

La Guardia Cuts Relief Ten Percent

'Labor Mayor' Acts In 'Gesture' Against Gov. Lehman

ALL OUT!

All workers are urged to demonstrate against LaGuardia's 10 per cent Relief Cut at City Hall, 11 A. M., Saturday, March 26. The demonstration is called by the Workers Alliance of New York.

NEW YORK.—On motion of Mayor LaGuardia the Board of Estimate of New York, richest city in the world, has reduced payments to the unemployed by 10 per cent. This starvation cut was moved by "labor's mayor" in face of a report by a commission appointed by himself which stated that relief grants were already approximately 40 per cent below subsistence level. The immediate excuse for the cut, given by the mayor, was a tax dispute with Gov. Lehman and the State legislature. Lehman, "labor's governor," took over the utility tax from New York City for the use of the State. This meant a loss of twelve to sixteen million dollars a year in taxes to the city. "You can't do that to me and get away with it," said LaGuardia. So he retaliated on Lehman by cutting unemployed relief.

Wants Cut Now

In a friendly discussion on the relief cut with Samuel Wiseman, Stalinist leader of the Workers Alliance, Mayor LaGuardia stated that there were sufficient funds on hand to carry on relief payments without any cut for several months, but in order to dramatize the governor's tax grab he wanted to put the cut into effect while the State legislature was still in session.

Between the "People's Choice" Governor Lehman and "Labor's Mayor" LaGuardia, the unemployed of this city got it in the neck.

The ten per cent cut in relief payments will actually mean a twenty per cent cut in the food budgets of the jobless.

Rents must be paid as before. The landlord gets his pound of flesh or he evicts.

Gas and light costs must be paid as before, otherwise the utility companies will discontinue service.

There is only one place to cut: on food.

Unemployed Suffer

LaGuardia's "retaliation" against Lehman means taking approximately 20 per cent of the bread and milk from the mouths of already hungry men, women and children. No doubt, "labor's friend" will find a way of explaining this starvation policy so as to make it palatable to the A. L. P. and the Stalinist stooges. It can never be made acceptable to the unemployed.

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RELIEF MILITANTS ARRESTED IN N. Y.

A. Dollinger, Martin Roerback, members of the S.W.P., and Morris Manus, member of Local 15 of the Workers Alliance, were arrested at the Single Men's Relief Bureau last Tuesday. They were fighting the case of Morris Manus, who had been given the "run-around" for more than two weeks, and was in dire need of relief.

Kurt Stromm, Stalinist leader of the W.A.A. on the lower East Side, when asked by Dollinger, the grievance delegate to this relief bureau, for support on this emergency case, proceeded to herd his members out of the bureau. This splitting action on the part of this "unity" crier is merely one of many such similar acts that have taken place in the C.P.-controlled W.A.A.

The C.P. has again clearly demonstrated that it is a reactionary disunifying force in the Alliance. All three workers arrested are members of Local 15, a militant and progressive local of the W.A.A.

Expropriation Of Oil Lands Opens New Era For Mexican Workers

Cardenas Move Is Step Forward: Workers In This Country Must Give Full Support To Mexican Working Class

With the expropriation of the American and British oil companies by the Cardenas government, the year-long struggle between the foreign capitalists and the Mexican workers has entered a decisive stage. The conflict revolves around the annual wage-raises and the granting of the rights of workers' representation in the administration of the oil fields.

The companies refused to accept the decision of the Mexican Supreme Court favorable to the workers, hoping that Cardenas would again yield to them. They calculated that the government budget is mainly dependent on the taxes which are derived from oil production.

"Democratic" Pressure

They knew that Cardenas urgently needs precisely at the present time money to subsidize the peasant cooperatives (ejidos) in the cotton plantations of Laguna in Northern Mexico which he created last year by expropriating and subdividing large estates.

Above all, they relied upon the pressure of "the great democracies" of Wall Street and the City of London. The New York Times has already hinted that Washington "supports" Mexico by buying large quantities of silver every month above the market price. The companies in New York and London threaten to place an embargo on Mexican oil knowing that Mexico, which owns

no tankers, would be forced to find customers and shippers in fascist countries, Japan, Germany, and Italy, whose policies Cardenas has opposed.

Our Position

The Socialist Workers Party wholeheartedly supports the expropriations of the oil companies and calls upon the American working class to back up this action against the machinations of the oil interests and the interventions of their respective governments. We support the efforts of the Mexican workers to gain independent control of oil fields against all those within and without Mexico who aim to curb their class action.

The Fourth Internationalists who have defended the Marxist line for many years in the anti-imperialist struggle of China, India, etc., against the Stalinists have not the slightest illusion concerning the class limitations and the mortal weaknesses of the Cardenas regime. The role of this regime is to effect a compromise between a feeble national bourgeoisie, a parasitic military caste, a peasantry and a working class, misled by reformists and Stalinists, and the strong pressure of foreign imperialist interests.

A Progressive Step

The Fourth Internationalists, without renouncing open criticism of the bourgeois-nationalist government, are at the same time ready to be in the forefront to defend any progressive step of this regime against the imperialists of all nations. However confused and contradictory Cardenas' policy may be, he has more than once demonstrated that he takes his ideas of democracy in a quite different spirit than Blum, Roosevelt, Eden, and their ilk. What none of the democratic capitalists and not even the Soviet government dared to do, Cardenas did: to give public and effective support to the Spanish Republicans from the outset of their fight against Franco.

Our sympathies are above all with the young and militant Mexican workers. Their fighting spirit has pushed Cardenas far beyond the limits which he would otherwise have observed in his struggle against foreign capital.

Workers' Initiative

One cannot but greet with enthusiasm the reports concerning the spontaneous power and skill with which the armed workers are now taking control and direction over the oil fields on their own initiative. Once again, it is being shown that the "illiterate" proletariat is mature enough to administer the wealth of society on their own account.

If the present offensive of Mexican people against imperialist slavery will stop halfway, the fault will not be on the side of the Mexican workers.

Representatives of the Socialist Workers' Party, now in Mexico, have publicly declared their solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggle of the Mexican people, and called upon the American workers to follow their example. We wholeheartedly endorse their declaration.

Against any imposition of sanctions in the interests of the oil barons!

Long live the struggle of the Mexican workers and peasants! Hands off Mexico!

Street Rally Held

Following the picketing, a street meeting was organized, one of the largest ever held in the district. More than 1,000 listeners heard speakers from the S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L. point out the necessity of aggressive methods in fighting fascism and the need of workers' unity in the fight. By this time Stalinists, with their usual concern for fighting the Trotskyites, had begun to rally their forces. Deliberately assigned provocateurs stood by with stones in their hands until this was pointed out to the workers in the audience.

Just before the close of the street meeting, Shulman, one of the leading East Side Stalinists, organized a counter-meeting on the other side of the street and sent hecklers across. The S.W.P. meeting adjourned in good order, singing the "International," and

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Rappoport Breaks With French C.P.

Charles Rappoport, one of the founders of the French Communist Party and one of the leading Marxist theoreticians of the party, handed in his resignation on March 16. He denounced the Moscow trials as a "macabre farce" and rejected the crimes of the Stalin regime, stating he could no longer remain in the party which supported them. Rappoport was also Paris correspondent of Izvestia, Stalin's government organ. In a statement to the press he declared that the execution of Nikolai Bukharin impelled his action.

TRIAL CAUSES NEW FISSURES IN C. P. RANKS

Stalin's Terror Repels Honest Proletarian Militants

Evidence is mounting that the Trial of the 21 has to an unprecedented degree shaken the Stalinist movement to its foundations. Above all, the proletarian strata of the Communist Party is in ferment as a result of the new frame-up.

Browder was compelled to call a closed meeting, in New York admission by invitation only, of 6,000 active party members in an attempt to whip them into line.

Open Disbelief

From all over the country reports indicate that the best of the Communist Party membership is not swallowing the Trial of the 21, and in a number of cases is expressing its disbelief openly.

The turmoil in the Young Communist League is particularly striking. A substantial percentage of one of the largest units in the country refuses to accept the trial. In one of the most important States, a prominent member of the Executive has already made known his intention to break with the party and join the Fourth Internationalists.

Foreign Groups Revolting

The foreign-language members—almost entirely proletarian, including conspicuously the Polish and Lettish workers, are in a state of incipient revolt.

At several recent meetings on the trial held by the Socialist Workers Party, Communist Party members have taken the floor to denounce the frame-up, and in at least one case have joined the Socialist Workers Party on the spot. A meeting called in one important city to "greet 600 new members" of the Communist Party had a total attendance of around 200.

Afraid To Argue

In their efforts to stem this tide, the Stalinist leadership in many cases afraid to argue the case of the trial, but tries to "submerge" the issue of the trial in a general appeal for loyalty in the face of the war crisis and the danger to the Soviet Union. But the members are learning that Stalinism itself is in the forefront of the dangers to the Soviet Union.

They are also beginning to learn that under the banner of the Socialist Workers Party and the Fourth International the only real struggle against imperialist war and the only real mobilization for defense of the Workers' State is being conducted.

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Imperialist War Impends In Europe; Hull Reiterates Aim To Dominate World

NAVY FUNDS TO BE HIKED AGAIN

War Scare Used to Spur American Armaments Program

The extreme sharpening of the war crisis in Europe was seized upon by the Roosevelt administration last week to intensify its own rapid drive toward war.

First reaction was the announcement that the already-huge arms budget would be increased still further. Second was the speech of Secretary of State Cordell Hull to the National Press Club in which he unmistakably reiterated the intention of American imperialism to take its "rightful" place as arbiter of the world's destinies in the dark years that lie just ahead.

The naval budget has already skyrocketed to heights never before reached in the peacetime history of this country. From a mere \$290,000,000 in 1934, the regular budget was increased this year to a billion, augmented by an extraordinary appropriation of \$1,121,000,000.

New Increases In View

This is still not the end. Representative Rayburn, New Deal House leader, announced last week that "Congress may be asked within the next few months to authorize an outlay for defense greater than the pending naval measure."

The army, too, is scheduled to get more money. Although its regular appropriation for the coming year was over half a billion dollars, Roosevelt announced that he will ask for more money to expand the army further.

What is all this arming for? This question is being asked more and more loudly by workers and liberals. Secretary of State Hull's speech to the National Press Club in Washington was the most detailed New Deal justification of its armaments and war policies.

The main theme of his speech was that the New Deal policies aimed to ensure peace—peace for the United States, peace for Asia, peace for Europe. "The primary objectives of our foreign policy are the maintenance of the peace of our country..."

Rejects Isolation

How are the armaments going to be used in order to maintain "peace"? Not by isolation, says Hull. "Isolation is not a means to security; it is a fruitful source of insecurity."

On an international scale, isolationism would destroy the armed might that backs up American imperialism everywhere that it battles its rivals for control.

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THE ONLY ROAD TO PEACE

The mounting series of "incidents" in Europe, set in train by Hitler's seizure of Austria, brings home to every worker the imminence of the war peril. Decaying capitalism is preparing to destroy humanity in a new world war.

How are the workers to act in face of this terrible threat?

The false leaders of the working class, with the Stalinists in the van, are trying to persuade the workers to line up behind the "democratic" capitalist governments, against the fascist "aggressors."

Last War Led To Fascism

The workers have nothing to gain and everything to lose by aligning themselves with the war camps of "democratic" capitalism. They did that in the last World War, with the tragic consequences so evident today. They fought for "freedom and democracy." Capitalist "democracy" produced—Fascism.

Defend "freedom" by aiding imperialism to conduct its robber wars? But what real freedom do the workers in the "democratic" countries have when their wages are slashed below the subsistence level, when they are out of work, starving and homeless?

The emancipation of the working class is the task of the workers themselves. It can be accomplished only in irreconcilable opposition to the exploiters in every country, "democratic" as well as fascist. The workers have no fetherland until they have created one by overthrowing their exploiters and taking power. For the workers the enemy is in their own country—not across the frontier. For the workers of America, too, the enemy is right here. It is the capitalist class.

The Enemy Is Here

Rightly the American workers want to fight war and fascism. This cannot be done by supporting American imperialism in a war against "aggressor" nations.

If the American imperialists are led to believe they will have the support of the workers for war—war will be brought that much nearer. Working class opposition to war, the class struggle for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of the socialist revolution, is the only road to peace.

People's Front Leads Spanish Working Class Toward Fascist Abyss

Only the Repression of the Revolutionary Mass Movement of the Workers Has Made Franco's Sweeping Victories Possible

Having entrenched themselves in recaptured Teruel, General Franco's fascist troops have embarked on a relentless drive which, after twelve days of steady fighting, has brought them to a point less than forty miles from Spain's Mediterranean coast.

While at the moment Franco seems to be taking a breathing-spell, seeking to consolidate his position in the vast Aragon territory wrenched from the Loyalists, the offensive strategy shows no signs of resting for long.

Bombardments Continue

The unprecedented bombardments of Barcelona and other key coastal cities continue to take their bloody toll. The military deadlock which has gripped the Spanish civil war for many months is at an end. The scales have tipped far over toward the fascist side, and for the first time wholesale disaster and rout of the government forces seem to be in sight.

It strikes the observer with added force that the destinies of the ever-shifting foreign policies of their "democratic" allies. The blueprints of the Spanish civil war are drawn with meticulous detail in the diplomatic ante-chambers of London and Paris.

Delbos and Eden, with their policy of jockeying for position with the fascist powers, found

Fascists Get Help

While secret conversations about "peace" go on in the chancelleries of London and Paris between the "democracies" and the dictatorships, new shipments of German and Italian planes, machine-guns, military supplies and troops make their appearance in Spain.

While the French and British "peace-lovers" scrupulously observe their policy of non-intervention, Franco, supplied with new instruments of death and fresh man-power, pushes the most determined offensive of the whole war. While Lord Halifax, and Paul-Boncour (France's new Minister of Foreign Affairs) (Continued on page 3)

HITLER SPEEDS HIS WAR PLANS

U.S.S.R.'s Isolation Is Deepened; Poland's Appetite Whetted

Sparks from the forge of imperialist war are flying thicker and faster with each passing day. For the second time within a single generation Europe is becoming the center of a world war conflagration.

Hitler's seizure of Austria, bringing in its train a series of events in the developing war situation, represents much more than a territorial acquisition. Taken in its world setting, it was a move on the chessboard of imperialist rivalry in which the final disposition of the pawn will determine the line-up of the hostile camps.

New War Moves

The Austrian coup gave fresh heart to the fascist forces in Spain. With additional aid from Mussolini, Franco's armies are now driving forward to swallow all that remains of Republican Spain. Hitler's bold move also sharpened the appetite of the Polish bourgeoisie, which, hungry for expansion, has brought tiny Lithuania under its virtual domination. This move, carried out with Hitler's connivance, provides Poland and Germany with a supplementary strategic position against the Soviet Union.

Nazification of Czechoslovakia is now only a matter of time. For Hitler's plans envisage the absorption of Czechoslovakia into Germany's war economy and, finally, the dismemberment of that country for the benefit of Germany, Poland, and Hungary. Whether Hitler tries to appease Britain with a new Berchtesgaden agreement with the Czech Schuschnigg, or essays an early military attack, the last vassal of France in Central Europe is lost. And the Czech bourgeoisie, around whose head the Stalinists have woven a halo of democracy and progressiveness, will be obliged to serve under the Swastika as Hitler's auxiliaries against the Soviet Union.

France Paralyzed

Imperialist France, paralyzed by social crisis, watches helplessly the move of Germany's "iron chancellor" while feverishly building up its war machine. French imperialism, now that Hitler has finished smashing the system of Versailles, has lost its dominant position on the European continent. Diplomatically it tags along behind Great Britain.

But the British lion is no longer the arbiter of Europe's fate. This role is now filled by the Wilhelmstrasse. Floundering around in search of a new axis for its foreign policy, Britain, too, builds up its imperialist war machine at an

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CALIFORNIA YPSLS PICKET ELEANOR

LOS ANGELES—Four youths were arrested for distributing literature of the Socialist Workers Party and Young People's Socialist League to the thousands that appeared at the Shrine Auditorium March 18 to hear Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt lecture on "The Problems of Youth." The leaflets presented the real plight of the young generation and exposed Roosevelt's drive for war.

Two members of the Young Communist League were arrested a few minutes later for trying to give out circulars to the same crowd.

Police, present to see that the First Lady of the Land should not be embarrassed, arrested the six youngsters, four of whom spent the night in jail. All were scheduled to stand trial March 25.

Next Week!

AN 8-PAGE ANTI-WAR ISSUE!

Next week falls the 21st anniversary of this country's entry into the last war "to make the world safe for democracy." It comes on the eve of a new war which the same fakers are telling us is to make the same world safe against the Fascism which the war for democracy produced.

Our issue next week will be a special eight-page anti-war issue, including a special four-page anti-war supplement. Special articles will review the war crisis on the European and Far Eastern fronts and will cover thoroughly the preparations that the Roosevelt administration is making to drag this country once more

into a holocaust in which millions of our working class youth will be called upon to give their lives for the bosses.

Attention all branches and locals! Calling all Literature Agents! Send in increased bundle orders at once to the National Office. Also inform us with equal speed of the number of extra copies of one four-page anti-war supplement that you will want for special distributions.

All party organizations! Get behind the Appeal to push the eight-pager over the top and carry us a long stride nearer a regular six-page, eight-page issue on the way to our national daily!