Socialist Appeal

Vol. II - No. 24. Saturday, June 11, 1938 Published every week by the

SOCIALIST APPEAL PUBLISHING ASS'N. at 116 University Place, New York, N. Y. Telephone: National Office: Algonquin 4-8547

Subscriptions: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for 6 months. Foreign: \$2.50 per year. Bundle order 3 cents per copy. Single copies 5 cents. All checks and money orders should be made

out to the Socialist Appeal. Entered as second-class matter September

1937 at the post office at New York, New York, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

MAX SHACHTMAN Editor. HAROLD ROBERTS FRANK GRAVES Associate Editors. S. STANLEY Business Manager.

Jobs or Relief!

The somber plight of the unemployed is again headline news. Chicago, second largest city in the country, has closed its relief bureaus. In Cleveland, where one in every three depends on direct relief or W.P.A., relief has broken down since the end of April and spontaneous sit-downs have occurred. Drives against the workers' living standards and very lives are being conducted all over the country.

In order to live, the workers must have wages, must have purchasing power. This is obtainable only from two sources: either private industry or the government. But capitalism is in a new period, the period of its dotage, of its decline, of its bankruptcy. It cannot profitably give more wages and a better life. It can only give more unemployment and slow death.

This is fully realized in Wall Street. Months before the current depression set in, J. G. Frederick, outstanding financial writer, warned: "Industry will not be able to absorb them (the unemployed) despite valiant promises. The problem is beyond industry; it is and will remain -a social, governmental problem."

And what is the government doing to solve the problem? What work and wages does it give the unemployed? Little, very little. Barcly enough to keep them quiet. With fifteen million unemployed, Hopkins announced that the W.P.A. will first give three million jobs in the winter. At the most, only one out of five will get a W.P.A. job. And those who do get jobs-at what wages will they get them? In the South, the monthly wage is as low as \$20 a month. In New York City, most of the workers get \$55.78 a month. No man can support his family decently on such wages. Whether down South or up North, they mean slow starvation even for those who do get a W.P.A. job.

These conditions are intolerable. Private industry and the capitalist system of profits cannot furnish jobs. We must prepare to throw this system into the discard and replace it with a system that will give jobs and a decent life to all. We must fight for and establish social-

Meanwhile the unemployed need help NOW. We must demand of the government: JOBS AT TRADE UNION WAGES - OR RELIEF - FOR ALL THE UNEMPLOYED!

Those who do not get jobs must get PROMPT relief-within 72 hours. In emergency cases-within 24 hours. And the relief budget must not be the starvation budget which it is now!

The unemployed can never get relief by keeping quiet. Militant action-nationwide sit-ins, mass picket lines, and vast demonstrations that end in marches on the centers of government, now the city hall, then the state capitol, and, when necessary, on the national capitol itself -is needed.

Actions such as these will show the bosses and their government that the unemployed victims of their system mean business.

"Aiding" the Loyalists

England, France and the United States-the great "democracies" presented to us by the Communist Party as the friends of the Spanish peoplehave dug more than one dagger into the back of the Loyalist forces since the beginning of the civil war .. One of the latest thrusts is the Chamberlain plan to "evacuate foreign fighters" in Spain in such a manner as is obviously to the disadvantage of the Loyalist side.

Supported by England and the French "Popular Front" government, it was at first denounced by the Stalinist press as equivalent to aiding the fascists. The same press pointed proudly to the fact that Stalin's diplomatic representative in London would have no part of such

On Wednesday, June 1, the Daily Worker put it this way:

"The Soviet Union today again balked a British Tory plan to aid the fascist armies in Spain under the guise of 'nonintervention'.

"S. B. Cahan, Soviet Embassy Counsellor, informed the international 'Non Intervention' Committee that the Soviet Government refused to contribute to the cost of the unequal evacuation of foreign fighters in Spain.

"Moscow has held out single-handed against the other members of the chairman's Sub-Committee of Nine in opposing the entire plan as a 'deliberate attempt' to aid the fascist troops to win a rapid victory, in line with the Chamberlain-Mussolini pact of friendship."

So far, so good.

But on June 3, a mere 48 hours later, the same paper prints a new dispatch from London, after Cahan-Stalin have capitulated completely to the "Chamberlain-Mussolini pact," to the "deliberate attempt to aid the fascist troops"-and with a perfectly straight face presents this capitulation as a... Soviet-Loyalist triumph!

"The British plan will be acceptable to the Soviet Government, Cahan announced, only on condition that international observers be stationed permanently in Spanish ports to control and check unloading of cargoes.

"Other points in the British draft of methods of counting foreign troops, division of their forces into four main categories, and control provisions, are acceptable to the U.S.S.R., Cahan said."

In other words, the "Chamberlain-Mussolini plan," the "deliberate attempt to aid the fascist troops to win a rapid victory," is perfectly acceptable now to Stalin if only . . . it is properly enforced!

And by the way, now that the Kremlin bureaucracy is committed to such an "absolute" embargo on Spain, is it not exceptionally hypocritical for the Browderites to continue shouting in New York and Washington for a lifting of the American embargo on Spain?

We are absolutely in favor of direct and ample aid by the American workers to the workers of Spain. We are just as firmly opposed to the vicious embargo of Mr. Browder's Roosevelt which prevents the Spanish workers from getting arms but facilitates the armament of Franco through Germany. And we are no less firmly opposed to the aid which Mr. Browder's Stalin now proposes to give to the "Chamberlain-Mussolini plan"-those are the Daily Worker's words!-for a fascist victory in Spain.

Socialist Party and the A.L.P.

After weeks of the most careful negotiation, from which was excluded any representative of the Socialist Party who has or once had the label of a "left winger," the excutive committee of the American Labor Party has turned down the appeal for admission into its ranks made by the Thomas Party.

The rejection is interesting from the standpoint of both organizations.

The real leaders of the Socialist Party shell, Thomas and Laidler, offered their organization to the A.L.P. bureaucracy at a pretty cheap price. Playing in with the Dubinsky-Jewish Forward-Social Democratic Federation group, which would like to see the Thomasites in the A.L.P. as a counter-weight to growing Stalinist penetration, the S.P. negetiators debased themselves to the point where they offered to dissolve as a political party once they were admitted. The party which not so long ago spoke about its "masses" and "mass influence" was and is prepared to liquidate itself into a piddling little "educational society," giving lectures on Laidlerian socialism to the A.L.P., in the hope that some day it will work itself down to the level of the Fabian Society in the British Labour Party.

The A.L.P. bureaucracy, which controls the party as a board of directors controls a closed corporation, nevertheless turned down this generous, if abject, offer. More exactly, the Hillman-Stalinist combination turned it down. The statement by executive secretary Alex Rose is a model of arrogance and bureaucratic self-contentment:

"If the S. P. wants to join the A.L.P. because of an honest change of heart, and in the feeling that our methods in political education have been more successful and because they, too, want to make their contribution toward this newly-adopted method, they are welcome. But if they want to come into our party to reform our party in the direction of 'more orthodox' methods, then we are

better off apart." In other words, the program, methods, and leadership of the A.L.P. are sacrosanct and unalterable in perpetuity, and short shrift will be given anybody who, lacking faith in A.L.P. infallibility, proposes to change ("reform") the party's

Hague Will Be Ousted By Workers Offensive

By JAMES RALEIGH

Mayor Hague's control over Jersey City is so complete that ers consider futile any fight to remove him. What these blind is already grooming his nephew Three or four years are all that man to follow him. A personal obligation to this new figure instead of to Hague will be felt by every political beneficiaryevery judge, prosecutor, tax collector, policeman, street cleaner and W.P.A. worker, every building contractor, supply man, gar- City or his equivalent from any to come into Jersey City and bage collection company and

Hague's nephew will inherit

Hopeless Courses

Any attempt to effect Hague's removal, or his successor's real political parties is equally prejudices within their own ranks, hopeless. Hague, a Democrat, has insinuated himself into the Republican Party and by patronage has tamed all potential opposition from that source. The Hague - Hoffman, Democratic-Republican alliance in the last governorship term was an open scandal. In addition, the constant rivalry and dissension is so pronounced that this opposition is reduced to a farce.

one continuous city, Hague ar- delegates. ranges for a vote big enough to

the sanctified privacy of the confessional box deem it proper to ask parishioners if they voted

church pressure is less than impotent and useless as far as likely. Yet very significant is an declaring or carrying on strikes incident of last year, in the very was concerned. Third, local busimidst of Hague's initial fight ness rallied to the boss's moral most liberal observers expect against the C.I.O. "drive" in -and financial-support to preliberation from his domination Jersey City. Although the C.I.O. vent strikes in their plants. only after Nature or some other was promptly painted "red" and agency sends him to the limbo by implication anti - Catholic, hold their posts, not by the grace of departed souls. These onlook- nevertheless a group of under- of the membership, but by in paid Catholic grave-diggers en- dulgence of Hague. Any move in tered upon a sit-down strike, the ranks toward independence souls do not see is that Hague Needless to say, it was hastily is promptly suppressed by the settled and hushed up. Translat- bureaucrats-lest the union be as his equally vicious successor. ed into ordinary language this thrown into receivership and thus event means only one thing: The lose the last vestige of "organizaare needed for this job. In that worker will not always be fool- tion." Such receivership is easily time the numerous political deals ed by an institution, political or effected in New Jersey, simply and appointments will be dele- religious, when it comes to his by having a few members sign gated by Hague to the young own immediate material welfare. affidavits that the union funds His obeisance to a church which are being squandered, or that the dwells on his "hereafter" will union is insolvent and cannot decrease directly as his partici- meet its financial obligations, or pation in a labor union which that other "equitable" grounds caters to his well-being increases. for receivership exist. The only force capable of eli-

Fourth, the union leaders nov

Then, it may be asked, why

doesn't Hague permit the C.I.O.

C.I.O. does organize, then to

retain its membership it must

extract from local industry some

wage and hour benefits. These

concessions cannot be granted

without stimulating wider orga-

nization and at the same time

Runaway Shops

Jersey City is a town of run-

away shops, businesses that have

fled from other cities to get the

jump on their competitors by the

minimum wage and thus remov-

But this does not mean that

the workers cannot be unionized

On the contrary, the field is most

fertile for an intelligent and

energetic campaign, Jersey City's

liberation from Hague depends

on understanding, hard-working

persistently and consistently, not

cheaply and dramatically, or-

ganize both the workers and the

'drive" of last November, such

as the steel workers. Further

sound material is the unemploy-

ed. Even the rank-and-file of the

A.F. of L. will support a serious

and intelligently organized drive

Hollywood Bows To

Just how the army is building

movies is explained in a Holly-

wood letter published in the

Pressure was put on Para-

originally planned the

mount to change the ending of

its new film, "Men with Wings.

movie ended with the heroine

giving a fervid talk condemning

written to personalize the emo-

The pressure used was the

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO

New York Times for May 29.

minating Hagueism from Jersey other locality is the working organize, and as soon as that is class. Meanwhile the workers done hold the same club over continue to be split by groupings its head-the threat of receiverthe throne by his own right. that do them no good. They ship? The answer is that if the Then our well-meaning but do- divide politically between Renothing liberals will have the publican and Democratic parties job of wishing for the death of to maintain a sham of a twothe new king. The death of an party system, in reality not even individual solves no vital political a one-party system, but its apotheosis, a one-man system. Again, they group themselves ecclesiastically, demarking a alienating industry proportionstrong Catholic allegiance. And ately. then, still more tragically, many moval, by resort to the tradition- of them observe economic group a bias against the C.I.O.

No Real Conflict

The fact is that until this date low wages made possible by local the two types of unions have non-unionized labor. This influx not conflicted in Jersey City ex- of sweatshops and home-work cept in Hague's mind. No effort industries has served and saved has been made by the C.I.O., Hague in two ways-first, by the newcomer of the two, to steal giving some residents a bare either the workers or the indusamong the "honest" Republicans trial field of the A.F. of L. ing them from the overcrowded Nevertheless, the A.F. of L. relief rolls and so reducing the leaders in general have evinced strain on city finances; second, As to a rebellion against a marked hostility to the C.I.O.'s by making vacant industrial pro-Hague by a fusion party or by a attempt to unionize the unorgan- perties tenantable once more and group within his own party, this ized. This enmity always arises so restoring them to the ranks is impossible so long as Hague concurrently with Hague's anim- of sites that contribute the needhas control over the election ap- osity, a n d invariably t h e ed taxes that seem increasingly paratus. In tabulating the votes, A.F. of L.'s condemnation is ac- harder to collect as time passes. whether Republican, Democratic companied by a lavish endorse- If the C.I.O. is allowed to oror otherwise, Hague employs his ment of "our mayor, staunch ganize, the fly-by-night shops own unique method of counting. friend of labor."The labor spokes- will fly again, these two benefits Any effort to verify it in terms men behind these declarations of with them. Hague, to maintain of our own numerical system is loyalty and confidence are fre- himself, must fight any effort to wasted, as witness the futile ef- quently men who in the past have further organize labor. forts of the Young Investigation fought and denounced Hague in of the last gubernatorial election the fiercest terms. Today they to get the registry books in make dictated speeches and sign Jersey City in order to determine prepared statements in his praise the actual duly qualified vote without even reading them befor Hague's governor, A. Harry forehand. This is the bureau-Moore. By manipulating totals cracy that the A.F. of L. unions in Jersey City and in the re- have fallen into, rubber-stamp mainder of Hudson County, really business agents and ditto-mark and honest leaders who must

Why Hague and the A.F. of L carry the whole state, normally are so vigilant in "protecting" unemployed. A healthy nucleus Jersey City from the "radical" Next, Jersey City is reputedly C.I.O. is a question of great exists in the C.I.O. unions 70 per cent Roman Catholic and importance. To begin with, the the Church loyally supports rank-and-file as well as the lead-Hague in his every endeavor. ership of the A.F. of L. have They did even before he gave a been in years past victimized \$50,000 cash donation to the and intimidated. Now they are parish church. Now priests in completely regimented by Hague.

Receivership Weapon

This was accomplished chiefly for Hague. Of course, when through receivership suits against Hague hollers "communism" at a number of union locals. First, his opponents, the priests fitting- the vicious patronage system was ly respond in a well - timed extended to the trade unions by chorus: "Communism seeks to the appointment of Hague receivers and attorneys whose large Thus, an ouster of the Jersey fees liquidated the unions' funds, City dictator as a result of Second, the unions were rendered up war psychology through the

Congress Reveals Utter Bankruptcy Of New Deal

(Continued from page 1) | see only one conceivable way war plans. However, as the letter ular" army and navy appropria- out: in the aggressive adventure states, "...the dialogue was retions of more than a billion of a new imperialist war. dollars swept through both houses of Congress and across

bolized the insoluble dilemma of it, was smashed head on. American and of world capitalism. The bankruptcy of capitalist has any answer to give. They of survival.

Preparedness Moves

the president's desk. With only Congress able to act decisively. avoided. the feeblest, most apologetic and Billions were poured into the impotent objections, the special war machine; the foundations threat to withold army air ser-Naval Bill triumphantly authoriz- were laid for universal conscrip- vice co-operation and technical ed another billion and a quarter. tion, "industrial mobilization," advice unless the change were There is much here from which and a dictatorial war regime; made. to learn. Indeed, this session of the movement for a popular re-Congress by its own actions ferendum on war, with over- government, through its most clearly and unmistakably sym- whelming mass support behind powerful propaganda medium.

Under the leadership of Roosevelt, this Congress set a direct economy leaves normal capitalist course toward war, in whose politics likewise bankrupt. Nei- blood and terror and destruction ther Republican nor Democrat, American capitalism grasps for THE SOCIALIST APPEAL neither Old Deal nor New Deal, what it takes to be its sole hope

joins the distinguished company of the bosses of the Catholic Church and the Communist Party.

Bureaucratism and hypocrisy are Siamese twins in politics. Hence it is not surprising to see that in justifying their adverse stand on the S.P.'s application, such members of the A.L.P. executive committee as Louis Weinstock and Michael Quill piously declared that if the S. P. members want to join the A.L.P., they must disaffiliate completely course. By this statement, Mr. Rose from the S.P. and dissolve the latter. | principles of socialism.

tions of the heroine, and a ge-On that question alone was neral denunciation of war is

prepare the road to war.

So far as anybody knows, neither Weinstock nor Quill have disaffiliated from the Communist Party of which they are members, nor have they made such a demand on the hundreds (if not thousands) of Stalinists who have been shipped into the A.L.P. in droves.

Of the two partners to the unconsummated bargain, the professional "democrats" of the A.L.P. executive proved to be as alien to democratic procedure as Address the Socialist Party leaders are to the

"Keeping Out of War"

(Continued from page 1)

condition that they shall not be used for armament purposes If these 'poor nations' (the Fasicst nations-M. S.) abandon armament economics and gear the production of their industries to the consumption of their people, they can secure American raw materials. A government expressing the popular will for peace would declare that, on condition and in the measure that armaments production is reduced, the United States will take its part (while protecting American labor standards) along with other nations in lowering tariff barriers, in extending raw materials credits, in setting up agencies for economic world cooperation to relieve distress and to make an economic alternative to war possible."

If we refrain for a moment from the side-splitting laughter evoked by the mental picture of the fascist (or any other capitalist) nations "gearing the production of their industries to the consumption of their people" (this double-barrelled drivel was put out by a commission whose secretary was the noted Marxian scholar, Lewis Corey.....), we see stated in the smoothest possible terms the classic position of American imperialist isola-

ADOPT CLASSIC POSITION OF U.S. IMPERIALISM

It is true, of course, that American "isolationism"-like Nazi autarchy-is only a myth, a utopia, a deception; that it is the typical American" method of preparing for imperialist expansion and aggression and for Wall St. domination of the entire world. But that only serves to emphasize the thoroughly reactionary, imperialist nature of American isolationism.

One administration after another-Roosevelt's included-has cleverly put forward the very same ideas formulated by the "Keep America Out of War Congress." They have enabled the American ruling class to pose as enemies of war, of armament races, as a "government expressing the popular will" and at the same time enabled it to justify its own war preparations, its own armaments program, and to advance towards the imperialist conquest of the world. Why? How?

.Wealthiest, most highly industrialized, most ambitious power in the world today, the United States since the end of the last World War has constantly sought to blackjack its imperialist rivals into reducing their armaments by holding over their heads the threat of its own economic and financial power. "If you disarm, we'll give you loans." "If you spend less money on cannon and airplanes, and pay us back the billions we loaned you during and after the war, we will help you economically." "If you disarm, we'll cut down our own armaments propor-

A very cunning policy of tails I win and heads you lose. For the shrewd American "isolationists" and "disarmers" are perfectly aware of the fact that if every capitalist power in the world, the U.S. included, were to disarm 100 per cent tomorrow, the United States would be in the decisively dominant position when the next war broke out. Its industrial and financial superiority would enable it to turn out more arms and munitions per minute than its rivals could produce per hour.

COVER FOR ROOSEVELT WAR PREPARATIONS

And when its rivals, who are just as well aware of the stratazem, refuse to fall for it, and continue (as imperialism every where must) to pile up their armaments strength, the United States wins again! Then Roosevelt, like his predecessors, says with feigned resignation and sorrow: "You see, we offered them a reasonable proposition. In the words of the 'Keep America Out of War Congress,' we offered our economic resources 'on condition that they shall not be used for armament purposes.' But they turned us down. They are arming at a furious pace. We regret it terribly, but we have no alternative but to arm ourselves in turn, not, God forbid! for aggression, but only for

It is this monstrous duping of the American masses that has now been taken up as the principal "anti-war" panacea of the Washington congress to "Keep America Out of War!"

Its fathers are not Lovestone, Corey and Thomas. They are only the belated god-fathers of the natural and legitimate child of American imperialism. To Roosevelt's sabre-rattling Chicago speech on "quarantining the aggressor," they echo: Economic quarantine for the "arming powers" (simply another name for 'aggressor"). If this means anything, it means economic warfare on the so-called "fascist" nations, or the "poor nations," or the "aggressor" nations. It means, more importantly, that Wolfe, Allen, Corey and Co. are calling upon the capitalist-imperialist government-the bourgeoisie-of the United States to launch this economic war, and that they are ready to support the

AND STILL THEY BECOME PATRIOTS!

Orders On War Film But Wolfe, Corey and Lovestone, who, unlike Thomas, are at least acquainted with the ideas of Marxism and the realities of modern politics, know that economic warfare is only incipient military warfare, that the latter is only a continuation of the former by other, more violent means. Their "knowledge," also, has not prevented them from adopting a program of imperialist isolationism, forerunner of imperialist war.

> That is why the Washington congress was not a means of mobilizing the masses for struggle against imperialist war, but a gross pacifist fraud, aided and abetted by the Thomasites and the Lovestone leaders. That is why-as in the Stalinist "peacecongress" masquerades-the class struggle was not mentioned, That is why the independent class action of the organized proletariat-the only possible basis for a struggle against warwas prominent only by its complete absence; it was Jim Crowed

M. S.

PARTISAN REVIEW FOR JUNE

1. ROSA LUXEMBURG: Letters from Prison. Sixteen pages of letters written by Luxemburg from her World War Prison to the wife of Karl Liebknecht. First time in English. Plus a In such a manner does the documentary "Newsreel," on the murder of Luxemburg and Liebknecht in 1919.

2. EDMUND WILSON: Karl Marx-A Prolet-Play. In which Marx and Engels form a People's Front against Bourbonism. and otherwise hew to the Stalinist line.

3. WILLIAM TROY: Thomas Mann and the Modern Myth. Part I of a critical study of Mann's work, Parts 2 and 3 to appear

4. LOUIS HACKER: History and the Business Man. A review of Mary Beard's book.

5. JAMES BURNHAM: American Literary Opinion.

ALSO: poetry, reviews, theatre chronicle. Coming in July: VICTOR SERGE on Marxism-Limitations and Possibilities, MEYER SHAPIRO on Lewis Mumford's The

the Soviet Cinema (1930-1938). SPECIAL OFFER: 6 ISSUES FOR \$1

Culture of Cities, DWIGHT MACDONALD on The Decline of

Partisan Review, 22 East 17th St.

Enclosed is \$1. Please send me the next six issues. (If you prefer, we will bill you.)