

Relief Officials Try to Force Jobless Into Army

In New Jersey on June 8 the State Relief Director, Arthur Mudd, ordered that relief be refused to single men eligible for service in the army.

Next day Howard L. Russell, Secretary of Assistance in Pennsylvania, advised local relief authorities that they could withhold relief from single men under 40 "who have failed to take advantage of employment opportunities, including those offered by the expansion of the nation's military forces."

In Yonkers, New York, Mrs. Edith P. Welty, member of the City Common Council, announced the same day that she would ask opinions of corporation counsel "on the legality of her plan to force eligible single men on relief to enlist."

These people are not local crackpots. They are responsible officials. They are not acting without having reason to believe that their vicious press-gang plan has the tacit approval of authorities higher up.

The reason for this press-gang move is not hard to find.

The army has been trying to drum up recruits to reach the figure of 280,000 set in Congressional legislation last year. Last week the New York Times (June 9) announced that with the recruiting drive at the halfway mark, "New York, New Jersey and Delaware had enrolled considerably less than one-quarter of their quota, while incomplete figures from Washington indicated that the rest of the corps areas were faring little better in the present drive."

The cannon-fodder is not coming in voluntarily at a fast enough rate. That is why they are now forcing the jobless to enlist.

About half the young men who have applied to join the army in the last few months come from the unemployed, the army figures show. Forced idleness and hunger drove them.

To speed the rest of the jobless into the army by enforcing hunger on all of them is the openly-admitted purpose of these moves to cut them off relief.

The capitalist system could find no place for these millions in life-giving production.

Unable even to use them as wage slaves, it proposes to turn them into galley-slaves, the first recruits for the totalitarian war machine that American capitalism has set out to build.

As for the rest of the youth and young manhood of the country—there is to be provision for them too. The campaign has openly begun for instituting a system of compulsory military training. The New York Times came out on June 7 with an editorial favoring such conscription. Next day President Roosevelt, asked about that editorial, said he "liked it."

This is the sort of thing that capitalist "democracy" turns into as it enters its death agony. This is the "way of life" it wants us to die to preserve.

Nothing doing. We're not pacifists. We'll fight, if need be, and die, if we have to; but only in the fight to abolish this whole order of things and to bring about a new order, an order of world socialism, world peace.

Behind the Lines

Move to Appease Japan Gains Ground as U.S. Prepares for War in Atlantic

by GEORGE STERN

So far carefully confined to non-administration spokesmen in Congress and in the press, the "appease Japan movement" gained steady ground during the past week.

Its growing importance was signified by no less an authority than Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Republican presidential aspirant from Michigan. It was Vandenberg who last July in the Senate moved the resolution abrogating the 1911 Japanese-American trade treaty.

Vandenberg has now reversed himself and come out flatly for signing a new pact with the Japanese in the face of "our new vicissitudes." In a statement on June 9, the Michigan senator said a deal with Japan now would be worth "half a navy."

"We could serve our preparations no more realistically," said the erstwhile anti-Japanese fire-eater, "than to write a new commercial and political treaty with Japan, if reasonably possible, which would stabilize our relations in the Far East where we most emphatically face a condition, not a theory."

On June 9 the United Press carried a wishful dispatch from Shanghai declaring that "Japan is increasingly apprehensive over the effect that a totalitarian victory in Europe might have on the Far East and may attempt to better her relations with the United States with a view to a Japanese-American agreement to maintain the present status in the Pacific."

As evidence of this, the United Press adduced the report that the Japanese are being more conciliatory toward Americans in the occupied areas of China.

the Pacific as nothing else could. The United Press was simply trying to extend a gingerly "feeler" in the direction of Tokyo to give Washington an opportunity to observe the reaction there to possible American overtures for smoothing out the "quarrel" of past years.

The Japanese are not wasting their opportunity. On June 9 it was announced in Moscow that the long-delayed Soviet-Mongolian-Manchurian border demarcation had been put through. In Tokyo this was jubilantly heralded as the forerunner of a settlement of all Soviet-Japanese "disputes" in Japan's favor. Having graciously accepted the proffer of appeasement from Moscow, Tokyo will wait for the next move from Washington. The Japanese can now be secure in the knowledge that the German sweep in Europe is dropping Asia in their hands. The U.S. fleet is still in the Pacific but it dare not become engaged now in a Pacific war. The Atlantic uncertainties thoroughly prevent that.

The Japanese, moreover, are flaunting their new favored position right under Washington's nose. All Japan's envoys in the Western hemisphere are meeting on June 18 in Washington for the announced purpose of organizing a campaign to take over in Latin America the markets lost by the belligerents!

The way things are moving in Europe, the Washington government cannot afford the luxury of a slow shift in policy. Support of the Chungking Chinese government is going to have to be dropped hard and fast and the best deal possible secured from the Japanese. The only thing that makes Washington hesitate, however, is the realization that Japan right now holds the best cards and can take what it wants without giving anything in return.

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ROOSEVELT SHEDS ALL PRETENSE OF KEEPING COUNTRY OUT OF WAR

AUTO PARLEYS ARE NEARING BREAKDOWN

General Motors Uses War Issue To Balk Union Demands

DETROIT, Mich.—The contractual negotiations between the UAW and the General Motors Corporation faced a breakdown today as the corporation flatly refused the auto union's demands for a wage increase and recognition of the shop stewards system.

The corporation, instead, insisted on a clause which "bars slowdown or stoppages, strikes, or other stoppages or hindrances to production" and which would require a five day wait after grievance machinery had been exhausted before a strike could be called and would further require the authorization of the International Officers of the union before a strike would become valid.

Anti-Alien Clause
The corporation also demanded a "disciplinary" clause that would permit the firing of "aliens" who show no diligence in seeking citizenship papers and provides that "any employee guilty of sabotage, or who advocates or engages in subversive activities designed to damage the interests of the corporation, or to overthrow the government or violate its laws, impede or nullify its public policies, shall be discharged immediately."

Thus GM, whose agent Knudsen already heads the government Committee for "National Defense," is moving ahead at breakneck speed to put the militant Auto Workers Union into the army straitjacket, in preparation for M-Day and the setting up of a dictatorship over the labor movement.

The corporation demands, in effect, the authority to write the union constitution and set the union rules with regard to procedure in the calling of strikes, and further demands the right to fire any union militant who does not subscribe to the DuPont brand of patriotism.

Result of Hillman Policy
The GM corporation officials, bold, confident and now arrogant, have again maneuvered the union negotiating committee into a corner. Again the union is on the defensive. Each are the results of (Continued on Page 4)

Arrest Stalinist In Connection With Attack on Trotsky

MEXICO CITY, June 8.—The press here announced today that a number of Stalinists had been arrested, and charged with complicity in the attempted assassination of Leon Trotsky.

Radio and press reports here last Sunday announced that the Mexican federal secret service had arrested a Spaniard, member of the Communist party, as one of the band of terrorists who attempted to murder Trotsky on May 24. He was seized in a Vera Cruz hotel and taken to Mexico City.

(See Trotsky's letter to Mexican authorities, page 4 of this issue.)

ANTI-UNION DRIVE REACHES OMAHA DRIVERS

OHAMA, June 7.—The government's drive against the unions was extended here this week, when the Federal Trade Commission cited General Drivers Union Local 554 for "acting to restrain trade" in the bakery industry.

Similar citations have been issued against the Des Moines, Sioux City and Minneapolis bakery drivers in the last few weeks.

A hearing on the Des Moines citation was held last week. The government commission centered its attack on a clause in the union contract which limits the number of so-called "independent route salesmen" that may be employed by bakeries. The union inserted the clause in order to prevent unscrupulous bosses from undermining union conditions by "selling" their merchandise to large numbers of wildcatters who, by taking only a small profit, work in effect way under the wage scale and thus destroy union conditions.

The government's attempt to cover up this attack on the union, by citing not only the union, but also the baking companies, was blasted in a statement issued by Al Russell, recording secretary of Local 554. "Certainly the bakers (owners) did not initiate the clause in the contract," he said, "because that clause prevents the cutting of wages and lengthening of hours of route-salesmen."

Strike by Furnace Men Hits Crucible Steel; On War Order

HARRISON, N. J., June 11.—Refusing to be browbeaten by pressure talk about their interfering with "national defense," 155 workers in the electric furnace department of the Crucible Steel plant here, working on shell casings for the Navy, went out on strike last week and are still out.

There is a desperate revolt against grievances which they have vainly sought to resolve for two years. They are the lowest paid furnace men in the area, and are forced to work under a stagger system—each man works five days but the days' off are rotated so that the plant is in continuous operation—which is actually a speed-up system.

The men are demanding a 10% increase in wages and an end to the stagger system. In October, too, they struck against the stagger

system, but were sent back to work by the CIO Steel Workers Organizing Committee, of which they were members. Although they were the best-organized department in the union local, indeed the backbone of the local, they made the mistake of breaking from the union shortly after the first strike, when the top leaders of the SWOC signed an agreement, securing none of the demands, and without the approval of the membership. The furnace men set up their own organization.

The strikers are not picketing regularly but are near the plant gates every day. The SWOC men in the plant are sympathetic with the furnace men's grievances, but the SWOC is not supporting the strike.

Mussolini's crime of plunging Italy into the war was answered by Roosevelt with a crime of equal proportions—the end of American neutrality. There was no pretense about the fateful meaning of Roosevelt's address on Monday at Charlottesville: "Sources close to the Administration said it was obvious the United States had abandoned a position of neutrality for one of non-belligerency," declared the Associated Press. The New York Times Washington bureau reported that the president's speech was "widely interpreted here as ending neutrality as far as the executive department of the government is concerned."

"Non-belligerency" is the warlike state which Italy occupied up to Monday—a stage of transition from neutrality to actual military warfare. Mussolini demonstrated what a cynical and hypocritical stage that is—being in one of the warring camps but finding that the best aid to be rendered to that camp is by not yet declaring war. Thus the very moral Mr. Roosevelt apes the immoral Mussolini.

The entry of Italy into the war was Roosevelt's pretext for catapulting America halfway beyond the brink of war—so he said. Actually, however, Roosevelt's Charlottesville speech merely confirmed what Roosevelt had already done the week before when, while still wooing Mussolini on behalf of the Allies, he had already dispatched the first government warplanes to Britain.

There was this difference: the week before Roosevelt had winked and the interviewing newspapermen had appreciatively laughed at his little joke, when the president snickeringly said that the planes he was directly sending to Britain were "old" and "surplus" which were being turned back to the aviation companies for credit on new planes. That formula was dropped at Charlottesville for an open declaration that "we will extend to the opponents of force the material resources of this nation."

Roosevelt at the same time paved the way for a declaration of war by identifying the interests of this country with the defeat of Germany and Italy. The same formulas that he used to justify putting "the material resources of this nation" at the disposal of the Anglo-French bloc will tomorrow serve to justify outright entry of America into the war.

The terms which Roosevelt directed against the Italian government have never before been used by the head of a government except as an accompaniment to a declaration of war.

Roosevelt's spurious indignation against Mussolini's "stab in the back," Hull's statement that he was "shocked at Italy's act," and similar highly moral pronouncements by government spokesmen had as genuine a ring as a lead nickel. These cold-blooded pirates must have many a good laugh in private at the expense of those who are taken in by their high-flown phrases!

The fast-dwindling band of pacifists and isolationists, with Norman Thomas and other preachers shepherding them, spent last weekend in Washington, flutteringly complaining that Roosevelt and Congress were succumbing to war hysteria. Their "peace" conference produced this "brilliant" slogan: "Rational not hysterical defense."

Roosevelt can appropriate that slogan. Neither he nor any other authoritative figure in Washington is a bit hysterical. They know just what they're doing—preparing with icy calculation to challenge Germany for the price of world domination.

There was many a "stab in the back" this week. Congress completed action on naval construction legislation—including provisions scuttling the Walsh-Healey and the Wage and Hour Acts. The House passed the "national defense" tax bill, placing the burden for armaments on the workers, by making liable to income tax all unmarried workers earning above \$800 a year—\$15.40 a week!—a 20% addition to the tax on the workingman's tobacco, a similar addition to beer, etc., etc. The FBI could boast of having convicted 16 union seamen for "mutiny" as a new formula for taming the unions. New indictments were handed down in "anti-trust" assaults of the Department of Justice against the labor movement. The House turned the Wagner Labor Act into a weapon against the labor movement. These were the week's contributions to preparing the "war for democracy."

Washington is filled these days with bosses and their representatives—gleefully fushing to the hog troughs which Roosevelt is filling for them. These are great days for the bosses in the nation's capital—big contracts, big cash advances by the government for plant expansion, and hearty cooperation to put the unions in their place. The New Deal has become the War Deal. Roosevelt's National Defense Council of the nation's most powerful capitalist representatives is the symbol of the change. The "war for democracy" is, first of all, a war against the labor movement at home.

Italian Entry Marks Spread Of World War

Mussolini Grabs For Jackal's Share Of Hitler's Spoils

To assure his jackal's share of the spoils, Mussolini last week plunged Italy into the Second World War.

Mussolini moved in only when the Nazi victory in France seemed assured, when Paris was already set ablaze by the all-engulfing conflagration.

In the last war Italy also chose what it thought was the stronger side. It accepted secret promises of territory from the Allies, threw over its alliance with Germany, and went in with Britain and France.

But at Versailles the Allies deliberately doublecrossed their weak little partner in southern Europe.

This time—still seeking to expand beyond the relatively barren confines of its narrow peninsula—Italy has again gone to war with the stronger side.

Because Italy is still a weaker power, it is a sure bet that Hitler, if he completes his victory, will give the Italian imperialists another bitter taste of the old doublecross. It is a regularly-scheduled part of the imperialist game of plunder and profit.

Aim Brazenly Plain

But Mussolini undoubtedly calculates on contributing sufficiently to the Hitlerite victory to get what he wants—a big slice of Africa and domination of the Mediterranean.

It is for this—bluntly and frankly put by Mussolini himself—that the Italian masses, ground for two decades under the Fascist heel, are going to suffer and die. Mussolini has long since passed the stage where he has to use vaguer pretenses for going to war. He openly announces that his object is plunder.

He has played along with Hitler because he can only secure this plunder at the expense of the British and French empires. But what is most important, he goes in on the German side because the German side seems to be winning this part of the war quite handily. If matters had turned out otherwise, he would without compunction have gone in with the hated Allies, and for the same reason—plunder.

A Blow At France

Italy's entry into the war precisely at this stage greatly worsens France's already perilous position. Italy can't stand a long war but it does hope it can at least help Hitler deliver the death blow to France and on its own account cripple British naval strength in the Mediterranean and successfully secure control of Malta, Cyprus, Gibraltar, and Suez.

Balkans May Wait

It hopes to limit its action to these objectives—which Mussolini thinks can be achieved at a rate faster than his war machine will run down. That is why he promised neutrality toward Yugoslavia, Greece, Egypt, and Turkey.

Turkey is bound to join the Allies but in view of the sweeping Nazi victories may try to hold off long enough to see how things go. While Turkey waits, the Balkans will wait. And Turkey's pause may be dependent upon what Stalin decides to do at this critical juncture.

EWA SEAMEN CONVICTED ON 'MUTINY' COUNT

Sets Precedent For War Drive On Seamen

The federal government's drive against the unions was extended to the maritime crafts when the government, in a case prepared by the FBI's "G-men," secured the conviction of eleven West Coast union seamen on a framed-up charge of "endeavoring to make revolt and mutiny," in the Federal District Court in New York City, Tuesday, June 11.

There was a screaming absurdity between the grave charge and the sentences meted out: one received 90 days, four got 77 days, two 60 days, and four others 30 days, while five were released on one year's probation. By these sentences federal judge Mandellbaum was indirectly confessing that the statutes under which the men were convicted were being stretched to cover facts with which they had no connection.

Union-Smashing Precedent

But the comparatively light sentences should not conceal the union-smashing precedent which the FBI, the U.S. Attorney and the judge managed to establish by their team-work—a precedent which, if permitted to stand, would outlaw practically every form of union activity outside a ship's home port—and that means the end of all seamen's unions.

The men, members of the Sailors Union of the Pacific and the Marine Firemen, were part of the crew of the SS Ewa. When the ship put in at Colachel, India, the crew's union delegates asked for an advance on wages, to which the men were entitled by maritime law; the captain categorically refused, and this, according to the law, constituted breaking the articles of employment, and entitled the men to exercise the right to be paid off in full, which they insisted upon in Port Said.

Consul Backed Men

The full legality of the crew's actions is attested to by the action of the U.S. consul in Port Said who, after communicating with Washington, arranged for the crew to receive its pay, and then effected their repatriation, the men returning as free passengers on the Rex.

No charges of any kind had been placed against the men. Weeks before their return, the Ewa had returned, manned by an Egyptian crew, and the captain, upon being asked about a reported mutiny—an erroneous story which arose out of the fact that Egyptian authorities had interned the crew as all aliens were being interned—said that was the first he had heard of any such event.

But between his arrival and the arrival of his former crew, government agents had some sessions with the captain and between them they cooked up a new story.

And when the Ewa crew arrived in New York on the Rex, FBI agents were there to start the trial machinery moving.

Making Unionism A "Mutiny"

Everybody knows what a mutiny is, and it was pretty hard to (Continued on Page 2)