

May Day - A Day of Struggle!

Make May Day Labor's Day!

International May Day is the day when the working class mobilizes its ranks in demonstration and review, and outlines its course of action for the period ahead. Whoever seeks to convert May Day into an innocuous ceremonial parade, is flying in the face of the best tradition and the spirit of the day.

The ruling class throughout the world is on the offensive. In its agony, the dying monster of capitalism is seeking desperately to outlive its time by eating its way through the very vitals of the masses.

REACTION HITS LABOR

The standard of living of the workers, never very high, is being cut to the bone in one country after another. The natural resistance of the toilers is brutally suppressed by the guns and sabers and blackjacks of Fascism or military dictatorship in an increasing number of lands. In the countries of "democracy" as in the countries of "reaction," the real wages of the workers are cut; their working conditions are worsened; advanced social legislation is revoked or rendered meaningless; the situation of the farmers and peasants continues to deteriorate; the political liberties of all the masses are curtailed where they are not abolished outright.

That is the real situation. And added to it is the ever-present danger of a new imperialist war, more imminent now than before, in which the highly-developed technique of capitalism is to be directed to exterminating millions, young and old, to determine which gang of international thieves shall dominate the world and draw tribute from it.

Capitalism in every country is in the death-grip of a crisis. The ruling class knows no way out of it, except to reduce the masses to an even lower level of existence, or to wipe out whole sections of them on the battlefields.

U. S. CAPITALISM CRIPPLED

This is true even in the most powerful and wealthy country of the world, the United States of America. The most productive machine in the world is crippled, although, if it were put to work, it could make possible plenty and comfort for those millions who are unemployed and constantly on the brink of starvation. The increasing ranks of the unemployed want work, demand it, have a right to it, for without it the right to live is an empty phrase. But capitalism and its government cannot give them work. The wealth-swollen plutocracy is interested in production only if profit can be accumulated. They produce only when there is a profitable market. The masses—the market of capitalism—need food, clothing, housing, roads, automobiles and a thousand and one other necessities and comforts of life. But the vast machine for producing them is not at work because—it is not profitable.

May Day, then, must be a reminder to the workers that the ruling class—their ruthless enemy—will not and cannot bring them anything for their growing misery except greater misery and greater oppression.

May Day must be a reminder to the workers that they, and they alone, can solve their own problems, can smash the capitalist offensive and the reaction, can inaugurate a better life in a new society. The workers have no friends but themselves! They can rely only on their own strength, their own organization, their own party!

WHERE ARE WE MARCHING?

Millions are marching on May Day. Where? In what direction? With what leaders?

The defeats suffered by the masses at the hand of reaction have been defeats produced by false leaders, by the Stalinist and Social Democratic parties, which dragged the workers off the road of militant class struggle and on to the road of reliance on capitalism, the road to the abyss.

It is not true that the masses will not fight, fight aggressively, fight with solidarity and determination to win. The workers have not lost faith in their victory. Their misleaders have!

The workers of Spain give us an example of courage and heroism, now, just as the workers of Austria did four years ago. The masses of China are showing that victory is possible, even against a savage, militarily superior foe like Japanese imperialism.

They are showing that it is possible to win in the struggle against reaction. Where they are flung back, it is only because the poison of People's Frontism is blinding and weakening them. The People's Front is the policy of support of murderous capitalism just because it wears a "democratic" mask. It is the policy of support of imperialist war and capitalist governments, just because they pretend that it is a sacred war for "democracy." Born out of defeats, it leads to defeats.

Enough of them! It is high time to turn the tide.

Not the "People's Front," which makes the masses

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DOWN TOOLS!



Harry Bridges Orders Union-Smashing Drive Against Coast Sailors

Whole Future of Maritime Unions At Stake On
Clear Cut Issue of Collaboration
Or Class Struggle Policy

SAN FRANCISCO.—As the time for the termination of the present agreements between the West Coast maritime workers and the shipowners draws near, a profound crisis is developing within the ranks of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific Coast. This crisis which is at bottom a struggle between two irreconcilable policies—the program of intransigent class-struggle as against class-collaboration, has already broken out into a number of bloody clashes.

It will be resolved only with either complete destruction of the unity of the West Coast maritime workers and the triumph of the Stalinist policy of cooperation with the shipowners, or with the defeat of the Stalinist-Bridges machine and the establishment of a clear cut class struggle policy built on rank and file control of all the maritime unions.

Bridges' Order

Events of the past few weeks already foreshadow the struggle that is yet to come. On March 22 Harry Bridges, West Coast C.I.O. director, president of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union and banner bearer for the Stalinist union smashing machine on the West Coast, told a meeting of the National Maritime Union in New Orleans to pull the members of the Sailors Union of the Pacific off ships and replace them. "The only thing to do is stamp out these destructive elements," he declared.

On April 15 Bridges launched a personally conducted attack on picket lines of the Sailors Union of the Pacific in an effort to

carry this program out on the West Coast. When the S.U.P. threw picket lines around the Shepard Line's Sea Thrush at Portland, Ore., and the Timber Rush at Seattle, Wash., Bridges ordered the longshoremen at these ports to smash the sailors' lines.

Backed up by police armed with sawed-off shotguns and machine guns the Portland longshoremen obeyed. In Seattle, however, the I.L.W.U. men balked at such strikebreaking and it was not until Bridges rushed to this city and personally led the attack that he could mobilize sufficient forces to crash the picket line. Three days later, when the Sea Thrush docked in San Francisco, Bridges again ordered his men through the lines of the S.U.P. and again with the backing of the police succeeded in crashing through.

Bogus Ruling

To justify these splitting actions directed against fellow members of the Maritime Federation Bridges points to the National Labor Relations Board ruling which granted collective bargaining rights to the N.M.U. who are running the Shepard ships. This ruling was made after balloting the Shepard Line ships but without putting the S.U.P. on the ballot or notifying that union of the action despite the fact that the S.U.P. has a contract with the Shepard line calling for preferential hiring. The Labor Board has practically admitted the weakness of its position and its obvious collusion with the Shepard Line and the Curran-Bridges-Stalinist set-

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SWP Summons Workers For May Day Rally

Revolutionists Will Not
Attend Patriotic Show
Of The Stalinists

NEW YORK.—Refusing to participate in the patriotic, war-mongering May Day parade organized by the Communist Party, and denied the possibility of participating on equal terms in a joint demonstration with the Socialist Party, the Socialist Workers Party and its youth organization has been obliged to organize its own independent celebration on May Day this year.

Will Parade

This meeting will be preceded by a parade of members of the S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L., and sympathizers. The parade will start from the headquarters of the Lower East Side branch of the S.W.P., 159 Rivington Street, at 7 p. m. and march from there to Germania Hall.

The decision to hold a separate May Day celebration was made only after it became clear that a genuine united front of working class political parties and trade unions could not be arranged.

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Nazi Shadow Deepens Over Czechoslovakia

Hitler Makes New Threats As Britain Pushes Its
Plans to Strike Bargain With Nazis

The Nazi shadow is deepening over Czechoslovakia. In the midst of preliminary negotiations for widening the Anglo-Italian pact into a four-power arrangement uniting England, Italy, France, and Germany, the Nazis have hastened their own preliminary campaign for the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia and the absorption of its polyglot population, including 3,500,000 Germans, into the orbit of influence of the Nazi Reich.

In an arrogant and menacing speech at Karlsbad, Konrad Henlein, fuhrer of the German minority in Czechoslovakia, demanded virtual independence for the German citizens of the country.

Embraces Nazi Leadership

He completely dropped the pretense, until now maintained, that the Sudeten Germans (the Czechoslovak Germans) supported the idea of preserving the state of Czechoslovakia and were not closely wedded to their Nazi brothers across the nearby border. Henlein openly embraced the Nazi faith and openly acknowledged his allegiance to the Reich.

In Berlin Henlein's speech was promptly hailed as a "last warning" to the Czechoslovak leaders.

In Hungary the Nazi-inspired revisionist movement held a mass meeting attended by 20,000 persons at which the demand for the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia was openly espoused. Thus Hitler, employing the power-politics formulae which have brought Central Europe under the Fascist heel, is once more waving the big stick of Nazi expansion in the frightened faces of the French and British leaders precisely at a time when they are seeking a means of curbing him by drawing him into a western European pact.

Directed Against U.S.S.R.

That this pact will be based upon the central notion of giving Hitler a free hand towards the East, i. e., toward the U.S.S.R., was bluntly admitted by Augur, unofficial spokesman for the British foreign office, in a dispatch to the New York Times on April 25. This week Premier Edouard Daladier and Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet of France are going to London to take their orders from Neville Chamberlain concerning the rapid conclusion of a Franco-Italian pact as a preliminary to a settlement with Germany.

One of the main issues upon

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S.W.P. Plenum Maps Out Future Party Activity

After four days of intensive discussion, the first quarterly plenum of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party concluded its work with the mapping out of a campaign of activity in the trade unions and the political field calculated to bring the party into the most intimate contact with the problems and the movement of the American working class.

The attention of the plenum was concentrated mainly upon a consideration of the unprecedented social crisis in the United States and the concrete means of setting the working class in motion against the bankrupt capitalist regime. The question of

the party's relation to the growing movement for independent working class political action constituted one of the most important points on the agenda.

Arrangements are being made for submitting full reports of the plenum's work to the membership of the party and the Young People's Socialist League, and for a thoroughgoing discussion of these reports.

In coming issues of the Appeal, our readers will be made familiar with important material dealing with the work of the plenum and the position of the Socialist Workers Party on the burning problems facing the American labor movement today.

NEW YORK
S. W. P. MAY DAY
RALLY
GERMANIA HALL
144 East 16th Street
Sunday, May 1, 8 P. M.

Our Greetings and our Tribute

TO PRISONERS OF THE CLASS WAR

May Day, the day of labor, on which the workers of all lands and all races join in demonstrations to renew their pledges of international solidarity and to review their forces in preparation for new struggles for their social liberation, has always been used as a special occasion for remembrance of and greetings to class war fighters and prisoners.

The Socialist Workers Party, carrying forward this tradition of the revolutionary movement in a period of darkest reaction, sends greetings to the fighters against capitalist exploitation and oppression wherever they are imprisoned.

GREET TOM MOONEY!

We greet Tom Mooney, America's outstanding class war prisoner, held in jail for 22 years by the labor-hating reactionaries of California for the "crime" of organizing the workers and leading them in struggle against their exploiters!

We greet Fred Beal, Gastonia textile strike leader, now serving a 10-20 years' sentence in a North Carolina prison on a charge framed-up against him by the southern Bourbon bosses and their lynch gangs!

We greet the Harlan County miners, railroaded to jail many years ago and still incarcerated in Kentucky dungeons for the "crime" of striking to improve their conditions!

We greet all other class war prisoners in America! Founded on the firm principles of international working class solidarity, the Socialist Workers Party extends the hand of comradeship across land and sea to class war prisoners in other lands.

TO THE FIGHTERS IN SPAIN

We greet the heroic class war fighters in Spain, battlers against fascism, and in particular our Bolshevik-Leninist comrades and the Anarchist workers imprisoned in the jails of Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia by the capitalist government of the People's Front and its Stalinist allies!

We greet the imprisoned Bolshevik-Leninists of Germany, and through them the whole German working class, victim of cruel reaction!

We greet, too, the valiant proletariat of Italy, ground down under the iron heel of fascist dictatorship!

We greet the imprisoned Bolshevik-Leninists in Greece, Bulgaria, Poland and the "free city" of Danzig, and through them the workers in whose struggles they have fought!

TO COMRADE TA TU-THAU

We greet our comrade Ta Tu-thau, jailed in French Indo-China by the People's Front government and now stricken with paralysis as a result of hunger strikes!

To the imprisoned and persecuted revolutionary fighters in the U.S.S.R., victims of Stalin's counter-revolutionary regime, we likewise send our greetings and assure them of our solidarity!

To all other class war prisoners, wherever they happen to be, we send May Day greetings! We pledge ourselves to remember them in our work and to strive unceasingly for their liberation!

To the working class we renew our pledge to fight unwaveringly for the overthrow of the capitalist system which oppresses and exploits them!

To the oppressed masses of the colonies and semi-colonies—to all those fighting for freedom against the rapacious imperialist powers—we send May Day greetings, assurances of our unbounded sympathy and solidarity with them in their struggles, a pledge to aid them in every way possible!

SUPPORT THE NATIONAL STRUGGLES!

In particular, we greet the heroic Chinese masses, battling against great odds to preserve themselves from enslavement by the Japanese imperialists!

We greet the downtrodden people of India and Palestine, terrorized and oppressed by British imperialism! We greet, too, the oppressed masses of all the other British colonies! And all those trodden under foot in the colonies of France, Italy, Holland and Belgium!

Last but not least we send fraternal May Day greetings to the exploited peoples of the Latin American countries, victims of oppression and exploitation! We affirm our desire to enter into a firm alliance with them against our common enemy—American imperialism—for the establishment of a Soviet United States of all the Americas!

Against the black flag of advancing reaction we raise the red banner of the socialist revolution. Never shall it be furled!