

The Two-a-Week is a Political Necessity — We MUST Have It!

by FARRELL DOBBS
(National Labor Secretary)

In the short period of one month since the adjournment of the Third Convention of the Socialist Workers Party the orientation of the party towards mass work has been carried out with such vigor and enthusiasm that important results have already been reported.

Not dismayed by the desertions from our ranks by the splitters and renegades, the proletarian majority of the S.W.P. is daily discovering new sources of strength and new sources of proletarian membership.

The manifold problems of the trade-union movement are now more than ever an important part of the problems of the party. Important mass actions arise constantly on an ever-broadening front. Unlike literary activity and internal discussion within a party, the mass work presents daily problems which must have an immediate answer. A plan of action which is worked out in the morning is very often tested in practice during the afternoon.

These factors demonstrate the profound need for accurate, up-to-the-minute general information on the trends and developments in the trade union movement.

The party press, the main source of this information, is an indispensable implement for the party members engaged in mass work and for the development of the most advanced trade unionists who are coming towards the party. Special distributions of the party press are being carried out regularly in auto, steel, maritime, among the unorganized factory workers, and in many other fields. Inspiring results have been obtained through this work.

Indispensable as it now is, the party press will be even more valuable when it is published more frequently. The two-a-week Appeal will be a decisive factor in increasing the tempo of party mass work. It will enhance general efficiency by keeping both party and non-party readers more closely informed of day-by-day events and developments as they appear in the light of class struggle perspectives and analysis.

Push the two-a-week Appeal campaign to accelerate the development of party mass work!

The Scoreboard that indexes the approach of the twice-weekly rose slightly this week. \$81.35 came into the fund, which brings the percentage of fulfillment up to 16%. \$699.35 is the total to date.

Lynn made the biggest gain this week with its \$29.00 remittance. This puts the Lynn branch second on the scoreboard. How about it, are you other branches going to let Lynn keep this place without a good fight?

Boston is now tied with East Chicago for fifth place.

Detroit was the next to go up on the scoreboard. It now holds ninth place.

Indianapolis came through with a pledge of \$20. How about you other branches that haven't pledged yet?

Let's go to work! Only 53 days left! And \$3520.65 to raise.

SCOREBOARD

Branch	Pledged	Paid	%
Upstate New York	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	100
Lynn	50.00	29.00	58
Chicago	100.00	50.00	50
Flint	100.00	58.00	41
St. Paul	200.00	70.00	41
Boston	170.00	70.00	40
East Chicago	25.00	10.00	40
New York City	1300.00	300.00	23
Detroit	75.00	11.35	15
National Office	550.00	41.00	7
San Francisco	100.00	5.00	5
Maritime Workers	780.00	0.00	0
Minneapolis	300.00	0.00	0
Newark	100.00	0.00	0
Los Angeles	100.00	0.00	0
New Haven	55.00	0.00	0
Toledo	40.00	0.00	0
Philadelphia	25.00	0.00	0
Omaha	25.00	0.00	0
Indianapolis	20.00	0.00	0
Seattle	15.00	0.00	0
Portland	10.00	0.00	0
Oakland	10.00	0.00	0
Akron	10.00	0.00	0
Total	\$4210.00	699.35	16.6

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EYES OF ALL LABOR ON S.W.O.C.

Steel Workers! The Fight for the 6-Hour Day at 8-Hour Pay is Main Fight Now!

Greetings:

The eyes of the nation's workers are on your convention. What you do there, what you plan for tomorrow, will have deep significance for all American labor, organized and unorganized.

Steel is the very heart of American industry. It pumps its strong blood into all branches of manufacturing, transportation and construction. Steel fabricates the homes of peace and the cannon of war. When steel is prosperous, industry booms and when steel tailspins, the country hits the skidroad of depression.

Before the CIO, control of your industry rested unchallenged in the hands of a pack of pirates. They sweated the mill workers for twelve hours a day. They hired and fired without regard to age or service. They herded the workers families into slum-ridden company towns when the furnaces were high and moved them out on the streets when the fires died down. They smashed strikes—Homestead, McKeesport, the 1919 strike—with Pinkertons, gunmen, deputies, troops. They spilled the blood of workingmen like water.

Since the CIO, at least in Big Steel and some of the independents, the steel magnates have been forced to share some of the control with the workers. Hours have been forced down, wages are no longer jockeyed around at the whim of the big boss, seniority has been established and the union has a strong voice in hiring and firing. The union

of the steel workers is a force to be reckoned with. The CIO means representation and strength for the men in the mills.

It is true the workers have a voice today where they were silent and beaten only a few years ago. But never forget that the final word still belongs to the same crooked gang headed by J. P. Morgan and officered by Stettinius, Girdler, Grace, Weir and a few others. They control because they own—and because they own they don't have to set foot in a mill or get a square inch of soot on their swallow-tailed evening clothes.

This ownership pours a golden stream of coupons into their laps every year and they don't have to move out of their streamlined swivel-chairs in Wall Street and LaSalle Street to get it.

In 1939 they hit the jackpot again.

United States Steel raked in \$41,119,934.00.

Bethlehem Steel took \$24,638,384.00.

National Steel made \$12,581,636.00.

Republic Steel made ten million, Inland Steel made ten million, American Rolling Mills four million, Youngstown Sheet and Tube five million and Jones and Laughlin hit the breadline with three million.

The war in Europe put the industry at top production schedules; 1939 was a prosperous year—for the steel bosses. The big haul (not counting dividends)—they call it

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Chicago Milk Drivers' Strike Smashes Bosses' Attempt to Cut Pay 25 Per Cent

CHICAGO, May 6—Chicago's milk drivers are back at work after a whirlwind strike in which they smashed the bosses' demand for an immediate pay cut of 25%.

They returned to their trucks with a guarantee of the \$48 a week wage scale until a new agreement is concluded.

The Milk Dealers Association had demanded of the union that a wage scale of \$30 per week must be put into effect, in place of the previous scale of \$48 per week, before the association would negotiate a new contract with the union.

The Milk Drivers Union answered that their wage scale could not and would not be lowered, and that negotiations must begin immediately, with the wage scale remaining intact. The bosses said "lockout," the workers answered with "STRIKE." The strike vote was unanimous, and two days later the strike had

brought the bosses' association down to earth.

Powerful Strike Machine

It was a magnificent demonstration of working class organization. The morning of May 1 found the city completely tied up. The union serviced the hospitals and orphanages. Not a truck of Bowman, Borden, Wanzer, Capitol, and Western-United moved out of the garage, and nothing could move into or out of these plants. Flying squadrons were everywhere. Every highway lead-

ing into Chicago was covered by union patrols. Every barn had enough pickets around to insure respect for the strike.

Besides this the inside dairy workers, for the first time in the union's history, went out in a body, and demanded a contract together with the drivers. Also, the vendors (milk jobbers) who are a special problem to the drivers, and who had been counted upon by the bosses to break the strike, rejected the bosses' overtures and moved towards the union.

The bosses also considered the fact that on May 2, a day after the strike began, the Teamster Joint Council met, and a proposal was submitted by the Bakery and Pop Drivers section, urging sympathy strike action because their

Fight Against Unemployment is Main Issue; To Plan Organizing Drive; Many Lodges Ask for Constitutional Convention

CHICAGO, Illinois—Meeting in Chicago for its second national convention, opening May 15, the Steel Workers Organizing Committee prepared to adopt a program of action to complete the unionization of the steel industry and to deal with the other problems confronting the steel workers.

Looking back on its accomplishments in its three and a half years of existence, the members of the SWOC have a right to be proud. For the first time in the history of this once notoriously open-shop industry, a genuine union of its workers exists. Over 500 contracts, including many providing for closed shops, have been signed. More than 600,000 workers are protected by wage-hour clauses and seniority rights. U.S. Steel, once the citadel of anti-unionism, is now covered by a signed contract. Hundreds of other plants, both large and small, where once to be a union member was considered suicidal, are now represented by militant, well-organized lodges.

However, the SWOC is not meeting to bask in the light of its past deeds. Its task now is to deal with the many new problems that have arisen since the first national convention held in Pittsburgh in 1937.

30-Hour Week Issue

In the thirty months elapsing since that meeting, over 25,000 steel men have been added to the ranks of the unemployed as a result of the rapid installation of mechanized strip mills.

The only answer to this most serious threat is the adoption of a program calling for the thirty-hour week. Hundreds of thousands of steel workers throughout the country are anxiously awaiting the launching of a campaign based upon this demand.

Want Constitutional Convention

An important issue to come up for discussion, will be the question of calling a constitutional convention in the near future.

A number of lodges from various steel centers have passed resolutions calling for such action. The demand for an autonomous international union resulting from such a constitutional convention is widespread and will undoubtedly be a major topic of interest.

Organizing Campaign

Another very important point of the convention will be the launching of a vigorous organizing campaign to complete the unionization of the remaining non-union plants. Chief among these is the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, second largest steel producer in the U.S. and one of the world's greatest armament manufacturers. This gigantic firm, one of the few remaining strongholds of company unionism, still is not strongly organized.

Fight Against War

Worried by the growing movement on the part of the bosses to embroil this country in the imperialist war raging in Europe, the steel workers are expected to pass vigorous resolutions denouncing such efforts. Already hundreds of anti-war resolutions have been forwarded to Pittsburgh from the lodges throughout the country. At the last convention, the steel workers passed a resolution supporting an amendment for a popular referendum on war. It is expected that they will reiterate their stand on this crucial question at the 1940 convention.

Hundreds of thousands of steel workers throughout the nation are eagerly awaiting the decisions on these issues. They are prepared to follow a program calling for militant action. This convention must not disappoint them!

Open Letter to the Workers of the U.S.S.R. — By Leon Trotsky

Greetings to the Soviet workers, collective farmers, soldiers of the Red Army and sailors of the Red Navy! Greetings from distant Mexico where I found refuge after the Stalinist clique had exiled me to Turkey and after the bourgeoisie had hounded me from country to country!

Dear Comrades! The lying Stalinist press has been maliciously deceiving you for a long time on all questions, including those which relate to myself and my political co-thinkers. You possess no workers' press; you read only the press of the bureaucracy, which lies systematically so as to keep you in darkness and thus render secure the rule of a privileged parasitic caste.

Those who dare raise their voices against the universally hated bureaucracy are called "Trotskyists," agents of a foreign power; branded as spies—yesterday it was spies of Germany, today it is spies of England and France—and then sent to face the firing squad. Tens of thousands of revolutionary fighters have fallen before the muzzles of G.P.U. Mausers in the USSR and in countries abroad, especially in Spain. All of them were depicted as agents of Fascism. Do not believe this abominable slander! Their crime consisted of defending workers and peasants against the brutality and rapacity of the bureaucracy. The entire Old Guard of Bolshevism, all the collaborators and assistants of Lenin, all the fighters of the October revolution, all the heroes of the Civil War, have been murdered by Stalin. In the annals of history Stalin's name will forever be recorded with the infamous brand of Cain!

Revolution Was Not Made for Bureaucrats

The October revolution was accomplished for the sake of the toilers and not for the sake of new parasites. But due to the lag of the world revolution, due to the fatigue and, to a large measure, the backwardness of the Russian workers and especially the Russian peasants, there raised itself over the Soviet Republic and against its peoples a new oppressive and parasitic caste, whose leader is Stalin. The former Bolshevik party was turned into an apparatus of this caste. The world organization which the Communist International once was is today a pliant tool of the Moscow oligarchy. Soviets of Workers and Peasants have long perished. They have been replaced by degenerate Commissars, Secretaries and G.P.U. agents.

But, fortunately, among the surviving conquests of the October revolution are the nationalized industry and the collectivized Soviet

economy. Upon this foundation Workers' Soviets can build a new and happier society. This foundation cannot be surrendered by us to the world bourgeoisie under any conditions. It is the duty of revolutionists to defend tooth and nail every position gained by the working class, whether it involves democratic rights, wage scales, or so colossal a conquest of mankind as the nationalization of the means of production and planned economy. Those who are incapable of defending conquests already gained can never fight for new ones. Against the imperialist foe we will defend the USSR with all our might. However, the conquests of the October revolution will serve the people only if they prove themselves capable of dealing with the Stalinist bureaucracy, as in their day they dealt with the Tsarist bureaucracy and the bourgeoisie.

Stalinism Endangers the Soviet Union

If Soviet economic life had been conducted in the interests of the people; if the bureaucracy had not devoured and vainly wasted the major portion of the national income; if the bureaucracy had not trampled underfoot the vital interests of the population, then the USSR would have been a great magnetic pole of attraction for the toilers of the world and the inviolability of the Soviet Union would have been assured. But the infamous oppressive regime of Stalin has deprived the USSR of its attractive power. During the war with Finland, not only the majority of the Finnish peasants but also the majority of the Finnish workers, proved to be on the side of their bourgeoisie. This is hardly surprising since they know of the unprecedented oppression to which the Stalinist bureaucracy subjects the workers of near-by Leninград and the whole of the USSR. The Stalinist bureaucracy, so bloodthirsty and ruthless at home and so cowardly before the imperialist enemies, has thus become the main source of war danger to the Soviet Union.

The old Bolshevik party and the Third International have disintegrated and decomposed. The honest and advanced revolutionists have organized abroad the Fourth International which has sections already established in most of the countries of the world. I am a member of this new International. In participating in this work I remain under the very same banner that I served together with you or your fathers and your older brothers in 1917 and throughout the years of the Civil War—the very same banner under which together with Lenin we built the Soviet state and the Red Army.

Revolutionary Goal of the Fourth International

The goal of the Fourth International is to extend the October revolution to the whole world and at the same time to regenerate the USSR by purging it of the parasitic bureaucracy. This can be achieved only in one way: By the workers, peasants, Red Army soldiers and Red Navy sailors, rising against the new caste of oppressors and parasites. To prepare this uprising, a new party is needed—a bold and honest revolutionary organization of the advanced workers. The Fourth International sets as its task the building of such a party in the USSR.

Advanced workers! Be the first to rally to the banner of Marx and Lenin which is now the banner of the Fourth International! Learn how to create, in the conditions of Stalinist illegality, tightly fused, reliable revolutionary circles! Establish contacts between these circles! Learn how to establish contacts—through loyal and reliable people, especially the sailors—with your revolutionary co-thinkers in bourgeois lands! It is difficult, but it can be done.

The present war will spread more and more, piling ruins on ruins, breeding more and more sorrow, despair and protest, driving the whole world toward new revolutionary explosions. The world revolution shall re-invigorate the Soviet working masses with new courage and resoluteness and shall undermine the bureaucratic props of Stalin's caste. It is necessary to prepare for this hour by stubborn systematic revolutionary work. The fate of our country, the future of our people, the destiny of our children and grandchildren are at stake.

Down With Cain Stalin and his Camarilla!
Down With the Rapacious Bureaucracy!
Long Live the Soviet Union, the Fortress of the Toilers!
Long Live the World Socialist Revolution!

Fraternally,
LEON TROTSKY

WARNING! Stalin's press will of course declare that this letter is transmitted to the USSR by "agents of imperialism." Be forewarned that this, too, is a lie. This letter will reach the USSR through reliable revolutionists who are prepared to risk their lives for the cause of socialism. Make copies of this letter and give it the widest possible circulation.—L.T.

Behind the Lines

New Tricks of Rooseveltian Secret War Diplomacy
by GEORGE STERN

Rooseveltian secret diplomacy is working overtime at the job of preparing the entry of this country into the war.

Most of this activity never reaches the public prints. Some of it does and then only in the form of meager announcements and fulsome denials.

Most recent development of this kind was Roosevelt's exchange last week with Mussolini. William Phillips, the U.S. ambassador in Rome, called on Ciano, the foreign minister, and later had a personal talk with Mussolini himself. On Friday this was paralleled here by an unusual interview between Roosevelt and Prince Colonna, the Italian ambassador at Washington.

To curious newspapermen at a press conference the next day, President Roosevelt said he was trying to prevent extension of the European conflict.

"That was all that he felt it was appropriate to reveal at this time," added the New York Times account. But if any doubt were present as to the nature of the American move, the jubilation in the French press over it the next day cleared that up.

Just what did Phillips tell Mussolini and what did Roosevelt tell Colonna? Did they merely warn, as the papers

would have it, that Italian entry would mean extension of the U.S. embargo to the Mediterranean? Or did they serve solemn notice on the Duce that his entry on Germany's side would hasten American entry on the side of the Allies? Is Roosevelt playing with the lives of American youth in order to serve the ends of the jigsaw diplomatic games of his French and British friends?

Another recent glimpse of what is going on behind the scenes was vouchsafed to the people when W. L. Mackenzie King, the Canadian premier, paid what was called a "private" visit to Roosevelt, at Warm Springs and again at the White House. Roosevelt said he had a nice "social call" and then, according to the Herald Tribune, "he winked, as though to convey the idea that more than a nice social talk had taken place."

Behind this heavy humor apparently lay also consultations that forebode ill for the future. The Herald Tribune gave the following details of this "social" meeting:

"The United States and Canada are beginning to talk over their common defense problems in the light of the war in Europe and Asia. One important (Continued on Page 3)