complete the air base within a very short period, the construction work has been put on a 24-hour day, 6-day week basis, with three 8-hour shifts per day.

## AUTO WORKERS LEADER SLAMS WAR MONGERS

### Homer Martin Exposes C. P. As Reactionary Force In Union

Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers, second largest C.I.O. affiliate, rocked the labor movement last week with a devastating blast against Communist Party policy and activity in the union movement.

Amplifying charges made by Benjamin Stolberg in his series of articles in the N. Y. World-Telegram, Martin declared in an interview that the C.P. was working to "involve the United States in war with Japan for the defense of the Stalin dictatorship in Russia," doing this in the name of "collective security."

### The Proof

The entire present activity of the Stalinists, who are laboring overtime to line up the workers of this country behind the war plans of the Washington government, proves Martin's point.

He declares that in their effort to plunge the U.S.A. into war against Japan the Stalinists are "working hand in hand" with "certain financial interests." Right again. Regardless of whether an explicit agreement exists, there can be no doubt in the essence of the matter that Stalin's henchmen in this country are serving the interests of the financial oligarchs of Wall Street by their social-patriotic ballyhoo.

### Aid Freely Given

The American imperialists need Stalinist cover for their war plans. Stalinist aid to whip up war hysteria, Stalinist aid for war recruiting, and—when war breaks—Stalinist aid in leading the lynch-mobs against the revolutionaries. They get it freely and voluntarily, because it is in line with Kremlin policy in this country.

Martin is not correct in saying that "the Communists are Fascists in every sense of the word." True, Stalin has in his dictatorial rule borrowed freely from the arsenal of fascist methods. Hitler and Mussolini, on the other hand, have supplemented their armory of repression with methods copied from Stalin. Nevertheless, the aims of the "Communists" and the fascists are different, even though they pursue those aims by more or less identical methods. Responsibility for the current identification of Communism with Fascism rests exclusively at the door of the Stalin regime and its lickspittle agents who defend and extol Stalin's totalitarian barbarism.

"There is a hue and cry about Nazism and fascism," Martin told his press interviewers, "but if any one mentions Stalinism they are immediately accused of 'red-baiting.' We take the position that a political label does not immunize any group from criticism."

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## Hitler Seeks To Appease Reichswehr

### Army-Nazi Feud Breaks Out; Shifts Viewed As Compromise

The chronic friction between the German army officer caste and the upstart Nazi bureaucracy reached the explosive point last week in the summary removal of Marshal von Blomberg as War Minister and of General von Fritsch as Chief of Staff, the shifting of several foreign diplomats, the replacement of Foreign Minister von Neurath by the former ambassador to London, von Ribbentrop, and the assumption of direct control of the armed forces by Hitler himself.

The fact that control of the army was given neither to Goerring nor to Himmler, who is head of the private black Nazi divisions, while several of the old-line conservative representatives of the army officer clique have been installed in the new dominant Party Council, indicates that Hitler has sought to mollify both sides by concessions and a temporary compromise.

### Rests On Bayonets

The destruction of the mass basis of German fascism has brought it to the position where its rule is based entirely on the bayonets of the Reichswehr, on the one side, and the ambitious mercenaries of the private Nazi army, led by the selected corps of Himmler's Schutzstaffel, on the other.

Having preserved German capitalism by the ruthless crushing of the working class and the labor movement, and prepared the ground for the imperialist expansion of Germany, the Nazi upstarts have continually demanded a greater share of the spoils of rule. Their demands have brought them into more than one conflict with the old governing bureaucracy whom they replaced and with the army machine which is the most reliable prop of capitalist domination.

### Army Conservatism

The army command has felt, in particular, that the foreign policy of Hitler-Rosenberg-Goebbels-Ribbentrop and Co., is too adventurist and calculated to precipitate prematurely a conflict with Britain—whose friendship they seek—in company with so dubious an ally as Italy.

Von Blomberg's plebeian marriage was of course only a pretext for the precipitation of the dispute that has been smoldering for some time. Hitler's solution is merely a temporary makeshift, reflecting the uncertainty of the imperialist alliances in Europe. The establishment of

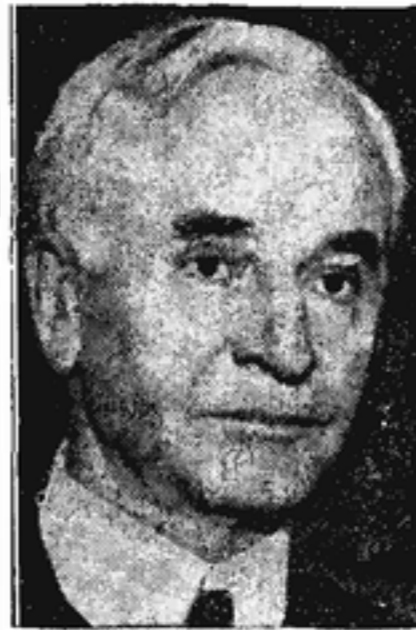
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# Leahy Testimony Bares War Plans Of U.S. Imperialism; Admits Conflict Is Near

## FDR 'Talks' For Peace; Fleet Prepares For War

### Navy Maneuvers, Alaska Issue, Indicate Trend Toward Clash

### Threatens Japan



CORDELL HULL

Foreign policy, Senator Pittman told the Senate last week, consists of "the actions of a government and not its words."

The actions of the United States Government in the past ten days, reflecting its swift pace toward a showdown against Japan in the Pacific, included the following:

1. Nearly 100 warships and 300 fighting planes completed five-day maneuvers off the southern coast of California.

### Pearl Harbor Reinforced

2. The already huge military establishment of Honolulu, key Pacific base of American imperialism, was augmented by 1,000 marines withdrawn from Shanghai and 1,268 men of the regular army sent from the West Coast. The marines, originally drawn from the San Diego naval base, were ordered to Pearl Harbor instead of back to their original posts. The submarine Nautilus was also ordered to Pearl Harbor for permanent duty there. Only two weeks ago a fleet of 18 huge fighting planes made a record formation flight across the Pacific to Pearl Harbor and more are to follow.

3. Three American cruisers, the Trenton, the Memphis, and the Milwaukee were scheduled to be at Singapore for the ceremony there on February 11 opening the new huge British naval base.

This significant American participation in a naval display obviously aimed at Japan was linked with the secret and still unexplained trip to London of Captain Royal Ingersoll, of the War Plans Department of the Navy, last month.

Testifying in Washington last week, Admiral Leahy, chief of naval operations, refused to explain the purpose of Ingersoll's visit, which was obviously in order to coordinate possible Anglo-American naval action in the Pacific.

### Capital Ship Race

4. Concurrently with Great Britain and France, the United States government on February 6 presented to Japan a virtual ultimatum on the subject of super-dreadnought building above 35,000 tons as the prelude to an undisguised race for naval sup-

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eriority. He also indicated that a connection might be established between the Poyntz disappearance and the Rubens case, which seems about to flower into a first class "spy" plot seeking to involve American Trotskyists

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## LINKS POYNTZ TO 'ROBINSON' SPY FRAME-UP

### Carlo Tresca Says She Was Abducted By G. P. U. Agent

BY JUNIUS

While Loy Henderson, U. S. charge d'affaires in Moscow waited for the G. P. U. "to arrange the time and place" of his interview with Mrs. Rubens, Carlo Tresca, veteran anti-Fascist leader, this week delivered a withering attack on the Stalin frame-up machine charging it with the abduction of Juliet Stuart Poyntz, noted Stalinist leader who disappeared last summer.

Tresca offered to go before the Grand Jury now investigating the Rubens passport mystery and to give evidence implicating the G. P. U. in the disappearance of Miss Poyntz.

### Linked To Rubens

He also indicated that a connection might be established between the Poyntz disappearance and the Rubens case, which seems about to flower into a first class "spy" plot seeking to involve American Trotskyists

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## HINT JOINT ACTION WITH BRITAIN

### Note to Japan on Battleship Program Heralds Naval Race; Admiral Says Fleet Will Be Used to Implement Monroe Doctrine

Not troubling to mince words, Admiral William D. Leahy, chief of naval operations of the U. S. Navy, last week revealed to the House Committee on Naval Affairs the broad lines of the war policies of the Roosevelt government.

Admiral Leahy was testifying in favor of the \$800,000,000 naval budget proposed by President Roosevelt and he made it plain that Congress would be called on to vote still more millions to fulfill all the far-reaching aims of American imperialism in the war which Leahy admitted was "nearer now than at any time since the World War."

The note sent to Japan on February 5 concurrently by the United States, Great Britain, and France, demanding information by February 20 on Japan's battleship building plans, made it plain that the Roosevelt regime is prepared to embark on a naval building race and to construct super-dreadnoughts of more than 40,000 tons.

### Mysterious Trip

This joint step clarified at one stroke the meaning of the mysterious trip to London made by Captain R. Ingersoll of the War Plans Department of the Navy, on which Admiral Leahy refused to give information to the House Committee before which he testified. The note showed that first tentative steps have already been taken by the Roosevelt Administration for joint naval action with Britain in the event of war.

What other commitments the administration and the military and naval chiefs have made without the knowledge of Congress or of the people will be disclosed only when further actions bring them to light.

### What Leahy Revealed

Enough has already been revealed, however, to require of all workers the utmost vigilance against the war plans of American capitalism.

In a prepared statement Admiral Leahy told the Committee on Monday that "the political conditions in the world at this moment both in Europe and the Far East are far more threatening than at any time since 1918 and no improvement was in sight. The major conflict in progress in China has resulted in many grave incidents involving the sovereign rights of the United States and other third powers. The civil war in Spain continues unabated and the threat of a general European conflict is ever present."

### Just a Police Patrol

The Admiral regarded the navy as a police patrol for the entire western hemisphere. "At our doors nothing stands in the way of possible exploitation or seizure of the Republics of Central or South America except the Monroe Doctrine, backed by such naval forces as the United States may have and the use of that force if the necessity should arise." He asserted that the navy must be "maintained at a strength which will prevent a serious challenge by any nation or nations to any of America's vital national policies."

He specifically referred to "the recently concluded German-Italian-Japanese anti-Communist protocol" and the breakdown of all limitations on naval construction as reasons for an immediate increase in American naval power. After pointing out that the navy was the first line of national defense, he stated that "in defending our territory in war, we cannot assume an attitude of passive defense. Prompt and effective injury to an enemy at a distance from our shores, is the only correct strategy to be employed in case of anticipated or actual attack. This declaration that the best means of defense was an offensive attack nullified Admiral Leahy's steadfast denials in the subsequent question-

ing that the naval expansion program was a weapon of aggression to be used in line with Roosevelt's policy announced in his Chicago speech of "quarantining" aggressor nations. Ready For Anything Asked on Tuesday by Republican Representative Maas from Minnesota whether "if we should have trouble in the Pacific, we could anticipate any substantial aid from any other power?" Admiral Leahy replied: "We are planning to take care of any situation." In response to other questions, Leahy indicated that the defense lines of the navy include Canada, Mexico and Central America. "The Pacific defense line," he said, "extends from the Aleutian Islands to Hawaii and thence via Samoa to the Panama Canal. The Atlantic defense line extends from the coast of Maine to the Virgin Islands to Colon." Asked later, whether in the case of any attempted "indirect invasion" of Central or South American republics by a foreign power, the U.S. navy would be used to thwart such an attempt, Leahy answered that it would be so used if the national policy at the time required it. He further stated that the ability of the navy to enforce the Monroe Doctrine at present depended absolutely on the amount of force employed against the Monroe Doctrine.

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## Murdered Victim of G.P.U. Reveals Inner Life of Stalin's Secret Police

The following revealing picture of the inner situation of the G.P.U., Stalin's counter-revolutionary secret police, has been supplied by Comrade Ignace Reiss, himself a former G.P.U. agent, who was slain by Stalin's orders on September 4, 1937 near Lausanne, Switzerland, after he had denounced his murderous employers and declared his adherence to the Fourth International. —Editor.

### By IGNACE REISS

Among the first to be clapped in jail—accused of "Trotskyism"—was the head of the spets department, Molchanov. After his arrest came the arrest of a dozen of his collaborators and this constituted the first blow against Yagoda. Then, one arrest followed another.

The blow was first of all aimed at G.P.U. functionaries of foreign birth. Reprisals against them were only part and parcel of general reprisals against foreign communists who had migrated to the U.S.S.R. Especially desperate was the situation of those who had Fascist rule in their native countries: Germans, Poles, Hungarians and so on.

There was no need to intercede in their behalf and so there was no need for any ceremony in dealing with them. They were all, as a rule, accused of espionage. Very quickly followed the arrest of Russians who had married foreigners, i.e., female "spies."

### They Just Disappear

Foreign communists disappeared in batches, new ones daily. Two old Polish Communists happen to meet on the street: "You're not in jail yet?" "And you?" Or, another meeting: "You're still in Moscow! I thought you were arrested long ago!"

Among those placed under arrest, in pursuance of the line of liquidating the old cadres, was an old Chekist, B. In search for some pretext, they seized upon a denunciation in his case: In 1927, in reply to some denigrating remark about Trotsky made by an assistant of his, B. had said, "Don't you... dare mention Trotsky's name in my presence!" Nothing was made of it at the time. But now, ten years later, he was reminded of his hot-headed action.

Cases of this sort are not an exception but, rather, the rule. A woman conductor in Kharkov, was removed from her job. Reason? It appears that her former husband had signed ten years ago some sort of oppositional statement. None of her friends interceded in her behalf—to do so was to suffer the same fate.

G. was removed from his post in the G.P.U., allegedly for "gossiping". As a matter of fact G. had been intimate with B. who was arrested shortly before. G.'s superior had told him: "I know you meet B. in the corridors. Cut it out." At the time, B. was only a prospective candidate for jail. After B.'s arrest, G. was first removed from his post and shortly thereafter himself arrested.

### A 'Spy' Arrested

Among those arrested was S., an old-timer in the G.P.U., of foreign extraction, who knew several languages and worked in the foreign department. Like the rest, he was accused of "es-

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