Workers Of The World Unite!

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Stalinists Riot As SEAMEN FIGHT "FINK" HALLS Trial of Suspended Chiefs Begins in UAW

Stage Shameful Brawl to Discredit Proceedings; Switch Line After Lewis Fails to Intervene; Drop Rump Moves

But Danger to Union Is Mounting

DETROIT, July, 26.-Riotous scenes staged by organized Stalinist delegations marked the first day of the trial of the four suspended International officers of the United Automobile Workers of America. In a deliberate effort to set up a special tribunal to give an unofficial veto to the action of the regular International Trial Board, a deputation of friends of the suspended officers broke down the door and refused to allow the trial to proceed unless their participation was recognized.

The so-called "sit-down" to disrupt the trial proceedings, breaking out into fistfights and smearing the ugly situation over the front page of the capitalist press, came to an end after the Griswold Building was vacated through a misunderstanding of the "sitdowners."

There can be no two opinions+ The union had been clearly informed by President Martin that the trial would be held in closed session. This was known weeks in advance. Irrespective of the merits of an open trial over a closed trial, the final decision on this matter rested with the Executive Board.

For their part, the Stalinists expressed no opinion on this matter one way or another. The specialists in frame-ups condemned the trial as a frame-up on the very day it was announced in the press, more than a month ago. Their attempt to force into the trial today an arbitrarily hand-picked group was aimed at discrediting the proceedings. The violent action was intended to prove that the rank and file didn't have a look-in. To any objective observer, the motives of the Stalinist riot are transparent through and through.

A Major Defeat

The mad rampage of the Stalinists at the opening of the trial corresponds directly with the beginning of defeats at the hands struments for the sabotage of of the rank and file. At a meet- progressive legislation. ing of all Executive Committees of local unions held here last Friday, a motion to call upon John sal for Republican endorsement L. Lewis to intervene in the auto of O'Connor lies in its dramatic union was defeated by a vote of attestation of the fact-observ-145 to 122. The temper of the able also in a thousand other marank and file auto workers was nifestations - that the political unmistakable. Three former struggles in this country are now members of the United Mine Workers related their experiences with John L. Lewis in Ohio and boundaries. Illinois. They warned, on the basis of intimate knowledge, that leashed under the pressure of the the intervention of Lewis would crisis no longer find the old setmean the same kind of ruthless up of the Republican and Demodictatorship which once trampled cratic parties a sufficient arena over the miners union. In desperation, the Stalinists retaliated by In this sense, the proposal to an attempt to gang up on John give Republican endorsement to W. Anderson, militant Fleetwood O'Connor is directly comparable member of the Executive Board to the Republican intervention of the West Side Local.

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DEMOCRAT

Two Boss Parties Unite to Back Reactionary

manding Republican endorse Representative John J. O'Connor, present incumbent of the 16th Congressional District in

O'Connor is a Tammany Democrat, chairman of the House of Representatives Rules Committec. This is the most influential committee in the House, Through it, in the regular order of business, all proposed legislation passes before going to the floor of the House. By O'Connor's iron control it has during the past few years proved the most effective of all parliamentary in-

Party Lines Blurred

limits of the traditional party

to support Peterson against Ben-Disappointed at any immediate son in the Minnesota Farmer-

on the meaning of the occurrence in the Griswold Building today.

Powerful forces within the New

The significance of the propocompelled to step outside the

The conflicts now being unin which to work themselves out.

(Continued on page 2)

LEON TROTSKY.

New York's East Side tene-

East Side Workers

March for Housing

ment districts will witness a parade on Saturday, July 30th by organizations affiliated to and endorsing the East Side Workers Housing Committee. The parade will open the fight for new housing projects in New York City and aim to enlist the support of thousands of low-paid and unemployed workers of the East

Members of the Socialist Workers Party, Young People's Socialist League, Workers Alliance Local 15, other progressive locals of the W.A.A., United Handicapped Workers of America, the Poish Workers Club, and other abor organizations will carry the slogans and banners of the

The parade will assemble at 159 Rivington Street at 1:30 P. M. and begin at 2 P. M. The following route will be followed: starting at Rivington and Clinton Streets, north on Clinton to Stanton Street, east to Avenue C, north to 11th Street, west to 2nd Avenue, south to Grand Street, east to Sheriff Street, north to Rivington Street, east to point where parade began.

All S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L. members are to report not later than 1:30 P.M., Saturday, July 30, at 159 Rivington st.

York Republican Party are dement in the coming elections of Representative John J. O'Con-

schel when union pickets pre- ment vented strike-breakers from trucking washing machine parts away from the plant, used their their wives away from the fac- they were taken to police head- motto. tory, breaking up the picket line. quarters and murdered in cold Picket Line Crashed

(Continued on page 2)

Nationalist Feeling Flares As Attempt Is Made On Puerto Rican Governor

Attempted Assassination Discloses Repressive Rule of U.S. Imperialism Against Independence Movement

Nationalist and anti-imperialist feeling in Puerto Rico, inflamed American small city and dubbed by the repressive measures of the Winship administration against all independentist sentiment, flared into violence again on July 23 when an attempt was made to assassinate Governor Winship at the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of American occupation.

Although the governor escaped the shots, two persons, a Colonel of the Puerto Rican National Guard at the head of troops marching in review and a Nationalist, were killed, and more than thirty were wounded. Seven Nationalists are under arrest for the attempt, bail fessors and students of the unibeing set for two of them at \$25,000 each.

It is almost an axiom that repression breeds terrorism. Marxists have always condemned terrorist methods as futile, and serving to

C. P. SPLITS PHILA.

NAVY YARD UNION

Up C.I.O. Charter

In Split Move

PHILADELPHIA, July 23.

Navy Yard Council Set up

(Continued on page 2)

A Joint Council of Navy Yards

provoke greater repressions. The+ mistaken tactics of the Puerto Rican Nationalists will give the authorities further excuse to suppress Puerto Rican civil liberties and all manifestations of a desire for independence. The fact remains, however,

that the military-police regime of Governor Winship, backed by the erstwhile liberal, Ernest Gruening, in charge of the department of Insular Affairs, and egged on by super-imperialist Senator Tydings, has merey reaped what it sowed. Everything that could be done to drive the Nationalists to secure a dominant position in the desperation has been done.

and National Guardsmen pa- has independence in its platform. Federal Workers of America trolled the streets of Newton, The extremist Nationalist group, (C.I.O.) where their ambitions under martial law in the elev- however, is very small. It has lit- could be better satisfied. enth week of a strike against tle popular support and is in no A progressive step, with improposed wage cuts by the May- way a threat to American domi- mense possibilities, was undernation. But it has been continu- taken when the IUMSWA began The National Guard, called ally goaded, harassed and per- to organize the shipyard workers out by Governor Nelson G. Kra- secuted by the Winship govern- of the government-owned Navy

> Police Murder Two When two Nationalist youths ers in private industry. But mili-

assassinated the Insular Chief of tancy is of no importance to the blood by the police two hours Shortly after the troops ar- later. None of the guilty police- was established last year by a rie issued an injunction against rived last week, and were still men has ever been punished or decision of the National Conventhe strikers. Sheriff Puckett denaking camp in the outskirts of even suspended from the force. tion of the union, to coordinate clared he would carry out the in-(Continued on page 3)

Gives Labor Big Lesson

Auto Workers Smashes Attacks on Union

MUNCIE, Ind .- Carefully chos-Muncie, in its role as "Middletheir significance for workers

Recent events in Muncie have Not only the students of sociology can draw lessons from Muncie, but trade unionists can gain valuable knowledge from the experience of "Middletown's" work-

Trusted Labor Board

Shipyard Loc'l Gives Workers at the John Lee Acme Co., manufacturing automotive parts and employing about 700 workers, struck the plant in 1937. They were induced to return to work, leaving details of After a long and intense fight to Relations Division.

While the State Labor Board direction of the Navy Yard Lo- and Judge Guthrie were "settling Sentiment for independence in cals of the Industrial Union of up details," the company intimi-Puerto Rico is far more wide- Marine and Shipbuilding Work- dated the workers to the extent spread than is ever permitted to ers America (C.I.O.), the Stalin- of practically destroying the appear. Discrimination is widely ist-controlled group of Local 17 United Automobile Workers lo- iet Far Eastern horizon for a any attempt of the government to practiced against known advo- covering the Philadelphia Navy cal. In June nine workers were brief interval last week. The move in on union control of hir-NEWTON, Iowa. - Machine cates. of the island's freedom Yard decided to return their discharged in violation of their Soviet army, stationed in those guns guarded the entrance of the from American rule. The largest charter to the LU.M.S.W.A., and seniority rights. The members of parts, occupied a hill overlooking Maytag washing machine factory political party, the Liberal Party, to enter the Stalinist-ruled United the U.A.W. struck in a body and Lake Khasan on the Soviet-Man-

Yards into a militant union uniting them with the shipyard workblinding one worker.

A few days later Judge Guth-(Continued on page 4)

Middletown

en by sociologists as the average "Middletown" by Mary and Robert Lynd in their two popular books, Muncie has become famous as the most thoroughly explored city in the United States, Cross-sectioned and crossexamined, indexed and tabulated, town," has presented the proon the average American society.

settlement up to the State Labor Soviets' Firm Stand mission, and it was planned to

uties approached a group of men, raised his gas gun and stated

Pickets Open Drive On Militant Action by Muncie N.Y. Gov't Hiring Hall

Picket Line Answers Government Threat to Take Over Hiring; Seamen Act Despite N.M.U. Opposition

Hiring on Dollar Line Held by SUP

NEW YORK .- After a week of fruitless efforts to form a fighting united front with the National Maritime Union, the New York branches of the Sailors Union of the Pacific and the Marine Firemen established a picket line around the Maritime Commission versities with detailed material hiring hall, determined to defeat the government's plan to destroy union hiring halls.

Despite the refusal of N.M.U. officials to approve joint picketing, rank and file members of the C.I.O. union have joined the West Coast men in picket duty, and seamen as a whole are respecting the line. Added pressure, on and off the picket line, is expected to make it very difficult for the Maritime Commission to obtain crews for government-owned merchant ships.

Already the Commission has

ship crews through the fink hall.

Any such action on any ship

under West Coast agreement

would immediately precipitate

strike, for the S.U.P. is on record

ing. Shipping a crew through the

fink hall to a West Coast ship will

On the East Coast the N.M.U.

following the line handed down

sistently aided the government in

its attempt to throttle the marine

unions. When the fink hall was

first established a picket line was

placed about the hall, but within

a week the Stalinist officials were

shouting, "Pack the fink hall," a

policy that soon became official.

Fink Hall Old Stuff

The duped seamen found them-

selves back in the days of the old

shipping board, compelled to ac-

cept the tyranny of shipping

authorities and herded around the

Well aware that the fink hall

represented a danger to all marine

unions, and faced with the pros-

pect of some of the major ship-

agreements coming under govern-

ment control-the Dollar Line and

the Baltimore Mail-the S. U. P.

for militant action. A delegation

from those unions approached the

N.M.U. and the A. F. of L. Sea-

men's Union and asked for a

united front against the fink hall.

file the N.M.U. sent delegates to

the conference, but they contin-

ually sang the Stalinist song,

"You can't fight the government."

After stalling for several meet-

ings, Joseph Curran, representing

Commission hiring hall, and pay-

ing officials of the respective

unions to "observe" the fink ship-

When this open sell-out became

known to the rank and file sea-

Forced by an aroused rank and

commission hall like cattle.

tie up shipping on the Pacific.

notified the S.U.P. agent, Frank Berry, that the agreement signed by the Dollar Steamship Line with the West Coast unions will BORDER CLASH with the West Coast unions will be honored by the government. The Dollar Line recently was taken over by the Maritime Com-

Forces Japan to Retreat

War clouds threatened the Sov-

demanded reinstatement of the chukuoan border south of Vladivostok. The Japanese press im-In spite of the terrorization by mediately raised a hue and cry by the Communist Party, has con-Sheriff Pucket and his deputies about an invasion of Manchukuo the men stood pat and organized by the Union of Socialist Soviet a mass picket line, Immediately Republics, Nippon's ambassador the officers of the law resorted to the U.S.S.R., Mamoru Shigeto open violence. One of the dep- mitzu, at once protested the "invasion" to the Foreign Office in Moscow. Upon a reply from Forthat he was going to take a pic- eign Minister Litvinoff that the ture. He shot tear gas into the hill was Russian territory accordbayonets to force strikers and Police, Colonel Riggs, in 1936, Stalinists. "Rule or ruin" is their group at close range, nearly ing to a treaty concluded in 1869, Mr. Shigemitzu declared such an answer unacceptable to his government and added that if she failed to get satisfaction, Japan "would have to reach a con-

clusion about applying force." The hypocritical protestations of the Nipponese brigands overshot their mark this time, however. For the invaders of hundreds of thousands of miles of ping companies under West Coast Chinese territory to shout about the "invasion" of a little hill in uncharted territory was like a thief shouting "Stop thief!" It and the Marine Firemen moved was too ludicrous a piece of hypocrisy for even the most reactionary press to take seriously.

Military Importance Only What was involved was the seizure of a piece of territory too small to be of anything more than strategic military importance in a future contest. The title to the territory being in doubt, the Soviet army took advantage of Japan's difficulties on the Chinese battlefields to settle the N.M.U., presented a proposithe question. The incident is of tion of recognizing the Maritime significance only insofar as it reflects a new stage in the Japanese-Soviet relation of forces. Previously, Japan has been able

to make all kinds of such sallies into Siberian territory unopposed, banking on internal Soviet difficulties. The occupation of the hill near Lake Khasan merely signifies that the tables have been turned. Japan can no longer count on the advantage offered by Stalin's debilitating purge of the Red Army. Her own losses in China have offset the damage brought to the Soviet armed forces by the Stalinist annihilation of its competent leaders.

Apparently, the Tokio government was reckoning with a relationship of forces that had already become outlived. To test the power of its arrogance, so successful only a little more than a year ago in the Amur region, the Japanese tried to back up the threats of their Moscow ambassador by landing a force on the Soviet island, Faingov, Two Japanese motor boats violated the frontier near the settlement of Vidnoye, on the Ussuri River north of the Changkufeng district where the hill had been taken. A (Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 2) C. P. Gang Attacks

Appeal Salesmen

DETROIT, July, 25.—Social-

ist Appeal distributors were set upon and attacked tonight by a Stalinist mob in front of the headquarters of the Stalinist dominated U.A.W. Local 157. In the course of a freefor-all which ensued, Stalinists threatened to smash the camera of a Free Press photographer. Although the Appeal salesmen were outnumbered by the organized hoodlums, they stood their ground and continued distribution of the paper. This is the second time since the outbreak of the U.A.W. faction fight that Stalinist "democracy" has taken the form of physical violence against members of the Socialist Workers Party.

Labor Under Attack THE ONLY ANSWER

Frank Hague's Jersey City is no isolated case in the United

It is not the only place where capital and its government threaten to deprive labor of its most elementary rights, where the guns and blackjacks of police and hired thugs are being employed to smash the labor movement.

In the last few months alone, we have had the police firing into a throng of defenseless strikers in Akron, Ohio, which is dominated by the powerful rubber magnates; and the gassing and beating of the American Brass strikers in Detroit at the end of May, in which 50 pickets and sympathizers were badly injured. More recently, similar events have taken place in widely

scattered parts of the country.

In San Antonio, Texas, the local government, acting for the local business men, has conducted a brutal drive against the C.I.O. and any attempt on its part to organize the heavily underpaid workers of that city. Organizers and militants have been arrested, thrown into jail, and beaten by the police.

In New Orleans, Louisiana, another bailiwick of President Roosevelt's party, a reign of terror was launched by the police against the striking truck and taxi drivers. At one time, some 400 strikers were under arrest. The leaders of the strike were also arrested and savagely beaten in the local jail; when released on bail, they were compelled to hide. The drayage firms and the struck cab company did not conceal the fact that they paid out of their pockets \$12,000 to the police for doing "strike duty." One could not ask for a more impressive demonstration of the

role of the police than this public subsidy to act as strike-breakers. In Westwood, California, vigilantes and police united to smash the strike of the fiercely exploited lumber workers, one of whom was shot, 30 of whom were beaten, and more than a thousand of whom-including their families-were driven out of

town by force. In North Chicago, not far from the scene of last year's Republic Steel massacre, police fired tear-gas bombs into the ranks of the strikers peacefully picketing the Chicago Hardware Foundry, with the result that 50 of the pickets were hurt.

In Newton, Iowa, the National Guard has been called out to break the strike of the Maytag Washing Machine Co. workers, and machine guns have been mounted on all the corners of the city's streets. Unionists and their leaders have been arrested. In Steubenville, Ohio, a mob of 200 thugs organized by the

Weirton Steel bosses, endangered the lives of members of the National Labor Relations Board, who were forced to flee in the middle of the night, escorted by sheriffs and state police. In New York, the police are on hand to enforce the infamous

Cotillo anti-picketing injunction, which deprives the striking Busch workers from exercising a right for which labor has fought in this country for generations.

The same police of Mayor LaGuardia look on quietly while the tough-guys and thugs break up the meetings of the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Party in Queens, which is ruled over by Borough President Harvey, LaGuardia's candidate in the last election and Frank Hague's closest imitator.

If labor takes these first significant signs of the reactionary offensive lying down-it will be in no position to fight back when a fascist wave sweeps over its head.

The way to fight it is not by words or empty gestures, not by relying on capitalist politicians and their police-but to smash Reaction is bold and aggressive only when it feels that labor

is passive and has no self-confidence. The time to fight fascism is when it first raises its vicious head.

All the events of recent months point to plain conclusions: The capitalist politicians, the "friends of labor"-talk about "labor's rights," but only a blind and duped worker will rely upon them to fight to preserve these rights.

Smart lawyers, and appeals to Washington, will not restore the picket line of the New Orleans taxi-drivers, of the Detroit brass workers, of the Akron rubber workers, of the Westwood lumber workers-or of the workers in any other locality who decide to fight against the capitalist offensive.

Only the workers themselves, organized, trained and properly equipped, can effectively defend their rights, their unions,

That is why it is a primary task of the unions everywhere to organize Labor Defense Guards, the fighting detachment of the working class.

There is no other way.

Trotsky Fears Fate Of Klement, G.P.U. Victim

My friends in Paris informed New York yesterday by telephone about the disappearance of Rudolph Klement, a German exile living in Paris. Klement, a former Hamburg student, was for two years my secretary at Prinkipo and in France. He was a well educated young man, 28 years old, possessing a fluent knowledge of several languages. From Paris he had continued to give me a great deal of assistance in my literary work. Like Erwin Wolf, my Czechoslovakian secretary, Klement took an active part in the unmasking of the Moscow frame-ups and through this provoked the violent hatred of

My Parisian friends say that they received a copy of a letter from Perpignan addressed to me by Klement. I have not received this letter yet. But from Klement's previous letters it is clear that he had no intention of going anywhere. My Parisian friends think that Klement was kidnapped by the G.P.U., just as Erwin Wolf was some time ago. If this be so, it is entirely possible that the G.P.U. forcibly carried him to Spain for bloody revenge. I hesitated whether or not to give this information to the press before final verification. But since every hour lost may spell doom to my young friend, I consider it my duty to make public right now the information received

Coyoacan, D. F.

July 18, 1938