

DRAFT WILL TAKE ONE OUT OF THREE

Demand That Military Training Be Under Trade Union Control!

Negroes Repudiate Jim Crow Army Policy of Roosevelt

Charge White House Statement Quoted Them as Agreeing To Segregation, When They Had Really Denounced It

A Negro committee this week declared it "repudiated and denounced" a statement from the White House which implied that the committee had approved Roosevelt's policy of segregation of Negro units in the armed forces.

The committee of three—A. Phillip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, T. Arnold Hill, and Walter White, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—characterized the White House statement as a "trick".

The telegram also declared: "We most vigorously protest your approval of War Department policy regarding Negroes in armed forces which precludes Negro officers' except chaplains and doctors in regular army units other than two national guard regiments staffed by Negro officers. We deny statement that 'at arsenals and army posts Negro civilians are accorded equal opportunity for employment'."

"We ask proof that even one Negro is now being given aviation training as pilot in army air corps. As recently as October first, the Adjutant General of the War Department wrote that 'applications from colored persons for flying cadet appointment or for enlistment in the Air Corps are not being accepted.'"

"We further vigorously question your statement that morale is splendid in existing Negro units of the regular army. Many enlisted men in these segregated units have made repeated protests at being forced to serve as hostlers and servants to white army officers. We further question that Jim Crow policy of army 'has been proven satisfactory.' It has never been satisfactory nor is it now to Negro Americans. Such segregation has been destructive of morale and has permitted prejudiced superiors to exercise bigotry on defenseless Negro regiments."

"...It is a tragic coincidence that you issued your statement on the same day the coup de grace was given by Senate Majority leader Barkley to the Anti-Lynching bill."

UNIONS DISCUSS NEED OF UNION RIGHTS IN ARMY

FLINT, Mich.—That union men are thinking seriously about the problem of preserving their democratic rights when conscripted was seen here when, at the CIO Central Council meeting last week, a motion was introduced, demanding the right for union men to receive and distribute union papers and literature in the army and to hold union meetings while in the armed forces.

A lively discussion was held on the motion, with no one actually opposing the content of the motion.

It was not put into the record however, at the urging of one or two of the delegates, who put across the idea that adoption of the motion might call the problem too openly to the attention of Congress, which might pass a specific law to prevent exercise of the rights demanded.

The general agreement of all delegates was that union men should fight for collective bargaining rights in the army, in order to preserve the living standards of the soldiers and prevent discrimination and persecution by the officer clique.

Undertakers Work

BUFFALO, N. Y., Oct. 15—Eighteen undertakers are serving on the newly appointed draft board here. The mortuary profession here is well known for its business acumen.

WEST COAST SCHOONERS TIED UP

Firemen's Strike Is Followed By Cooks; Sailors Locked Out

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 13—As the strike of the Marine Firemen, Oilers, Waterenders and Wipers against Pacific Coast steam schooner operators went into its second week, members of the Marine Cooks and Stewards Association joined the MFOW on strike, and the cooks now are picketing with the firemen.

The first week of the strike was marked by the following events:

1. Arbitration proposal offered by the U. S. Government Conciliation Service, refused by the MFOW.

2. Strike against the steam schooner operators declared by the Marine Cooks and Stewards, the fundamental demand being that of manning scale; making a four-man job of the present three-man jobs, and getting three men on ships that now are two-handed.

3. Declaration by MFOW Secretary Malone that two ships carrying "real national defense material" now are in San Pedro and that, if needed, the union in specific cases would consider further action.

Phoney Peace "Offer"

4. New phoney "peace proposal" offered by the steam schooner operators to the unions on Friday—basically a return-to-work-under-terms-of-the-old-agreement proposal, all portions of the old agreement except wages and overtime to be renewed, wages and overtime to be discussed for 15 days, then if no agreement is reached to be submitted to arbitration.

The Sailors Union of the Pacific remains locked out by the steam schooner operators.

SUP United Front Offer

Meanwhile it was revealed that a proposal for joint action by the sailors, firemen and cooks had been made before the strike was called.

The proposal, made by the SUP negotiating committee to officers representing the firemen and cooks, included: joint action by the three unions in the steam schooner beef; strike referendum to be conducted simultaneously in all three unions; negotiations with steam schooner operators to be conducted jointly by the three unions; no arbitration of any issues involved.

The answer to the joint action proposal was that the cooks' and firemen's representatives had no authority to act upon it, that it would have to be submitted to the membership.

While the SUP awaited an answer to its proposal, the leadership of the MFOW submitted the schooner question to a strike vote, thus dividing the union front.

Approximately 47 steam schooners operating on the Pacific Coast are tied up by the strike. The MFOW is demanding a raise from \$85 to \$100 and from \$1.00 to \$1.10 for overtime, and overtime pay for Saturday afternoon work while in port.

Danger of Arbitration

Danger that the phoney "national defense" issue would be used to force the unions into arbitration remained as the capitalist press continued to howl that preparedness efforts were being sabotaged by the strike.

Fort Dix Guardsmen Bitter About Pay And High Prices

FORT DIX, N. J., Oct. 10—Members of the Forty-fourth Division of the New Jersey and New York National Guard expressed loud resentment today after receiving their first pay.

Many complained bitterly that they had been misinformed as to what their pay would be; they found \$21 in their pay envelopes instead of an expected \$30. They also spoke of the cost of laundry, cigarette and other expenses while at camp.

Men from the Seventy-first Infantry, from New York City, conducted what amounted to an open demonstration after getting their pay at the pay line. Recognizing several newspaper reporters, the men angrily and loudly informed them of the rooking they were getting.

Officers attempted to make the privates return into the line away from the reporters, but the men persisted until their complaints had been fully outlined.

Almost half the division here has not received its first pay, which is considerably overdue.

SOLDIERS HEAR FAMILIES ARE IN DIRE WANT

Officials Violate Promises To Help Their Dependents

BUFFALO, N. Y., Oct. 7—Welfare aid to families of National Guardsmen from here, now mobilized and in training at Fort Dix, N. J., has been drastically reduced or discontinued altogether, reports from the camp indicate.

Conditions of starvation face the wives and children of relief recipients now in the army, it is revealed in letters from home received by the soldiers.

A glimpse of the true state of affairs was disclosed in a story in today's Buffalo Evening News, which reported interviews with some of the men whose families have been affected by the action of the Erie County Welfare Board.

Privates Tell Their Story

One of the privates interviewed declared that he had received a letter informing him that his wife had been hauled into court this morning to face an eviction charge for non-payment of rent. He asserted, "I'm only getting \$30 a month from the Army as it is. That's okay with me, but not enough for my wife and child. My wife and I were on the welfare because I couldn't get a job."

Another private had been on a \$54 a month WPA job. His wife and five-month-old baby were left behind here with the promise of the Welfare Department that it would give his family the difference between his WPA pay and his \$21 monthly Army wage. He added, "And now I've received a letter from my wife saying she isn't getting the money that was promised."

Complaints are also pouring in from Fort Dix because of the delay in paying the men their \$21. This \$21 represents the total monthly income for most of the guardsmen, many of whom are trying to maintain dependents on this sum.

Unions Must Oppose Open Shop In The Army, As In Industry

First Experiences of National Guardsmen, Just Inducted, Shows Necessity for Union Protection of Conscripts

Over 16,000,000 men between the ages of 21 and 36 were registered for the draft Wednesday. The federal government has announced that over 5,000,000 are scheduled to be called for army service in successive batches.

The vast majority of the recruits must naturally come from the ranks of the workers.

Evidence is already beginning to pile up on the conditions the new army recruits will face in the boss military machine.

National Guardsmen, recently inducted into the regular army and in training at Fort Dix, have learned that their families back home are being cut off relief.

An emergency situation has arisen within the past week at the training camps when payment of monthly wages of army privates was held up for many days.

A profitable business is being made off the recruits who must pay steep prices for laundry, cigarettes and other essentials. For instance, army privates must pay eight cents more for a pack of cigarettes than navy recruits getting three times army pay. Navy men are exempted from payment of the federal tax. Army recruits are paying five cents for four penny stamps from private purveyors while government officials getting more pay than a whole squadron of army privates have free franking privileges.

A major scandal about Jim Crow conditions in the armed forces has just broken out. A recent White House statement indicating that a policy of Negro segregation would be enforced in the armed forces has evoked stormy protest from leading Negro spokesmen.

It is already quite clear that the worker recruits are facing the same open-shop regime in the army as they have battled against so bitterly in the factories.

The professional officer caste now dominating the war machine is notoriously anti-labor. It has been especially built up over many years from the ranks of the upper class.

The close tie-up between the army and navy heads and Wall Street was glaringly revealed when the War and Navy Departments openly

exerted severe pressure on the National Defense Commission and other government agencies to ignore labor law restrictions in the granting of war contracts to private industries.

Union ranks are beginning to discuss the question of the right of union men in the army to continue their attendance at union meetings and to hold union meetings while in military service. There is a growing awareness of the need for collective bargaining rights in the military service and for organized channels through which the rank and file soldier may protest against anticipated miserable living standards and prevent discrimination and persecution at the hands of the boss-minded officer clique.

In a broader sense, the debacle of the French army in the face of Hitler has pointed sharply to the unreliability in general of the capitalist "democratic" military officer-caste to defeat the Nazi and Fascist attacks.

The overwhelming fear of the workers of fascist domination, whether arising from within or without the country, has a sound basis. But another alternative must be offered them than the choice between fighting under unreliable, boss-ridden officers, already three-quarters committed to a fascist control of the workers, or the piling pacifism of a few preachers, the Norman Thomas Socialists and the Stalinists, who propose that the working class remain unarmed in the face of universal war and militarism.

That the workers must have military training and arms to check the advance of fascism is certain.

That the workers must secure this training under a leadership that will safeguard their interests and really fight to the death against the whole black reaction of fascism and capitalism is also indisputable.

There is but one answer to this problem. The military training of the workers must be in the hands of their own organizations—the Trade Unions! The destiny of Labor in the face of the fascist onslaught will be dark indeed—unless the workers themselves control their own arms and determine the course of the coming armed struggle!

MIDLAND STEEL STRIKERS ARE VICTORIOUS

SIQUEIROS, WHO LED GANG THAT ATTACKED TROTSKY, INDICTED

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 12—David Alfaro Siqueiros, leader of the machine-gun band which attacked Trotsky's home on May 24th, was indicted by Judge Raul Carranca Trujillo yesterday.

Siqueiros was indicted on nine counts: murder of Robert Sheldon Harte, Trotsky's secretary-guard; attempt to murder Leon Trotsky;

criminal association and use of firearms; usurpation of official functions (his use of a military uniform as a disguise during the attack); unlawful use of uniforms (for having bought other uniforms for the use of his accomplices); robbery (for taking the two automobiles from the Trotsky house); breaking into the Trotsky home, and damaging another's property.

On Thursday Siqueiros was confronted by his accomplices, who have been under arrest since June, and they confirmed their earlier testimony identifying him as the leader of the machine-gun band.

(Other stories on the investigation of the GPU's murder of Trotsky appear on pages 3 and 4 of this issue.)

Bethlehem Strikers Return To Work The Day 'New' Policy is Announced!

BALTIMORE, Oct. 8—4,000 shipyard workers who called off their strike against Bethlehem Steel and returned to work this morning, on the appeal of their officers who said that Attorney General Jackson's "informal opinion" made the strike unnecessary, learned from the afternoon newspapers that they had been cheated.

They had called off the strike on the urging of Philip Van Gelder, national secretary of the CIO Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, who had declared that Jackson's "informal opinion" could be used as a weapon for enforcing collective bargaining in the Sparrows Point and other Bethlehem plants without the necessity of strike action.

But this afternoon's papers reported that Jackson, the War and Navy Departments, the National Defense Commission and Sidney Hillman, had all joined in declaring before the Smith Committee—a House committee investigating the N.L.R.B.—that violators of N.L.R.B. decisions would continue to get government war orders.

ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

On the Far Eastern front the Axis "squeeze play" against U. S. imperialism failed to register. Japan signed the Axis alliance and for a few days its spokesmen, from Prince Konoye down, voiced open threats of war. Roosevelt moved with characteristic boldness. All Americans in the Far East were asked to leave for home. Lord Lothian, the British ambassador, was asked to remain in Washington instead of going home on a scheduled leave. The U. S. Fleet, in the Pacific was augmented by 4,200 men, bringing it to 82 percent of full strength.

Meanwhile Hitler began marching eastward in Europe—heading for the Straits, Turkey, Iraq and Suez via the Balkans and—with the Italians—via North Africa and Egypt.

This Axis move has again brought the Kremlin's position into focus. Establishment of German armed force on the Black Sea and probably in the Straits is obviously aimed at the U.S.S.R. but that is the more remote goal. While Germany heads for the Levant, Stalin will be provided with "compensation", probably at Turkish and Persian expense. Stalin hasn't much freedom of choice. He put himself and the

Soviet Union in the straitjacket and squirming now doesn't help.

Little-noticed dispatches this past week reported the arrival of sizeable German forces in Finland—ostensibly en route to Norway. But Pertinax, well-informed French journalist, reported in the N. Y. Times on Oct. 11 that the Germans are remaining in Finland within reach of Leningrad. On the same day Foreign Minister Halvdan Koht of Norway stated in London that German troops formerly in southern Norway have been shifted to the Far Northern province of Finnmark.

In other words, Hitler is offering Stalin once more what a Times correspondent called a "gratuity" in return for agreeing to the German Near Eastern drive. If Stalin accepts, he will get a temporary reward. At the same time he is given clearly to understand what would happen if he should reject it, or encourage Turkish resistance, or in any way hinder the Nazi advance. Either way, he knows and must know the ultimate fate that Hitler intends for him. But like the faun paralyzed by the approaching boa constrictor, he can do nothing but wait. That is the net result of Stalin's reactionary policy, at home and abroad.