

N. J. SURVEY SHOWS WORKERS WANT UNION CONTROL OF MILITARY TRAINING

CAL. BOSSES WANT TO STOP "LABOR ROWS"

Drive Against Unions On Pretext of "National Defense"

LOS ANGELES—The Merchants and Manufacturers Association has plastered Los Angeles with full sized outdoor advertising signs which read, "WHAT DESTROYED FRANCE? OUR NATIONAL SAFETY DEMANDS STOP LABOR ROWS!"

This will prove to be only the first in a series of public statements to miseducate the American workers even more so than ever before. And it is a bold step for the first.

They are telling the American workers not to strike for more wages in spite of the increasing cost of living being caused by the boss war. They are telling the workers they know what is best for them. That is what Hitler told the German workers when he was rising to power; that is what he is still telling them today. And precisely that happened in France and led to its defeat.

These despicable creatures, whose use of thugs and scabbers was exposed by the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee have the gall to propose that democracy shall be "saved" by strangling the working class!

Workers Aren't Fooled

The alert workers are not fooled. They know this is no isolated cancerous growth. They know it is only the spearhead of a broad national movement, and behind it are the industrial bosses of the nation. And the industrial bosses of the nation, those gentlemen who are telling the workers not to strike against wage cuts and lengthened hours, are the very ones who are striking against the government, and have been consistently refusing airplane, naval, steel and armament contracts from the government so long as the government asked that they be satisfied with fair and reasonable profits. Seven or eight percent profit are not enough; they want unlimited profits. These gentlemen who want unlimited profits are telling the workers not to strike even for costs.

Watch out for the next statement by these open-shoppers and in the mean time build your union and fight for military training under control of the trade unions.



Once Again

Who 'Destroyed' France?

In an organized propaganda campaign, American boss groups are trying to terrorize the unions into silence by holding up the horrible example of France.

"What destroyed France?" ask their roadside signs. "Our national safety demands: Stop labor rows!"

American workers must not fall for this baloney.

It wasn't "labor rows" that made for the collapse of France. It was the French bosses who opened the way to Hitler's hordes.

The French bosses placed their own "safety" ahead of the "national safety."

Weygand, the French generalissimo, came before the French cabinet in those fateful days last June and warned of workers' unrest resulting from the German victories. He compared the situation in France to the situation in Russia in 1917, when the Russian soldiers turned their arms on their own officers and joined the workers and peasants in revolution. "It must not come to that," Weygand told the ministers. Surrender to Hitler had to be made, he said, so that the remaining French armies could be preserved "to maintain order and quiet in the country."

That's the real story of what happened! But it was the Popular Front government, we are then told, which in the years preceding the war rendered the country powerless before Hitler, the "labor" government of Blum & Co. This, they say, was the real source of the defeat. This is why American workers should be docile and take all the lumps, for the "national safety."

This is sliced off the same baloney. The Popular Front Government was not a government of labor. It was a government entrusted by the bosses with the job of dispersing the marching army of labor. Blum and the Communist Party (this was in the days before the Hitler-Stalin pact, when Stalin was still flirting with the French capitalists) told the workers that "labor rows" would bring on Hitler.

The "labor rows" of that time—1936—were virtually a revolution. The French workers held power in their hands. They had occupied all the factories and plants in the land.

But the workers made the mistake of listening to these false leaders, to Blum and the Stalinists. They gave up the positions they had conquered. They stopped their "labor rows" so that the bosses could assure the "national safety" against Hitler.

But when the showdown came, the bosses left the country wide open to Hitler. They preferred Hitler to workers' rule. And with Hitler's help they are now attempting to destroy every remnant of the French labor movement.

That is the real story of the collapse of France. That is the real meaning that lies behind this vicious bosses' propaganda in this country, conducted by those who want to destroy the workers' organizations. The bosses don't want Hitler, but they want to Hitlerize this country themselves.

We want no part of this. The greatest guarantee of the "national safety" lies in the increase, not the decrease, of the power of the workers.

The experience of France showed that the "democrats" who act for the bosses cannot safeguard the "national safety." Only the workers of France, acting in concert with the workers of Spain, France, Belgium, and Britain, could have stopped the Nazi menace once and for all and ended these brutal national struggles by internationalizing Europe on a socialist basis.

This is our answer to the question: "What destroyed France?" This is also our answer to the question: "What threatens to destroy America?"

Boss rule threatens to destroy America if it is allowed to continue unchallenged. Workers' rule alone will defend the land. Workers' rule alone will ensure to all the people that they are defending what is theirs and not the fleshpots of the Sixty Families.

Workers' power will defend our homes and establish real bonds with the workers of all other lands in common fight against the boss warmongers and warmakers. That is the lesson of France. Down any other road lies conquest by Fascism, either from abroad or by our own home-grown Hitlers.

Approve Enactment of Conscription, But Also Favor Union Control of It

Newark S. W. P. Polls Representative Body of Workers To Get Views on Training

By GEORGE BREITMAN

A carefully-conducted poll of a representative group of workers in New Jersey, completed last week, established that a majority of them are in favor of the conscription bill which has just been enacted into law, but that a majority are also in favor of placing military training under control of the trade unions.

These significant conclusions were the result of a four-week survey among workers in Newark, in a poll conducted by the Newark branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

The material tabulated was secured by visiting the homes of nearly a thousand workers in two representative working class neighborhoods, the Ironbound section, heavily populated by industrial workers, and the Third and Fourteenth Wards, heart of Newark's Negro population.

Those who conducted the poll were extremely careful not to influence the answers given by the workers. Those questioned—chosen at random—were told that a poll of the neighborhood was being made, that their names would not be taken, and that their replies would be kept strictly confidential. They were not told who was conducting the poll before they answered.

They were asked two questions: 1. "Are you in favor of the conscription bill which is now being debated in Congress?" and 2. "Would you be in favor of military training of workers if they were to be trained under supervision of their trade unions?" They could answer to each question, "yes", "no", or "don't know."

Here are the results in percentages:

Question	Yes No Don't Know		
	Question 1	47	26.7
Question 2	50.5	22.8	26.7

One thing is startlingly clear from this and other tables which were tabulated from the answers: pacifist tendencies among the workers can hardly be said to exist. Of the whole, only 7 per cent are opposed to both forms of military training: 71.9 per cent favor one or both forms of military training. (The remaining 21% were against one form and didn't know about the other, or didn't know about both forms.)

Few Negro Pacifists! Interestingly enough, when these figures were broken down still further, it was found that pacifist tendencies were even smaller than the general 7 per cent, among union members (4) and Negroes (5.8).

The general conclusions to be drawn from the poll may be formulated as follows:

Pacifism Is Bankrupt

Workers are looking for some means of military training. Most of them favored the conscription bill just adopted by Congress because it appeared to them as the answer to the problem of military training. Most of them, however, likewise are in favor of military training under the control of the trade unions, once the idea is presented to them. This is especially true among the employed union-member and Negro sections of the working class—i.e., the most decisive sections of the labor movement.

The housewives and the unemployed who, by virtue of their status, tend to be less informed and politically developed than the others, give smaller majorities to both forms of military training, but generally show the same tendency as the others. Negro workers show themselves to be particularly receptive to the idea of

Our Program Realistic

On the basis of this poll, which we believe quite accurate—it should be carefully repeated in other parts of the country to check it—it appears to be an established fact, that the Socialist Workers Party's program for military training under trade union control is a popular and practical basis for winning the workers. Needless to say, it is a program against which the capitalist class will fight like cornered rats.

AUTO LOCALS IN FLINT PREPARE TO FIGHT G. M.

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 22—To this date none of the 19 key union men suspended by the Fisher Body division of General Motors have been put back to work as a result of the hearings on the cases which have been conducted by the UAW-CIO and the corporation management for the past two weeks.

Meanwhile the Fisher Local No. 581 is preparing for any necessary action, with strike kitchens already set up with full equipment, and all decks cleared for action should the militants not be put back to work and a satisfactory decision reached on their cases.

The 19 men were suspended by the corporation after fights broke out in the huge body plant between AFL and CIO members. The incidents, obviously the result of company provocation in an effort to sidetrack the increasing militant objection on the part of CIO men to the Company's failure to live up to the GM contract, resulted in a two-day lock-out.

Following the lockout an agreement was reached to start production again pending hearing of evidence and settlement of the 19 cases.

Local Will Act

There is no joking about the CIO local's determination to get justice for its key shop militants whose suspension, Local 581 has already proved, was the result of a well-laid plan between the corporation and a few AFL men to create trouble. The company planned, the union has pointed out, to divert attention from the many grievances, such as wage reclassifications and speed-up, to the AFL-CIO fight . . . an issue which the company figured would give it the advantage of saying the trouble was merely between two unions, and not between the company and the CIO.

But Local No. 581 has so far made an effective fight. And it is prepared to use the strike power given the local's Executive Board by a big membership meeting last week.

Even Reuther, Thomas and Frankenstein, International Board members of the UAW, had to take a more militant stand last week under pressure from Local No. 581.

Buick Gets Going

Inspired by the determined stand of the Fisher local, the Buick Local No. 599, which has a mountainous list of grievances which have never reached the

Coffins Are Just Part of the Army's "Many Gadgets"

The United States Army has been making a survey of the casket industry, to find out how many coffins are being produced now, how many more can be produced in an emergency, etc.

Newspaper men asked the army to comment on its survey. An army spokesman, Major A. Robert Ginsburgh, said:

"When you have an army you have to figure it's going to fight some day. Fighting means casualties and casualties call for caskets. That's all there is to it. Just a simple matter of being prepared with essentials. Caskets are like the rest of the gadgets we use."

Capitalist Greed Was Cause Of Hercules Powder Tragedy

NEWARK, N. J.—The Dies Committee has lost no time in using the Hercules Powder Co. explosion as a pretext to extend its anti-labor "red hunt" to New Jersey. Though army experts and company officials stated that they did not suspect sabotage, R. Parnell Thomas, New Jersey Congressman and member of the Dies Committee, immediately issued a statement blaming the explosion on the "Fifth Column" and announced that the committee would investigate.

The first step taken by the Dies Committee in its "investigation" has been the seizure of Communist Party state election petitions. Meanwhile, the explanation of the explosion considered most probable by munition experts has

been ignored because it embarrasses the "national defense" plans by placing the blame on the greed and callousness to human life of the DuPont owned Hercules Company.

About a year ago, a new system of recovering solvents was started at the plant. The system was devised to speed up the powder processing and to cut costs. At one stage in the new system a highly volatile mixture is achieved that may be ignited or even detonated by a stray spark.

Another munition manufacturer and ammunition experts of the Army Ordnance Department were acquainted with the new system. They rejected it because they considered it too vulnerable to accidents.

S. W. P. PLENUM OPENING THIS WEEK IN CHICAGO

As we go to press, a big New York delegation is leaving for the Plenum-Conference of the Socialist Workers Party in Chicago, September 27-29. Reports from all parts of the country give assurance that similar delegations will be present in Chicago. It is already certain, therefore, that this important gathering of party delegations will be one of the most representative in the history of our movement.

Conference on Saturday

After a plenary session of the National Committee on Friday, the Conference sessions open Saturday morning at 10:00 A.M. and will continue throughout Saturday and Sunday. This is the first meeting of the

National Committee, and the first conference of branch delegates since the death of Leon Trotsky. The task of the Plenum-Conference is therefore clearly indicated: to mobilize the party to carry out Comrade Trotsky's last words: "Please tell our friends I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward."

Workers Invited

Friends and sympathizers will have an opportunity to join in two of the activities scheduled for the week-end. One will be the Mass Meeting to greet the National Committee and the branch delegates. It will take place at the Medical and Dental Arts Building, 185 N. Wabash Avenue on Friday evening. The other will be the Banquet

closing the Plenum-Conference. It will take place at the Epicurean Restaurant, 316 South Wabash Avenue on Sunday evening.

Militarization Main Point

The main political question on the agenda of the Plenum-Conference will be the determination of party policy toward the militarization of the United States. A fruitful discussion on this key question of this epoch has already taken place in the branches, on the basis of a proposed resolution, drafted by the National Committee. Three internal bulletins have been issued to the party on the question, including discussion articles by party members.

Headquarters in Chicago for the Plenum-Conference are at the Mark Twain Hotel, Division and Clark Street.

Convening at this crucial moment in the history of the American working class, the Plenum-Conference has a tremendous responsibility for mobilizing the advanced workers in the defense of the labor movement against the capitalist war-mongers and their agents in the labor movement.

We may say in all modesty however, that the Plenum-Conference will undertake that responsibility in the unconquerable spirit in which Leon Trotsky trained and indoctrinated us.

Every comrade, friend and advanced worker will be able to acquaint himself with the discussions and results of the Plenum-Conference by reading the reports in the SOCIALIST APPEAL next week.