

# Plain Speaking On Czechoslovakia

An Editorial

What is the plain, blunt truth about Czechoslovakia? Czechoslovakia is one of the monstrous national abortions produced by the labors of the infamous Versailles Conference. It was constructed, in total disregard of the interests of the workers and peasants included within its national boundaries, to serve the plans and needs of the dominant Allied powers and of the Czech big bourgeoisie.

France and Great Britain believed that Czechoslovakia could serve as a barrier to German relations with the rich agricultural and mineral territories to her west and south, thus preserving those territories as outlets for surplus French and British capital.

## A WEAPON FOR EXPLOITATION

The Czech bourgeoisie saw in the new state a splendid weapon not merely for the exploitation of their own race, but for the super-exploitation of the workers and peasants of the various "minorities" — which together constitute a decisive majority of the Czechoslovakian population.

Czechoslovakia is not in the least a "colonial" or "semi-colonial" nation.

It is a nation of big capital, with mighty monopolies like the Bata Shoe Company, the Skoda Munitions Works and the huge textile concerns grinding down the workers, and keeping the masses of the peasantry in poverty and dejection.

It is, moreover, an integral part of the world imperialist system, with a thousand economic and political ties to the great imperialist powers.

Czechoslovakia's "democracy" has never been more than a shabby cloak for advanced capitalist exploitation.

## WHAT CAN OUR PERSPECTIVE BE?

From the beginning, the only solution for the workers and peasants of all nationalities and races within Czechoslovakia lay in firm revolutionary class unity in the light of the perspective of the European revolution, of the United Socialist States of Europe.

This remains the sole solution and the sole perspective. This perspective necessarily entails the firmest revolutionary opposition to the Czechoslovakian bourgeois state, under any and all circumstances.

First the Social Democracy, and then the Stalinists, destroyed the basis for this solution and hid this perspective.

They counseled "national unity," defense of the main enemy — the enemy at home — of the workers and peasants, the Czech bourgeoisie and its state, under the hypocritical slogan of "defense of democracy."

This policy was elaborated during these past few years as the People's Front. Using as blackmail the specter of Hitler, the reformists and Stalinists foisted it upon the masses.

The result of this policy now reaches fruition.

## RESULTS OF PEOPLE'S FRONTISM

Instead of uniting the workers and peasants in one solid front, it has divided them along national and racial lines.

Instead of steeling them and arming them to resist as an independent force, allied with their class brothers throughout Europe — including most especially the workers of Germany, who would have been fired to resistance and revolt by the example across the border — instead of this, it has hamstringed the workers and peasants by turning them over to the tender mercies of the Czech bourgeoisie and through it to French and British imperialism.

French and British imperialism are now speaking in no uncertain voice, once again demonstrating the real meaning of their "love of democracy," once again showing that "collective security" is designed to secure.

All debates over "plebiscites," "self-determination," and the rest are so much tommyrot, thrown up by the bourgeois ideologists and diplomats to obscure still further the class lines.

A plebiscite under the current circumstances is simply one alternative imperialist device for the possible temporary liquidation of a knotty imperialist problem.

## WHAT THIS WAR WOULD BE

Far more vicious and treacherous tommyrot is the slogan of a Holy War "to save Czechoslovakia," "to preserve democracy." Any war fought over Czechoslovakia would be at once transformed into a general imperialist war.

Its issue would be not at all the farce of capitalist democracy — which would disappear overnight in all warring countries, as it is being rapidly done away with in most of them (including Czechoslovakia) just by the threat of the war.

Its issue would be the preservation of the spoils and plunder of French and British imperialism against the needs and threat of German imperialism.

The masses have no stake in such a war — except to fight with all their class strength against it, on both sides, in every capitalist nation.

## WHO WILL STOP HITLERISM?

Our war is the class war of the workers and peasants against their exploiters, against the whole system of exploitation.

Hitler, Hitlerism, the most terrible scourge of mankind, now ascendant, now throwing its black shadow over the whole continent of Europe, must be stopped if humanity is to survive.

But only the revolutionary workers of Europe can stop Hitler and Hitlerism.

The task of the workers cannot be carried out by French and British and U. S. imperialism. To rely on, to support the "democratic imperialists" means to make certain the triumph of Hitler perhaps but with absolute certainty of Hitlerism, of fascism, throughout the world.

Once again this is proved, this time by Czechoslovakia. The People's Front, abandonment of the class struggle, national unity, support of the democratic Czechoslovakian nation, has today led directly to: the triumph of Hitler.

Thus we see the literal truth of what was pointed out by the revolutionists: *The People's Front paves the way for fascism.* The only struggle against fascism, in Czechoslovakia, in France, in Great Britain, in Germany, in the United States . . . is the class struggle for workers' power, for the world socialist revolution.

DEFEAT HITLER BY SMASHING CAPITALISM!  
AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S FRONT OF LIES AND BETRAYAL!  
AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST WAR AND THE WAR MONGERS!  
THE MAIN ENEMY IS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY!  
FOR THE UNITED FRONT OF WORKERS, PEASANTS, FARMERS, TOILERS OF ALL NATIONS!  
FOR THE SOCIALIST UNITED STATES OF EUROPE!  
FOR THE WORLD SOCIALIST REVOLUTION!

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# PLAN WAR ON SOVIETS

## Truck Drivers Tie Up New York City

### RANK AND FILE LEADERS BACKED BY MEMBERSHIP

Huge Meeting Balks Strikebreaking Attempts

#### BULLETIN

NEW YORK, Wednesday morning, Sept. 21.—As we go to press it is announced that Acting Mayor Newbold Morris, with the wired approval of the Mayor from Los Angeles has given the truck drivers an "ultimatum" to end the strike in twenty-four hours.

No such ultimatum has been issued to the Merchant Truckmen's Bureau and the Highway Transport Association, the bosses' organizations, to stop their horse-play and recognize the strikers' representatives for the purpose of realistic negotiations. In fact, the Acting Mayor's action appears to be the direct result of pressure from the trucking bosses and other employers' pressure groups. The latter have been moving heaven and earth to defeat the just strike of the drivers. The Publishers Association has announced that it is sending a delegation to City Hall to protest against the limiting of newspaper shipments. Cloak trade associations have protested to Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine against "unwarranted interference with deliveries. A certain John Block, placarded in the press as a "veteran resident buyer," is quoted as raising the alarm that "if something is not done quickly . . . much trade will be diverted to other cities (Cleveland, St. Louis and Chicago)."

Furthermore, the newspapers report that "SOME PRODUCERS (NOTABLY IN THE SHOP AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES) WERE USING RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY SERVICE." The strike committee is aware of this danger and is attempting to tie up the American Railway Express. So far, legal complications (Continued on page 2)

See Editorial: "A Bona Fide Strike" on page four.

## BRIDGES ACCEPTS CHANGES IN PACT

Modifications May Mean Compulsory Arbitration

SAN FRANCISCO.—Agreement between representatives of waterfront employers and longshoremen on "amendments and clarifications" to the pact due for renewal Sept. 30 eased tension in the West Coast labor movement. The changes in the contract will be submitted to the membership of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union in a coastwide referendum.

Declaring their willingness to accept similar modifications in agreements with the warehouse operators, I.L.W.U. officials are pressing for an end to the lock-out that has closed 121 major warehouses in this area. Waterfront employers hailed the modifications as "eliminating 'quickie' strikes and other stoppages of work."

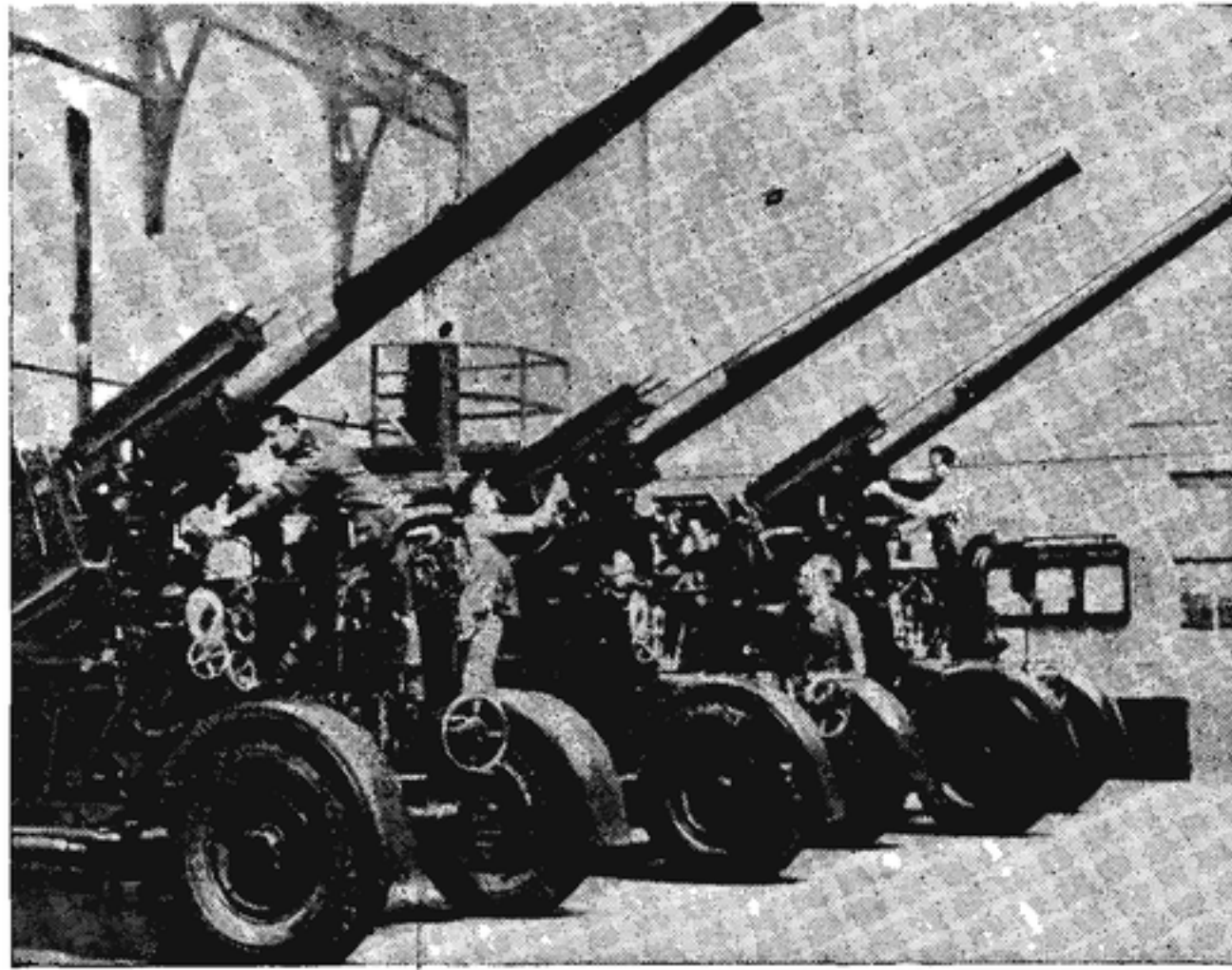
Mass Picketing Curbed  
Picket lines are being maintained in the strike of the retail clerks against 27 department stores, but the militant mass picketing that marked the first days of the strike has been curbed by the strike leadership. Offers of other unions, notably the maritime groups, to supply additional pickets have been refused, except as relief pickets during the night.

Seniority is the only demand standing in the way of agreement with the employers and the union has given up demands for a closed shop and the 35-hour week. In addition to the attempts of the mayor and various other "citizens committees" to intervene in the negotiations, William Green has sent his personal representative, Meyer Lewis, to bring "industrial peace" to San Francisco. This Lewis has a notorious record of sell-outs, and was once sent to Minneapolis to break up the powerful teamsters' union there.

While complete details of the changes in the longshoremen's agreement were not made known, considerable fear is expressed that the new agreement will adversely affect the waterfront un-

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DIPLOMATS TALK TODAY; GUNS TOMORROW



## Pena Challenged On Trial Of Spanish Revolutionists

Socialist Workers Party Letter Demands Clear Statement From Minister of Justice

During a press conference at the Hotel Pennsylvania on September 20, a delegation from the American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees questioned Gonzales Pena, Spanish Minister of Justice, on the fate of the revolutionary political prisoners in Spain.

## TREASON TRIAL DELAYED AGAIN BY GOVERNMENT

Sentence of Death Asked for Three Militants

PARIS — The Spanish Loyalist prosecutor in Barcelona has asked the Special Tribunal on Espionage and High Treason for the penalty of death to be imposed upon three leading Spanish Bolshevik-Leninists, Manuel Fernandez Grandizo Munis, Adolfo Carlini, and Jaime Fernandez Rodriguez, who have been held for months in prison at the Loyalist capital.

The three militants were to be tried along with the leaders of the outlawed P. O. U. M. on August 20, according to an official announcement of the Ministry of Justice. But this trial never materialized.

Postponed "Indefinitely"  
(Other reports received in this country said the trial would open on Sept. 14, but there has been no announcement of it in the press.)

A dispatch from Barcelona on Aug. 27, said that the trial of the Bolshevik-Leninist and P. O. U. M. militants had been "postponed sine die." The same report said that the prosecution was asking the death sentence only for the

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## Auto Strike Is Menaced by Ruse of Union Jobholder

Police Attack Pickets After McCord Workers Repel Attempt to Force Return to Work

DETROIT, Sept. 20.—The strike at the McCord Radiator plant here and in Wyandotte continues into its seventh week despite strong-arm methods used against it by police, and deliberate attempts on the part of reactionary officials of the United Automobile Workers to sell it down the river.

After the most frivolous treatment accorded to the strike, Loren Houser, U.A.W. Regional Director for Detroit, went over the heads of the regularly elected officials of Local 210, its bargaining committee and its membership and signed a temporary truce which specified that the workers would return to their jobs while negotiations with the management proceeded. The first indication that strikers heard of this truce agreement was in a wire received by President N. J. Mos-

kun from Houser after it had already been signed.

Picket Line Grows  
But Local 210 was not to be railroaded back to work by a typical bureaucratic ruse which Mr. Houser undoubtedly learned in the school of the old line A.F. of L. labor skates. The next morning the workers appeared on the picket lines in greater numbers than ever before and nobody returned to the plants. Statements were issued to the press denouncing

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## Post-War European Lineup Shattered

Collective Security Is Interred at Berchtesgaden: Anti-Soviet Four-Power Pact Is Next Aim

## WIN TEMPORARY RESPITE

The process of liquidating the system of post-war alliances that began when Hitler marched into the Rhineland two years ago entered a new phase this week.

Rather than go through with an immediate war — with its inevitable revolutionary upheavals — Great Britain and France accepted Germany's territorial demands on Czechoslovakia.

Whether even this will avert conflict for any appreciable period is highly doubtful. It does mean, however, that a brand new balance of power is being rapidly created in Europe. All of Central Europe passes under the domination of Germany. Britain will now exert every effort to create a four-power understanding uniting Britain, France, Germany, and Italy at the ultimate expense of the Soviet Union.

In the ticklish game of bluff that both sides played during the past two weeks, involving mobilization of more than 2,000,000 men on both sides of the Rhine, Germany won hands down. When a German invasion of Czechoslovakia seemed only a matter of hours, the bourgeois world was treated to the startling spectacle of a British Prime Minister taking hat in hand and flying off to the Bavarian villa of the German Fuehrer and begging him to accept a deal rather than precipitate a war right now. Hitler dictated his own terms. Chamberlain flew back with them to London. Premier Daladier and Foreign Minister Bonnet of France scurried across the channel and after an all-day parley accepted all of Hitler's principal demands, including the outright cession to the Reich of the Sudeten areas of Czechoslovakia. To sweeten the sour pill, they added a proposal for an international "guaranty" of what will remain of Czechoslovakia after the operation has been carried out.

The fundamental interest of French and British capitalism — the necessity for self-preservation — required depriving the Czech bourgeoisie of its right to exploit the various national minorities sandwiched into the monstrous abortion of a state created by the Versailles treaty. It required giving up the strategic advantages which were the principal reason for the creation of Czechoslovakia in the first place. This will now be done. If this meant the cynical disregard of pacts and pledges, this should surprise no one. Such cynicism is part and parcel of the methods of international boss politics.

Those who find themselves clutched by feelings of indignation over the fate of "poor little Czechoslovakia" (remember "poor little Belgium"?) have a lesson to learn in the measures taken by the Czech bourgeoisie in anticipation of a war with Germany. Besides military mobilization, the Czech government — symbol for the liberal and Stalinist supporters of "collective security" of "democracy" — decreed the immediate and drastic suspension of all democratic rights.

Democracy at Work  
A rigid censorship was clamped down on the entire press and upon all messages and mail. The right of free assembly was suspended. Arrests and searches without warrants were authorized. In other words Czech "democracy" was transformed by a few government decrees into a perfect little imitation of a Fascist regime. That is precisely what will happen in all the "democratic" states when war comes — and probably, as in this case, long before actual hostilities begin.

In extremes, the Czech bourgeoisie appealed to its other ally in the late lamented system of "collective security" — the Soviet Union. But there too it met a stone wall. The Kremlin would be pleased to see Britain and France clash at last with Hitler but all its calculations to that end have, for the time being at least, been upset. Having taken up the game of inter-imperialist politics, the Kremlin follows all the rules. The Soviet Union now stands terribly isolated, and at the mercy of every veering wave in the dizzy plunge of Europe to ward war. Cut

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Administration Plan Rejected by Ranks  
NEW YORK.—Giving pointed notice to all and sundry that they will not stand for any more soft-handling schemes to provide sort jobs for do-nothing chair-warmers in the District Council office while thousands of painters are unemployed and more thousands are subjected to ever worse conditions on their jobs, the rank and file of D. C. 9 decisively defeated a proposal for a \$5 tax proposed by the Stalinist administration of the New York Painters Union in a referendum concluded last week. The vote constituted a rout for President Louis Weinstein and his henchmen.

A full tabulation of the votes shows the following results: Local Union No. 51 defeated the proposal by 292 to 141; L. U. No. 261 by 297 to 181; L. U. 454, by 69 to 45; L. U. 808 by 60 to 0; L. U. 848, 187 to 152; L. U. 874 by 306 to 20; L. U. 892, by 151 to 110; L. U. 1011, by 389 to 202.

Fear Own Locals  
In Local 490 the Stalinists received a majority of 55 to 11 for their proposal; in Local 905—the Communist Party stronghold in the union—the opposition showed unprecedented strength, the vote being 280 in favor and 140 against. In Local 442, where Weinstein controls the administration, no vote was taken at all on the grounds that even a complete vote of the membership for the proposition could not change the result. The Stalinists there not only admitted defeat but were afraid to increase the already huge total against their proposition by submitting it to a vote.

The progressives thus defeated the administration measure by a popular majority of 505—with one local not voting—in a total of 3,187 votes cast. Their victory is all the more impressive when compared with the results of the elections last June (see Socialist Appeal of last week).

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