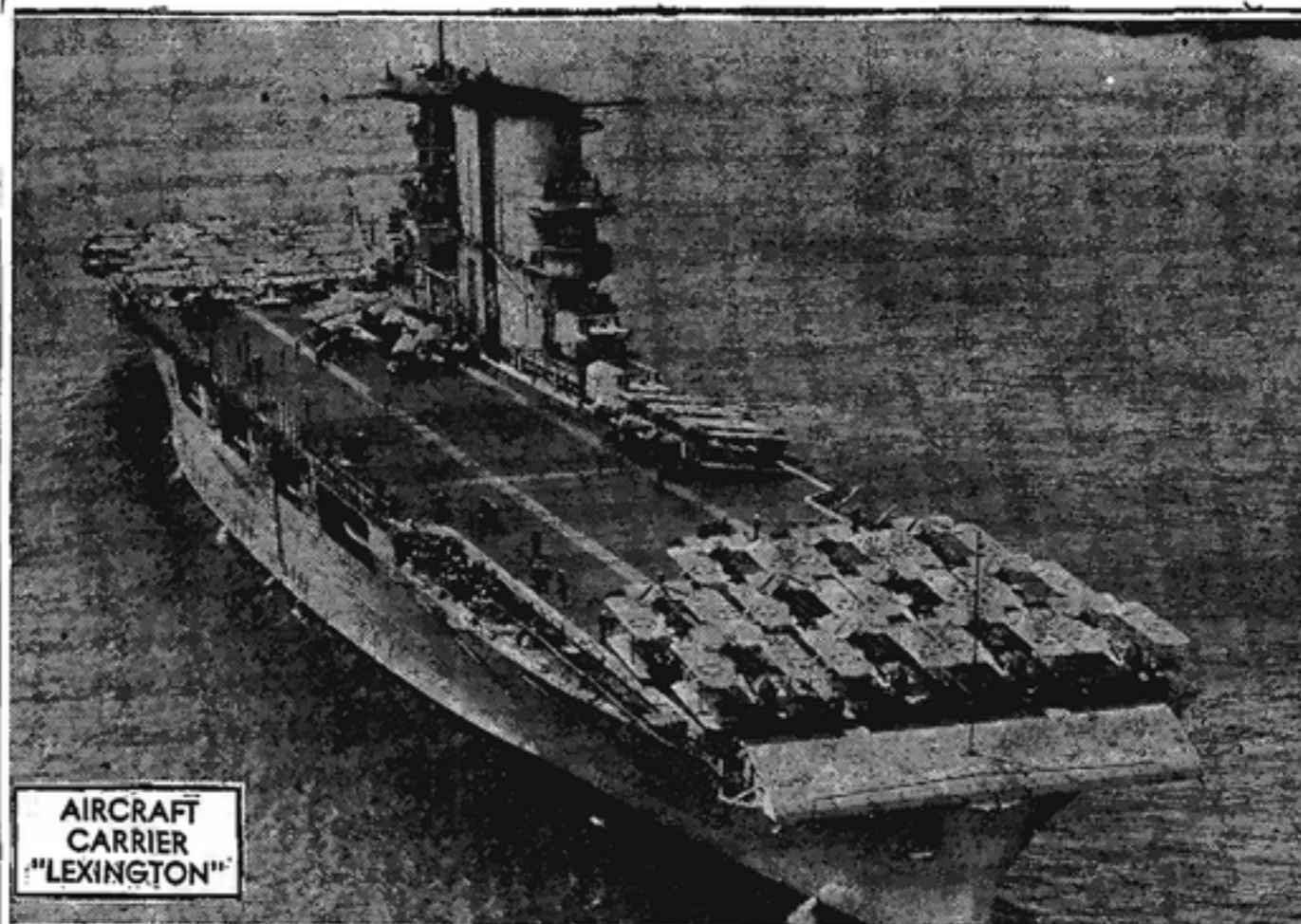


# World Youth Congress Beats the Drums of War

YOUTH CONGRESS WOULD BUILD MORE OF THESE



AIRCRAFT CARRIER "LEXINGTON"

## Labor Unity Spurs Southern Unionism

Houston A. F. of L. and C.I.O. Cooperate in Organization and Strike Activity; Texas Workers Better Conditions

By Special Correspondent

HOUSTON.—Houston is humming with industrial activity. It is the fastest growing capitalist metropolis of the South. Construction work and shipping are setting the pace for the U. S. factories and mills moving south here to make for an industrial boom at Houston while depression paralysis keeps a tight hold on Northern manufacturing centers. But open-shop employers fleeing union conditions are being hemmed in from every side by a strong labor movement.

The boom in union organization is cutting a wide swath in the barrier that keeps the labor movement divided throughout the country. C.I.O. unions are lending a helping hand to striking A. F. of L. unions. A. F. of L. locals are cooperating in C.I.O. organization drives. Progressives stand at the helm and union men are animated by a spirit of unity. The 1938 Convention of the American Federation of Labor will find a proper setting in Houston.

**Unity at Union Picnic**  
A big union picnic which turned into a huge success despite bad weather symbolized the common aims and cooperative spirit of Houston labor. While the picnic was sponsored by the strong S.W.O.C. Lodge No. 2083, the sound truck bore the label of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, American Federation of Musicians' men made up the band; bread and meat carried the A. F. of L. label and the cooling beer was made by union labor. The huge Harris County Park was obtained for the picnic by joint A. F. of L.—C.I.O. pressure with the support of the Galveston Central Labor Council.

Chairman and main speaker at the picnic was H. A. Rasmussen, District Director, Texas and Oklahoma State Workers Organizing Committee. Rasmussen is a former Republic steel worker from the South Chicago area.

John Crossland, outstanding militant in District 4 of the Oil Workers Union delivered a brief but stirring talk for workers' rights and trade union unity. He hailed the growing sentiment among the rank and file of American workers for the unity of labor and lashed out at the union-busting red-hunt of the Dies Inquisition and the perfidious role assumed by John P. Frey in it.

Bill Allison, Secretary of the Houston Teamsters Joint Council, took the microphone several times to address the crowd on behalf of the militant strikers at the huge Coca-Cola plant.

**Steel Workers Backbone**  
The powerful edifice of unionism going up in this territory is a tribute to persistent and intensive organization work based on a progressive program and fighting policies. The backbone of the union movement is formed by S.W.O.C. Lodges 2083 and 1742. The Reed Roller Bit plant (Lodge 2083) is rapidly approaching complete unionization which will involve 1200 workers.

Hughes Tool (Lodge 2083) will be 3,800 strong when organization is completed. This plant is owned by Howard Hughes, the round-the-world flyer. A few weeks ago the workers staged a spontaneous sit-down, which was successful in securing the re-hiring of a discharged employee and alleviating inhuman working conditions. Both locals have been built up by militant tactics, reliance on their own strength and little dependence on government agencies.

**Oil Workers Cooperate**  
Local 227, the big Sinclair local, has been for the past two or three years the driving force in the Texas-Louisiana District 4 of the C.I.O. oil workers' union. They have assisted several A. F. of L. unions in organizing and strike activities, notably the restaurant workers and truck drivers.

The Shell and Texaco Local No. 367, located near Pasadena, has also cooperated with other unions. At present it is engaged in organizing a big paper plant into the A. F. of L. Brotherhood of Paper Pulp and Sulphite Workers because they state, "we understand that the International is progressive, democratic and industrial in form."

**Progressive Sweep Elections**  
Meanwhile the annual election of officers at District Council 4 of the C.I.O. oil workers' union swept a progressive slate into office by an overwhelming majority. James Benton, long-time leader of the rank-and-file forces, defeated the conservative administration man, Homer Coffman of Port Arthur, by a vote of 2,589 to 466. J. T. Goodman of Local 227

was elected District Secretary-Treasurer. District 4 is potentially the largest in the entire industry and is exercising a favorable influence in the International Union.

C.I.O. locals in steel, oil and maritime have worked closely with I.L.A. longshoremen. This side of the Gulf has been happily free of the corroding and destructive effects of the Bridges outfit.

With this type of union organization and progress, the Houston labor movement is blazing a trail for the workers of the South. The future on this basis will be a bright one indeed.

## STEVEDORES ON WEST COAST HIT

(Continued from page 1)

ment is being felt by the workers as employers take advantage of their isolated position to seek to wrest from them gains won in hard struggle. Warehouse operators, under the guise of demanding a "uniform contract," are trying to re-instate the open shop. Retail clerks, under domination of the Bridges machine although still in the A. F. of L., face the united resistance of owners of San Francisco's 27 major department stores. The Central Labor Council, however, has voted to support the retail clerks in the event of a strike.

On the waterfront, scene of labor's rise since 1934, employers have signified their willingness to renew existing contracts with all unions except the longshoremen. With the renewal of the off-shore and Alaskan agreement last week, all sea-faring groups have passed the dead-line, with contracts automatically continued for another year after Sept. 30.

In the case of the longshoremen, the waterfront employers are insisting that the men refuse to respect picket lines. In this they take their cue from Bridges and the Stalinist leadership of the I.L.W.U., who have in the past asked the longshoremen to crash picket lines, on the plea of respecting their contract with the employers. Job action is to be barred, also, if the employers have their way, and the speed-up is to be instituted.

**Believe Compromise Due**  
While the seamen's unions, following the lead of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, have made known their uncompromising opposition to the shipowners' plans to undermine the conditions won by the unions, this is not so of the I.L.W.U. Rather, by their conciliatory attitude towards the bosses and their open scabbing tactics against the S.U.P. (as in the Shepard Line dispute), the Communist Party officials of the longshoremen have practically announced their willingness to accede to the demands of the operators.

The general consensus of opinion is that Bridges will be willing to compromise on these questions—a compromise that may cost the union members dearly. Even if he wished to fight, he would be forced to appeal for support from a labor movement that he has outraged by flouting every principle of labor solidarity. On the waterfront he would be forced, in event of a strike, to appeal to the S.U.P., a union whose membership he has denounced as scabs. And the teamsters, vital key in any waterfront struggle, have received Bridges' abuse up and down the Coast.

Past actions of Bridges' Communist Party gang of union-busters show only too plainly that they will be ready to accept the bosses' proposals. Militant and courageous leadership they are incapable and unwilling to give, and strike action on the San Francisco waterfront is completely contrary to the Stalinist political line. If only the employers will leave them a face-saving loop-hole, they will sell the longshoremen and the warehousemen down the river.

**Militants Win Renewal**  
The renewal of the agreements with the sea-faring unions, a renewal that the Stalinists attack as a "A. F. of L.-shipowner plot," actually is a result of the firm and united stand of the unions concerned. When Bridges split the Maritime Federation at its last convention, driving out all but Stalinist-controlled unions, the unions leaving the Federation signed a pact pledging themselves to fight for continuance of the basic gains won since 1934. Be-

## Inspired by Stalinists, Sponsored by Reaction, It Issues Open Appeal for Robber War Alliances

By HAL DRAPER

The "Second World Youth Congress," recently held at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., with about 500 delegates from 54 countries, gives a composite picture of a caricatured League of Nations Assembly and a typical Stalinist "innocent" congress. The delegates present, the larger portion of whom were of the usual youth careerist type, argued out the viewpoints of the national imperialist states they represented, as do their elder diplomats in Geneva; but the dominant tone was given by the Stalinist line of collective war which was put across. Shouts of "peace" filled the air at Vassar, but the decisions of the Congress spelled out unmistakably the word "war."

The First Congress was held in Geneva in 1936, as the illegitimate offspring of the international federation of League of Nations Societies and the Young Communist International, and was of course also held under the sign of collective security. The intervening two years have been spent mostly in building up the Second Congress.

**No Soviet Delegation**  
A few notes on the set-up of the Congress are necessary before we consider its decisions. There were only four important countries which had no delegations at the Second Congress: Germany, Italy, Japan—and the Soviet Union. The absence of the latter was one of the mysteries of the Congress, and there was a good deal of whispering among the delegates, although nothing was said about it at the proceedings themselves. The delegates of the Young Communist International—including the chiefs of the Y.C.L.'s of America, France and England as well as the international secretary—disclaimed any knowledge of why the Soviet delegation was absent, when asked by others. It was recalled that there had been a substantial Soviet delegation at the Geneva Congress in 1936, that a National Committee had been operating to popularize the World Youth Congress, etc. Yet this time there was only a formal telegram of greetings from Kosarev.

Germany and Italy had remained away from the first Congress also; the official report to the Vassar Congress commented on this as follows: "A source of dissatisfaction (with the First Congress—Ed.) was that the youth of Germany, Italy and Japan all remained away. Their abstention was the more surprising since the young delegates of the first two had until spring (1936) collaborated loyally and without reserve in the preparation of the Congress." The Vassar gathering took steps to remedy this deplorable state of affairs by adopting a special appeal to the youth of Italy and Germany to join their ranks, and the contents of which will be noted below. The Socialist Youth International sent only an observer.

**The "Distinguished" Sponsors**  
The character of the outfit is likewise indicated by the list of official sponsors given in the official report noted above. The list is headed by: His Grace, the Archbishop of York, Great Britain; and His Holiness the Patriarch of Miron Criseta of Roumania, head of the Greek Orthodox Church of that country, and the power behind the anti-Semitic Cuzza government of about a half year ago.

**His Holiness is well known as a bulwark of reaction in the**  
hind this fighting declaration rallied the major section of San Francisco's organized labor, most unions affiliated to the A. F. of L., and including the powerful teamsters' union.

Faced with this show of strength, and well aware that it was not idle boasting from slipping "leaders" seeking to bolster their standing with the rank and file, the shipowners decided to renew the agreements.

military dictatorship of Roumania. Other "International Patrons" include Barrio, the Spanish Prime Minister responsible for the suppression of peasant actions under the Republic, and Wellington Koo, who was directly in charge of the suppression of the Chinese Communists in 1927.

The official report points to the Roumanian National Sponsoring Committee as an example to other countries; this committee consists, in addition to the Patriarch, of the wife of the President of the Economic Council, the Minister Governor and the vice-governor of the Roumanian State Bank, the President of the Telephone Co., five former State ministers and two former presidents of the Council of Ministers, Royal Counsellors, and the Commandant of the Boy Scouts—all, it must be remembered, creatures of the viciously anti-working class dictatorship.

This "model" sponsoring committee, of which the other National Committees are only diluted (less successful) examples, points to the character of the World Youth Congress as the "company union" of the youth.

Among the speakers at the Congress were Mrs. Roosevelt and Aubrey Williams. The delegates were divided up into four commissions: taking up the political, economic, religious and philosophical bases of peace respectively, with the fourth considering the question of activities to be undertaken by the Congress. All the reports of the Commissions were adopted.

**Eyewash for "Innocents"**

The Religious and Philosophical Commission report based the cause of peace on the "value and dignity of the human personality," saw the cause of war in such machinations of the devil as "glorification and use of force," "idealization of hatred," selfishness and lust," etc., and affirmed "Man's loyalty to religious or philosophical truth which comes before allegiance to any institution or individual," putting forward "moral standards," "ideals" and "love" as the means of doing away with these things. The head of this Commission was none other than Raymond Guyot, head of the French Y.C.L. and of the Young Communist International.

Aside from this tomfoolery, which was useful to the Stalinists in ensnaring the religious "innocents" at the Congress, the real business of the Congress was performed in the first Commission, which drew up the political program of the Congress. This program does not merely stop at the bare idea of collective security; it is almost explicitly a call to arms to defend world democratic imperialism against the fascists.

**Program Protects Plunder**  
The program "is founded on the conviction that the principles underlying the Covenant of the League of Nations are right and practicable"—namely, the robber

## WAR CRISIS IN ELEVENTH HOUR

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son of what war means to the workers. The lashing of German labor to the Fascist war machine has been paralleled in "democratic" France by the vicious destruction of the chief of the workers' gains of the last three years of struggle—the 40-hour week—in the name of "national defense"—and in this country we have already heard plenty about the M-Day plans for tying the American working class to the capitalist war machine when the day comes.

Revolutionists everywhere have the task of tirelessly making it plain that the interests of the workers in every land have nothing in common with the interests of the capitalists who are reading the world into another war. They have to make it plain that the only way to avert the catastrophe is to fight it by fighting the capitalists, wresting from their hands the power they can only use to destroy, and to use it to rebuild a world anew in which war shall become the dark memory of a barbarous past.

is quite non-partisan in its application being motivated by humanitarian considerations, like the Red Cross, but with "special efforts" for the victims of aggression. Point 2 under this aid is: "Boycotting the goods of aggressor nations and the alternative measure of promoting the sale of goods of threatened nations." This will insure getting the president of the Czech Chamber of Commerce on the sponsoring committee.

**Appeal to Fascists**  
Another of the tasks set by the Congress was drawing in the countries not represented. To this end special appeals were drawn up for Italy and Germany. The appeal to the Youth of Italy starts with "we realize that we cannot yet, without your concurrence, speak for the whole world community of youth. We cannot but deplore your absence from us . . . We send our fraternal greetings to you, the youth of Italy . . . We are certain that you are not absent from us in spirit. . . ." Since "we believe in better conditions of life for young people of all nations, races and classes . . . our love for our country is so deep that it expresses itself without hatred or enmity for any people. . . . We believe that you too love your country in the same spirit. . . . Youth of Italy! We wish to be brothers with you in this struggle for peace." And so on—not a word about fascism, or the fight against it, or anything except the expression of the deepest fraternal love, in either the appeal to the German or Italian youth.

**Second International in Line**  
The Second International groups at the Congress played through their assigned roles in this farce to the end. In the first place, the various national delegations from the Socialist (Second International) Youth distributed themselves over the political spectrum in almost exactly the same degree as the delegates as a whole on the central questions before the Congress. The British Socialists thought the American Socialists were crazy for being opposed to collective security, etc. The American Socialist Party youth, the Norman Thomas group, distributed a statement to the delegates which, however, as reprinted in their organ, contained no mention of collective security at all!

In view of the bureaucratic way in which the discussions of the Congress were conducted, their opposition to collective security was limited to the meeting of the American delegation, where they politely presented their view in one speech. Voted down and ignored at the general assembly, they quietly accepted their role of critical but loyal support to the Congress. Not a word from them in their organ or at the congress as to their attitude toward this congress of war-mongers—no dissociation or break with the outfit! In their organ, the Socialist Call, they listed 12 countries in the bloc "against collective security," including countries like Bulgaria and Hungary, whose delegates were against the Congress decisions because they belonged to the unsatisfied bloc of nations whose imperialist interests would be harmed by the collective security of the satiated powers. In this way, they lined themselves up politically with the representatives of the reactionary anti-Versailles powers, literally with no attempt to differentiate themselves either at the congress or in their own paper.

The World Youth Congress desires to become the center of the war movement among the youth. The militant anti-war youth must treat it accordingly—struggle against it together with the rest of the war-mongers.

Under the head of "Aid to the Victims of War," this aid it seems

## Plea for Liberalism Is Roosevelt Hoax

(Continued from page 1)

support for the Pension Plan to come into the open at this stage, and to nominate Downey.

Roosevelt's manner of intervening in California exposes the demagoguery of his purge in the same way that his intervention against the Ludlow Amendment exposed the demagoguery of his "anti-war" declarations. In both instances, New Dealism is shown to be a means not of fulfilling the needs and desires of the masses, but of leashing the masses to the interests of capitalism.

It is true that the California Plan cannot work, that it would either have no discernible effect (through refusal to accept the script for goods) or result in unbridled inflation.

But the answer to this must not be the condemnation and rejection of its aims, and what these express on the part of the masses. On the contrary, we must affirm the legitimacy of these aims, call for their extension, and show how they may be implemented.

**A Thirty Dollar Minimum**  
We must demand \$30.00 weekly as a minimum income not merely for the aged, but for every worker and farmer, employed, unemployed or part-time unemployed, in the country. This is a paltry enough claim in a country of literally unlimited resources, in a country where Sixty Families own and control for their own

private delights untold billions of dollars.

Is such a demand "utopian"? It is utopian only so long as we grant the right of capitalists to shut down and sabotage industry, to confiscate for themselves billions of dollars, millions of annual income. It is paltry, over-modest even, if we look at what the factories are able to turn out, the land to produce.

It is utopian if we put our faith in the smiles and demagoguery of New Dealism. But it lies only a short way ahead if the masses cast from their backs their worst enemy—their illusions, and take control of their own destiny.

The sweep of the California Plan shows once more, in its own destiny.

The sweep of the California Plan shows once more, in its own way, that the masses are ready to respond to bold and far-reaching perspectives. Let labor learn that lesson: for if labor does not give such a perspective, it will be supplied in good time by labor's grave-digger.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Insertions in this column are 25 cents for five lines. Copy must be in at the APPEAL office before NEW YORK

**SUPPORT THE 16!** All out to First Fall Follies of the Y.P.S.L. Inter-Circle Quiz finals, bar, dancing to latest Goodman, Dorsey, Duchin recordings. Saturday eve., September 17th. Adm. 25c. 159 Rivington St.

## WANT ADS

**ROOM WANTED** in Manhattan with use of telephone, rent not more than \$5.00 weekly. Write Liston M. Oak, 166 E. 111th St., New York City.

## Appeal Army

Special 8-Page Issue on World Congress

So as to adequately cover the Founding Congress of the Fourth International, we are planning a special 8-page issue of the Socialist Appeal. Needless for us to say, this historic event is of such importance that it easily warrants the strenuous efforts that will be necessary to put out such a special issue. We intend to have a detailed report of the nature and proceedings of the Congress, the most important resolutions adopted in addition to a special feature covering the history of the Fourth International movement.

This issue will unquestionably be of special interest to all comrades, friends, sympathizers and to the working class in general. Instructions and necessary information have already been sent around to all literature agents. They must act at once by sending in large extra orders, with the money if at all possible. We can only get out this extra issue if we receive sufficiently increased orders plus the necessary funds to finance it. Let's start off the Fall-Winter campaign by making this job a real success!

The special World Congress issue should appear approximately in the early part of October. Exact date will be announced as soon as conditions permit.

**Double Your Bundle Order For The World Congress 8-Page Issue!**  
Notice: All those who have ordered bound volumes of the Appeal (1937) will receive them within one week. We would like to have more orders. Why have a dog-eared pile of papers when you can have a neatly arranged file?

The Berkeley, Calif., Y.P.S.L. circle has re-assembled and is renewing its bundle-order activity by starting a bundle of 25 as a starter . . . And Norman Mini has been appointed lit-agent of the newly-organized Sacramento Branch of the S.W.P. . . . It looks like the worst of the summer is over and things will pick up!

Watch for news about the coming Fall-Winter Appeal Campaign! Send all contributions and subscriptions to:

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