For The Fourth International!

VOL. II-No. 34

Saturday, August 20, 1938

Five Cents per Copy

Union Busters Peril U.A.W.

FDR Aligns Forces In Primary Battles; Labor Acts As Pawn

DEMOCRATS ARE PREPARED FOR MAJOR SCHISM

LNPL Tail-ends Democrats, Depends on "Labor's Friends"

Fortified by Senate Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley's decisive victory over Governor "Happy" Chandler in Kentucky, President Roosevelt last week took his most daring step of the current primaries campaign when he came into the open with a direct attack on Senator George of Georgia. Disregarding the advice of the "moderates" within his own party, in particular of his chief strategist, Postmaster-General Farley, Roosevelt went down the line against Senator George, and called for the nomination of George's opponent, Federal Attorney Lawrence Camp.

Heretofore in the campaign, Roosevelt has restricted himself either to speeches, very general in character, asking support for "liberals" as against conservatives or reactionaries, or to polite personal endorsements of friendly WIN L. incumbent Senators like Pepper of Florida, Barkley of Kentucky or Bulkley of Ohio. This is the first time that he has launched out bluntly against a man already in office: George has held his seat in the Senate for the past twelve years.

Prestige at Stake

There is no doubt that by this act Roosevelt has staked his own prestige, and the position of his entire group within the Democratic Party, to a greater extent gaining 100 per cent union recogthan by any previous move since he became President. The dewas promptly followed by similar attacks on Senator Tydings of union organized by the United Maryland and Representative Electrical and Radio Workers of John O'Connor of New York, America, despite the fact that a Appeal. Chairman of the all-powerful vigorous campaign had succeeded House Rules Committee.

These developments were mak- old company union set-up. ing clearer than ever the fact that the present primaries are a major preliminary battle in the broader struggle for control of the Democratic Party, which will reach its climax in the contest for delegates to the 1940 Democratic national convention. In many cases, victory of one or the other of the factions in this summer's primaries assures control of the delegation in 1940.

The mounting bitterness of the primaries is likewise showing that this battle for control means in the end a split of the Democratic Party, whichever faction wins. The tone and content of Roosevelt's remarks in Georgia indicate that the President is fully conscious of this perspec-

tive, and is preparing for it. Labor's Political Strategy

Meanwhlie, the primaries were providing additional lessons in the hopelessness and futility of Labor's Non-Partisan League. They were proving that this strategy means, even when most successful, only the subordination of the workers to a bourgeois po-

Ohio made a sad and ironic comment on the politics of the feat of Governor Davey by Demonomination was hailed as a great "victory" for labor. It was conveniently forgotten that Davey C.I.O. officials who now offer Sawyer as the savior of the Ohio working class. Nor is there the slightest fundamental difference out even greater battles. (Continued on page 2)



F. D. ROOSEVELT

Strikers Backed by New Trade Union Conference

LOS ANGELES. - Backed by the new Los Angeles Trade Union Steel Products Co. won a short and effective strike last week, nition and wresting many concessions from the company.

The strike was called after the company refused to recognize the lutionary influence in the British within a month in destroying the

New Group Aids

A major factor in the victory of the strikers was the invaluable aid given the union by the new central body of C.I.O. unions that recently left the Bridges-controlled Industrial Union Council and formed the Trade Union Conference. In line with their announced policy of aid to all unions struggling to win concessions from the employers the strength of the major C.I.O. unions in Los Angeles was thrown behind the new

Encouraged by the victory over Dura Steel, one of the most noto-(Continued on page 2)

ENGLISH GROUPS UNITE TO BUILD

New Party Combines Forces for Revolutionary Policy

4th INTERNAT'L

LONDON .-- A long step forward was taken in the building of a strong revolutionary movement in Great Britain, when delegates representing various British organizations working for the Fourth International met in conference here on July 31 and August 1 and merged their organizations into one unified section of the Fourth International.

Independent organizations in London and Scotland will merge into the national organization which will take the name of Revolutionary Socialist League. The various journals, representing the different groups prior to the fusion, will now be replaced by one popular newspaper and one theoretical organ.

The merger will undoubtedly provide a great impulsion for the revolutionary movement in this country and appreciably increase its influence in the trade unions and among organized workers generally. Sympathetic workers, who were confused in the past by the many organizations speaking in the name of the international movement, are already rallying to the new party. These are first indications that a healthy growth and a vigorous organization is in store for the newly cre-

Details concerning the program adopted by the Revolutionary Socialist League and its concrete plan of action to widen its revolabor movement will appear in subsequent issues of the Socialist

Local NewYork Schedules Meet

There will be a membership meeting of Local New York of the Socialist Workers Party, Friday, August 19, in the Victoria Room at Irving Plaza, at 8:30 P.M. Attendance is confined to members of the S.W.P. and the Young Peoples Socialist League and admission will be by red card only.

The subject of the evening's discussion will be the National Action Program of the Party.

It Might Have Happened!

1,000,000 Nazi troops maneuver on the Czech border. A clash occurs between a detachment of Czech border guards and a company of German soldiers. A German soldier is dropped by a bullet fired presumably by a Czech-but in all likelihood by a German instructed to fire the wrong way. The command is given and German infantry marches over the border while German artillery opens fire on Czech fortifications. The Czechs bring up their picked troops and dig in on the frontier while bombing planes pour a hail of shells from the skies. The French General Staff orders a mobilization of its army on the Rhine. Great Britain delivers an ultimatum. Mussolini brings his army into fighting position. Screaming headlines announce the beginning of the new

It didn't happen this way. While the European and American press, accustomed to Hitler acting by bold strokes with time-clock precision, freely appointed August 15th as "Der Tag" for the invasion of Czechoslovakia, the Nazi mobilization of its war-time army was confined to a grandiose military maneuver.

But it might have happened! There isn't an intelligent person alive today who doesn't have the fatalistic feeling that almost any morning or night will find him face to face with a series of "incidents" that wind up in a general war. And the feeling is no less universal that nothing can be done about it except sit anxiously by and speculate on the date and place of the war's beginning.

Is there any doubt that this is a true description of the mentality of millions of trembling people in the world today? Look at the newspaper reports. No one doubted the possibility of an outbreak when Hitler announced his maneuvers. Yet no one

Thousands of angry workingmen did not gather in the streets to thunder their protest at being dragged into a blood bath to protect the maps of the imperialist Versailles treaty or to redraft them according to the Hitler conception. They did not threaten to cast all the maps into the garbage heap and together with them the conniving diplomats, the profit-hungry merchants of death and the whole racket-system called capitalism. Certainly there were no demonstrations in the prison-hells of Germany, Austria or Italy. But in the great "democracies" of England and France, the same tombstone quiet, the same tremors of fear ran through a passive population. Why?

Fourteen years before Hitler ground the German workers into a regimented Nazi army, the preparation for the present tragedy was carefully laid in the Treaty of Versailles. The League of Nations and the World Court would compose the differences between nations. Disarmament conferences and arms limitations conclaves would draw the teeth from the war god. And peace put the seal of honest purpose and solemn intention on the flowery speeches of the diplomats and the politicians. The working class did not see behind the sham and the fraud to the real maneuvers of the British and French imperialists, angling to keep their world empires away from the hungry lean defeated powers. Pacifism gave the masses a straw of hope and they grasped it eagerly.

The masses trusted the lying spokesmen of capitalism-until Adolf Hitler kicked the props out from under the rotten, hypocritical edifice of imperialist pacifism; broke out of the League of Nations, tore up the Versailles Treaty, rebuilt the German army, occupied the Rhineland, terrorized the Saar plebiscite, invaded Austria and now stands on the Czech border and once again rattles his saber.

Then the diplomats dropped the peace conferences, buried the League of Nations and began to talk of a more "forceful policy." They called the policy "collective security." With this collective action they would police the world, perhaps enforce a little boycott and by sheer show of force hold the "war-makers" in line. It would never come to war-that they promised with all the sanctimonious fervor they could summon up. They failed to say what every foreign office in the world knew as a simple axiom: collective security meant war-meant new line-ups when war came to protect the old booty.

The Stalintern beat the drums for the new angel of peace, decked out in the uniform of a cop-a collective security cop. The workers waited again, trusting no more in the sweet dove of peace but now in the blackjack of the self-appointed keeper of law and order. Until one day they saw the amazing spectacle of (Continued on page 4)

Where Does He Stand?



JOHN L. LEWIS

TENUOUS TRUCE **REACHED IN SIB-ERIAN CONFLICT**

Japanese Back Down But Threaten to Resume War

Less than a week after Japanese diplomacy requested and obtained a truce with the Soviet Union in the fighting around the Changkufeng sector of the Siberian-Manchukuoan frontier, indications are at hand that the Mikado's troops are once again bent on resuming hostilities.

On Wednesday, August 10, Amcall resulted in an agreement for a "mutual cessation of military operations at noon Thursday." At the hour set, Japanese and Soviet buglers trumpeted a "cease firing" command. Thus one month's increasingly heavy fighting, resulting from the most serious Russian-Japanese border clash to date, was ended with a definite retreat on the part of the projects. The Stalinists' policy of Tokyo government.

Under the agreement, the Totyo government accepted the principle of a bi-partite border commission to settle all frontier disputes, finally giving up the pretense of Manchukuoan independ ence and the consequent demand for a border commission in which it would have undisputed sway. It also agreed to consider, along with "other material," the Soviet claim on the demarcation of the Manchukuo-Siberian frontier as set forth in documents relating to a Sino-Russian treaty dating back

Japan in Weak Position As previously established in these columns, the events around the Changkufeng struggle are notable insofar as they

 That Japan has been so debilitated by her Chinese war as to offset any weakness in the Soviet domestic position which she may have counted upon as advantageous to her interests..

2. That the Red Army, after a fearful loss in morale and personnel due to the continued Stalinist purges, has sufficiently recuperated to be more than a (Continued on page 3)

Plan Rump Convention To Split Auto Union

Frankensteen Claims Support of Lewis as Locals Are Advised to Throttle Int'l by Sending Funds to National C.I.O.

LEWIS MAINTAINS SILENCE

DETROIT .- The hit-and-run drivers at the wheel of the Communist Party automobile are now careening wildly through the auto workers union. The mad drive, which recognizes only green lights, is headed straight for a smash-up of the biggest and most powerful C.I.O. International, the United Automobile Workers of America.

Meeting in Toledo, presidents of Stalinist-inspired or dominated locals adopted a plan that will make a split an early reality in the U.A.W. Leading features of the wrecking plan follow:

AKRON C.I.O. TO BUILD UNION FOR around the neck of the Interna-WPA WORKERS and per capita payments to na-

W.A.A. Fights Move; Stalinists Want Open Field

By B. J. WIDICK Labor Secretary, S.W.P. AKRON, Ohio.-Disgusted with

Foreign Office in Moscow. The into a C.I.O.-chartered union, and an organizing committee was presented by President Martin. set up in cooperation with the The Stalinists scurried back to regional C.I.O. office to do the This action followed widespread

criticism of the Workers Alliance leadership by militant rubber workers now employed on W.P.A. doing nothing to embarrass the Roosevelt administration caused the criticism.

C.I.O. Calls Meet

organizing committee for W.P.A. workers was held last week, despite sabotage of the Stalinists who spread false rumors that the organizing campaign was called

An apparently reliable report ton that John L. Lewis had definitely vetoed the proposal adcircles that Lewis wants to organize the unemployed and the W.P.A. people but is anxious to exclude the Stalinist leadership.

The effect of the C.I.O. council action in Akron is to place the Stalinists in the position of fighttle of the unemployed its own, and they are meeting the opposition of most of the prominent

1. Call a rump convention in the near future under the guise of a "National Auto Conference." 2. Tighten the financial noose

tional by sending all union funds

Line Changed Again The now-or-never campaign

launched by the Communist Party marks a third or fourth switch in line since the faction fight broke loose in full fury in the auto union. Just to describe the ragged outline shows where the drive is headed.

Early in May, the alliance with Frankensteen was finally sealed, the misleadership of the Stalinists stamped and delivered. The proin control of the Workers Alli- gram of drive-the-factionists-outance, the Akron C.I.O. council of-the-union found no takers, and bassador Shigemitsu called on the voted to organize W.P.A. workers the May 9 meeting of the Executive Board saw a unanimous adoption of the 20-point program their holes.

But only for a month, when seizing upon a favorable opportunity created by Martin's absence from the board meeting in June, they turned their guns on the 20-point program. They were rewarded for their pains by a transference of the board meeting to Washington, D. C., and the suspension of Frankensteen, Hall, Mortimer and Addes, That marked the end of Strategy Number One: the attempt to sneak A meeting called by the C.I.O. up on the board and seize control by a sleight-of-hand maneuver.

Dual Set-Up Tried

Then in a twinkle of the eye,

the strategy veered sharply in the opposite direction. Locals were instructed to withhold per capita payments. A dual financial office at the home of George Addes was was received here from Washing- established. A dual international was set up. First steps were taken to tie up International vanced by leaders of the Workers funds in litigation and to redi-Alliance to give them an inter- rect mail from the Griswold national C.I.O. charter. The word Building office to private homes. is being passed along in C.I.O. The hell-raisers ran riot through the local unions and a split impended with deadly imminence. But Strategy Number Two depended on bluff . . . and John L. Lewis. Martin refused to be tated to intervene because Duing a progressive proposal of the binsky of the LL.G.W.U. threatlabor movement to make the bat- ened to march out of the C.I.O. if the auto workers' union was throttled by a Lewis-C. P. dicta-

Then acting either in agreement with Lewis or at any rate banking on his subsequent suport, the Stalinists put on their heeps' clothing. Locals were in-(at least publicly) to turn over per capita to the International; Addes surrendered his funds; the call for a rump convention was shelved at least for the time being. The fight was to be directed along constitutional lines with a special convention as the goal in view.

Strategy Number 3 came to an abrupt end after the expulsion of the three suspended officers about a week ago. Why? Is it likely that the Stalinists believed Leaders of the Communist that the riotous prelude to the

(Continued on page 2)

Gov't Hiring Halls or Seamen's Unions?

the political strategy adpoted by Plans of Maritime Commission to Regiment tionary International Seamen's to rely on N.L.R.B., the "friend-Seamen in Preparation for War Spell Death to Unions

> On all waterfronts the major problem confronting seamen in- quickly fell under the sway of the terested in building and preserving their unions is the question of Communist Party, and, under the unions, aided by seamen belonggovernment interference with the proper functioning of those unions.

On the West Coast, where the sea-faring organizations are ganizing through National Labor the spontaneous sympathy of the cratic National Committeeman already committed to an uncompromising struggle against govern- Relations Board elections was in- rank and file members of the ment hiring halls, the seamen view with forboding the constant efforts augurated. of the Maritime Commission to impose upon the marine industry the Sea Service Bureaus, justly called "fink halls" by all workers. had been elected to office with the There, where the right of the unions to control the hiring halls was workers to the war chariot of completely dominating the fink halls. Political, and it is dictated by and predicted by all and sundry? blessing and support of the same won after months of terror and bloodshed in two great strikes, the American imperialism, and thus trict committee of the N.L.R.B. is asked to Stalin. That purpose is to enlist Is it possible they believed that seamen consider the right to run their own hiring halls a precious to fulfill the promises of the Sov- were able to keep the union from another the American workers behind the lurid exposure through burgone, earned through heroic struggle and not to be relinquished with-

between Sawyer today and Davey On the East Coast and Gulf, far from being completely organ- American seamen, for that regi- jority in the leading committees and in all marine unions, who see ion. Rather than endanger the known fact to every child in the yesterday. When Davey helped where the largest group of organ- ized, and closed shops with union mentation is a necessary prere- of the N.M.U. It could be reason- clearly the tremendous threat to possibility of such an alliance, labor movement for more than a smash the Little Steel strike, he ized men is in the National Mari- control of hiring are the exception quisite for the waging of war by ably expected by many of the the very existence of any unions if they will ruthlessly destroy any year, would stave off the inevita-

Union was forced in the begin- ly" wing of the New Deal, they ning to wage a bitter struggle made it impossible for the seaagainst both the shipowners and men to seriously combat their the scab-herding officialdom of immediate enemy, the Maritime the old union, the new union Commission,

fictitious guise of support from ing to the I.W.W., established a Stalinists Prevent Fight

iet foreign office, could not be taking official action.

In New York, where West Coast

the government, a program of or- picket line around the fink halls, N.M.U. proved that they, too, were willing and ready to fight in

The Stalinists, whose greatest defense of the right of union con- clapsed and still the union perpolitical aim is to harness the trol of hiring. The Stalinists, still sists in the Stalinist policy of union. Their primary purpose is tain fate of expulsion-expected expected to fight the govern- Since then a new group, head- ritime Commission.

West Coast Unions Prepared to Defend Right to Control Hiring, But New N.M.U. Leaders Remain Silent

union to ship all seamen through in defense of the right of union Old Policy Prevails

So far, these men have been disappointed. Two weeks have

was doing only what any capi- time Union, the picture is consid- While the rank-and-file movement the Roosevelt administration. rank and file who put the new hiring is relegated to government organization that stands in the ble expulsions or create a change erably different. The industry is that broke away from the reac- Rather, by teaching the workers men into office that they would halls, as it was in the days of the

immediately put the union on a old Shipping Board, are beginning true course, the course of aggres- to ask Jerry King and his assosive defense of the right of the clates what they propose to do

Party and followers of the Sta- trial staged by their stooges and linist line are, of course, not pri- the attendant publicity would marily interested in preserving a save their officials from the cerarm of the government, the Ma- American imperialism in the com- larized documents of connections ing war, in exchange for a mili- between the administration and ment's plans to regiment the ed by Jerry King, wields a ma- Already the men in the N.M.U., tary alliance with the Soviet Un- Jay Lovestone, which has been a

(Continued on page 2)