

# WORKERS' FORUM

Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about?—tell us what the bosses are up to—and the G-men and the local cops—and the Stalinists—send us that story the capitalist press didn't print and that story they buried or distorted—our pages are open to you. Letters must carry name and address, but indicate if you do not want your name printed.

## Describe Workers' Sentiment In Buffalo

Editor: If you can be sure of any general opinion at all today it is that the vast majority of poor people do not want to go to war. (Needless to say, there are more poor than rich). How many men are saying that their fingers itch to get hold of a gun and shoot the "dirty Germans"? With all the unemployment, the poverty and gray desolation that so many people have to endure, you'd think a lot of them might fall for the lies about the adventure in a war—or maybe they might decide that joining the army would be a good way to commit suicide and get a dollar a day besides... while they lived.

Yes, you would think this. But they don't enlist. The fact is the fact. A lot of people don't even think the U.S. is going to war. They think we of the SWP are agitators or well-meaning trouble-makers. Workers who are Republicans or Democrats say that of course they are opposed to going to war. But they are sure that their "leaders" will "keep us out." They may not know just why wars are fought, but nearly every worker agrees that it is not right that men should fight and die for cigarette money while a few coupon-clippers make millions.

Not more than one worker in ten actually refuses the Appeal once it is explained to him that the paper is "against the government—against the government's war—against the compulsory service act (with the \$5 a month plan for single men)—against dying for the millionaires—for a workers' army for real home defense—for the working people, for the freedom of slave colonies from all the war-makers, including the United States." I say only one worker in ten refuses. It is true that not more than two or three out of five actually pay for the paper. But of these some donate more than a nickel.

The last two weeks of house to house and factory district campaigning, we have taken great care to emphasize that we are not only "anti-war"—but "anti-government." Hardly anyone seems shocked at this. A lot of people seem to know by now that you couldn't be really against war, without also being against the government that makes the war. The main difference between us and the average worker we contact is his unbelief that the government that he trusts could take him into a foreign war.

Perhaps in other cities, where the labor movement is stronger, workers are more wary of this war, and more skeptical of the leaders including labor "leaders." It must not be forgotten that Buffalo has not gone through the 1937 days that Detroit did. In Buffalo class lines are still hazy. But the workers are no less intelligent here than elsewhere. And no less brave. And when they fully realize that they are on one side, and the bosses are

on the other—when they fully realize that the main enemy is at home, they will be an unstoppable force. This is the picture as we see it in Buffalo.

## "Negro" Is All Right, But Not "Question"

Members-at-Large Buffalo, N.Y.

May I make a few comments on the question concerning the changing of the title of your column, "The Negro Question": I believe that there is an over-exaggerated fear on the part of the Comrades who hesitate to call the Negro, Negro. I believe that the examples cited by those who object to the use of the term is but the exception that proves the rule. In the periodicals and press of the Negro the term Negro heads the list in usage. You are correct in your latest column (June 22) in observing this fact. In Detroit recently the Negroes held an exposition which was to portray the progress of the Negro race. A number of Negro celebrities directly participated in its preparation. The Exposition was run entirely by Negroes and the name they chose to advertise this affair to the world was: "75 YEARS OF NEGRO PROGRESS EXPOSITION." I was fortunate (really unfortunate from the financial point of view) to have a concession in this Exposition. I spoke to innumerable Negroes and the term Negro—was used—EXCLUSIVELY. To change this term would be a mistake in my opinion. The use of the word "question" is quite another thing. It should in my opinion be changed. To what? To "The Negro Struggle." For that's precisely what it is, their STRUGGLE. Their "question" is the same as the question as the entire working class. But their Struggle takes on different forms, is more varied, reflecting their particular status in the home country and in the colonies.

I enjoy reading your column very much. Keep up with the good work. Detroit, Mich. L.B.

## Join the Socialist Workers Party

Buy the APPEAL IN MINNEAPOLIS at: Shindler News Co., 6th St. & Hennepin Av. Morris Kroman, 4th St. & Nicollet Av. Pioneer News Co., 238 Second Av., South A. Peterson News Stand, Washington Av. & B'way N. Labor Book store, 919 Marquette Av.

# 'Communist' Int'l Prepares to Change Its "Anti"-War Policy

(Continued from Page 1) aggressive measures and concessions in his program." (DAILY WORKER, June 24). Why should Foster recall this? For no other reason than to pave the way for again supporting Roosevelt or his successor.

## Browder Reprints Embargo Demand!

Three days later came a really broad hint, in the form of the reprinting by the Daily Worker, June 27, of an article by Earl Browder dated October 11, 1938, i.e., when the Comintern had been on the "peoples front" line. The article includes, among others, these significant paragraphs:

"Thus the menace of fascism, hitherto considered by the U.S. as primarily a European problem, becomes world-wide and directly strikes against the national interests of the U.S.A. and against American democracy. Hitler has long been fighting against America's influence in Latin America by means of economic and trade war. United States laws already provide weapons of economic self-defense against such aggression by means of raising customs duties or placing an embargo on trade with the offending nation. These laws have not been applied to Hitler Germany. A mass demand for an embargo against Hitler Germany must be raised, with motives of American self-defense pressed equally with those of solidarity with the victims of violent aggression."

Why is Browder's demand for governmental action against Germany reprinted now? Because that will be the line shortly. Not merely for an embargo now—that is already pointless—but for the only further governmental action possible—war.

The unfolding of the new Stalinist line has gone on, of course, not only here but in Latin America and Europe. As a matter of fact the very first hint of the new line came in Mexico, a month ago, when Lombardo Toledano, front for the Stalinists, suddenly made a pro-Ally speech after six months of preaching the Stalinist line against the "democracies."

## British Stalinists Now Pro-War

In England the new line is already much further advanced than here. On June 22 the British Communist party issued a manifesto which dropped all mention of the "stop the war now" slogan which previously had been the chief slogan of both the French and British parties, and instead raised the cry for ousting of all "Munich-

men" from the government, i.e., the formation of a government which would fight the war to the end. The manifesto was naturally adorned with the usual "radical" embroidery to make the demand sound "revolutionary"—nationalization of industry, etc.—but that they are merely embroidery is indicated by the dispatches from London subsequently published in the Daily Worker, reporting resolutions adopted by the British unions along the new line: all they ask for at bottom is removal of the Chamberlain wing of the Conservative party.

In a word, the Comintern is now being sold to the "democracies" again. Tomorrow the Stalinist spokesmen will be swearing that they have never changed. Tomorrow? Pardon me. Already today, Oakley Johnson writing on the capitulation of France, says: "The Communists, on the contrary, fought like tigers to stop Hitler, as they have been fighting to stop him for seven years. Thorez in France—like Browder in the U.S., like Thaelmann in Germany before 1933—fought against Hitler, against Hitler's appeasers, against Hitler's imitators." (Sunday Worker, July 7). And the day after, Oakley Johnson and similar hirelings will swear that Stalin never made a pact with Hitler!

## Fight the New Betrayal!

In Europe, where the counter-revolutionary consequences of the Stalin-Hitler pact and the Comintern line it dictated were plain to see, the best of the militant workers left the Stalinist parties. In America, however, it was mainly the petty-bourgeois elements who then broke with the Communist party under the pressure of bourgeois-democratic opinion. On the other hand the militant workers in the party closed their eyes to the pact and welcomed eagerly the "anti-war" aspects of the turn away from the democracies. At least, they thought, the American Communist party will fight against U.S. entry into the war.

Now these militants will have a rude awakening. They will now be called upon to abandon the "anti-war" line and adopt a line supporting American imperialism. The bureaucrats will welcome the new line, for it will mean a halt to conflict with the bourgeois-democratic opinion. But the many militants in the Communist party have no desire to end their conflict with bourgeois-democratic opinion; they joined the Communist party precisely because they want to fight the bourgeoisie.

We must warn these workers in time of the new betrayal which is being planned. We must help them stand firm against support of American imperialism and its war policy.

# Trade Unions Urged To Start Military Training Under Its Control

(The following letter urging the trade unions to undertake military training is a proposal with which we are fully in agreement. We welcome letters from workers commenting on its proposals.—Editor.)

Editor: Two weeks ago a Major from the War Department spoke before the American Legion Post in the town near here where I live and urged them to form a Home Guard to defend this locality against potential enemies and invaders. According to this Army spokesman, the War Department was making the same request of veterans' organizations all over the country.

This week another meeting is going to be held to launch the organization of a Home Guard under the direction of the local Legion Post. One of the leading Legionnaires is acting as recruiting officer. This Home Guard has already become the pet project of the members of the Legion here. This creates a very serious situation. Most of the Legion officers are the worst type of reactionaries, small business men who vote Republican, labor-haters. Now these men are organizing an armed group which is going to function legally and openly in our midst with government aid and blessing and with public approval.

In the last World War we had a Defense unit like this one here. It held regular weekly meetings, drilled in a local hall, and rehearsed such emergency activities as guarding railroad bridges, etc. Like the other Home Guards, it was never called on for any serious defense work. But in many places, if you will remember, these local Defense groups were instrumental in organizing and leading armed mobs which terrorized "labor agitators, wobblers, and reds," and even lynched workers.

It's impossible to prevent the formation of these Home Guards. The forces behind the movement are too powerful and they are being sold to the people as purely defense bodies. The workers are taken in by this argument and don't always recognize what a threat to themselves these Home Guards may be. One veteran said to me: "I wouldn't go over there again to fight, but what's wrong with being ready to defend ourselves here against the Fascists?" There ought to be some way

of warning the workers against the potential danger represented by these Legion-controlled groups and at the same time preparing them to protect themselves against Fascist elements at home and abroad. Is there any reason why local unions can't take advantage of the present defense drive for this purpose? Why should organized workers leave the job of defending their lives and their homes entirely to people who have shown themselves to be hostile to labor in the past?

Why can't local unions have their own Home Defense Guards? Trade unions have as much legal right to form defense units and have military training camps and rifle clubs as veterans' organizations. The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars are not government bodies but independent voluntary organizations. Unions of workers ought to have the same privileges as unions of veterans.

It's easy to see why the War Department deliberately places this defense movement in charge of the Legion Posts. It is not so much because these are veterans' organizations but because in most places they are composed and controlled by super-patriotic reactionaries.

Instead of permitting the Legionnaires to monopolize this defense movement, the trade unions ought to take the initiative in setting up defense units under their own auspices. They should ask the government for the same kind of aid as the Legion Posts are being given. They should obtain arms and equipment, training camps, drilling halls, and technical assistance from the War Department.

If any corporation should try to use the Legionnaires' Home Guards against the workers in a strike situation, the unions would have reliable units of their own to defend their rights. But in that case the bosses wouldn't be so likely to try it. This idea could be adopted on a state and national scale. Last week eight hundred men from this district went to Plattsburgh, New York, for a month of military training. There's not a worker in the lot. In the first place, the War Department has specifically designated Plattsburgh as "the business-men's camp." And in the second place, what worker can afford to pay the government for a month's

## "National Emergency" A Good Excuse For Anti-Labor Laws

McKEESPORT, Pa. — The city council has found the "national defense" emergency to be a good excuse for adopting ten "war-time" ordinances, anti-labor to the core, which the council's own city councillor had advised were unconstitutional.

The council followed the advice of an American Legion spokesman who insisted that the ordinances be adopted "regardless of the constitution."

Among the ordinances are: permits for public meetings to be issued only if the Mayor thinks they would "not be detrimental to the public interests"; distributors of leaflets must give police their fingerprints and Bertillon measurements; hotel and rooming house owners must give the police a short history of all non-residents of McKeesport who remain in town more than 24 hours.

## WHAT SAILORS ARE THINKING ABOUT THE WAR

By G. LORD

Having just been paid off after a coastwise voyage to the West Indies and up the east coast, I found the comments of my fellow sailors and other seamen indicative, not of the current war propaganda dished out by the Roosevelt war machine, but rather a live expression of the anti-war sentiments of the entire merchant marine.

I do not say that the seafaring workers are unanimously against the war (there are many jingoos among them), but rather that the large majority of them, for different reasons and with different degrees of intensity, feel that the United States' entry into the war can only bring bad times to the seafaring man.

On the particular vessel of which I speak, there were two exceptions to the general sentiment on board, and significantly these two men were of the licensed personnel—two blue-nose Nova Scotian officers.

The following are individual comments, selected at random, of members of the crew, and of the licensed personnel:

**Bosun:** If we go in, they'll hogtie the sailors to the Maritime Commission and wipe out the unions. The only way to stop that is to tie up all the ships on all the coasts when they try to spike us.

**Officer:** England wants to fight this war to the last American.

**Ord. Seaman:** What's this war about? I see the Frogs and Limeys are banging hell out of each other now. Will we end up battling the Limeys and Hitler? Who gets the gravy?

**A.B.:** I was in the last war fighting for democracy and came back to find my job missing. If we go into this I won't bite again. This Hitler wrecked the Heinie unions, but if we go to fight him they'll wreck the unions here. No, sir. This war's no good for the sailors. Democracy begins at home.

**1st Mate:** We've got to help the British defeat Hitler at all costs. You sailors may not know it, but you're sabotaging America's aid to the Allies by asking for increases. Don't you want to help England in her hour of need? Every good American would give up something if he loved his country. We must help England.

**2nd Asst. Eng.:** The Heinies are no good. We've got to wipe out Hitler and the Dutchmen once and for all. Too bad we didn't do a better job last time.

**Fireman:** The Limeys will fight to the last Ally (this in its various forms is a constant refrain). No, the seaman hasn't as yet got the revolutionist's position on the war, but one sure thing is that in the main, he's against participation in this war, and feels strongly in his opposition to it. This in spite of the constant propaganda and jingoism that he's subjected to in his daily life, on the radio and on shore. The seaman wants no war.

In AKRON, O. the APPEAL may be obtained at: NEWS EXCHANGE, 51 S. Main St. PORTAGE CIGARS, cor. Howard & West Market. Fraternally, W.F.W.

# Party Statement On Press-Org. Fund

Unforeseen additional expenses of publication, and delay of many branches in completing their quotas, have made it impossible to accumulate the necessary reserve fund to resume publication of the twice-a-week Appeal as planned. In addition, a serious emergency arose requiring the party to turn its attention to the solution of an unexpected problem requiring large expenditures. For these reasons the National Committee has been compelled to abandon for the present the plan of publishing the Appeal twice-a-week.

As things stand now, we will have to strain every nerve to keep the weekly going and to carry through our organizational program. All branches and individual members are requested to collect and send in every penny of the outstanding pledges for the organization-press fund.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

## SCOREBOARD

Branch	Pledged	Paid	%
Chicago	\$ 100.00	\$ 110.00	110
Upstate New York	50.00	50.00	100
Akron	10.00	10.00	100
Rockville	5.00	5.00	100
Texas	5.00	5.00	100
St. Paul	200.00	200.00	100
Flint	105.00	105.00	100
Detroit	75.00	75.00	100
Portland	7.50	7.50	100
Lynn	50.00	50.00	100
Buffalo	5.00	5.00	100
Boston	177.00	169.00	95
Toledo	40.00	35.50	84
Maritime Workers	780.00	645.00	83
Baltimore	25.00	20.00	80
Indianapolis	10.00	8.00	80
Newark	100.00	79.70	80
Los Angeles	100.00	78.50	78
Minneapolis	300.00	200.00	67
Philadelphia	25.00	13.00	52
East Chicago	50.00	25.00	50
New York City	950.00	422.00	44
San Francisco	100.00	35.00	35
New Haven	55.00	18.50	34
National Office	550.00	53.20	10
Omaha	25.00	0.00	0
Seattle	15.00	0.00	0
Oakland	10.00	0.00	0
Lorain	5.00	0.00	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3929.50</b>	<b>\$2422.90</b>	<b>62.0%</b>

## Need of Labor Party Seen in Ohio

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio—For a striking illustration of the need for a Labor Party, the political situation of Ohio presents a clear picture.

The Republican state administration has earned the enmity of all sections of the labor movement, not only because of Governor Bricker's refusal to help the starving workers of Cleveland and other cities last winter but also because the legislative record of his administration has been one of continuous efforts to emasculate previous legislation which had been favorable to the workers.

On the other hand the Democratic primary last month selected Martin Davey as candidate for Governor. His name is etched in the blood of the steel workers shot down by his national guardsmen in the "Little Steel" strike of 1937. Since that time any speaker at a labor gathering had only to mention Davey to get a response of boos and cat-calls.

Not one candidate in either the Republican or Democratic parties who received the support of labor won the nomination. Even William Whetnor, a Democratic candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor, a man holding a card in the machinists union and having a good labor record, supported by the CIO and the AFL as well as the Railroad Brotherhoods, was defeated. While in Youngstown, Ralph Elser, the sheriff who deputized company gunmen to shoot down the steel strikers in 1937, won the Democratic nomination for Sheriff against other candidates supported by labor!

## WORKERS BOYCOTT PRIMARIES, WANT OWN PARTY

What the union leaders fail to realize is that the rank and file of their membership is fed up with both the old parties and are showing this disgust by not taking any particular interest in the primary elections. The workers want no mere "friends of labor." They want REPRESENTATIVES of labor, running as independent labor candidates with no strings attached to the political machine of the Republican and Democratic state bosses.

Nor would it be difficult to organize such a movement. Local conferences followed by statewide gatherings sponsored by progressive union leaders would find a quick and ready response in the AFL as well as the CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods. The very real threat of America's entry into the robber's war abroad makes it all the more necessary for the workers to create an independent labor party.

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