

STALIN STILL HITLER'S VASSAL, WRITES TROTSKY

(The following statement was issued by Leon Trotsky to the United Press.)

Molotov's latest speech confirms that the Kremlin continues to be a satellite of Berlin and Rome. The Communist leaders in various countries have calmed their parties with promises that tomorrow if not today Moscow will turn towards the "democracies." Molotov's speech belies these promises. Five years of "anti-fascist" Peoples' Fronts are definitely unmasked as charlatanism. Moscow's foreign policy is determined by power politics and not by political principles.

Molotov, it is true, tried to cover the present Kremlin policy with anti-imperialist phraseology. But, its falseness strikes one's eyes. Molotov unmasked England's wish to retain her colonies. But he kept silent about Germany's and Italy's wish to take them. He spoke about the imperialism of Japan and the United States but he didn't find a word of condemnation for Hitler's banditry and Mussolini's jackal politics. Even more, he underlined for the first time that the German-Soviet pact assured free hands to Hitler. This unilateral and thoroughly sham "fight" against imperialism only reveals that Moscow's politics is not independent but serves the interests of one imperialism against the other.

An increase in population of 23,000,000 doesn't solve the problem of the security of the USSR. The victory of Hitler-Mussolini over Great Britain would immediately place the move towards the east on the order of the day for German imperialism. It would at once become clear that in following the line of least resistance the Kremlin oligarchy only accumulated difficulties and dangers.

Coyacan, D. F.

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SUP Head Fights Conscription Bill

SAN FRANCISCO—Faced with new reverses in West Coast maritime unions, the local Stalinists last week jumped off the deep end, launching against Harry Lundeberg a slander campaign of such far-fetched stupidity that it is making them the laughing-stock of the waterfront.

Specifically, the *Voice of the Federation*, organ of the Stalinist-controlled Bridges machine, charged the militant leader of the sailors with backing the Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill.

In the most barefaced double-column libel imaginable, the *Voice* declared that Lundeberg was appointed to a local committee to seek passage of the bill, with Roger Lapham of the shipowners and head of the American-Hawaiian Steamship Co. as the probable committee chairman.

Instantly denied and readily disproved, this charge serves only to spotlight the desperation of the Stalinist waterfront machine. The case provides a matchless example of the depths to which these political bankrupts have been driven.

Tossing to the winds the last vestige of sanity, the *Voice* declared:

"Harry Lundeberg is one of the backers of the Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill, which would draft thousands of maritime workers into the army at wages of \$21 a month.

"Lundeberg was named to a local committee to urge passage of the bill after a secret conference

of retired army men and industrial big-shots in Washington, D. C. two weeks ago."

Contacted at New Orleans, Lundeberg immediately denied the ridiculous charge.

The moronic slander of the *Voice* continued:

"Lundeberg's appointment to the committee was made July 25th from Washington, D. C., where he has been for the past several weeks, ostensibly on union business.

"Also serving on the local committee with Lundeberg will be Major-General Leonard E. Wood and other army and industrial leaders.

"But the discovery that Roger Lapham is being boosted for the chairmanship of the committee was made only after a conversation with Mack Lillenthal, local organizer of the committee's enthal is a Montgomery street broker with offices in the swank Russ building."

The *Voice* quoted Lillenthal's secretary saying: "Mr. Lundeberg is serving on the committee to help pass the Burke-Wadsworth bill."

When the time for retractions comes, the Stalinist hacks will discover a little mistaken identity, with the phone book full of Lundebergs, or some such hokuspokus.

The fact of the matter remains that these stooges bannerlined a "Lundeberg Sell-Out" which did not and could not exist.

Behind the Lines

A Change in Hitler's Time— Table of Blitzkrieg

by GEORGE STERN

The fact that Hitler has delayed the invasion of England has given rise to widespread speculation over whether the delay does not mean an indefinite postponement. Both the German and Italian press have in the last few weeks given strong indications of a postponement or at least have seemingly tried to encourage that idea. This may simply be their way of trying to discredit the British and create the kind of confusion which has turned out really to be Hitler's "secret weapon".

However this may be, the very fact that the invasion did not, as expected, follow right on the collapse of France, has had a number of important objective results.

First of all, the time factor has become infinitely more important. Had Hitler struck in mid-June, he would have had two and a half months' time before the fogs and bad weather set in over the English Channel. This time has now been cut by more than half. Unless Hitler has reason to think he can do the trick in less than a month or unless he believes his war machine can be indifferent to the coming weather change, the strategic moment for the invasion has seemingly all but passed.

Secondly, it has given the British up to now nine additional weeks to prepare for the blow. In June their army had just come back reeling from Flanders, was without equipment and no doubt totally without organization. These weeks have assuredly not been enough for the British

to close any appreciable part of the gap between their armed strength and Germany's, but they have been enough, possibly, for the British to marshal to best effect such means of defense as they have.

Thirdly, the delay in the invasion has had effects of prime importance in this country. When France collapsed the administration in Washington, like virtually everybody else, wrote Britain off. The plans in mid-June to send planes and destroyers to England were abandoned. The government embarked instead upon a program based wholly on the promise of complete German victory in Europe.

Now the picture has apparently changed. The chorus of those demanding return to the destroyer-plane idea is swelling. Leading newspapers like the N. Y. Times and Herald-Tribune, and such figures as General Pershing, are insisting with increasing volume that American aid to Britain now is feasible and should be extended at once. The feeling has revived that Britain has a good chance to survive the summer and by that token, perhaps, to survive the war itself by outlasting the Germans.

Should the Nazi invasion of England fail to eventuate this summer the perspective of a long war is automatically restored. In that event, the main theater of operations is certain to shift to the Mediterranean and Africa with an important sideshow going on in the Far East. In all three of those areas no quick decision is possible.

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CONSCRIPTION DEBATE OPENS LABOR'S VOICE STILL UNHEARD

Our Own Kind of Military Training!



Military Training--- Under Union Control

There is today a great wave of popular opposition to the conscription bill now being debated in Congress.

Despite the wishes of the many-millioned opponents, however, it is easy to predict with certainty that they will be defeated, unless the fight against conscription takes an entirely different form than the one given to it by Senators Wheeler and Vandenberg, John L. Lewis and William Green.

Let us ask ourselves: Why do millions of workers and farmers oppose conscription? It is not because they are pacifists. Pacifism has never had a strong hold on any section of the masses; it is too unreal, too cowardly a doctrine. Every worker who has been on strike and on the picket line knows that pacifism won't work.

Nor do the workers and farmers object to handling a gun and learning the fundamentals of military training. This country has millions upon millions of workers and farmers who own their own guns, love to shoot, want to learn more about it.

Nor do these men take fright at the thought that they might have to fight for their lives against other armed men. They know the kind of world we live in today. Many of them have had to risk their lives on the picket line to defend their jobs. These men would be willing not only to learn how to handle a gun, but to use that gun, in defense of their rights.

So, when they oppose conscription, it's because they have no faith that the army they will be conscripted into is going to fight for the interests of the workingmen and women of this country. They're not what you'd call radicals; but they know that Wall Street runs the army and navy, and that Wall Street will be the beneficiary of the coming war and not the people.

Wheeler's counter-proposal to conscription is, therefore, no better to the workers and

farmers than conscription, for either way they'll end up in the army.

The genuine opponents of conscription must, therefore, find a real alternative to propose.

There is one. It is **COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE TRADE UNIONS.**

Not in the anti-democratic atmosphere of the barracks, but in the workers' atmosphere of his trade union, is the place for a worker to undergo military training.

A worker should learn the military arts under the disciplined but comradely direction of fellow-unionists, and not under the orders of a boss-minded army officer who breathed in hatred of the workers as part of his West Point schooling.

Let the federal government provide the necessary funds, facilities and technical instructors, but let the unions keep firm control of the actual military training program.

Men who have been outstanding in the unions as officers, shop stewards, active militants—these can be trained as officers in Workers' Plattburgs. There are hundreds of thousands of such men who can be named by the unions.

They, in turn, can act as officers in a union-controlled military training program which can include every physically-able man in the trade unions. In addition, the unions can attract millions of the youth, the unemployed and the unorganized, who would not enlist in the army, but who would willingly undergo military training under the trade unions.

This, then, should be Labor's answer to conscription! It is a positive answer, a bold answer, and a practical program.

It should, it must, become the program of the trade union movement of this country!

CIO and AFL Merely Echo Demagogues Like Wheeler

Proposed Alternative of "Voluntary Enlistment" Is No Better Than Conscription; Workers Want Neither

Debate opens in Congress on the question of conscription. It is a great, historic moment. Amid the tumult and the shouting, the line-ups become clear.

The dominant sections of the ruling class want conscription and, accordingly, the parties of the capitalist class, the Republicans and Democrats, are obediently supporting the Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill. That was already symbolized by the bi-partisan sponsorship of the bill by Burke (Democrat) and Wadsworth (Republican). That is now underlined by the 13-3 vote for the bill by the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

The minority sections of the capitalist class oppose the bill. One section, for whom Lindbergh is speaking, do not so much oppose the bill as utilize this occasion to propose a different foreign policy. Instead of a war against Germany, for control of the world, the Lindbergh group wants to collaborate with Germany in ruling the world. Though a relatively small group today, this one has powerful financial backing; and at a later stage of developments may seek to dictate the foreign policy of the country.

The other opposition group, represented by such figures as Senators Wheeler, Norris and Vandenberg, is a heterogeneous affair. Norris speaks for Mid-west business and the more prosperous farmers—the elements which, though reactionary themselves, are resentful of the Wall Street and Eastern interests who are dictating Washington policy. How "anti-war" Norris is, is shown by his votes for the armament bills and for sending the National Guard into active service. Wheeler of Montana, tool of Anaconda copper, and Vandenberg of Michigan, a vicious anti-labor figure, are playing a demagogic game, exploiting for what it's worth the popular opposition to conscription, and prepared to give way to conscription quickly enough.

Wheeler Agrees To "Compromise"

That is already evident from Wheeler's announcement that he will support Senator Mahoney's proposed "compromise": a bill providing for a gigantic drive for mass enlistments and, after a certain date within a few months, if the enlistment drive has not secured the required number of soldiers, the automatic enactment into law at that time of the conscription system.

The Mahoney bill is not a compromise at all; it is the conscription bill plus a face-saving device for the "opposition". Yet it has already been endorsed by practically all the Senators and Congressmen who have labelled themselves "anti-conscription!"

In reality, therefore, the entire capitalist class and its political agents are all in favor of the principle of conscription.

There is no real debate. There will be some speeches in Congress, but it will be a sham battle.

And where is the labor movement in this? It appears in the picture only as an appendage to the Wheeler-Vandenberg "opposition." For the CIO, John L. Lewis announces himself "in full agreement with Senator Wheeler on this thing." William Green's statement for the AFL wasn't issued until Monday of this week—a little late to be rallying the AFL membership!—and was as milk-and-watery as it could be.

The AFL-CIO statements offer nothing more than the Wheeler-Vandenberg position. Neither of these great labor organizations even demanded the right that its own spokesmen appear at the Senate committee hearings on the conscription bill! Presumably Anaconda's Wheeler and Henry Ford's Vandenberg were considered to be the spokesmen of the trade unions!

That reveals the cold truth: Lewis and Green and the other top officials of the AFL and CIO are just going through the motions of registering their opposition to conscription. Their opposition is no more serious than that of Wheeler and Vandenberg.

If the CIO and AFL leadership were serious in their opposition to conscription, they would be proposing a more firm alternative to conscription than "voluntary enlistment." They are saying that mass enlistments will provide the number of men required. If enough pressure can be gotten up to push that many men into the army by enlistment, what's the difference between the two methods of swelling the army by the addition of millions of young workers?

A Real Labor Alternative!

A real working class program would not agree to creating such an army. A program which really considered the interests of the labor movement would seek a working class alternative to conscription by the capitalist state.

There is such an alternative. It has nothing in common with the whining pacifists—who are also calling for enlistment as an alternative to conscription. It is based on a realistic understanding of the fact that, in this epoch of militarism and war the working class must learn all there is to know about military science.

But to master the military arts does not have to be done under control of the capitalist state and its reactionary army officer caste. Military training? Yes. But under control of the trade unions!

That should be the basis of the opposition to the Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill and any other bill the capitalist parties may offer for military training!

STALINISTS CRY "ALIEN" AT CAFETERIA LOCAL 302 MAN

Communist Party "strategy" in the unions hit a new low when the Stalinist fraction in the Cafeteria Employees Union, Local 302 (AFL) raised the astounding cry of "alien" against a leading militant, at the general membership meeting July 29.

The meeting was about to elect three delegates to the State Federation of Labor convention, the state conference of culinary locals and the Union Local Trades Congress, all being held at Niagara Falls August 18-21.

Having recently lost to the progressives a by-election for the presidency of the union, a forerunner of certain defeat in the regular elections for all offices in December, the Stalinists had made a desperate attempt to rally all their forces for the election of delegates. Party members and fellow travelers employed on night shifts were instructed to take the day off. Despite all efforts, however, the declining Stalinist forces were in a hopeless minority when the meeting opened.

It was clear that the "United Orange Ticket" was going to fol-

low up its success in electing the new president, William Kincheloe, with the election of its slate of delegates—Larry Phillips, Progressive Group Leader, Jose Garcia of the Spanish Workers Club, and Stanley Mesevich, younger brother of the former president, to whom the Orange Ticket threw its support when President Kincheloe declined to run. The Stalinists had nominated two of their people and, as a third delegate, had "cleverly" named President Kincheloe; but the latter, stating that he would not permit the simultaneous absence of all general officers, withdrew and thus checkmated the Stalinist stratagem to elect their nominees upon the president's prestige.

Whereupon, as a last resort, Shirley Fields, one of the Stalinist leaders, took the floor—to protest the candidacy of one of the Orange Ticket on the grounds that he was a non-citizen! President Kincheloe ruled her out of order, but she insisted on taking the floor to elaborate upon her reactionary theme. Her second attempt was

put down with brusque finality. Then the vote was taken and the Orange slate swept through. For Krumborg, Stalinist fraction leader, who was one of those running, it was the first defeat for any position in the union.

A not-so-strange sidelight on the non-citizen issue is that the object of the Stalinist attack, since breaking with the Stalinists two years ago, has been frequently harassed by immigration authorities.

Profoundly significant of the healthy temper of the union's active membership was its utter disregard of the "alien" issue and its election of the member in question.

AUTO WORKERS! CONVENTION STORY IN NEXT ISSUE

A complete eyewitness report and analysis of the Auto Workers Union convention which has just closed in St. Louis will appear in next week's issue of the SOCIALIST APPEAL.

Don't miss this authoritative article on the most important union in the country!