

Socialist Appeal

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party, Section of the Fourth International

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.

Vol. IV, No. 13

NEW YORK, N. Y., MARCH 30, 1940

FIVE (5) CENTS

ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT GATHERS IN EUROPE

Progressives Gird For Convention of Needle Workers

Stalinists Badly Defeated In Local, Delegate Elections

Elections are now taking place in all local units of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union for local union officers and for delegates to the coming national convention of the Union to be held in May, 1940 in New York City.

The current elections are witnessing a split for the first time in four years, between the official administration forces of David Dubinsky and the forces of the Communist Party. During the entire "People's Front" period, since 1935, the Stalinists were in a bloc with the Dubinsky administration, praising and supporting all of the bureaucratic acts.

With the signing of the Stalin-Hitler Pact, the Dubinsky administration forces launched a bitter attack against the Stalinists, dubbed them "Communists" and demonstratively broke off all relations with them.

The election returns thus far indicate a stinging defeat for all the "Rank and File" slates of the Stalinists in the different local unions. The Stalinists lost completely in locals 9, 35, 38, 60, and in local 22, the second largest local in the union.

The treachery of the Stalinists, however, does not excuse the bureaucratic and do-nothing policies of Dubinsky and his supporters. Utilizing the three month period, which allows all union groups to freely function, prior to each election, the membership has expressed its dissatisfaction with the conduct of the union and has been organizing progressive groups in many of the key locals, notably the Independent Progressive Group of Local 22, the Independent group of local 38, the Independent Cutters League of Dubinsky's own local union, local 10, etc.

Militant Cutters Publish Union-Building Program

A militant program for adoption by the forthcoming national convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union was issued recently by the Independent Cutters League of Local 10 of the International.

The seven-point program is contained in a "Convention Bulletin" printed by the League, dated March, and now being widely circulated among ILGWU workers.

"1. We propose the launching of a bold, energetic organization campaign to unionize every garment shop in the country. We propose the zoning of the country, with proper wage differentials in each zone, with a view of gradually bringing up the wages and working conditions of the out-of-town shops to the union conditions prevailing in the New York shops."

"2. We propose the standardization of all agreements to provide for a standard expiration date."

The purpose of this second point is to do away with the present situation where, when a strike is called in any locality, buyers have the opportunity of having garments manufactured (Continued on Page 4)

AN OPEN LETTER TO JOHN L. LEWIS FROM A FLINT AUTO WORKER:

'We Want to Battle for 30-Hour Week, Lewis! Have You the Guts for a Fight?'

John L. Lewis
Chairman, CIO

Dear Brother Lewis:

I'm glad to hear you're coming to Flint to speak on April 7th. It's about time you got a squint at the fightingest bunch of CIO men in captivity.

I have been doing some heavy thinking the last few weeks and I think I've got some good suggestions to make. You know, these elections in General Motors are going to be a cinch. Can't even get a bet at 10 to 1 on the CIO against the AFL! But winning the NLRB elections is only the beginning. Then our real fight begins.

How About It, Lewis?



The boys are in a mood for action. No question about it. They've got the foremen and superintendents jumping through hoops, but they're out for bigger game now. We're sick and tired of the insecurity we've been up against these last few years! Sometimes we work, sometimes we don't. If we make six or seven hundred dollars a year we're lucky.

And outside the plant gates there's always a big army of unemployed pressing for jobs, jobs, jobs. Let me tell you Brother Lewis, these unemployed are a danger, they're a huge potential scab army, and the CIO has got to do something about it!

Now it's a downright tea party to fix up that part about insecurity of the boys in the plants. We're going to make GM abide by seniority, and how. And we're going to make 'em kick in some of those hundreds of millions of profits they've been hauling away, and raise our year-round incomes.

But the best way to do something about both our situation in the plants, and help the unemployed at the same time, is to fight for the 30 hour week at 40 hours pay.

That slogan's been one of the union's "demands" for some time now. But nothing is being done about it. The union officers are afraid of it.

Let's not put that demand on the shelf!! Let's make it an IMMEDIATE demand!

General Motors can afford the 30 hour week at 40 hour pay! Sure, it would cut into their profits some, but they've been robbing us of our rights long enough.

GM cleared \$183,000,000 in profits in '39. That means that old man Dupont clipped \$40,000,000 worth of coupons and others like him got the rest; all that wealth represents the labor and sweat of CIO men! Let's get some of it back!

In 1937 we did the impossible when we sat down and held the plants, and finally marched out a victorious army; nobody could lick us then, and nobody can lick us now.

It's time to get out that old spirit of '37, dust it off, and start it going again!

Our slogan should be: after the NLRB victory, a 30 hour week at 40 hours pay!

How about it, John L.? Have you got the guts? I hope you have, because if you haven't, we'll have to find someone else who has.

Fraternally yours,
Fred, from Final Assembly
Flint, Mich.

British Unions Vote Against Imperialist War for Colonies

Dissatisfaction of French Workers Powerful Factor in Cabinet Shake-up; 'Socialist' Leaders Betray Workers Interests

Events of the last few days indicate that we have reached a new stage in the struggle against the war. Among these events are:

Replacement of the Daladier government by a bourgeois-socialist coalition government.

A secret trial for the 44 Stalinist deputies in Paris—the first time in French history that a political case has been heard in secret.

Resolution of the British national convention of the National Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks, a union of 175,000 members, that Britain's war "is an imperialist war fought for the defense of British and French colonial possessions. The working class has no interest in supporting it." Adopted by a vote of 82 to 57.

Resolution of the Essex District Council of the National Union of Railwaymen demanding immediate end of the war with Germany, because "the war is imperialist and contrary to the interests of all workers," an end to all assistance to Finland, and that the union leaders "get on with the struggle for socialism."

Delegates representing 1,323,000 members at the British national conference of the Cooperative movement supported an amendment condemning the war as imperialist, demanding an immediate armistice and calling for an international workers conference to insure a just peace.

A vote against Australian participation in any war overseas or extension of the present war into a conflict against the Soviet Union, by 195 to 88, adopted by the New South Wales Labor Conference in spite of all pleas by the federal and state leadership.

Apparently authoritative reports that Chamberlain has asked the British Labor Party to enter the government. The actual step probably could not take place, however, until the annual conference of the Labor Party, scheduled for May 15.

These and facts of a similar import signify that whatever honeymoon there was in the first period of the war between the masses and their rulers, is over, and that the rulers must now embark on new ways and means of stemming the growing opposition of the masses.

Significant Testimony of War Mongers

The rapidly pro-Ally Arthur Krock of the New York Times is sufficiently disturbed by the developments to quote as "interesting and impressive" the private observations of a French observer whose authority he vouches for, who says:

"The French may require revolutionary slogans themselves to energize war aims and dispel any idea they may be fighting to retain certain privileged systems. To some degree Hitler's propaganda, I fear, has had an unsettling effect. . . . Something like a more liberal government in London; some slogan like 'No more dukes,' and some dispersal of the economic and financial dominations of the small controlling group in France—these are among the changes in the Allied political atmosphere" which are needed. (Times, March 21.)

Reporting that "stop the war advocates showed remarkable strength during the week-end at Laborite and other political conferences," the London correspondent of the N. Y. Times, March 26, says that "to what extent Dr. Joseph Goebbels has influenced the 'peace now' vote . . . cannot, of course, be estimated."

In an editorial of March 25, the London Daily Mail draws the attention of the government to the "extent to which German broadcasts are influencing not only the civilian population of Britain but also our armed forces." The Mail says the broadcasts have been "making that once inarticulate section particularly articulate"—those dissatisfied with the "present mode of life" and "the capitalist system in general."

Hitler Doesn't Influence These Workers!

We can immediately dismiss with the contempt it deserves the insinuation of the French observer, the N. Y. Times and the Daily Mail, that the phenomena they describe are caused by the Nazi broadcasts. This cheap insult to the French and British workers scarcely requires refutation. The most dissatisfied and most outspoken workers in France and England are precisely those who understand that Nazism is the mortal enemy of the working class. Hitler's propaganda has no effect on them whatsoever. To say it does is a slander concocted to discredit their opposition to the war.

Their opposition to the war arises not from what they hear over the radio but from what they see and experience every day. The slogans of war for democracy and against fascism cannot but echo mockingly in the ears of British and French workmen. As Margaret Johns said in moving the resolution at the National Clerks convention:

"We are told this is a war to end aggression. This comes from the British capitalist class, which has held down India by force and violence, shot down strike pickets in the West Indies, oppressed, starved and exploited Negro workers in Africa and is still carrying on aggression against Ireland."

And the French worker had it all summed up for him in the March 19 report to the Chamber of Deputies of Minister of the Interior Sarraut: 620 "Communist" trade unions dissolved, 3,400 agitators arrested up to March 7 and more than 8,000 penalties ordered, 2,778 members of municipal councils suspended, and 675 "Communist" organizations shut down.

Repression and censorship is more desperately applied in France than in England and, as a consequence, at the moment one can find more direct evidence of anti-war activity in England. But witness this very significant evidence, though negative in form: the French government dares not permit a public trial of the Stalinist deputies. After the first few exchanges between the deputies and the judges, the court refused to permit the trial to go on in public.

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Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

Playing once more the classic role of social patriots, six French Socialists have entered the new government of Paul Reynaud to help make the war more palatable to the workers. This is the main purpose behind the change of cabinet.

To keep justifying the regime of repression and extreme economic rigor which he introduced, Daladier would have had to have victories in order to counter-act popular mistrust and passive resistance to the war. There must have been a real quickening of the pulse of protest that explains the act of the Socialists in abstaining on the confidence vote in Daladier. And there must have been a real sense of danger in the minds of the war-makers, for they decided Daladier had to go.

Paul Reynaud, instrument of French high finance, took over the government. He gave three portfolios to Socialists, one of them the classic post of social-patriotic hostages—the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Information was taken over by Ludovic Oscar Frossard, a former Socialist.

Thus under the new dispensation, the repression of all anti-war activity and the dissemination of all the lying propaganda needed by the bosses to bolster up their case for the world slaughter will be handled by men of the "Left."

The new government came in amid a great show of "opposition" from the extreme Right. The rightist group of Louis Marin and the extreme rightist newspapers

like Echo de Paris and Petit Journal denounced it as a "left" government. One Rightist newspaper l'Ordre, even went so far in eye-watching as to state that the Rightist opposition was based on the fact that "M. Francois de Wendel (the J.P. Morgan of France—G.S.) fears that the Socialists may have too great an influence in the cabinet."

As though any government of capitalist France at war could go against the wishes of Wendel and his Commite des Forges—the powerful combine of financiers which really rules the country! No, all this Rightist opposition is designed to create the illusion among the workers that the workers have some stake in this new government, that it is "better" than the previous government because it has Socialists in it and is opposed by the Right, whereas Daladier spurned the Socialists and was supported by the Right.

Reynaud's fundamental policy cannot differ in any important way from that of Daladier. This goes even for the matter of strategy in the war. If Reynaud and Chamberlain decide on any course of action, Daladier will be there as French war minister to help carry it out. These changes are not due to matters of external war policy but are made with an eye to the internal situation, which is characterized by wholesale dissatisfaction, mistrust, cynicism, and germinating protests against the futility of the coming slaughter.

JAIL ANTI-WAR 'TROTSKYISTS' IN FRANCE

Worker-Militants Arrested by the Banker Gov't

Arrests of French Trotskyists for anti-war activity were reported in the following item, published in Le Temps of Paris, Feb. 20:

"Following an inquiry into the activity of former communists who, under the name of the Fourth International, carried on anti-militarist and revolutionary propaganda, the Prefecture of Police has arrested and sent to the military tribunals the following people:

"Charles Margne, post office employee, member of the Central Committee of the former PCI (Internationalist Communist Party); his wife, Rose Maurel; the Italian Bruno Nardino, student; Marie Coste, post office employee; Mireille Poirier, nee Collorec, teacher of physical culture (whose husband was the secretary of the Youth organization of the PSOP (Workers and Peasants Socialist party); Pierre Roussel, post office employee; Suzanne Simkowitz, stenographer; Fany Cysiz, clerk; Claire Benauffere, nee Feygenbaum, whose husband, former militant of the POI (Internationalist Workers Party) is at present maintained in the prison of Fresnes for inciting soldiers to disobedience; Rachel Orbach, dressmaker; Leon Gejgyger, fitter; Minachem Rosenfeld, fitter; David Mlynarz, tailor; his son George; Andre Corset, a student; and Maurice Guignat, turner."

The extreme persecution to which our French movement is subjected and the rigid censorship makes it impossible for us to add any details to the Temps article.

LaGuardia Retreats On TWU Contracts

Agrees To Recommend City Honor Union's Contracts Pending Court Decisions

Mayor LaGuardia backed away for the time being from a showdown battle with the Transport Workers Union when, at a meeting Wednesday with John L. Lewis and T.W.U. officers, the mayor agreed to recommend that the city honor the union's contracts pending court decisions.

The mayor's new stand apparently means that all provisions in the union's present contracts with the B.M.T. and the IRT will continue in force when the city takes over these transit lines soon. These contracts include closed-shop provisions.

The new position taken by LaGuardia represented a decided retreat from the position he had previously taken, that the city could not bargain collectively in the same sense as a private employer and that the subways when under city ownership must be operated on an open shop, no-

strike basis. It was understood in union circles that the city itself would take no steps to question in court the legality of the city's observance of the contracts, but that some "taxpayer" acting for the city's bankers would undoubtedly take the issue into the courts.

Since the State Court of Appeals has previously upheld the legality of the closed shop in the B.M.T., ruling against a contention that the city's interest in the line makes such a contract invalid, the union has a slight edge in the next stage of the fight.

But it can keep that edge only by the same means that forced LaGuardia to retreat—by preparing to fight militantly for its rights, keeping its strike machinery geared for action and depending on its organized strength and not on smart lawyers.

LYNCH DRIVE AGAINST TROTSKY RENEWED BY C.P. IN MEXICO

The Communist party of Mexico, purged of its entire leadership by the G.P.U., was geared at the closing session of its "convention" last week to a renewed campaign against Leon Trotsky's right of asylum.

Andreas Saigado, "president of the Special Control Commission" which purged the party, attacked Mexico's president Cardenas for "permitting the continued presence of Trotsky in Mexico," the Daily Worker, March 24, reports.

The purged leadership were labeled "Trotskyists"—a fantastic invention, since the whole group, led by Hernan Laborde, the now-purged general secretary, went to every conceivable length to secure the expulsion of Trotsky from the country and, it is known, were in direct contact with George Mink and other G.P.U. assassins sent into the country to make an attempt on Trotsky.

If the efforts of this previous group are now considered to have been pro-Trotsky, one can imagine the desperate moves to which the new leadership will resort to in attempting to put Trotsky out of the way!

OMAHA JOBLESS UNITE BLACK AND WHITE

Wipe Out Distrust Between Two Races

OMAHA, Nebraska—Concrete gains won for the unemployed by the Federal Workers Section, backed by organized labor, are beginning to appear in the last few weeks since a six-weeks picket-line of the FWS secured the ousting of the relief czar, Magaret.

For the first time single men, members of the FWS, have been granted relief. Many tons of coal were distributed to the needy during the recent cold spell (something that was NOT done before the Federal Workers Section embarked on its relentless fight for relief standards). In some cases, the FWS has won rent for those on relief. Several evictions have been prevented. The utilities have been prevented from shutting off gas and lights in numerous cases.

The Federal Workers Section continues to grow and now has about 400 members, of whom 125 are Negro. Two of the seven members of the executive board are Negroes.

Unites Black and White
The friendly and effective cooperation established here between black and white is particularly encouraging because of the background of race relations in Omaha.

During the great packing-house strike in Omaha back in 1921, about 4,000 Negro workers were brought in by leading businessmen to break the strike. Because the bosses had played the despicable trick of artificially introducing the race question into industry, race relations in Omaha were poisoned for years. The steady growth of unionism in Omaha and the common fight made by the unemployed are rapidly banishing race prejudice and race distrust from the minds of both black and white workers.