

U.S. Workers Must Give Strong Support to Mexican People

Powers Foment Fascist Revolt

Insolent British Notes Get Sharp Reply From Mexico

(Continued from page 1) of the present silent but effective economic blockade of Mexico by the British and American imperialists.

Revolutionary Position

In this issue there can be no doubt about the position of revolutionary Marxists. Without renouncing for a moment their principled opposition to all capitalist governments, they stand firmly behind the concrete anti-imperialist moves of the Cardenas government, ready to defend them with the methods of independent proletarian mass action. Each step forward in shaking off the imperialist yoke, every inch of retreat on the part of the imperialist conquerors, is an aid to the emancipation of the proletarian and peasant masses.

The enemy is powerful. Neither the Mexican government nor the Mexican working masses can win the battle if they remain isolated and without aid. The task of organized labor in America is to forge a fighting solidarity with the Mexican drive toward liberation.

Every trade union must protest against the arrogant provocations of British diplomacy! Every trade union must invite labor organizations throughout the world, and especially in England, to organize demonstrations in favor of Mexico!

Cease the Blockade!

Every trade union must call for the immediate sending of a broad labor commission to Mexico by the Trade Union International, to unmask the actions of the imperialist exploiters of Mexico labor!

Every trade union must call for immediate dropping of the demands for "compensation" of the foreign oil and agrarian magnates who have plundered Mexican soil for decades! Hands off Mexico!

Chamberlain Works For Cheap Deal With Hitler

(Continued from page 1) that "there would be either no resistance or such ineffectual resistance that France would be faced with a fait accompli before she could mobilize." But since this hope is too uncertain, everything must be done to permit German conquest of Czechoslovakia "without force at all—either by a treaty of agreement or slow economic strangulation." To assure this course, Chamberlain, heading a government devoted to the League, now favors a surgical operation which would give Germany the rich and fortified regions of Sudeten Bohemia.

However, this dictatorial behavior of Britain on the Continent only flows from her steady retreat within her own empire and the shaky situation in her internal social life.

Empire Cracking Up

Britain's dominions, above all Canada, Australia, South Africa and Egypt, manifest increasing tendencies towards independence in matters of foreign policy. In China and Latin America the British lion is under heavy attack. Even after the Anglo-Italian agreement, the Arabian movement in Palestine—apparently directed against the Jews, but in essence a revolt against the imperialist yoke—continues to operate in full force. In India, civilizing British bombs rain heavily upon the heads of the colonial slaves. To gain a free hand within its empire, the British bourgeoisie throws to its competitors the bones of Ethiopia, Spain and Czechoslovakia.

It must be added that Britain's material as well as "moral" rearmament lags far behind. The productivity of the armament industries, despite a gigantic propaganda machine, develops only at a straggling pace. Even the collaboration of the trade unions in the augmentation of exploitation meets with no enthusiastic response from the workers.

Numerous attempts to launch a voluntary mass recruitment for the army, navy and civil

aerial protection, as a preparation for obligatory military service has yielded meager results. The British masses are fired with a spirit of resistance to the imperialist war preparations, although they have not yet gone beyond the stage of militant, reformist pacifism.

Elections Show Trend

In all the bye-elections of recent date the Conservatives lost out against the Labor candidates. So far as the latter are concerned, they serve to transform the reformist pacifism of the masses into the imperialist pacifism which strives for "armed peace." They have adopted as their guiding spirit none other than Anthony Eden, former foreign secretary who for his part scrupulously avoids any active opposition to Chamberlain's new course.

Thus, for the present, there exists a perfect division of labor between the right and "left" conservatives, the liberals, the laborites, and the insignificant but noisy Stalinists. But even this clever scheme does not suffice to check the vague, heterogeneous but powerful mass resentment against the approaching imperialist war.

SHACHTMAN TALKS AT BOSTON MEET

BOSTON — Two well-attended meetings, one held in Roxbury and the other in Boston, with Max Shachtman as the principal speaker, climaxed an energetic anti-war campaign conducted by the Boston local of the Socialist Workers Party during the past three months.

During the campaign, several thousand copies of the party's anti-war manifesto were distributed to workers at forums and trade union meetings. Regular Sunday night forums of the party were devoted to the fight against imperialist war, and anti-war pamphlets and copies of the anti-war issue of the Socialist Appeal were widely sold and distributed.

World Bank Hits Myths Of New Deal

Reports Shows Futility Of Planning Under Capitalism

The Marxist contentions that economic planning is impossible under capitalism, that national economic self-sufficiency is an illusory utopia in the modern world, and that the current "recession" is in actuality a major down-swing in the economic cycle, received authoritative recognition in the annual report of the Bank for International Settlements (the "World Bank") issued last week by its new president, J. W. Beyen.

The report deals at length with the United States, and stresses particularly the close economic and financial relationship between the U.S. and the rest of the world. "The interdependence of modern countries is so great," the report states, "that economic nationalism... does not make them free to move independently of each other."

Upswing Fails

The 1937 depression, according to the report, "originated in the United States." "A parallel" to features of the new depression "can be found only in the most acute depression ever known." Capitalist government planning and spending, attempted on an unprecedented scale by the Roosevelt Administration, did not provide a durable basis for an upswing. "It has proved to be infinitely more difficult to direct the trend of economic life" than might have been anticipated before the New Deal experience.

In its own way recording the appalling bankruptcy of declining capitalism, the report warns of the formidable "threat" that a few large or even normal crops may endanger the stability of the market, and suggests that only drought conditions can "save" the price structure. That is, the report points out that capitalist economy would today be thrown into chaos if there were sufficient food to eat; it cannot permit enough food to be grown.

Stalinists Deny It

The Daily Worker, interestingly enough, was compelled to claim that accounts of this report published in the N. Y. Times were a fraud and forgery. The World Bank's cold and impersonal conclusions, written up for the benefit and guidance of international finance-capital—and therefore scientific and accurate within the assumptions of a continuing capitalism—contradict flatly the major theoretical props of Stalinism: the theory of socialism in one country, which denies the interrelationship of modern world economy; and the theory of planning and progress under democratic capitalism which is the necessary foundation for the tactics of the Popular or Democratic Front.

are bringing action against Weinstein's henchmen in that local for the alleged stealing of votes during a referendum conducted there last Friday night. That the membership is up in arms against this type of "democracy" may be ascertained from the vote on a referendum for the use of the secret ballot on all questions, sponsored by several locals recently. With all its job favoritism, with all its control of the union machinery, the Stalinist administration managed to defeat the use of the secret ballot by a majority of only about 400-500 votes among a membership which they claim has reached the 15,000 mark!

A large section of the rank and file of the Painters Union thus expressed its distrust of and opposition to Stalinist "trade union democracy." And no wonder. Two years of Weinstein rule has completely disillusioned them.

Union Divided

From the unanimity that prevailed in 1936, the situation in the union has developed into one that sees the membership divided over serious questions affecting their every-day life. Normally a healthy discussion could easily re-establish unity in the ranks and bring about an acceptable solution to the problems facing the painters. With the Stalinist leeches on their backs, the members of the Painters Union have a far more difficult task. By bureaucratic methods, that have seeped into the union like a vicious poison, by suppression of democracy, by int-

Is Bluecher the Next On Stalin Death List?

Purge Hits Closest Aides and New Batch Of High Officers; Judicial System Filled With Criminals

Stalin's purge has put its clammy hand on Marshal Vassily Bluecher, commander of the Red Army in the Far East and long-heralded as a solid bulwark against the threat of Japanese imperialist aggression against the Soviet Union.

Bluecher himself has not been brought under direct attack. But—and this is almost equally as ominous—his entire top staff has been "liquidated" and replaced by new men.

It was learned in Moscow on May 17 that Bluecher was being provided with a new chief of staff, Army Commander Stern replacing General Vassentsovitch, a new political commissar, Chuga replacing Mazepov, and a new commander for the Maritime Siberian district, Gen. Podlask replacing Gen. Levandovskiy.

New Army Changes

This was the same process followed prior to the liquidation and shooting of Marshal Tukhachevsky last June. Since that shooting many of the generals and admirals who formed the court martial for Tukhachevsky and the seven generals shot with him have since trod the same path. Will it now be Bluecher's turn?

Sweeping changes have once more been announced in the commands of key military districts throughout the Soviet Union. These posts have changed hands three or four times during the past year and even during the past few months.

Generals Khozine, Kovalev, Katchelov, Tomulenev and Apansenko were appointed to replace Generals Pavel Dybenko, Bielov, Gribov, Kuibichev and Petrovskiy, in the Leningrad, White Russia, North Caucasus, Transcaucasia, and Central Asia military districts. The purge of Dybenko and Bielov has been known for some time.

At the same time a sweeping judicial department, the same department which, together with the G.P.U., has been in charge of the thousands of arrests, trials, and executions, during the past two years.

Soviet "Justice"

Those now named as "enemies of the people" included Pruss, assistant prosecutor of the U.S.S.R. in charge of special cases, i.e., treason, counter-revolution, espionage, and other crimes against the State. In the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic alone 1,000 new appointments to the judicial offices have been made. More than 500 judicial officials were denounced as perverts, criminals, drunkards and embezzlers. Among the districts affected were Azov, Sverdlovsk, and Transcaucasia.

These facts must shroud the apologists for the Moscow Trials into a deeper dilemma, if that were possible.

If we are to accept the official Stalinist version, the following conclusion would seem inescapable: The trials of the Old Bolsheviks were organized by the former head of the G.P.U., later designed as a fascist agent, Yagoda.

The purges were conducted "legally" by prosecutors, of whom 500 are now designated as former White Guards, perverts, criminals, embezzlers or drunkards.

The executions were carried out by firing squads commanded by military chiefs who are now designated as fascist spies. In a word, according to the Stalinists, the Old Bolsheviks and other blood-purge victims were framed, tried, sentenced, and executed by arrangement among Hitlerites, Japanese spies, perverts, thieves, drunkards... and the Beloved Leader!

On Mothers' Day C. P. Corrals Sons For War

CLEVELAND. — With bands playing "Over There" and the national colors flying in profusion, the American League for Peace and Democracy paid its tribute to the mothers of America in a super-patriotic "Peace Parade" on May 8.

The main slogan carried by the 3,000 marchers was "Quarantine the Aggressor—F.D.R." Other slogans were "Christians Demand Peace," "Masaryk and Wilson Created a free Czechoslovakia—Help Defend It."

The parade was marked by a complete absence of any trade union groups, except for a pitifully small group from the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. This despite the fact that the Stalinists completely control the Cleveland Industrial Council, local C.I.O. central labor body.

The Marchers

Such organizations as the Cedar-Central Sewing Club, the Albanian Workers' Literature Society, and the Inter-settlement Mothers' League were present in profusion. The color for the parade was supplied by the Negro Elks Band, which put on a show as it cake-walked down Euclid Avenue to the delight of small children. The inevitable Boy Scout division was also present in full regalia. Add the Spanish Popular Front Clubs of Cleveland and vicinity, the Chinese benevolent protective Association (in Cadillac V12's) and the picture is complete.

The only bright spot in the day's proceedings was the distribution to the paraders and watchers of the anti-war manifesto of the Socialist Workers Party. Surprisingly enough, the leaflet distributors were not molested, although there was a bit of under-the-breath cursing.

AFL Takes Unions Out Of Labor Party

NEW YORK CITY.—The cause of labor unity was dealt a blow recently when the Central Trades and Labor Council was forced to withdraw support from the American Labor Party, by order of George Meany, president of the state federation of labor.

Charging that the A.L.P. was the New York version of Labor's Non-Partisan League elsewhere, and that it was the political instrument "which is trying to destroy the American Federation of Labor," Meany ordered the council to instruct all affiliates to withdraw from the A.L.P.

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600,000 Affected

This action affects approximately 600,000 members of A.F. of L. unions. Little militant opposition to these reactionary moves developed at the Council meeting attended by over 250 delegates. Opposition forces failed to call for a teller vote when the voice vote showed the body equally divided on the motion sustaining Meany's orders.

The attitude of the A.F. of L. bureaucrats in seeking to smash the A.L.P. is thoroughly reactionary, since it comes as a blow from the "right." Militant unionists have consistently fought to turn the A.L.P. into an instrument of independent political action for the workers.

The future course of the American Labor Party will be determined partly by this withdrawal of A.F. of L. support, and the forthcoming action of the I.L.G.W.U. towards the C.I.O. generally.

ASK FOR THE APPEAL AT YOUR NEWSSTAND

HOW TO FIGHT WAR
Isolation?
Collective Security?
Relentless Class Struggle
by
JAMES BURNHAM
16 pp.
Socialist Workers Party
116 New York Place
New York City

ANTI-WAR MOTION GETS NEW SUPPORT

COLUMBUS, Ohio.—The anti-war resolution passed by the Central Labor Union of Minneapolis, representing 50,000 organized workers, has acquired a new supporter in the Columbus local (No. 27) of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, representing some 100 workers, which has unanimously endorsed the resolution.

The resolution was introduced by a militant worker who spoke before the union on "Roosevelt Heads for War." After pointing out the logical trend of Roosevelt's foreign policy, the speaker analyzed the slogan of "collective security," showing its real significance as the mask for imperialist war preparations. To the slogan of "collective security," he counterposed independent working-class action as outlined in the Minneapolis resolution.

Endorsement of the resolution took place at the following meeting of the local, with the president of the local urging its adoption. There was a brief discussion, followed by a unanimously favorable vote.

Lewis Conceals Anti-Labor Acts Behind Left Talk

Speech At A. C. W. Meet Designed To Keep His Influence

In a speech paralleling in many respects his recent radio message to England, John L. Lewis last week addressed the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' convention on the subject of the current depression and the perspectives of labor.

What is remarkable about both of these speeches is the extraordinary contrast between Lewis' analysis of conditions in this country, on the one hand, and his proposals for action on the other.

Reflects Workers' Mood

In tone and content, his analysis reflects the bitter and radical mood of the workers feeling the full brunt of the depression. "The 13,000,000 (unemployed) will not always be content to take the crumbs from Lazarus' table and watch their children die because some politician, some industrial leader who gets \$200,000 a year, or some banker, who is stoop-shouldered from clipping coupons, pronounces vengeance..."

Lewis described the ravages of the depression and openly expressed the revolutionary or near-revolutionary tendencies which these stimulate. In the radio address, he spoke of the workers and farmers being inclined to take over the government if things did not improve.

But when it comes to his own proposals, Lewis speaks not with the voice of the workers, whose moods he reflects only to keep his influence among them, but in the name of the masters he ultimately serves: in the name of the bourgeoisie. The New Deal again, all trust in Roosevelt, a little relief; the same Roosevelt and the same New Deal which led the nation during its preparations for this new depression against which, in words, he inveighs so sharply.

Pseudo-radical Oratory

Lewis likewise advocates Phillip Murray's proposal for a meeting, to be called by Roosevelt, at which spokesmen for industry, government, and labor would get together to cooperate on "a rational program."

With the help of his pseudo-radical oratory, Lewis is trying desperately to prevent the workers of this country from learning their only "rational program" is not to get together with "industry and government" for the sake of "cooperation," but to rely on their own strength to fight against industry and the government for their own class aims.

Call To Labor

Carl Holderman, state chairman of the New Jersey Labor's Non-Partisan League, declared over Station WEVD last week that "organized labor must be in the forefront of the battle to save America from the Hitler of Hudson County. I mean organized labor, and not the leaders of the Hudson County Central Labor Union, who, through paralyzing fear or rank corruption, have sold several misguided workers for a mess of Hague potage."

GAS WORKERS GAIN IN NEW CONTRACT

MINNEAPOLIS. — Over 400 workers of the Minneapolis Gas Light company made important gains in the new two-year contract signed last week between the company and the Gas Workers Union Local 20490.

The new contract grants paid vacations of two weeks each year. The former pact gave only one week. Formerly employees had only five days paid sick leave; under the new agreement they are given ten days. Wage increases, amounting to 5 1/2 per cent in the lower brackets and tapering off in the higher brackets, were also won.

Hague Rule Is 'Local Police Matter' - F.D.R.

Roosevelt Skirts Pleas For Action Against Jersey Fuehrer

Last week Boss Hague followed up his cheap victory at Journal Square on May 7 with fresh blows at his adversaries. His chief victim was the liberal Rabbi Benjamin Plotkin, whose congregation was evicted from its meeting place at the Jewish Community Center through the pressure of the Hague machine upon its officers.

The president of the Community Center, Judge Morris E. Barison of the Hudson County Juvenile Court, and the treasurer, Louis W. Jacobs of the Jersey City Board of Education, are both Hague office-holders.

He Criticized Hague

Rabbi Plotkin has been one of the most outspoken opponents of the Hague regime in Jersey City. He has criticized Hague's despotism at numerous meetings and last year publicly denounced him for his ban on picketing during the seamen's strike. His recent appearance in court as a character witness for John Longo, convicted last week on a trumped-up charge of filing "fraudulent" nominating petitions for the anti-Hague ticket at the primary elections last fall, was the immediate cause of his eviction.

Norman Thomas was again denied a permit to speak at Journal Square and signified his intention of testing the ruling of the Jersey City "Director of Safety" in the courts. At the same time the effectiveness of court action was tested when a Federal Grand Jury in Newark voted "no indictment" on the complaint of the American Civil Liberties Union that their letters had been illegally opened and photostated by Hague's police.

Roosevelt Declines To Act

Judge William Clark of Newark denied Jeff Burkitt's application for a review of his six months' sentence for attempting to speak without a permit in Hagueville.

Meanwhile President Roosevelt, petitioned by the liberal press, the Stalinist Vito Marcantonio, and Norman Thomas, to intervene against Hague, washed his hands of responsibility for the national vice-chairman of his own party. Queried whether he would take any action either as chief executive or as head of the Democratic Party, he replied that Hague's actions were purely a local police matter, and that his Postmaster-General Farley, National Democratic Committee chairman, would answer for the record. Farley, it was later reported, answered that he was powerless to act on the technical ground that Hague had been legally elected by the Democratic Convention. Thus do these watchdogs of "democracy" display their vigilance in guarding the democratic rights of the American people!

Brave, bold, representative Bernard, who failed to show up in Journal Square on May 7, announced that he intended to speak in Jersey City on May 19 under the auspices of the Stalinist American League for Peace and Democracy, but in a hall, not in the street!

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Inside the N. Y. Painters' Union

3. Stalinist Wreckers Move In

This is the third of a series of articles on the real situation in the Painters' Union of New York. —Ed.

On February 29, 1936, Louis Weinstein was elected Secretary-Treasurer of District Council No. 9 without any substantial opposition and thus the Stalinists came into control of the New York Painters Union as smoothly as in probably no other trade union in the country.

Weinstein and Co. had a clean sweep of the field. The membership clearly was behind them. Now let us look at their record and compare it with their promises.

Machine Control

While the Weinstein faction was in the opposition, their platform voiced many of the sentiments and desires of the membership. Once they came into office, the platform became pretty much forgotten, the Stalinists concentrated on control of the union machinery.

One of the Stalinists' major demands when they were fighting Zauser was, "strict enforcement of the seven-hour day, the (official) wage scale and union conditions." How does the matter of strict enforcement stand today? Ask any ordinary painter and he will tell you that "strict enforcement" is further off than ever, that "kick-back" flourishes under the Weinstein administration as never before.

Another plank was, "immediate adjustment of complaints and grievances." Hundreds of painters will tell you that, installed by the Weinstein administration, with all its appointed officials, action on complaints is harder to get than under any previous administration.

In Cahoots With Bosses

Weinstein's original election platform accused the previous administration of collaborating with the bosses in the calling of fake "strikes." The Stalinist administration has been no less obliging, entirely in line with the "People's Front" policy of the Communist Party, in cooperating harmoniously with the Master Painters. The general

strikes called by the Weinstein administration resulted in "victories," according to the Stalinists. According to the rank and file union members, the "victories" consisted in filling the coffers of the administration with a huge sum of money extracted from the membership in two \$10 strike assessments. The last "general strike," the demands of which were an increase from \$9 to \$11.20 per six-hour day and the closed shop, lasted only 3 weeks. Its "gains" are a deep secret. But the assessment levied, it may safely be said, more than covered the expense of the short-lived strike.

Where did the money go to? —Weinstein also accused the previous administrations of extravagance. Now the assessments and the increased per capita tax raised recently from \$1.50 to \$1.75 go to maintaining an office staff of some 60 appointed job holders, as against the dozen or so in pre-Weinstein days. Weinstein, in his election campaign, called for a monthly budget of \$3,000. The current weekly expense of the District Council is \$4,000 to \$5,000. The appointed jobholders consume a major share of the income. What is their purpose? Anyone who knows anything about Stalinist methods of control in the unions knows the answer: to entrench the Communist Party machine in the Painters Union so as to make it a complete appendage of that party with all of its anti-working class policies.

Unemployed Problem

Another — perhaps the most pressing — demand of the supporters of Weinstein before his election was action for the unemployed painters. What is the attitude of Weinstein in office to this problem? "Blame it on capitalism and the crisis!" One would assume that a union leadership is elected precisely to combat "capitalism and the crisis," even if they cannot abolish it. But not one effective proposal has been forthcoming from the Stalinist administration for union methods of improving the lot of the unemployed painter. The unemployed painter does not even get the odd job he would ordinarily get under a fair rotation system. Instead, he is

entirely dependent upon the "good will" of the administration.

Weinstein opposed job favoritism in another of his planks. Today it flourishes not only on the part of the bosses through lack of enforcement of the union standards, but has become an instrument of control in the hands of the Weinstein administration itself, which takes advantage of a clause in the agreement giving the union the right to fill 25 per cent of the jobs in every union shop from the District Council office, discriminating in favor of obedient followers of the Stalinist "line."

Union Democracy

The very first, and consequently, the most important plank in Weinstein's original election platform called for:

"I. Trade union democracy in District Council and Local Unions. (The full rights of every member to discuss, criticize and suggest, without intimidation.) Recognition of these rights is the basic principle of trade unionism."

That plank has become a scrap of paper for the Stalinists, with Weinstein in control. In one of the ten locals alone—Local No. 51—Stalinist henchmen have assaulted opponents by main force on three different occasions in as short a period as three months for daring to differ with them on the floor! The only difference between these methods and those of other gangsters is that the Stalinists do not even wait until they get out of the union hall.

In locals where voting is carried out by open ballot, the galleries are filled with appointed officials in charge of distributing jobs under the 25 per cent quota whose very presence constitutes intimidation. What number of union members will risk their opportunity of getting a rare enough chance to be sent to work by the District Council, by voting openly against Stalinist proposals?

Vote-Stealing

How the Stalinists intend further to develop this odd conception of "trade union democracy" in the Painters Union in New York is indicated by the fact that members of Local 905