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WHY IS SUMNER WELLES GOING TO EUROPE

Big Business Backs Newark Manager Plan

S.W.P. Backs Campaign of Organized Labor In Opposing Proposed City Changes

On Tuesday, February 20, a referendum is being held in the city of Newark, N. J., to determine whether the City Commission form of government shall be changed to a Council-Manager form.

The AFL, the CIO, the unemployed organizations and the Socialist Workers Party have called on the workers of the city to go to the polls that day to vote NO on the referendum.

Big Business For It
Big Business in Newark, headed by the Chamber of Commerce and the Broad Street Association, is behind the move to change the form of city government.

Big Business spokesmen say they can reduce the high tax rate of \$4., which is bringing ruin to the small home-owner and shop keeper, by installing a City Council of 9 and an "efficient" City Manager who would reduce waste and save money. They propose to replace the present City Commission of 4 (1 died recently) by an election, to be held four weeks after February 20, of a City Council that would be "controlled by business men." They claim also that this will put an end to "graft and corruption" in the City Hall.

Their Real Plan
But it is clear that the real aim of Big Business is not to help the small business man, but to install a clique which will make certain that the tax burden hits Big Business even less than it does now. They want a government that will be friendly to the corporations and the real estate speculators, Public Service and Prudential Insurance and the like.

They want a City Manager who will cut relief, who will refuse to appropriate any city money for WPA projects, who will cut city services, who will reduce wages, who will cut appropriations for the library and the hospitals, who will cut wages of the school-teachers and the lower-paid city employees. In other (Continued on Page 3)

WORKERS JAILED AT JAMAICA RELIEF BUREAU

Refused To Leave Until Children Were Given Food

In desperation because of hunger and the cold-blooded refusal of the New York City Home Relief authorities to give them any relief whatsoever, seventeen men, women, and children sat down in the local Bureau at 88-83 Van Wyck Avenue, Jamaica, Thursday, Feb. 8, and refused to move.

When the case supervisor, Miss Weinberg, ordered the demonstrators out, Mrs. Angelina Bruscia, mother of six children shouted out defiantly, "You feed my children then I'll go home, not before." The Bureau authorities called the police. Then Miss Weinberg and her assistant, Miss Breslau, laughed and joked with the police while waiting to see whether the unemployed workers would get frightened of the police and go home. Not one person moved. All the demonstrators were then arrested and hauled (Continued on Page 2)

Lewis Blasts Roosevelt

C.I.O. LEADER AGAIN LASHES OUT AT F.D.R.

Challenges Him On Jobs and Chance For Youth

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 — John L. Lewis was an easy winner over Roosevelt in that debate here yesterday. It was a pity that the two of them were not battling it out on one platform!

The president had blumpily told the youth they weren't sufficiently-informed to adopt a resolution against war loans to Finland. He had termed "twaddle" the proposition that such loans would lead to America's involvement in the war.

Lewis told him off: "It might interest the President to know that the recent convention of the United Mine Workers of America, with 2,400 delegates in a deliberative convention in Columbus, representing a membership of 600,000 members and more than 3,000,000 members of dependent families of those 600,000 men, adopted the same kind of a resolution on Finland. And I wonder if the president could call the resolution adopted by the UMWA 'twaddle'."

"Those resolutions (against loans to Finland) are symbolic of what is in the hearts, not only of the young men and women of America, but of practically every citizen. They represent the constant and the conscious and subconscious fears that, in some way, the politicians and statesmen of this country and the warring world will in some fashion drag our country into their war, and it's a protest.

"It is a protest, and after all, who has a bigger, greater right to protest against war or any part of war, or the diplomatic intrigues of war, or the subtle politics preceding war, than the young men who, in the event of war, could become cannon fodder?"

Lewis was even more bitingly effective in commenting on the plight of the "4,000,000 young people without job opportunity," for whom Roosevelt had no answer.

"You listened to the president today, when you came away you didn't know where to get a job if you needed one; he didn't tell you that if you waited a year there would be a job for you, he didn't say that if you waited five years there would be a job for you. Because, apparently, he didn't know, and if he doesn't know, he finds himself in the same fix that you were on the Finnish question."

Again and again Lewis returned to the economic plight of the young generation of today: "He (Roosevelt) said also, by implication, that perhaps there is too much furor being raised about jobs for young people, because ten, twenty and thirty years ago young people also wanted jobs. Some answer!"

"How much does that mean to one of you who needs a job? . . . How much does that mean to those of you who have plans to get married and live the normal life of Americans? . . . And how many years of interruption to your normal plans will you enjoy? . . . How many years must you wander and hope that you will have an opportunity here in your native land to live the normal life of a normal citizen?"

His speech was, in rough form an accounting of the bankruptcy of the New Deal. He warned Roosevelt that the American people "will hold strictly accountable" (Continued on Page 3)

Lewis Is Right-But What Is He Going to Do About It?

AN EDITORIAL

John L. Lewis roasted Roosevelt to a turn last Saturday. It was a good job of debunking the "New Deal." Lewis turned the spotlight on "America's Problem No. 1" — unemployment.

Halfway through his speech, Lewis asked the right question—the burning question: "Well, why not do something about it?" But Lewis didn't answer that question. He didn't tell us what to do about it, or what he is going to do about it.

He did say: "Isn't it now apparent that the politicians' answers are not going to get you a job unless you force the politicians to get you a job?"

But how to force them — that's the question.

At the United Mine Workers convention, Lewis graphically described how, in the deal with Roosevelt, the labor movement got the dirty end of the stick. He made clear that he ruled out the Republican party. That's fine. But then he ended by projecting another deal with the Democratic party. Neither Lewis nor anybody else has given a single reason for thinking that another deal with the Democratic party won't turn out like the last one.

Lewis has gone half-way and then

stopped. What every militant in the labor movement wants to hear Lewis and the CIO leadership say is:

"Eight years of the New Deal have demonstrated that the working class of this country has nothing to gain and everything to lose by supporting capitalist parties: It's time to build our own Labor Party. The industrial and white-collar workers, and the agricultural workers and working farmers, together with their wives and sons and daughters, constitute the overwhelming majority of this country. They should run it."

That's what the working people of this country are waiting to hear!

A Labor Party that will fight for a job and a decent living for every worker — open the idle factories — operate them under workers' control — a Twenty-Billion dollar federal public works and housing program — a \$30-weekly minimum wage—a 30-hour weekly maximum—all war funds to the unemployed—a people's referendum on any and all wars—these are the kind of demands that a Labor Party should fight for today.

"Why not do something about it?" Lewis asked that question. Let him answer it as the workers want him to answer it!

WOMEN WPA STRIKERS ARE SENTENCED

Suspended Sentences For 13 in Mpls; 1 Gets 45 Days Jail

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 10

—The fourteen women strikers convicted in the third WPA trial were sentenced this morning in Judge Mathew Joyce's courtroom. Thirteen of the women received suspended sentences and were placed on probation for periods of one year to eighteen months. The fourteenth, Minnie Kohn, drew 45 days in the city workhouse.

The suspended sentences came as no surprise, after the government's retreat of last week, when it quashed the remaining indictments against the 125 WPA strikers who had not yet been on trial.

Those who were handed probationary periods of one year are Bertha Gates, Pearl Richards, Marie Morgan, Harriet Munson, Ida Dunlap, Lois Viens, Sigrid Asumma, Myrtle Squarcello, and Margaret Schoenfeld. Dorothy Green, Ann Wisdom and Stella Ross got fifteen months probation, and Nellie Waldron, eighteen.

As the court opened, Defense Attorney Tom Davis rose to point out to the judge that most of the defendants were mothers and grandmothers, that they had all suffered greatly, and suggested that probationary sentences be given. (Continued on Page 2)

Action Needed to Win 30-Hr. Week at General Motors

Company Is Trying To Wear Men Down With A War of Nerves and Words

FLINT, Mich.—The General Motors program of "action" announced by the tops of the United Automobile Workers (UAW), which gingerly places on the shelf all the real demands of the workers, reveals the usual trade union bureaucrat's error of placing faith not in the militant action of the ranks, but in some kind of legal machinations, in this case the National Labor Relations Board.

It is of course absolutely necessary for the UAW-CIO to wage an energetic campaign to win the coming NLRB elections in General Motors. But how can they be won?

Union and non-union men, acutely aware of their insecurity, of impending lay-offs, and of the imperative need of making strong demands upon the corporation, are not going to be satisfied with a merely verbal program, promised by the leadership "after the elections."

Militants who realize the imperative necessity of the CIO winning NLRB elections will press for action on the 30 hour week at 40 hours' pay, and the guaranteed shop steward system and related demands NOW and not in the vague future. A vigorous campaign TODAY would guarantee an election victory and a solid front against the huge General Motors Corporation.

Guerrilla Warfare
While this game of delay and evasion goes on in the CIO leadership, the ranks are engaged in a war of attrition, wearing themselves out in a constant and widespread decentralized battle with the company.

In plant after plant union militants in various departments are fighting to secure and maintain seniority rights, struggling against speed-up, demanding a cut in hours from 40 to 30 before widespread layoffs begin, in order to keep a greater number of men at work over a longer period of time.

Company Provokes Flare-Ups
The corporation, always aware of its opportunities, has not hesitated to provoke these little flare-ups. Cases of minor discriminations against well-known union men are quite numerous in the Flint plants. Usually the corporation backs down, after a fight has been waged, lays the whole matter at the door of some petty foreman, or administrative

Envoy to Probe for Anti-Soviet Front

F.D.R. Sending Welles Abroad To Make Soundings Among Belligerents For New War Alignments

What will be the real mission of Sumner Welles in Europe? President Roosevelt has announced that he is sending his Under-Secretary of State to Europe to report "on present conditions in Europe."

Pressed to give more details, the President said that only he and his Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, would be privy to Welles' "findings." It is apparently none of the people's business. But within a few hours matters became a little clearer.

The most striking fact of the Welles mission—which was immediately commented on in Europe, especially in London — was the fact that he will go to Rome, Paris, Berlin, and London — not to Moscow.

Then when Roosevelt on Sunday addressed the delegates of the American Youth Congress on the White House lawn, he openly attacked the Soviet Union, declared that "98 percent of the American people" were supporting Finland.

Add to this the fact that Welles is sailing together with Myron Taylor, named as Roosevelt's personal emissary to the Vatican, and the fact that the Vatican's whole effort in the war is aimed at bringing about an anti-Soviet coalition, and one begins to get more than a glimmer of what is in the wind.

Welles—the evil genius behind the bloody regime of Machado in Cuba and the State Department's chief manipulator in relations with the totalitarian dictatorships of Latin America—is going to Europe to sound out the possibility of shifting the focus of the war from internecine conflict among the imperialists into a war of the powers against the Soviet Union. The infliction of a decisive military defeat upon Hitlerite Germany is a necessary part of this project.

Hull Chimes In
Simultaneously with the Welles mission, Secretary Hull revealed that the Washington government is already engaged in many-sided negotiations with the neutrals for the announced purpose of making "preliminary inquiries relating to a sound international economic system . . . and world-wide reduction of armaments," after the war.

America's Future Role
Behind these empty phrases stretches a grandiose picture of the future role that American imperialism expects to play the role of supreme ruler and arbiter of a war-exhausted world. These negotiations are undoubtedly one of the first phases of Washington's assertion of its dominant place in world politics. But at the same time they have a more immediate purpose: to introduce American pressure upon the neutrals in their policies toward the war at the present time, to force them into the war alignments with which Welles will be dealing primarily during his European tour.

Isolationists Collapse
Little opposition to Roosevelt's scheme is to be expected from Congress, as was to be seen this week when "isolationist" sentiment collapsed in the Senate and the bill to provide an additional \$20,000,000 for Finland was adopted. There was a round of applause when Senator King declared he favored the bill "because Communist Russia threatened to destroy this and all governments."

Stalin's invasion of Finland has given Roosevelt an "idealistic" pretext for moving against the Soviet Union, and he is making the most of it.

Only a workers' party that is based on class unity across racial lines, can afford to take a clear stand, need not be afraid of "scaring off white support." That's the Socialist Workers Party.

Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

The veering vane of speculation over the war's next phase has turned to the Near East where large-scale Allied preparation for hostilities has become visible.

The Near East, in the language of world power politics, spells out oil—the oil of Iraq and Iran and the oil of the Soviet Caucasus.

War waged in the Near East would be war waged by the Allies against the Soviet Union, war waged for the oil that spurts from the ground between the Black and Caspian Seas.

Just as the war in the West represents a continuation of the conflict between Anglo-French imperialism and German imperialism, war in the Near East would be a continuation of the unsuccessful Anglo-French war of intervention against the Bolsheviks 20 years ago.

And for such a war the Allies, superficially at least, are far better prepared. Turkey, which fought with the Kaiser's Germany last time, is now on the other side. The sprawling desert and oil-rich lands of the old Turkish Empire are now in the hands of Britain (Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Palestine) and France (Syria and Lebanon). The British pull the strings of the puppets that rule Iran and Afghanistan, although in both these countries their power is not uncontested.

The principal indices of Allied war preparations in the eastern Mediterranean during the past week have been:

1. The arrival of a large expeditionary force of Australian and New Zealand troops, landing at Suez.

3. The open announcement in Paris that Allied forces in the Levant now total some 300,000, not counting the army of Turkey, which is pledged to fight on the Allied side as soon as war reaches that part of the world.

4. Turkey's act in seizing German-owned shipyards at the Black Sea end of the Bosphorus and in expelling some 80-odd German technicians working in Turkish arsenals, munitions plants, and with the Turkish army and navy.

These, and a large number of previous indications accumulating steadily in the months since the war began, show clearly that whatever the turn takes in the West, the Allies are preparing once more to extend their search for plunder into Soviet Russia. They would seek the double goal of cutting off a vital possible channel of oil supply to Germany and of swelling their own war chests—and simultaneously dealing a heavy blow to the Soviet State whose destruction remains one of the prime aims of world imperialism.

The outbreak of war in the Near East would not preclude, but would probably accompany, its extension on the European fronts. The Soviet-Finnish war would assume more clearly its essential place in the scheme of things as the opening phase of an imperialist attack on the Soviet Union.

What role Germany—and Italy—will play in the new turn of the war wheels—remains to be seen. To help shape this role may well be the prime purpose of the "informational" trip Sumner Welles is making to Europe.