

PACT MEANS U. S. WAR IN TWO OCEANS

Proletarian Military Policy Is Adopted At Socialist Workers Party Chicago Conference

TROTSKY MEMORIAL FUND LAUNCHED BY DELEGATES

Expresses Determination of the Party To Carry Out Trotsky's Final Injunction to Go Forward

CHICAGO, Sept. 30—The three-day Plenum-Conference of the Socialist Workers Party closed last night, and the delegates and National Committee members were on their way home today, bringing back with them to the party branches in all parts of the country an inspiring program of political and organizational activity.

The plenary session of the National Committee on Friday had been followed Saturday and Sunday by a conference of delegates and activists from the branches, which prepared the party for the stirring times facing the working class.

It was the first national meeting of the party since the death of Leon Trotsky, and it was dominated by the determination to carry out his last words: "I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward." The Plenum-Conference honored the memory of Trotsky, not by empty grief, but by taking up his work and carrying it forward.

It was in that spirit and, indeed, under the direct inspiration of his thoughts in the last days of his life, that the main document of the Plenum-Conference, the "Resolution on Proletarian Military Policy," was formulated and adopted.

Fight Against Pacifism

The resolution boldly draws the necessary tactical conclusions from the nature of this epoch of war and militarism. Dismissing all pacifist delusions about the possibility of the United States remaining at peace in a world whose chief characteristics have

Full texts of the resolutions adopted by the Plenum-Conference appear on page 2.

become war and militarism, it declares that the workers' fight for power requires a positive program which takes the facts of war and militarism as the starting point for practical actions. The debilitating poison of pacifism must be drained out of the movement.

For only with the masses is it

possible to conquer power and establish socialism; and in these times the masses in the military organizations are destined to play the most decisive role of all. Our task is to protect the class interests of the workers in the army no less than in the factory, and thereby strive to win over the majority to the idea of transforming the war into a struggle for their socialist emancipation. This proletarian military policy has as its starting point, at this stage of war preparations of U.S. imperialism, the demand for federal funds for training camps under the control of the trade unions.

The need for a proletarian military policy was grimly underlined, the day the plenum opened by the news of the Axis pact with Japan, signaling the extension of the war to all the continents of the globe.

Cannon's Report

James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the party, made the political report, stressing that all questions—the party's activities, work in the trade unions, attitude toward opponent organizations, etc.—are subordinated to the propagation of the proletarian military policy of the party. The delegates found especially illuminating his emphasis on the

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SWP PROTESTS EFFORT TO BAN CP FROM BALLOT

Party in California Fights Issue of Civil Rights

SAN FRANCISCO—Vigorous protest against outlawing of the Communist Party in California was voiced this week by the Socialist Workers Party, San Francisco Branch, in a telegram to Governor Olson.

Despite its profound political disagreement with the Communist Party, the SWP branded the move a direct blow against the labor movement as a whole.

Utilizing the war scare to strike at the currently least popular section of the labor movement, California's reactionary legislature made the first open move toward chaining labor to the war machine by approving a bill denying a place on the ballot to any party using the name "Communist." This destruction of a basic democratic right clearly reveals the nature of the "democracy" for which the workers are told they must give their lives.

Approved by both houses of the legislature just before the close of the recent special session, the measure declares:

"No party shall be recognized or qualified to participate in any primary election which uses or adopts as any part of its party designation the word 'communist' or any derivative."

Any organizations directly or indirectly affiliated with the Communist Party of the United States, the Third International, or "foreign agencies" which advocate a program of "violence against the United States" are denied a place on the ballot.

Under the guise of "pressing defense necessity," the reactionary bill was passed in a rush by the legislature, the assembly approving it 66 to 3 on September 21, and the senate the following day. Once again, the rank and file of the Communist Party is being

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New State Guard Units Are Organized To Break Strikes

This little story is written entirely for the benefit of those innocent boys and girls who think that the government has soldiers only for the purpose of warding off a foreign enemy.

The government has now gotten from Congress the necessary authority to mobilize millions upon millions of soldiers. Included among these are the National Guard units of the 48 states.

But now Congress is considering passage of ANOTHER bill, to have the states raise, and the federal government finance, new regiments of the National Guard to take the place of those inducted into the regular army.

What for? The answer is provided in a circular letter now being sent by New York colonels to former members of Guard regiments, urging them to re-enlist. The key paragraph reads:

"The service contemplated for the New York Guard will be entirely within the state. Besides the drills necessary to prepare for service within the state, active duty will be limited to riots or other civil disorders."

"Riots or other civil disorders"—that means strikes and militant labor activity.

If Labor supports the formation of such anti-Labor guards, it is just cutting its own throat.

Workers Defense Guards, loyal to Labor's interests, are the only guards for the working class!

I.B.E.W. Local 3 Leaders Jailed In Strikebreaking Move

Harry Van Arsdale, business manager of the New York Electrical Workers Union, Local 3 of the I.B.E.W. (AFL), and four other members, were dragged out of their beds last Friday by police acting under instructions of Queens County District Attorney Charles P. Sullivan, in a crude boss attempt to break the nine-week-old strike of the union at the Triangle Conduit and Cable Company in Glendale, Queens.

The fantastic bail of \$50,000 each was demanded by the District Attorney. Van Arsdale and the others refused to permit the union to pay for such exorbitant bail, and remained in jail until Monday, when Judge Charles S. Colden set bail of \$7,500 each for Van Arsdale and Assistant Business Manager Hansen, and \$1,000 each for the other three.

The District Attorney had secured their indictment under an ancient statute against rioting, dating back to 1794, and having nothing to do with strikes. Pretext for application of the statute was a fight between pickets and armed strikebreakers.

The entire New York labor movement is roused by this outrageous strikebreaking move of the District Attorney. The CIO has joined with the I.B.E.W. in demanding dismissal of the case and cessation of attacks on the strikers.

Local 3 of the I.B.E.W. is one having jurisdiction for all electrical work in New York, and this frontal attack on it is a significant index to the growing boldness of the anti-labor forces, operating under cover of the "no-strike" declarations from Washington.

Nazi-Japan Alliance Has USSR In Its Pincers

PARLEY OVER FLINT FIRINGS DRAGGING ON

General Motors Stalls To Avert Walk-Out In Flint Plants

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 30—No settlement has as yet been secured by the International Executive Board of the United Auto Workers from General Motors on the company's suspension from work of 19 union members in the Fisher Body No. 1 plant.

Phillip Murray, CIO vice-president, was scheduled to meet with top officials of G.M. today in Detroit, but meanwhile union members are in the dark as to the progress of negotiations, for no report has come from the International officers.

Murray's appearance in the picture may mean either one of two things—that the UAW officers expect Murray, with the prestige of the CIO behind him, to get a favorable settlement; or that a poor settlement will require a good salesman to put it over with the local membership here.

Strike Preparation

Meanwhile, however, preparations locally are going on for strike action. Strike kitchen stoves, tables, etc., are being prepared by the suspended members. Buick workers directly affected are beginning to clamor for a strike vote in their local too.

The strike vote in the Fisher Body local totalled 3,000 votes which is one of the largest votes cast in a strike ballot at any time by any local in the International. The percentage that voted for strike was also one of the largest; 2,100 voted for strike, 900 against with approximately 7,000 workers in the plant.

A benefit dance and party held for the suspended members Saturday night was well attended by all locals here and by many out of town locals.

Soviet Union Now Faces Threat on Two Frontiers Which Stalin Thought He Had Eliminated

In Berlin on September 27 Germany, Italy, and Japan entered into a formal political and military alliance, which is destined to have profound repercussions throughout the world.

The terms of the pact obligated the signatories to go immediately to each others' aid in the event that any power still uninvolved in the European or Asiatic wars took up arms on the side of Britain or China.

The pact's most obvious edge was directed at the United States, which was openly warned that at a certain point its "aid" to Great Britain would involve it in war with Japan. This was Hitler's primary purpose in formalizing his deal with Japan at

this particular time. On Japan's part, the pact was concluded as a warning to the United States that any attempt to interfere with Japan's expansionist drive in the eastern Pacific would involve it in war with Germany and Italy. The pact is primarily an attempt to immobilize the United States in the war by threatening it with the dire consequence of war in two oceans simultaneously.

Blow at USSR

The pact's other edge was a little less obvious but no less sharp. It was directed at the Soviet Union. In the treaty itself, the Axis diplomats took pains to explain that "no tri-power arrangements did not affect relations 'established or to be established' between the U.S.S.R. and the three signatories. This did not, however, conceal the fact that the treaty confronts the Soviet Union with the prospect of war on two frontiers if it fails to remain obedient to Hitler's dictation.

In Moscow the first reaction was one of frightened silence. For two days Soviet newspapers abstained even from publishing news of the new Axis deal. They finally issued the text of the treaty. The first official comment, three days after the pact, tried to convey the impression that Stalin had been privy all along to the axis negotiations and that whatever they decided was all right with him.

But it is not all right by any means with the Soviet Union, as London and Washington have both been quick to point out. Despite all his super-weaseling, Stalin finds himself now precisely in the position he so desperately tried to avoid when he entered into his bargain with Hitler a year ago. The pact of Berlin of September 27 is the pay-off of that bargain. Stalin thought in August, 1939, that he had smashed the anti-Comintern alliance and

what remains to be seen. The U. S. will thus stiffen British resistance to Germany and Chinese resistance to Japan. Whether and at what point such actions will bring the Pact of Berlin into operation is of course what remains to be seen.

Two Jailed Drivers Union Leaders Now Cleared By Court

Howard Fouts and Ralph Johnson, Sioux City Drivers Union leaders, now in Leavenworth penitentiary serving two-year sentences, have just been cleared of the charges by the South Dakota Supreme Court to which their conviction was appealed. The court reversed the conviction on the grounds that the evidence was insufficient.

The charge was that they had destroyed a truck in March, 1939 during a Sioux City bakery strike. The FBI stepped into this local case and spent untold sums on engineering a frameup.

Other unionists framed in this case and now serving two-year sentences are Lou Miller of the Omaha Drivers Union Jack Maloney, Sioux City drivers' organizer, Francis Quinn organizer of the Des Moines drivers, and Shorty Stultz and Carpenter of the Omaha drivers.

Program To Break Labor's Back Is Drafted By Leading Economists Of The Country

The government at Washington is now engaged in the biggest business in the United States. This is the business of building the greatest war-machine the world has ever known. The whole economic life of the country is being reshaped to serve the needs of the military program.

From now on, the government regulates and controls national industry. Every decision, every measure taken by the administration directly and immediately affects the lives and livelihood of the mass of workers. The workers must, more closely than ever before, watch their rulers in Washington, to understand what is being planned.

At the request of the War and Navy Departments of the government, the Brookings Institution of Washington, a well-known organization of conservative capitalist economists, has made a study of wartime price control. The ostensible purpose of this "impartial, academic" survey was to suggest ways and means to keep prices down during war. Its real aim, however, is to prepare public opinion for the wage-cutting and union-busting drive which has already been started in many war-industries and which will inevitably be expanded as militarization gains momentum.

LIVING STANDARDS MENACED

The important recommendations of the Brookings report are aimed at labor.

(1) Wages, it proposes, are to be controlled by the government. How? In the interests of the bosses. For wages are to be raised only in the last resort "to insure health and efficiency or

when other commodities fail to keep down the cost of living."

The truth is that commodity prices cannot be prevented from soaring under wartime conditions. In England they have increased over forty percent since the outbreak of the war. The cost of living becomes higher and higher; food, clothing, shelter, recreation grows more expensive with each passing week. If the worker's wages are not increased in proportion, it means that they suffer a real reduction in wages. The same amount of dollars buys less and less.

Unless the workers through their unions demand—and get—higher wages, their standard of living sinks lower and lower. Such is the automatic mechanism of price control under the capitalist system which always works to the advantage of the bosses and to the detriment of the wage-laborers. This means that the labor-unions must keep control of wages in their own hands and not surrender this power to government agencies which are in turn controlled by Big Business.

The best way for the unions to meet this danger is to provide in their contracts for a RISING SCALE OF WAGES to equalize the rising costs of living.

WIPING OUT LABOR'S GAINS

(2) The Brookings report goes on to urge that all restrictions upon production be done away with. Does this mean that the unemployed are to be given jobs, or that idle factories shall be turned over to idle workers for operation? No. On the contrary it means that all the existing laws which bring any benefit to the workers,

which limit hours of work or fix minimum wages (the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the Wage-Hour Law, the Walsh-Healey Act, etc.) are to be scrapped for the duration of the war! Back to the sixty-hour week and the \$7 weekly wage! Restore paradise to the bosses; give hell to the workers! That's the advice given to the War and Navy Departments by the economists they chose to advise them.

Let there be no illusion about it. The hard-boiled Generals and Admirals are going to follow that advice, if they can. Bethlehem Steel, Electric Boat Company, and Douglas Aircraft will not be the only ones permitted to ignore the Walsh-Healey Act. All the big corporations will demand and receive that right on the pretext of producing for "national defense"—at labor's expense—unless the organized workers prevent them from getting away with it.

That's why the workers need a Labor Party of their own to fight in Washington and in Congress for the retention and extension of every law protecting labor's rights. But, even though lacking a powerful mass Labor Party, the CIO and the AFL unions are strong enough to curb this reactionary drive, provided they rely upon their own independent action, and not upon the empty promises of capitalist politicians.

TAX BURDEN ON WORKERS

(3) The Brookings report further recommends that the government get most of its war funds from taxes, and then warns that "excess profits taxes alone cannot prevent the adverse effects of inflation." In plain English, don't be too harsh on the war-profiteers. Get the money

needed for the war-machine by levying hidden taxes upon the necessities of life.

Thus the workers and their families are to be doubly squeezed. First, by keeping wage-levels from rising while prices do and then by taxing vital commodities. "Heads we win; tails you lose": such is the new Army game!

The Brookings Report, initiated by the government, is only one of many similar indications that the government is preparing to clamp down on any struggles for higher wages and is considering the suspension of all laws protecting labor. This means that the trade-unions have a tough job ahead of them. They'll have to struggle against the government's attack upon all the standards and conditions won by labor in the past period, an attack undertaken for the sake of the war profiteers.

PREPARE TO DEFEND YOURSELVES!

Big Business is now in the driver's seat at Washington, supervising the war-machine. Knudsen, Stettinius and their associates are out to put the workers in their place, with the help of "labor" men in government service, like Hillman, Tracy and Tobin. If the trade-unions don't maintain their freedom of action, if the rank-and-file isn't on the alert to fight against every encroachment upon their rights, the Big Boys are likely to get away with it.

Here's one preparedness campaign the organized workers have a real interest in getting under way! Prepare to defend the workers against the war profiteers and their agents in Washington!