

We propose that the regular 1940 session of the Congress of the United States shall enact emergency legislation to put into immediate effect the following:

1. Appropriation of \$10,000,000,000 to provide, at once, jobs on housing and other public works projects for unemployed workers.
2. Amendment of the Wages and Hours Act to provide throughout private industry and public works a maximum work week of 30 hours and a minimum weekly pay of 30 dollars.
3. 30 dollar weekly old age and disability pensions.
4. Appropriation of \$3,000,000,000 to guarantee either maintenance at school or jobs for all youth.

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SOVIET-FINN PEACE BALKS ALLIED ATTACK

Soviet Union's Military Defenses Strengthened by Treaty

Transport Workers Prepare General Strike in New York

Union Declares It Will Strike All City-Owned Lines If La Guardia Pushes Through Union-Busting Plans

The Transport Workers Union replied this week to the union-busting proposals of Mayor La Guardia by preparing for a general strike on the subways, the elevated lines and all city-owned bus and car lines.

Huge overflow membership meetings of the transport workers of the IRT and BMT lines adopted a resolution denouncing "the vicious, yellow-dog, company-union plan announced by Mayor La Guardia." The resolution further instructed "the Executive Board of the Transport Workers Union to call a strike at such times as they may see fit of all BMT and IRT workers in order to preserve our fundamental rights."

The union also appealed to all workers on the city-owned Independent Subways to back the transport workers in their fight, as well as all TWU members working on the elevated, bus, and street car lines.

The union leaders announced that they were now making all the necessary physical preparations to call the strike and tie up every public transportation wheel in the city, if the Mayor did not recognize the union contracts. The union has ordered extra telephone facilities and placed cots in its headquarters, converting one of the rooms into a hospital.

United Labor Backing

Last Thursday, the Transport Workers Union received assurances of labor support in one of the most remarkable labor meetings held in New York in recent times. Over 400 leading unionists representing both AFL and CIO unions, with a reputed membership of 800,000, gathered at the Capitol Hotel to pledge support to the TWU. Present were such leading New York union officials as Adolph Germer, CIO director, Hollander, Miller and Weinstein representing the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Elmer Brown of the "Big Six" Typographical Union, and dozens of other of the leading New York union officials.

They adopted a resolution which was immediately dispatched to Mayor La Guardia who was attending the U. S. Conference of Mayors at Birmingham, Alabama. The resolution stated in part:

"We are astounded by the stubborn refusal of the Mayor to grant a single conference with bona fide representatives of transit labor to discuss the elementary questions of labor relations under unification. His utter disregard for the sanctity of labor contracts is outrageous."

The city administration was meanwhile pushing plans for the rapid demolition of the Second and Ninth Avenue elevated lines, in order to raise millions of dollars of additional cash through increased real estate assessments to pay the bankers the fantastic sum of 326 million dollars for the transit lines, agreed to in the infamous "Unification" deal with the bankers.

The demolition scheme will throw out of work three thousand members of the TWU, employed at the present time on the elevated lines, for whom the city is making absolutely no provision. Speaking last week at the Brooklyn Transport Workers Hall

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DRIVERS' UNION FIGHTS SIOUX CITY FRAMEUP

Tobin Pledges Full Aid; Padway Is Retained as Counsel

(Special to Socialist Appeal) CHICAGO, March 12—The bitter-enders among the bosses in the North Central Area are in for a show-down fight with the well-oiled powerhouse of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

That was the meaning of the decision made in Indianapolis on Friday in a meeting of International President Daniel J. Tobin with the teamsters' North Central Area Committee.

Certain bosses, including not only trucking but other industries, had just tried their latest of a long series of police frame-ups against what they hoped was a weak link in the chain of new teamsters' unions—Sioux City, Iowa, Drivers Local 363. Howard Fouts, Ralph Johnson and Charles Cunningham, union officers, had been arrested on a trumped-up charge of "kidnapping and holding for ransom."

The North Central Area Committee of the teamsters—the 14-state body which controls the operation of the uniform agreement covering all over-road drivers in the area—was quick to respond to the challenge. The Indianapolis meeting brought from Tobin a decision to send Joseph L. Padway, general counsel of the teamsters and of the AFL, to Sioux City, where Fouts and Johnson are being held for the grand jury without being admitted to bond.

Tobin declared that the International will give substantial financial aid in smashing the crude frameup.

Crude Frameup How crude it is, is shown by the actual facts on which the charge of "kidnapping" is based. One of the few companies in the area attempting to operate under non-union conditions is the Gibson Trucking Company. It had agreed to sign a union contract but kept stalling. A few weeks ago organizers from Local 283 notified the union members driving for Gibson that until the company signed up they were not to haul on the runs not covered by union contract. The drivers readily agreed, as they were of course anxious to help obtain union conditions.

The sole ground on which the magistrate found them guilty—taking a cue from Roosevelt's prohibition of strikes and demonstrations of WPA workers and Mayor La Guardia's announcement that transportation workers on city-owned lines will not be granted the right of collective bargaining—was that "it is illegal to picket a government agency."

The drivers therefore went up to the union hall to wait until Gibson signed up. Instead, the company called the police and charged the drivers had been "kidnapped," a charge apparently cooked up in advance with the Business Men's Association and the county attorney. Bail was refused Fouts and Johnson because the charge carries a maximum penalty of death.

FINK No. 1



Mayor La Guardia, whose name is mud to transport workers.

JUDGE PUTS BAN ON PICKETING GOV'T BUREAU

It's a crime to protest that you're starving.

That was the decision of New York City magistrate Michael A. Ford, sitting Tuesday in Bronx Magistrate's Court, when he found guilty of disorderly conduct thirteen members of an unemployed local of the Workers Alliance.

The sole ground on which the magistrate found them guilty—taking a cue from Roosevelt's prohibition of strikes and demonstrations of WPA workers and Mayor La Guardia's announcement that transportation workers on city-owned lines will not be granted the right of collective bargaining—was that "it is illegal to picket a government agency."

TWELVE MILLION UNEMPLOYED—NUMBER GOING UP, CIO PROVES

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 10—Unemployment for January increased by 14 percent from December to reach a total of 11,936,000, according to the CIO's monthly survey of the economic situation, "The Economic Outlook," out today.

The CIO unemployment estimate was based on CIO union reports and government figures. The CIO declared its figure "as dependable as any available." The figure for the same period recently estimated by the employers' National Industrial Conference Board was ten million unemployed.

Since employment fell as precipitously throughout February as during January, the present size of the unemployed army must be close to twelve and a half million.

The drop of 19 points in the Federal Reserve Board index of production (from 128) during January was even higher than the CIO had predicted in January, when it warned of a new dip in the economic crisis.

Congress Swings Axe At the Wagner Act

Bosses' Association Stoges Aided by AFL Skates Prepare to Emascuate Labor's Limited Legal Rights

By ALBERT GOLDMAN

With the introduction in the House of Representatives of a bill (H.R. 8813) to amend the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act), the campaign to destroy whatever merit the bill has for organized labor has begun in earnest. The bill is the work of a majority of the House Committee to investigate the Wagner Act.

Intelligent workers never fell for the buncombe passed out by the labor bureaucrats that the Wagner Act (the "Magna Carta of Labor" as William Green calls it) would constitute a substitute for struggle in organizing the unorganized.

These workers understood that the act was won by the workers as a major concession from the Roosevelt regime in order to obtain the support of labor, and they were more than willing to take advantage of its provisions and especially of the sentiment for organization that it created among the workers. But that required militant union activity.

The act could not and did not serve as a substitute for militant activity. The labor leaders who tried it as a substitute did not get very far in increasing the membership of their unions.

But since it did contain provisions which aided the workers in their efforts to organize, it was to that extent valuable and it remains the duty of all workers to extend and improve the act and to fight strenuously against any emasculation of it. And that is what the Smith committee amendments propose to do.

Gums Up the Works

One of the amendments provides for the creation of a new board of three members who will sit as a judicial tribunal to hear evidence on complaints filed by an administrator. Ever since the enactment of the Wagner Act the reactionaries have been howling about its violating "all rules of fair play" in that the Labor Board acts as both prosecutor and judge. What the reaction-

aries want is to create all kinds of "checks and balances" to make it more difficult for the workers to get a favorable decision.

To achieve that objective one of the amendments proposes to give the courts the right to go into the findings of fact made by the Board and reverse its decision on the facts. At present these findings of fact by the Board are conclusive.

Should the amendments become law the Board would have to follow judicial rules of evidence and base its findings on a preponderance of the evidence. Under the present act the rules of evidence are much more liberal. The general aim of the amendments dealing with the methods of procedure is to give the courts a greater opportunity, on the basis of some technicality, to overrule any decision favorable to the workers.

Boss-Dictated Elections

The present act was at first correctly interpreted by the Board to give the workers exclusive right to ask for an election. Later on, under pressure of the reactionaries, the Labor Board yielded to the demand of the bosses that they be given the right to petition for elections to determine the bargaining agency for the workers.

It is still, however, in the discretion of the Board whether or not to allow such a petition. The amendment proposes to give that right to the employer as a matter of course, thus giving the boss a chance to call for an election before the union is prepared.

No longer will the poor down-trodden bosses be deprived of their civil liberties. Their freedom of speech will be protected by one of the proposed amendments. In other words, it grants the boss the right openly to intimidate the workers. Furthermore, the employer will not be obligated to make any counter-proposal. All he will be compelled to do is to listen to the proposals and

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Trust Busters Wink at Trusts; Attack Unions

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 11—While the Department of Justice is pursuing its policy of seeking criminal indictments against trade union leaders under the anti-trust laws, it is dropping cases against big corporations, U. S. Senator Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota pointed out yesterday in a letter to Attorney General Jackson.

Nye cited, as a specific example, the dropping of civil suits of the Department of Justice against the Columbia Gas and Electric Corporation and the Columbia Oil and Gasoline Corporation, described by the senator as that "inveterate offender and chronic defender." Cases had been dropped in favor of consent decrees—mutually-agreed upon settlements between the corporations and the Department, under which the company is in no way penalized for its violations of the trust laws.

"It is my opinion that the Justice Department's customary acceptance of consent decree agree-

CURRAN'S PAL



Harry Bridges, West Coast Stalinist longshore boss. He supplements Stalinist Curran's "Unity" move with offer to bosses of five year "peace plan"—meaning compulsory arbitration.

CURRAN 'UNITY' SPELLS SPLIT FOR SEAMEN

Move Aimed at Disrupting Fighting West Coast Sailors

By JOHN PATRICK

Joe Curran, president of the Stalinist controlled National Maritime Union, announced this week that he would attempt to move in on the West Coast unions. He called it "a move toward unity of both coasts."

Curran's policy in the NMU during the last few years, the Stalinist policy of supporting Roosevelt and Roosevelt's Maritime Commission hiring halls and training ships, has installed these sink halls and sink ships firmly on the East Coast. On the West Coast the militant policy of the Sailors Union of the Pacific and the Marine Firemen, of picketing maritime commission hiring halls, has insured the existence of union hiring halls, the heart of the seamen's unions.

Curran's policy and Curran's tactics so weakened the NMU that it was recently forced to sign one of the worst contracts in waterfront history, an agreement that sells out every fundamental union right—hiring hall, no discrimination against union members, closed shop and other such fundamental rights. This sell-out was presented to the membership as an NMU "victory."

In these circumstances it is only natural that Curran and his gang of piccards should look with envious eyes toward the Sailors Union of the Pacific and the Marine Firemen, Oilers, Water-tenders and Wipers Ass'n of the Pacific. These two unions, having resisted Stalinist domination, are now in a powerful position on the waterfront.

The SUP-MFOW control all hiring through their own union hiring halls. This right was recently signed away by the NMU.

The SUP-MFOW control enough jobs to keep their members working. The NMU membership—Curran's claim of 65,000 members is about three times

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But Stalin's Methods Alienate Sympathy Of World's Workers

(AN EDITORIAL)

Pursuing his fundamental aim of avoiding a major war, Stalin has concluded peace with Finland in time to ward off a direct attack on the Soviet Union by the French and British imperialists.

Disregarding the sentiments of the working masses throughout the world, Stalin invaded Finland. After suffering initial military reverses due to the stupidity and demoralization of the purge-weakened command, the Red Army finally succeeded in breaking through the Mannerheim line. Faced with defeat, the Finnish capitalists were convinced of the advisability of accepting the terms of peace.

The Allies made frantic eleventh-hour attempts to prevent peace. They openly declared their readiness to send as many men and as much material as was necessary to bolster up their Finnish satellite. They divulged how much help they had already furnished in the way of armaments, and thus, partly explained the ability of the Mannerheim forces to withstand the attack of the Red Army. After these revelations it is clear to all that a major factor in the decision of Finland not to yield to Stalin's terms in November must have been the help promised by Allied and American imperialists.

In the course of the war the Finnish capitalist government obviously became skeptical of the ability of Chamberlain and Daladier to live up to their promises, all the more so since Sweden and Norway, threatened by Hitler, refused to permit the Allies to send soldiers across their territory.

Hitler's Calculations

For his own reasons, Hitler accepts the peace treaty despite the fact that it strengthens the military defenses of the Soviet Union against a future German attack. While his basic policy is to involve Stalin in the war against the Allies, Hitler wants to do so only under conditions most favorable to him. At the present moment he deems his interests to be favored by a cessation of hostilities between the Soviet Union and Finland. Undoubtedly he is of the opinion that he can get more aid from Stalin at the present moment if the Soviet Union is at peace; in preparation for a possible future attack by him on the Soviet Union he is anxious to avoid Stalin's taking possession of too much Baltic territory; and he is unwilling to take a chance on having his supply of iron ore and other materials coming from Sweden cut off by Allied intervention.

Sweden and Norway were most anxious for a peace that would grant them a respite. Hemmed in between the two imperialist rivals, these small capitalist countries must walk the tight-rope of neutrality. They are trying as best they can to avoid being sucked into the maelstrom.

Of all the factors favoring peace, the most important and decisive was Stalin's anxiety to avoid a major war. He wants at all costs to escape the risk of being swept out of power either by revolution or by a successful imperialist attack. His demands on Finland having been refused, he thought he had no alternative but to go to war in order to guard his prestige and to secure the military defense of Leningrad. But his basic policy still remains to avoid participation in a major war.

Invasion Brought Discredit

The Soviet Union obviously gained important military strategic objectives in the peace treaty. But those gains are far outweighed by the loss of popular mass sympathy and the discredit which Stalin brought upon the Soviet Union because of the invasion.

Those superficial observers who described the invasion, not simply as a bureaucratic method of achieving defensive military-strategic objectives, but as an expression of "Stalinist imperialism," and as proof that Stalin consummated a partnership with Hitler for the purpose of destroying and dividing the British Empire, and even the whole world—the exponents of this ridiculous "theory" have been confounded by the course of events.

Stalin, however, is not freed from the problem of the war. He may do his utmost to avoid it, but the war will catch up with him. The French and British imperialists cannot sit back quietly while he aids Hitler in evading the consequences of the Allied blockade. They will seek a pretext for waging war on the Soviet Union and thus attempt to kill two birds with one

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