

What Good Work, Mr. President?

An Editorial

In his Labor Day speech delivered at Denton, Md., President Roosevelt appealed to "all who labor in field and factory" to support him in carrying on "the good work to a just and successful conclusion."

The thinking American workers and farmers will not be fooled by fine phrases; they will not be taken in by the fact that Roosevelt "invaded" Maryland to oppose Senator Tydings, one of the arch reactionaries in the Senate. They will ask some very simple but pointed questions.

What good work are you referring to, Mr. President? How do you propose to carry out this good work? What is the just and successful conclusion that you have in mind?

Were Roosevelt not a demagogue angling for the votes of workers and farmers his speech would have been much shorter but a thousand times more truthful. He would have stated the following: "After six years of my administration we are back to the same point where we started, and to tell you the truth I don't know what to do about the whole matter."

For what other conclusion could an honest man draw?

Anywhere from twelve to fourteen million workers are now unemployed, almost as many as were unemployed when Roosevelt entered the White House. A vivid demonstration of the extent of unemployment was given in New York when over five thousand workers applied for a few jobs as municipal porters, and in the rush to fill out applications three unemployed were injured. Is that part of the good work to which Roosevelt referred?

One third of the consuming units of the nation earned an average of less than nine dollars a week during 1936, according to the report of the National Resources Committee. Roosevelt did not include that among the list of things which he characterized as "good work."

The price of wheat has gone down to a little over sixty cents a bushel, the lowest price in history if one takes into consideration the devalued dollar. The President forgot to mention that as part of the good work.

What then constitutes the good work? The Social Security Bill, the Wages and Hours law and the Wagner Labor Relations Act? Granting that these laws are to be considered as favorable to the workers of what benefit are they to the fourteen million who are unemployed and to the farmers who must sell their wheat at less than the cost of production?

That leaves the W.P.A. as the only thing that Roosevelt can boast about. What a miserable record to use as justification for the term 'good work'!

If we assume that the Republican party would have permitted all those who are now on W.P.A. to starve, then Roosevelt can claim credit for giving just enough work to about three million people to prevent actual starvation. What an achievement to be proud of!

It is true that the big capitalists are attacking Roosevelt viciously and would stop at nothing to defeat him. They are ready to tear anyone to pieces who makes the slightest concession to the exploited masses; they are too stupid to see that Roosevelt is actually doing more to save their property than an open reactionary could possibly do. But it would be utter folly for the workers to be satisfied with a government simply because the reactionaries are bitterly opposed to it.

The fact that the reactionaries would starve the masses completely is no reason for being satisfied with semi-starvation.

Add together all the legislation for which Roosevelt claims credit and it all fades into insignificance in comparison with the fact of fourteen million unemployed workers. So long as there are millions of unemployed at the same time that factories are idle, so long as greater produc-

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POWERS PREPARE WAR

Unions Back Clerks!

BOSS OFFENSIVE MET BY UNITED LABOR MOVEMENT

Strikers Picket 27 Dep't. Stores; In Militant Mood

SAN FRANCISCO.—San Francisco's unions, both A. F. of L. and C.I.O., rallied behind the A. F. of L. retail clerks in their strike against the 27 major department stores of this city.

On the waterfront, where C.I.O. warehousemen are locked out and employers have not yet renewed the longshoremen's agreement, Harry Lundeberg, leader of the powerful Sailors' Union of the Pacific, issued a statement declaring that the S.U.P. stood ready to back the longshoremen and warehousemen in any disputes with the employers.

Employers Admit Aims
The retail clerks called the strike against the department stores after weeks of fruitless negotiations—during which the employers banded together in the San Francisco Retailers' Council—made clear that they were not interested in reaching an agreement, but only in smashing the union. After union leadership had made numerous concessions to no avail, 5,000 clerks began picketing the stores.

With the workers grimly determined to protect their union, formed little more than a year ago, the shopping district on Market Street, San Francisco's main thoroughfare, became a huge picket line jammed with pickets and sympathizers. Through the crowd red mounted police, doing their best to keep store entrances free and protecting scabs going through the picket line, but pickets always quickly reformed their lines.

Unions in Solidarity
The strike is endorsed by the Central Labor Council and 24 A. F. of L. unions have agreed not to pass the picket lines. Deliveries to the stores must be made through the mails or by the American Railway Express as the teamsters' union refuses to handle goods for the struck stores.

Supplementing the pickets from the Retail Clerks' Union are union men from the waterfront, both C.I.O. and A. F. of L. Among the unions offering full support, both men and money, are the S.U.P. and the Marine Firemen. Realizing that the drive against the clerks is only part of the whole open-shop campaign unleashed by the employers, the maritime unions are in the forefront of the struggle.

Leadership Conciliatory
While the rank and file of the striking union is filled with a militant spirit and willing to fight bitterly to protect their organization, the leadership is playing a conciliatory role that threatens the success of the strike. The bosses, enraged by the effectiveness of the picketing, fabricate atrocity stories of brutality on the part of the pickets, the union officials give them credence by appealing for "peaceful" picketing. The bosses will not be satisfied.

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Sailors Back Longshoremen; Blast C. P. Slanders

(Reprinted from the WEST COAST SAILORS)

The Sailors' Union of the Pacific wishes to inform the longshoremen-warehousemen that it is now, and always has been, the policy of the S.U.P. membership to back up any section of the maritime workers, or other workers, should attacks be made on them by the employers.

We now publish this statement for the simple reason that the comrat-controlled slander machine is busily circulating rumors and filthy lies among the longshoremen-warehousemen that the S.U.P. will not back these men up in their disputes with their employer. Anybody who knows the policy of the S.U.P. membership knows that these are just a bunch of flimsy lies, put out to serve only the interests of the comrat-slander machine.

Maritime workers on the Coast do not have to worry about the SAILORS' UNION OF THE PACIFIC crashing any picket lines. And just because our picket lines against the Shepard Line in its open-shop drive were crushed at the instigation of a few flimsy commasars this doesn't mean that we are holding this against the bona fide longshoremen-warehousemen.

The SAILORS' UNION has always backed up legitimate, bona fide maritime workers in their conflicts with employers; it has never changed its policy and does not intend to do so now. This policy is that if attempts are made by employers to crush any section of the maritime workers, and these workers decide they are forced to strike to protect their status, the SAILORS' UNION OF THE PACIFIC stands now, as always, to back them up at all times! That does not mean, however, that we are going to take any orders from the "Top Fraction" boys!

HARRY LUNDEBERG, Sec'y-Treas.

Union Defense Guards Formed By Local 544

SEAMEN PICKET FINK HALL, GOV'T TRAINING SCHOOL

Pickets Meet Gov't Ship, NMU Officials Aid Commission

NEW YORK.—Picketing, in progress for several weeks against the Maritime Commission hiring halls, last week was extended to the piers by members of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, the Marine Firemen and Marine Transport Workers' Union (I.W.W.), when the government-owned ship Southern Cross and the Coast Guard station were surrounded by picketing seamen.

Replacements to the Southern Cross were shipped through the government fink hall and about 20 pickets met them at the docks in Hoboken. While the pickets were present, the new men refused to board the ship and several of the deck crew left the ship, but later the same men from the fink hall boarded the ship. Seamen continued to picket, protesting the government usurpation of union hiring control.

Around the Coast Guard station more seamen kept watch, warning prospective recruits for the training ships against the true purposes of the school—to turn out "trained" finks and strikebreakers. Under direction of the Coast Guard the government is putting into operation the training ships, a government plan to load an industry already plagued with unemployment with a fresh supply of seamen.

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Group Prepares to Defend Union Hall From Thugs

MINNEAPOLIS.—Formation of a Union Defense Guard was the answer of Local 544, militant teamsters' union of Minneapolis, to the open threats of the Silver Shirts and other employer-sponsored groups to conduct armed raids against union halls.

Confronted with one of the strongest and most determined labor movements in the country, Minneapolis employers have been extremely active recently in attempting to organize bands of hoodlums and thugs, primed to use strong-arm methods against the unions. Chief object of their attack is Local 544, whose militant example and leadership has led to a resurgence of organized labor throughout the Northwest.

The spectacle of unprepared workers being mercilessly beaten and, in some cases, driven from their homes by armed vigilantes and hired thugs, a sight becoming more and more prevalent throughout the U. S., led the executive board of the union to confer with groups of union members to seek a way to combat any such tactics on the part of the bosses here. From these meetings evolved the defense groups, formed of men willing and determined to guard the union from attack.

Lessons From '34
In 1934, during the two great strikes which firmly established the teamsters' union in Minneapolis, the strikers were forced to battle, in addition to the police and National Guard, the volunteer troops called out by the Citizens Alliance. This motley crowd, composed largely of small business men and hangers-on of

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LATIN AMERICANS HIT 'DEMOCRATIC' U.S. IMPERIALISM

Congress in Uproar; Dissident Voices Suppressed

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
MEXICO, D. F., Sept. 13.—The so-called "World Congress Against War and Fascism" was thrown into an uproar here yesterday when the Mexican and Puerto Rican delegates declared that "democratic" imperialist nations like Great Britain and the United States were war-makers as well as the Fascist powers.

The incident gave striking proof of the real nature of this Stalinist-inspired demonstration. The Congress was nothing but a recruiting agency for British, French, and American imperialism.

Against U. S. Imperialism
The Puerto Rican delegate, Juan Juarbe, was almost physically ejected from the congress when he demanded that the United States be included in the list of aggressor nations. A representative of the C.T.M., the Mexican Workers Federation, also declared that Mexico and Latin America as a whole were engaged in a struggle not only against Fascist imperialism but against British and American imperialism, which were, he said, equally responsible for war.

The French delegate, P. Ribard, was immediately on his feet, demanding that the Mexican and Puerto Rican proposal be given no consideration "in order not to break the world unity of pacifist elements against the Fascist aggressor." Marguerite Nelkin, Stalinist, presiding as the delegate of Loyalist Spain, refused to entertain these unseemly dissident motions from the floor. Whereupon the representative of the Peruvian delegation threatened to walk out if the proposal were not considered. Juarbe insisted on his right to speak and the chair continued her efforts to silence him. Allaga, another Spanish delegate then made the remarkably "democratic" proposal to elect Juarbe with whom he almost came to blows.

Ramon Gonzalez Pena, Spanish Loyalist Minister of Justice, representative of the government that repressed the Spanish revolutionary movement at the behest of Anglo-French imperialism, was so infuriated at the audacity of the Puerto Rican delegate, that he rushed at him fist flying. This is the gentleman who a few days ago warned against "secret" Fascists!

Whitewash "Democracies"
In the end the defenders of "democratic" imperialism won the day with a "compromise" resolution which amounted, in effect, to a statement that the "democratic" imperialists are not guilty of seeking war.

Thus at the slightest touch the deceptive cloak of pacifism falls away from these demonstration-congresses "against war and fascism." The congress was an attempt to dull the edge of Latin America's struggle against British and American imperialism, the main "aggressors" against Mexico and all Latin-American countries. But the workers in the mines, fields and factories have had too much experience with gringo imperialism to be taken in by the transparent fraud.

Czechs Pawns in Conflict as Crisis of System Drives to Disaster

HISTORY REPEATS!

An Editorial

The historic collapse of the Second International occurred at the outbreak of the European war in 1914. In each of the belligerent countries the labor and socialist organizations which stood committed to a program of opposition to imperialist war capitulated to the demands of the bourgeoisie and helped send millions of the working youth to their deaths for the greater glory of British, French, German, Italian, and Russian imperialism.

Out of that treachery came the historic split in the Second International and, after the epochal revolution in Russia, the creation of the Third or Communist International, dedicated to a program of militant revolutionary internationalism. In this program the firmest resistance to imperialist war stood as the keystone of all revolutionary activity.

Today the world labor movement is confronted with a spectacle infinitely more revolting than that of 1914. On the eve of war, while the capitalist masters hesitate, fearful of the upheavals that war must surely bring in its wake, the so-called "leaders" of labor are the loudest, most violent, most insistent supporters of the policies that call for "direct action" against aggressors, for "collective security"—in short, for war, for capitalist-imperialist war in which the workers have no more stake than they did in the holocaust of 1914-1918.

In 1914 the misleaders of British and French labor sent the workers out to fight under the lying legend of "the fight to save democracy from Kaiserism." Three years later the leaders of American labor followed their patriotic example. The result everyone knows. Twenty million of the finest youth of all lands were left dead on foul battlefields and over their bodies the capitalists of all lands gobbled for the spoils. "Democracy" remained the myth it has always been under capitalism. It is that same myth which the misleaders of labor today are once more calling on the workers to die for in the name of the "struggle against Hitlerism."

At Blackpool, England, last week the Trades Union Congress, national body of the British trades unions, and the Labor Party, took an open stand for war. "The British Government," it was proclaimed, "must leave no doubt in the mind of the German government that they will unite with the French and Soviet governments to resist any attacks on Czechoslovakia. . . . Whatever risks Britain must take, it must make its stand against aggression. There is no room for doubt or hesitation."

In France the ruling class cleverly utilized the war crisis to sweep away at one blow the remnants of the gains made by the workers in their magnificent mass strikes of June, 1936. Premier Edouard Daladier's "People's Front" government decreed the termination of the 40-hour week and sent Senegalese soldiers

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Shipyard Union Convenes; Maps Drive on Bethlehem

By BILL MORGAN

CAMDEN, N. J.—Fifty-two delegates representing 20,000 members of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, a C.I.O. affiliate, met here over the past weekend to prepare for the biggest and most important battle this young and militant union has faced in its struggle to organize all the shipyard workers of America into one powerful union. "We must win where 'Little Steel' failed!" became the slogan of the convention as report after report of the field organizers stressed the need for a determined, uncompromising fight against that citadel of reaction, the Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

In preparation for this decisive offensive against Bethlehem Steel the delegates proceeded to adopt their union to the current situation on the economic and political field. The mood of the rank and file was expressed clearly in the resolutions presented to the convention. First on the order of business was the question of raising a "war chest" for the National Office so that immediate action can be taken when the time is ripe. Second was the question of political action, and here the sentiment of the membership was expressed by delegate after delegate taking the floor to demand independent political action by

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The Crisis in the Auto Workers Union

Martin, Waging Fight Against Wreckers, Is Hampered by Bureaucratic Tactics, Reactionary Allies

By GEO. CLARKE

The crisis in the auto workers' union moves rapidly to a final showdown. With Sidney Hillman and Philip Murray, armed with a ukase from John L. Lewis, attempting to force an odious decision on the U.A.W. Executive Board in Detroit, it is only a matter of time before the crisis is resolved and a split rends the union, or what is the same or worse—the Stalinists grab control. A third possibility is a compromise which will postpone a solution of the faction fight at least until the next convention.

Whatever the outcome, the auto workers' union faces a difficult and trying future. The new Roosevelt depression has turned a large section of the member-

ship out of the plants, reduced the union rolls, emptied the union treasury. The motor magnates are obviously biding their time for a major onslaught to slash wages, re-introduce the vicious open-shop practices—in a word, smash the auto workers' union. And in the meantime they are transferring, wherever economically feasible, all work to open shop centers. The powerful fighting reserves in the rank and file make the union more than able to cope with the new attack. But the debilitating effects of disruption from within are paralyzing the hands of the union and exposing it to untold dangers. The labor movement is by this time well acquainted with the source of that disruption: Stalinism.

Crimes of Stalinism
Few unions have escaped the disastrous activities carried on by this wrecking crew whose aim

is to harness the labor movement to the war machine of the Roosevelt administration. The auto workers' union has been singled out for the full brunt of their campaign. U.A.W. locals have been kept in constant turmoil; every opportunity has been utilized to keep a constant fire of dissension burning; real issues have been distorted and unimportant ones magnified; real sentiments of the rank and file have been demagogically exploited and betrayed; organization drives were sabotaged if the glory did not fall on some Communist Party idol, and the W.P.A. auxiliary was almost wrecked because it did not serve their treacherous political aims. A catalogue of the crimes

Internal Struggle Exposes Stalinism as Major Threat to Labor Movement; Socialist Party Only C. P. Shadow

of the Stalinists in the auto union would fill a book.
The worst possible outcome of the present conflict will produce at least one salutary result. A large section of the workers will have learned "what the score is" as far as the Communist Party is concerned. The scourge of the labor movement, the Stalinists deliberately set out to wreck the U.A.W. after they failed to capture it. Unionism means a constant struggle against the boss for better living conditions—it is a weapon for the workers. Stalinism on the other hand serves not the workers but the interests of the dictator of the Soviet workers. It uses the unions for over-the-counter trading with the crooked diplomats who are only agents of the duPonts, Fords and Chryslers. The Stalinists have no allegiance to the union. They are responsible only to Stalin and his G.P.U. Stalinism and unionism are mortal enemies. To know this is the beginning of wisdom for every good union man.
The major bid for power made

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Workers Sold to War Machine by Pay-triot Leaders

FIGHT THE WAR-PLANS!

Führer Hitler finally spoke his anxiously-awaited piece at Nuremberg last Monday and left the Central European war crisis exactly where it was before—on the edge of a general explosion.

The deadly parallel between Czechoslovakia and Austria became more marked immediately after his speech. In that arrogant and bellicose declaration Hitler announced that Germany stood behind the Nazi Sudeten in Czechoslovakia and in effect made it clear that the Reich would be satisfied only with the ultimate annexation of the Sudeten-territories.

Hitler Mocks Self-Determination
In Hitler's mouth the demand for "self-determination" for the 3,500,000 Germans in Czechoslovakia was like an ironic jest on the slogan which the Versailles Treaty converted into a hypocritical deception 20 years ago. Self-determination, the elementary right of all races and all peoples, can become a reality only under socialism, a truly free commonwealth of nations. The world had a brief glimpse of what self-determination can mean in the first years of the Soviet Union. There too it was extinguished as the Stalin bureaucracy crippled and deformed almost all the progressive features of the isolated Soviet State.

Hitler's speech was naturally taken by the Sudetens in Czechoslovakia as a virtual call to revolt. Bloody clashes filled the night that followed the Nuremberg oracle's pronouncement. As the Nazi demonstrations assumed the character of a rebellion, martial law was proclaimed. Europe still waited on its now familiar tenterhooks for the further evolution of the crisis.

World Clash Inevitable

What this evolution will be, few any longer doubt. The intolerable tension that now holds Europe paralyzed will inevitably crack. The feverish and hysterical war preparations by all the imperialist powers, "democratic" and Fascist alike will reach before long their culminating point. An answer to the problems that were left unanswered in 1918 will be sought again in the horrible futility of a new imperialist war. There are few left in the chancelleries and counting houses of the continent who believe that the clash can or will be postponed much later than next Spring or Summer. That is the most optimistic position. There are many who believe, without good cause, that the crisis may come to a head in the course of the next few months, if not weeks.

But if this is a respite to the war-makers to complete their preparations, it is also a respite which the revolutionary militants in the international labor movement can utilize. The war psychology has already been sown throughout the ranks of labor by the treacherous advocates of "collective security," by the Stalinists, the foremost of the war-mongers. This psychology can be combated only by the most resolute efforts to awaken the working class to the mortal danger that confronts it.

"France Is the Key"
In a perspicacious editorial a few days ago the New York Times said "France is the key," explaining that the issue in Europe would be decided not so much by the whims of Hitler as by the ability of the French "Leftist" government to keep the workers in subjection. In its drastic militarization of the Marseilles dockworkers the People's Front government reached the logical point of development of the whole People's Front betrayal.

Should the French workers be won to a policy of intransigent resistance to the war plans of French imperialism, the threat of imperialist war would give way to the sharpening lines of

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