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Fight with the Socialist Workers Party for:

1. A JOB AND A DECENT LIVING FOR EVERY WORKER.
2. OPEN THE IDLE FACTORIES — OPERATE THEM UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL.
3. A TWENTY-BILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING PROGRAM.
4. THIRTY-THIRTY—\$30 WEEKLY MINIMUM WAGE—30-HOUR WEEKLY MAXIMUM FOR ALL WORKERS ON ALL JOBS.
5. \$30 WEEKLY OLD-AGE AND DISABILITY PENSION.
6. EXPROPRIATE THE SIXTY FAMILIES.
7. ALL WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED.
8. A PEOPLE'S REFERENDUM ON ANY AND ALL WARS.
9. NO SECRET DIPLOMACY.
10. AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY.
11. WORKERS' DEFENSE GUARDS AGAINST VIGILANTE AND FASCIST ATTACKS.
12. FULL SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY FOR THE NEGRO PEOPLE.

Roosevelt On Strikes

"Labor will not attempt to take advantage of its collective power to foment strikes and interfere with the national defense program to squeeze higher wages from employers in the so-called war industries."

These were Roosevelt's words at his press conference Tuesday. They are a command to organized labor not to strike in steel, auto, coal, tool and die shops, metal fabricating plants, munitions and airplane factories, clothing shops working on army orders—and where is the list to end? For preparation for war, like war itself, is today totalitarian, embracing the entire economic life of the country. What Roosevelt is doing is to command the trade unions to surrender their principal weapon.

What value has a union which cannot as a final resort back up its demands with the strike weapon? Every experienced worker knows that a union which cannot strike ceases really to be a union and can no longer protect the jobs and wages of its members.

That is Roosevelt's program. That is what "national defense" means under a capitalist government. Labor can yield not an inch to Roosevelt, unless it wants to commit suicide.

GM and the UAW

All the officers of the Auto Workers Union agree that unemployment is the major problem facing the membership of their organization. They all agree that continued mass unemployment is daily undermining and will eventually destroy their union. They all agree that the auto corporations are squeezing out of the workers millions of dollars in profits and can well afford to lower the hours of work. They all go further and say that the only answer to this condition is the establishment of the thirty-hour week at 40-hours pay throughout the industry. Reuther says so. Thomas says so. Phil Murray says so.

Furthermore, over a year ago, the Cleveland convention, representing the entire membership of the UAW, instructed the Executive Board to work for the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay.

Yet nothing has been done to win this necessary reform.

Today negotiations for a new contract are in progress with the General Motors Corporation. What better place to begin the great campaign for the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay? The GM workers displayed matchless heroism two years ago in the great GM strike and inspired by their example the whole CIO movement. The GM workers just a few weeks ago chalked up another decisive victory for the CIO in the NLRB elections. By every indication, the men in the shops

have shown that they mean to move forward to win economic security for themselves and their families and that they know that the first step in this direction is the winning of the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay.

This week, however, the auto workers have learned to their dismay, that the union negotiating committee is definitely not demanding the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay.

Why not? Answering this week the fighting resolution of the Flint South Fisher local demanding immediate negotiations in GM for the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay, Thomas, President of the UAW, writes: "There is only one way a great reform like the 30-hour week can be won. That is by making our organization an invincible union."

Apparently the UAW is not invincible now. Why not? GM is solidly organized. The overwhelming majority of the GM workers are in the union. The GM workers have proved in action their intelligence, courage and militancy. What prevents these workers from becoming invincible? Nothing, except the supine, cowardly policy of the present UAW leadership, who give lip service to forward looking demands and militant policies, but in practice are afraid of them.

Even the supposed progressive president of the Detroit Briggs local, who has been giving verbal support for the past year and a half to the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay demand discovers at this late date that "in order to constructively fight the Nation's No. 1 problem, Unemployment, we must fight for a 30-hour week at 40-hours pay. . . . [BUT] this problem can only be put into effect by solving the No. 1 problem of the UAW-CIO, that is the organization of Ford's." His statement ends with the call to "Help solve the problem of Unemployment by fighting for a 30-hour week at 40-hour pay by paying the Ford assessment." But the auto workers have been paying their Ford assessments for over two years!

If you cannot fight for the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay because the union is not "invincible" and if the union is not "invincible" because Ford remains unorganized, the question is why hasn't Ford been organized?

Ford remains unorganized for the same reason that Thomas, Reuther, Hillman and Murray refuse to demand at GM the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay. For the same reason that the "Little Steel" strike was lost and for the same reason that "Little Steel" remains unorganized to this day. Because of the chicken-hearted, weak-kneed policies of these so-called leaders of labor; who trusted and to this day trust Roosevelt and every other boss politician and never trusted and have no trust in the militancy and power of the working class. Start a bold fight for the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay and the UAW will be more invincible today than it was in the great strike of 1937 which brought General Motors to its knees.

The pessimistic croaking of Thomas & Co. does not represent the voice of the militant auto workers who licked GM and Chrysler and threw the fear of God into the hearts of the nation's open shop manufacturers. The real aspirations and desires of the auto workers are represented far better by the fighting program of the Flint Fisher local insisting "that the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay be included as an immediate demand in contractual negotiations with GM."

Only such a program will alleviate unemployment.

Only such a program will restore the lost confidence of the Ford workers and lay the necessary groundwork for a new offensive to organize the more than 100,000 workers at Ford's.

Only such a program points the road to the achievement of economic security for the automobile workers and with them the steel workers, the rubber workers, the glass workers and the rest of American labor.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day will be celebrated with a rising wave of 100% American jingoism, as the boss class prepares the workers to do their "patriotic duty" in the new war for profits overseas.

But the workers, for the third successive year now, will commemorate Memorial Day for a different reason. They will remember the victims of another war of the bosses—the slaughter by Tom Girdler's Republic Steel, and the willing Chicago police, of ten unarmed workers during a peaceful strike parade on Memorial Day, 1937.

They will remember the solid line of cops by whom the unarmed strikers were confronted at Republic Steel's South Chicago plant. They will remember the cold-blooded opening of fire into the workers' ranks, without warning; the vicious slugging and pounding of wounded workers; and the damning moving picture of the entire slaughter, ending with a view of the smiling police dusting themselves off after a job well done for their employers.

Workers should remember this Memorial Day, that Tom Girdler and his like are the bosses whose profits they are expected to safeguard with their lives in the Second World War.

And in the name of the martyrs who fell in South Chicago in the fight for workers' rights and workers' freedom, they should resolve to dedicate their lives to only one fight—the fight of the workers against the bosses. All the patriotic parades and the fifes and drums in the land will not suffice to dim the memory of the Memorial Day Massacre of 1937. Let the workers remember anew, this Memorial Day, that their main enemy now, as during the First World War, is still the class enemy at home.

Fascist 'Christian Mobilizers' Union-Busting Drive Underway In Chicago

By SAM MARCY

The Fascist Christian Mobilizers have filed a notice with the police department that they intend to commence outdoor meetings during the month of May.

They intend to follow two new lines of demagoguery in their campaign this summer, in addition to their usual anti-Semitic poison.

Their first line will be to exploit the anti-war sentiments of the masses, especially the Catholic masses, by palming off the war as a "Jewish plot of International Bankers." The cue to this line was given to them by Coughlin long ago. It is significant to note in this connection, that the Catholic News, which has the approval of the Archbishop Spellman of New York, printed without comment sections of Coughlin's Sunday broadcast in which he assumes the innocent role of the guardian of the peace.

Congressman Thorkelson of Montana, vicious anti-Semite, recently came here to address a meeting of Christian Mobilizers at Ebling Casino in the Bronx. It is said that he wove his story of international bankers, gold and Jews, so skillfully, that he had his hoodlum audience yelling for a pogrom.

FASCISTS USE CATHOLICISM AS A COVER

The other line of demagoguery was exemplified at a meeting, called by the "Parents Defense Fund," to protest the indictments of the 17 defendants, members of the Christian Front, who are now on trial in Brooklyn. In reality the Parents Defense Fund is nothing but a stooge for the Christian Front. The line was that "Catholics and Christians are being persecuted." The Reverend Curran, head of the International Catholic Truth Society, and a rabid follower of Coughlin, openly spoke for the Christian Front. In commenting on some of the stories in the press about the trial of the Christian Fronters, Father Curran proposed to "surgically remove the malady" of a "free" press. The cry of "persecution of Catholics" is being skill-

fully cultivated by the Coughlin-Curran-Cassidy combination in the state and city government departments, especially in the New York City police department.

The cry of "persecution of Catholics" is never raised on behalf of Catholic workers, when they are clubbed by police during strikes, or brutally beaten at relief bureaus, or discharged for union activity, or dismissed from the WPA rolls. Coughlin's poison sheet, "Social Justice," or its miserable echo, in Brooklyn, the "Tablet," have yet to raise their voice on behalf of Catholic workers! The Coughlin-Curran-Cassidy combination and its organized expression, the Christian Front and Christian Mobilizers, utilize Catholicism merely as a sanctimonious cover behind which they propagate the blackest reaction.

WHY SO MANY COPS ARE COUGHLINITES

It has been said that as many as a thousand members of the police force belong to the Christian Front. This is no secret to Police Commissioner Valentine or his "liberal" Chief, LaGuardia. To date they have done nothing to break up the organization except to address a questionnaire to the police force as to whether they belonged to the organization. This questionnaire naturally was nothing more than a sop to public opinion. It accomplished nothing except to cover up the Christian Front of the police department.

Perhaps it is not out of place here to explain exactly why so many members of the police force belong to the Christian Front.

During the so-called era of "prosperity," graft and corruption flourished in the city of New York more than in any other city with the possible exception of Chicago. It fed a constantly growing network of racketeers, gangsters, and all sorts of underworld elements. But with the coming of the crisis they had to be "eliminated," to some extent, as a "measure of economy." The La Guardia Administration in

conjunction with District Attorney Dewey made it their task to "cleanse" the city. Everyone knew of the inseparable connection between the underworld and the police department. To "cleanse" the latter, would expose and discredit in the eyes of the masses the "forces of Law and Order."

Hence a different method was used—the method of "attrition," i.e., quiet dismissal, resignation, and retirement. The police force became very jittery with each new expose of the criminal underworld. A wave of suicides in the force totalled more than 100. With such a mood prevailing among the police, someone was bound to take up their defense. The Coughlin-Curran-Cassidy forces had their connections with the cops. They knew their sentiments, and fears. They took up the cudgels for them.

RESULTS IN BRUTALITY AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS

But they could not defend their case on the merits; hence the insidious campaign of a "Jewish plot," persecuting "Catholic policemen," and the "Jewish Communist-controlled government" who hold the cops back from performing their duty when reds "create riots."

The last mentioned lie has become so widespread that Commissioner Valentine recently at a Communion Breakfast of the police department admonished the police "to be rough, tough, and as obnoxious as possible to hoodlums and gangsters." The recent brutal assaults upon the demonstrators at the French Consulate and other places show that the cops understood the police chief only too well.

Thus the Coughlin-Curran Cassidy combination has reason to believe that they will be amply "protected" by the police in their activities this summer.

The imperialist war abroad should not blind the workers to reaction at home. The answer to the workers to the Coughlin-Curran-Cassidy combination must be: Workers Defense Guards!

In the World of Labor

By Paul G. Stevens

Anti-War Militants Answer British Labor Party Bureaucrats

Some time ago we mentioned that the left-wing organization in the British Labor Party adhering to the principles of revolutionary socialism which are also those of the Fourth International, had been banned by the Labor Party bureaucracy. Below we reprint an explanation of this step given by the official organ of the League, *The Militant*, in its April issue.

"The National Executive of the Labor Party has issued its ukase declaring that membership in the Militant Labor League is incompatible with membership of the party. In taking this decision, the party chiefs did not attempt to discuss the question with the people involved, in spite of the fact that all members of the Militant Labor League are active members of their local Labor parties, many of them holding important positions. The decision of the Executive was taken in a thoroughly bureaucratic manner and recorded in the 'Labor Press Service' without a word of explanation.

"In the light of this decision, it is worth while to examine briefly the history and aims of the M.L.L. . . . In No. 1 of the 'Militant' we stated:

"We therefore call for the immediate creation of a left-wing organization which will include all Labor Party workers who are willing to struggle for a revolutionary program and leadership, an organization which can offer to the workers a clear socialist alternative to the policies of treachery and despair of the existing leadership." "The M.L.L. stands for working class struggle against all imperialist wars and against all preparations for such wars. . . . It calls for the waging of the class struggle both before and during the war for the overthrow of the imperialist government and the seizure of power by the working class." (*Militant*, Nov. 1937).

"This policy declaration has been the keynote of the struggle of the League since its formation. . . . When war finally broke out last September, the M.L.L. alone in the Labor Party issued a manifesto, which declared the conflict to be one between rival imperialisms, and called upon the workers to concentrate their fire on the enemy at home—the British boss class.

"Small wonder that the National Executive of the Labor Party has issued its ban! As the war progresses and wider sections of the working class see more clearly its reactionary nature, so the base of the Labor bureaucracy narrows. In order to protect their positions so that they may continue to carry out the behests of the capitalist class, they must attempt to smash all genuine socialist opposition in the party. It is not accidental that the M.L.L. is banned at the period when British imperialism plans to extend the war, and talk of further sacrifices in blood and money is in the air. . . .

"The Labor Party is not the property of the leadership. It was built up by the British working class. We have the same right as Attlee or Greenwood to publicize our point of view, to attempt to influence the party membership by propaganda and struggle. If the membership of the Labor Party supports the leadership in denying us this most elementary democratic right, then

it is committing political suicide, and handing over the party, lock, stock and barrel to the bosses. . . ."

The M.L.L. also sent the following document to national newspapers and left-wing periodicals as a part of the campaign of protest against the Labor Party ban:

"Members of the M.L.L. have recently learned that the Executive Committee of the Labor Party has decided that our organization is not suitable for affiliation to the Party, and that therefore membership of the M.L.L. is incompatible with membership of the Labor Party.

"This news which amounts to a virtual banning of our organization was only obtained from the general press; we were never officially notified, no charges have been made against our conduct, and in fact no specific reasons were given for the ban.

"We emphatically protest against this ban as a denial of democracy and political freedom within the workers' organization. While working entirely within the Labor Party for a number of years, the M.L.L. has always upheld the right of left-wing opinion to be heard, and we shall not accept lightly this Gestapo-like attempt by the official leadership to brush aside all forms of democratic freedom within the Labor Party in an effort to crush honest political criticism of their policy."

Working Women Against the War

From another British labor paper, dated May, 1940, we take the following item:

"The 201 delegates to the Conference on Women in Wartime held in London on April 20th, have given a fine militant lead to all the millions of toil-worn women of this country. The everyday struggle to make ends meet' expressed itself in the recognition of the fact that this war is in no way in the interest of the working class.

"In passing resolutions condemning the war, and at the same time urging that the struggle for the elementary interests of the working class should in no way be relinquished, the women delegates are clearly moving along the road to the only conclusive opposition to the war."

Argentine 4th Internationalists Support SWP Majority Position

An official letter from the Grupo Obrero Revolucionario of Argentina, states:

"We are acquainted with the conflict which arose within the S.W.P. of the U.S. Even before being informed of it we had adopted a position similar to yours. In the January 1940 number of our organ 'La Nueva Internacional' we published as the official position of our organization the resolution regarding the Stalinist invasion in Finland adopted by the SWP majority. We are, hence, with the Fourth International and with the point of view which Comrade Trotsky supports—with those who are in agreement with the true Marxist-Leninist appreciation of the character of the Soviet Union. Our slogan has been, and will continue to be, so long as circumstances do not oblige a change in the appreciation of the problem, FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE USSR."

Drive Underway In Chicago

by WILLIAM SIMMONS

CHICAGO—With the beginning of 1940 the Thurman Arnold "anti-trust" crusade got off to a flying start in Chicago. A whole series of indictments were returned against unions in the building trades after preliminary grand jury investigations. Now these "wheels of justice" have slowed down somewhat, but they keep on grinding, with court trial of the first case, that of the tile trade, set for June 3.

Involved in indictments so far are the tile setters, stone cutters, carpenters, electricians and glaziers, in each case some contracting firms and the unions together with some, if not all, of the officials of the unions as individuals. Named in indictments also are the AFL Chicago Building Trades Council and its officials.

As the grand jury investigation continued to grind along, its real objective became increasingly clear. No one is particularly impressed with protestations accompanying the indictments to the effect that the prosecution is not at all intended to interfere with what is classified as legitimate union activities. One look at the actual indictments shows what is happening.

For example, the electrical workers union is indicted for having combined with contracting firms in keeping out material not bearing the union label. The carpenters union is under fire because of its refusal to handle plywood manufactured by non-union labor in unorganized sawmills; a refusal also including some mills organized by the CIO. And to top the whole thing off in proper crusading style, the Building Trades Council was dragged into the net because of the adoption of a motion to support the indicted unions; one of its delegates for having made the motion, another for having given his second, the secretary for having entered it into the record and the president for having put the motion to a vote.

Attack Not Aimed at Bosses

It is perfectly true that contracting firms are formally also under fire in this crusade, but that is merely incidental to its real aim. Union members here have very little doubt left that this aim is to bust up the unions. One needs only to remember the fact that in all of these cases, not the contracting firms, but the unions are the ones who take final action and enforce the refusal to handle non-union made material. And it is the unions that are already at this stage of the government's crusade presented as the real culprits.

That cases of collusion between union officials and contracting firms, and for that matter also of the kind that violates trade union ethics, have existed almost everywhere no one needs to doubt. But it is equally clear that if the Thurman Arnold crusade really intended to get at the bottom of collusion in restraint of trade in the building industry, a really fertile field could be found among the material manufacturers and their monopoly price-fixing, as well as among the banks and insurance companies fixing arbitrarily exorbitant finance charges.

Refusal by union members to handle non-union material, however, is a matter of the very life of organized labor, and its right to press ahead for organization. It is this right that constitutes the greatest thorn in the side of the real monopoly concerns and their governmental hirelings, and it is a right that labor can never afford to give up. For the bosses and their government to be permitted to strike a serious blow against this right would mean a serious blow struck at the very vitals of organized labor.

Wage-Cut Drive Follows Indictments

Now that these cases appear in court the union busting aim of the crusade is further clarified. Court cases are costly and cut into union treasuries. The usual newspaper build-up follows in an effort to discredit union practice in the eyes of what is called the public. In reality it means an effort to sow distrust and throw fear into the minds of union members and wage workers in general; on the whole a grandiose scheme of disorganization and weakening of these unions. And let it be noted that a campaign for wage reductions follows right on the heels of the government union-busting crusade.

Even in respect to wage cutting the governmental agencies are also taking the initiative. It began with the WPA. In Chicago, the same as in so many other cities, lack of co-operation and unity of action among the building trades unions made it a relatively easy matter for the government to enforce the 130-hour month and put an end to the prevailing wage principle. By this lengthening of hours, building trades mechanics on the WPA have had their wages cut down to about 65c per hour. But this was only a beginning. A recent announcement by the federal housing authorities has arbitrarily reduced the wage scale for building trades maintenance workers employed on these projects to \$1.00 an hour.

The first result is that Chicago building trades workers are asking ever more persistently: whose government is this anyway? Nearly all of them were in the past staunch supporters of the New Deal administration. Now many of them are becoming disillusioned and beginning to learn a fundamental lesson in the role and function of government in a capitalist democracy. That alone is progress. Maybe before these cases are over further steps will follow toward getting the building trades unions out of the conservative backwardness of the past.

TODAY'S PUZZLE

Secretary of War Woodring reported the army expansion program is progressing and declared: "This gives us hope that during 1940 our sword may remain firmly sheathed."

The Archbishop of York told a convocation that "we are fighting for Christian civilization. . . . Without hesitation I speak of this as for us a righteous war." Boy, he'd better bless this war or the bosses would fire him.

ROOSEVELT'S FIRST CONVERT

On Thursday, May 16, the arch-reactionary New York Herald Tribune, most powerful Republican organ in the country, editorially called for declaration of war against Germany as the "most feasible" way of aiding the Allies.