

Workers Of The World Unite!

Socialist Appeal

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For The Fourth International!

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Stalinists Riot As 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.

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 "sit-downers."

There can be no two opinions on the meaning of the occurrence in the Griswold Building today. The union had been clearly informed by President Martin that the trial would be held in closed session.

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.

The mad rampage of the Stalinists at the opening of the trial corresponds directly with the beginning of defeats at the hands of the rank and file. At a meeting of all Executive Committees of local unions held here last Friday, a motion to call upon John L. Lewis to intervene in the auto union was defeated by a vote of 145 to 122.

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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.

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.

Coyacan, D. F. July 18, 1938

LEON TROTSKY.

SEAMEN FIGHT "FINK" HALLS

East Side Workers March for Housing

New York's East Side tenement districts will witness a parade on Saturday, July 30th by organizations affiliated to and endorsing the East Side Workers Housing Committee.

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 Polish Workers Club, and other labor organizations will carry the slogans and banners of the committee.

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, 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.

G.O.P. CAMPAIGNS FOR DEMOCRAT

Two Boss Parties Unite to Back Reactionary

Powerful forces within the New York Republican Party are demanding Republican endorsement in the coming elections of Representative John J. O'Connor, present incumbent of the 16th Congressional District in Manhattan.

O'Connor is a Tammany Democrat, chairman of the House of Representatives Rules Committee. 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.

The significance of the proposal for Republican endorsement of O'Connor lies in its dramatic attestation of the fact—observable also in a thousand other manifestations—that the political struggles in this country are now compelled to step outside the limits of the traditional party boundaries.

The conflicts now being unleashed under the pressure of the crisis no longer find the old setup of the Republican and Democratic parties a sufficient arena in which to work themselves out. In this sense, the proposal to give Republican endorsement to O'Connor is directly comparable to the Republican intervention to support Peterson against Benson in the Minnesota Farmer-

(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 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 being 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

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 the 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 merely reaped what it sowed. Everything that could be done to drive the Nationalists to desperation has been done.

CALL GUARDSMEN IN IOWA STRIKE

NEWTON, Iowa. — Machine guns guarded the entrance of the Maytag washing machine factory and National Guardsmen patrolled the streets of Newton, under martial law in the eleventh week of a strike against proposed wage cuts by the Maytag company.

The National Guard, called out by Governor Nelson G. Krusche when union pickets prevented strike-breakers from trucking washing machine parts away from the plant, used their bayonets to force strikers and their wives away from the factory, breaking up the picket line.

Picket Line Crashed Shortly after the troops arrived last week, and were still making camp in the outskirts of (Continued on page 2)

C. P. SPLITS PHILA. NAVY YARD UNION

Shipyard Loc'1 Gives Up C.I.O. Charter In Split Move

PHILADELPHIA, July 23. — After a long and intense fight to secure a dominant position in the direction of the Navy Yard Locals of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers America (C.I.O.), the Stalinist-controlled group of Local 17 opposing the Philadelphia Navy Yard decided to return their charter to the I.U.M.S.W.A., and to enter the Stalinist-ruled United Federal Workers of America (C.I.O.) where their ambitions could be better satisfied.

A progressive step, with immense possibilities, was undertaken when the I.U.M.S.W.A. began to organize the shipyard workers of the government-owned Navy Yards into a militant union uniting them with the shipyard workers in private industry. But militancy is of no importance to the Stalinists. "Rule or ruin" is their motto.

Navy Yard Council Set up A Joint Council of Navy Yards was established last year by a decision of the National Convention of the union, to coordinate (Continued on page 2)

Middletown Gives Labor Big Lesson

Militant Action by Muncie Auto Workers Smashes Attacks on Union

MUNCIE, Ind.—Carefully chosen by sociologists as the average American small city and dubbed "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 cross-examined, indexed and tabulated, Muncie, in its role as "Middletown," has presented the professors and students of the universities with detailed material on the average American society.

Recent events in Muncie have their significance for workers. Not only the students of sociology can draw lessons from Muncie, but trade unionists can gain valuable knowledge from the experience of "Middletown's" working class.

Trusted Labor Board

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 settlement up to the State Labor Relations Division.

While the State Labor Board and Judge Guthrie were "settling up details," the company intimidated the workers to the extent of practically destroying the United Automobile Workers local. In June nine workers were discharged in violation of their seniority rights. The members of the U.A.W. struck in a body and demanded reinstatement of the discharged men.

In spite of the terrorization by Sheriff Puckett and his deputies the men stood pat and organized a mass picket line. Immediately the officers of the law resorted to open violence. One of the deputies approached a group of men, raised his gas gun and stated that he was going to take a picture. He shot tear gas into the group at close range, nearly blinding one worker.

Machine Gun Threat

A few days later Judge Guthrie issued an injunction against the strikers. Sheriff Puckett declared he would carry out the in- (Continued on page 4)

Pickets Open Drive On 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 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 notified the S.U.P. agent, Frank Berry, that the agreement signed by the Dollar Steamship Line with the West Coast unions will be honored by the government.

The Dollar Line recently was taken over by the Maritime Commission, and it was planned to ship crews through the fink hall. Any such action on any ship under West Coast agreement would immediately precipitate a strike, for the S.U.P. is on record to oppose with all their strength any attempt of the government to move in on union control of hiring. Shipping a crew through the fink hall to a West Coast ship will tie up shipping on the Pacific.

On the East Coast the N.M.U., following the line handed down by the Communist Party, has consistently 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 themselves back in the days of the old shipping board, compelled to accept the tyranny of shipping authorities and headed around the commission hall like cattle.

Well aware that the fink hall represented a danger to all marine unions, and faced with the prospect of some of the major shipping companies under West Coast agreements coming under government control—the Dollar Line and the Baltimore Mail—the S.U.P. and the Marine Firemen moved for militant action. A delegation from those unions approached the N.M.U. and the A. F. of L. Seamen's Union and asked for a united front against the fink hall.

Forced by an aroused rank and file the N.M.U. sent delegates to the conference, but they continually sang the Stalinist song, "You can't fight the government." After stalling for several meetings, Joseph Curran, representing the N.M.U., presented a proposition of recognizing the Maritime Commission hiring hall, and paying officials of the respective unions to "observe" the fink shipping.

When this open sell-out became known to the rank and file seamen (Continued on page 2)

C. P. Gang Attacks Appeal Salesmen

DETROIT, July, 25.—Socialist 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 free-for-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 States.

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 truck 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 Bush 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 it in struggle.

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, their future.

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.