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### FIGHT WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

#### ON THE WAR FRONT:

#### For:

- 1. Military training of workers, financed by the gov-. ernment, under control of the trade unions.
- 2. The establishment of special officers' training camps, financed by the government and controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become
- 3. Confiscation of all war profits-all company books to be open for trade union inspection.
- 4. Expropriation of all war industries and other operation under workers' control.
- 6. Full equality for Negroes in the armed forces-

5. Trade union wages for all workers drafted into the

- Down with Jim Crowism. 7. An end to secret diplomacy.
- 8. A peoples' referendum on any and all wars.

#### AT HOME:

#### For:

- 1. A job and decent living for every worker.
- 2. Thirty-thirty-\$30 weekly minimum wage-30 hour weekly maximum for all workers on all jobs.
- 3. \$30 weekly old age and disability pension. 4. Full social, political and economic equality for the
- Negro people. 5. Workers Defense Guards against vigilante and
- fascist attacks. 6. A twenty-billion dollar Federal public works and housing program to provide jobs for the unem-
- 7. Expropriate the Sixty Families.
- 8. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade
- 9. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.

## Vultee Strike

When more than 3,000 workers at the Vultee aircraft plant went out on strike for a rise in wages, the employers screamed like a hog with its foot in a noose.

And in order to save the poor employers who are going broke on a backlog of \$84,000,000 in orders for planes, with "reasonable" profits guaranteed and the industry expanding at an incredible rate in view of unlimited future orders, government agents swooped down from all sides.

There is good reason for this alarm on the part of the bosses and their government agents. Success for the workers in the Vultee strike can give the impetus that will lead to complete unionization of the airplane industry and provide such a spurt to the labor movement as it has not received since the great days of the first CIO upsurge.

The FBI as usual cried out "Reds!" And claimed to have scooped the Dies Committee in uncovering these "subversive elements" on strike at Vultee. Which should prove an object lesson to the 3,000 Vultee workers that the FBI and the Dies Committee are agencies of the bosses and that a "red" in their language is a worker with enough militancy to stand up for his rights.

But the Dies Committee and the FBI now have a new competitor in the field. None other than the "New Leader," organ of the Social Democratic Federation, which claims that it is "devoted to the interests of the labor movement."

This rag expresses its "devotion" to the labor movement by crying out in a front page headline of its Nov. 23 issue: "Reds Cripple Vital Plane Production at Vultee.'

Like the FBI and the Dies Committee, the "New Leader" feels it a personal insult that a rise in pay should even be mentioned to bosses rapidly becoming millionaires out of the armament busi-

Together with the FBI and the Dies Committee, the "New Leader" is acting the role of a strikebreaker at Vultee. The "New Leader" is interested in labor the same way an executioner is interested in getting his victim into the electric chair without a struggle.

## Tampico Incident

Last week when the press reported that war ships of "unknown nationality" had caused the scuttling of one German freighter a few miles from Tampico and the return of three others to port, the Socialist Appeal made the supposition that these warships were American warships and that their action constituted the first step of military participation by the United States in World War

Additional information now confirms this sup-

On November 18, Tampico port authorities re-

ported they saw the silhouette of American warships in the distance and recognized among them the destroyer Plunkett.

The Mexican press was almost unanimous in the belief that the warships were American.

Lieutenant Zavala, commander of the Mexican gunboat, Queretaro, who warned one "foreign warship" out of "Mexican territorial waters," is reported as chief authority for the belief that at least one American destroyer entered Mexican

Later in the day of November 18, three United States destroyers crusing close to Tampico where the German boat was scuttled detained and examined the papers of two neutral ships, one the Honduran freighter Ceiba, the other the Mexican tanker, Cerro Azul. This occurred within the 9mile limit off the Mexican shore. The American destroyers were reported to be the Plunkett, the Broome and the Gilmer.

The Navy Department denied officially that U. S. Naval vessels stopped any merchantmen near Tampico. At the same time Under-Secretary of State Welles declared that the American destroyers alleged to have turned back the four German Ships had not entered Mexican territorial waters.

In view of the fact that Welles remained silent as to the identity of the warships which did drive back the German ships, his statement can be taken as merely a diplomatic evasion of the question.

The Mexican government on November 22 issued a declaration which was pointedly silent as to whether American destroyers had violated Mexican territorial waters, but added significantly: "The German craft attempted to leave Tampico with duly cleared papers; American destroyers, after they were some hours at sea played searchlights on them ..."

It can thus be taken as officially established that it was American war ships which turned back the German freighters and which violated Mexican territorial waters.

It has become a commonplace that modern wars commence without a formal declaration of war. Incidents such as this one in Mexican waters simply increase in number until the nations become involved in major military operations. Determining the "aggressor" in the conflict is simply a legal question that not even the bourgeois jurists themselves can settle upon.

What is important in this incident is its clear proof that the Administration in Washington is cold-bloodedly and deliberately taking this nation step by step into the second world war. "Aid to Britain short of war" becomes increasingly vague as Roosevelt under this formula prepares to march American soldiers onto the battlefield to die for Wall Street.

# Ominous Warning

The fate of the trade unions in France is an ominous warning to the trade unions in the United States. In France the workers made tremendow gains, including the 40-hour week, vacations with pay. In 1936 they could have gone a step farther and placed a genuine workers' government in power. But they failed to do that and instead began conceding to the offensive of the bosses.

First they accepted chiselling on hours and wages. Then they accepted wholesale increases in hours, wholesale decreases in wages in the face of mounting cost of living. They gave up their 40hour week. All this was done in the name of "national unity," and "national defense."

But when the Nazi machine rolled over the frontiers, the bosses sold out. They sold out the French workers who had been stupid enough to believe what the bosses told them.

Now the Vichy government has dissolved the trade unions in France by decree. It is against the law in France to belong to a trade union. All the union funds and union property have likewise been confiscated by the government.

The bosses begin with chiselling on hours and wages, but in time of war they end up by wiping out the trade unions. Let the fate of the French trade unions not be lost upon the American workers!

# Cynical Propaganda

In order to make the Second World War for profits and colonies more palatable, the entire capitalist press is busy painting up the Allies of Wall Street as simon pure democracies fighting for "all that America stands for."

While European workers are still only aliens subject for hounding by the Dies Committee, their capitalist governments allied with Wall Street have been covered with a coon skin cap and enrolled in the ranks of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The New York Times for instance in its issue of November 18, declares in relation to the war between Italy and Greece that "Two forces are at work here: totalitarianism and democracy."

This is just about as cynical a declaration, as the Times has seen fit to print in some time. It is well known that Greece is governed by a totalitarian dictatorship with as brutal and cruel record in repression of workers' organizations as the bloodiest of them. We may be sure that if Metaxas had seen fit to swing into the orbit of Berlin instead of London, the Times would have likewise seen fit to drag out his evil record as a totalitarian dictator and print it with appropriately scathing comment, including perhaps even his imprisonment of members of the Fourth International.

But where profits are concerned, the capitalist press is also concerned that they are covered with the sweetest smelling names. In this respect they stop at no lie no matter how brazen, even to calling

# Child Labor in USSR

## Stalin Issues Decree Driving Soviet Children From School In Order to Create Larger Labor Reserve; Decree Retroactive

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

By ukase of October 2, Soviet children 14 years of age and over are immediately subject to draft into a conscript labor force; the right to education so solemnly "guaranteed" by the Stalin Constitution, has been abolished, without a formal constitutional amendment, or consultation of the Supreme Council of the USSR. The doors of secondary schools and universities have been slammed shut in the faces of the Soviet youth.

#### RETROACTIVE LAW

The retroactive law passed by People's Commissars introduces September 1, 1940, in the eighth, ninth and tenth grades of secondary schools, and in universities." (Pravda, October 3, 1940. Our emphasis).

In Moscow, Leningrad and capital cities of the Soviet Republics. the tuition in secondary schools is set at 200 roubles a year; "In all other cities and villages--150 roubles a year." Tuition in universities is 400 roubles a year in Moscow, Leningrad and capital cities of the Soviet Federation; 300 roubles in other cities (where universities are few and far between). Art schools-fine arts, drama, music and other highest paid professions-500 roubles. State subsidies to university students have been withdrawn, except for the "best students." The rest, and this means approximately 98 per cent, will have to support themselves. The supply of Soviet scientists, engineers, technicians, already meager, is thus further reduced at the very source. Even in secondary schools education is no longer free.

## SCHOOL INACCESSIBLE

TO POOR The average wage of a Soviet worker is below 200 roubles a month; the mass of the peasantry earns far less. Secondary schooling is therefore inaccessible to the sons and daughters of workers and peasants, and within reach only of the privileged progeny of governmental, party and trade union bureaucrats, functionairies of the GPU, labor aristocracy (Stakhanovists), factory rectors and administrators, en gineers, doctors, and so on. Thousands of children who had already started the current school year must now leave the secondary schools, not to mention those poor students still able to penetrate into the universities and technological institutes.

AMERICAN PRESS'SILENT Not a word of this has been allowed to leak out in the American press. In the last of a series of articles purportedly devoted to the "cultural and economical well-being of the people of the USSR," featured by the Daily Worker, one G. Stanley writes: "After the Revolution the doors of universities were thrown wide open to all the working people." (Daily Worker, November 16).

He forgets to mention a trife newly added by Stalin: tuitions. This article is dated, Moscow, Noember 15, six weeks after the publication of the above decrees, six weeks after "all the working people" were kicked out through the wide open doors. Mr. Stanley is under orders to suppress the fate of one of the remaining conquests of the October revolution. silent lest the diplomatic nego-Moscow be hindered unnecessar-

STALINIST BOAST

"Friends of the Soviet Union?" The same Stanley in the same article still boasts brazenly: "But the network of educational institutions is not limited to ordinary schools. There is also a wide network of correspondence courses available to all Soviet citizens. Thus, while continuing to work in the factory, office or on the collective farm, one may qualify for the degree of engineer, teacher, agronomist etc."

Stalin's pen-prostitute again obeys orders. The readers of the Daily Worker must not learn that correspondence courses are henceforth restricted likewise to those a ho have the cash in their pockets to pay-one-half of the respective school and university fees. The Soviet press is even conducting a campaign to place lectures at clubs, enterprises, collective farms on a paid admission basis. People, it appears, don't like free lectures.

The official motivation of the cultural expropriation of the Sovict youth follows:

"After duly considering the higher level of material welfare of the toilers and the considerable sums expended by the Soviet government on constructing, equipping and maintaining the incessantly expanding network of secondary and | highest educational institu-

Commissars of the USSR finds the educational expenditures in sities in the USSR upon the toilers themselves, and has in this connection decided ... to introduce the above-listed tuitions." (PRAVDA, October 3).

To believe the Kremlin, the toilers are now so well off that their children need no longer go to school.

#### REAL MOTIVE

expropriation of the youth lies in decrees. payment for instruction, from the child-labor decrees promutgated on the same day. The Pravda, in an editorial hailing these "historic decrees of October 2"-incidentally, no comment has yet appeared in any Soviet paper on the equally "historic" abrogation of free education-declares openly that child labor was made necessary by the scarcity of labor which, in turn, was primarily due to the refusal of peasants to leave the land.

"In pre-revolutionary Russian villages ... millions of poor peasants would leave each year to hire themselves out in cities ... In the USSR ... the life. But for this very reason the old sources which assured a spontaneous influx of labor forces into industry have been (PRAVDA, October 3.)

#### PREFERRED THE LAND

grew more and more intolerable, to fully organize the draft. the peasants preferred to remain on the land. With the inception of the Third Five Year Plan (1938), the flow of peasants was reduced to a trickle. The passage of the June laws has evidently shut off even this trickle. The acute shortage of labor was ization of vast armies.

child-labor reads:

"In our country unemployment has been destroyed, poverty and pauperization in city and country forever abolished, and in view of all this we haven't got people who would be compelled to knock at factory gates and beg admission into the factories, thus sponreserve of labor power for in-

All "spontaneous" sources of adult labor supply have been shut off" by the fatal regime of cannot be compelled "to knock at now expropriated not only polit factory gates and beg admission," there still remains the youth. Un- DRIVEN INTO BLIND ALLEY able to get adult workers, the Kremlin proposes to tap the reservoir of child labor, to create by ukase hereditary industrial serfs.

## DRIVEN OUT OF SCHOOLS

farms are instructed by law to "designate two (children) for every 100 members of the collective farm." Smaller collectives, at As for the capitalist press, the that city quotas are not fixed in editors are well informed but keep advance. In other words, the urban youth will be driven into intiations between Washington and dustry at a speed depending upon the circumstances. But this child labor itself must have a "reserve." In order to create such a "spon-What about other educational taneous" reserve it was indispenfacilities so precious to all the sable to drive the children of workers and peasants, the overwhelming majority of the Soviet | children, out of schools. And so they were driven.

Child labor cannot operate modern industry. This, by the way, was one of the reasons the bourgoisie was amenable, under work-

## Crazy as a Fox

After months of stalling around, a federal court the other day finally denied the contention of the attorneys of H. C. Hopson, Associated Gas and Electric system executive. that he was mentally unbalanced, and ordered him to stand trial for milking some 20 millions from the stockholders of his company.

Hopson's doctors had testified that he was "lacking in spontaneity," worried too much, had a sensation of 'wandering about through cellars and basements" and had a compulsion to lie abed all the time.

If it takes insanity to cause a utilities magnate to swindle 20 million bucks, then all the rest of the capitalists must be

tions, the Council of People's | ing class pressure in advanced countries, to legislating child lait necessary to place a share of | bor out of the basic industry. One is almost embarrased to repeat secondary schools and univer- this elementary fact. Yet Stalin not only reintroduces-on the very eve of the Twenty-third Anniversary of October-this bestial relic of barbarism but envisages it as the only available reservoir of labor power for Soviet indus try. The irreconcilable conflict between the further rule of the bureaucracy and the further economic, cultural and social advancement of the Soviet masses dic The real motive for the cultural tates the logic of Moloch-Stalin's

### WINDOW DRESSING

But will not the children first go to "trade schools"? Doesn't the law provide for 1-2 years' training at "government expense"? Won't they serve only as apprentices?

All this is window-dressing, for the consumption of the guilible faithful abroad, and the venal apologists of the G.P.U. The decrees provide that the Council of People's Commissars, through a specially appointed board, has sole and complete jurisdiction over the "disposal of the labor reserve." This ominous clause invalidates in and of itself any and all other provisions, assuming of course collective farmers lead a secure | that the gang in the Kremlin feels itself in any way bound by the scraps of paper it labels "laws." There are no facilities for housing let alone training. If any shut off, have disappeared." further verification of the real aims of these decrees is required. we cite the date set for the induction of child labor into basic During the first two Five Year industries-coal mines, ferrous Plans more than 15-million peas, and non-ferrous mines, iron and ants swarmed into the cities, steel, non-ferrous metallurgy, oil where conditions were better than industry, building trades: It is in the country. As the housing, six months. That is, approximliving and working conditions ately the time it will actually take

#### ENSLAVING YOUTH

The bureaucracy avows, in so many words, that it cannot operate Soviet industry today and has no prospect of operating Soviet industry in the future except by enslaving the youth of the counfurther aggravated by the mobil- try, by chaining them to industry just as it has sought to chain the adult workers. That is its pro-The text of the ukase restoring gram "on the threshhold of Communism."

It may be argued that by employing child labor the bureaucracy will be able to alleviate at least partially the crisis now convulsing Soviet industry. In any case, succeed in smashing the resistance of the workers to the June laws. Moscow fervently hopes so But other and much more imme taneously forming a constant diate consequences must flow from this ruthless attempt to enslave the youth. It is as if Stalin was deliberately bent on convincing every child in the Soviet Un ion that his regime is the mortal the bureaucracy. But if adults enemy of the youth whom he has ically, but culturally and socially

Except for a thin layer of priv ileged and exempt children, the mass of the Soviet youth can no longer cherish any illusions about their future. In the period of the first two Five Year Plans, these The chairmen of collective illusions-"Wait till we finish the Second Five Year Plan and enter Communism!"-played an enormous role in stabilizing the regime. Driven into a blind alley least one. In the urban centers, the youth has no perspective, no the city soviets will do the "des- alternative other than to engage ignating" with 'this difference. in an open struggle for self- preservation. Stalin has lit the fuse to a charge with the greatest explosive power.

The first steps in this struggle have already been taken by the younger workers in their resistance to the June 26 laws. The October 2 legislation will not reduce but intensify tenfold this resistance. They have acquired a powerful ally in the youth of the land, especially the sons and daughters of the millions recently incorporated into the Soviet Federation.

Nor is the bureaucracy blind to

#### BUREAUCRACY SEES DANGER

the danger. But it deludes itself with the assurance that the total itarian machine of repressions will again see it through. All the gears of the apparatus are grinding overtime. The party and the Komsomol (Russia YCL) have orders to "engage in vast politicalbass activities which will insure the fulfillment of the ukase, and in particular obtain a considerable flood of voluntary declarations of enrollment in the schools" (read: child labor army). All campaigns in the press have been sidetracked in favor of this latest onc. Newspapers shrick hysterically about the "unanimous approbation of these great historic decrees;" rave about the great uplift of alleged factory mass meetings all equally unanimous; and, above all, greet ecstatically the least rumor of "voluntary enrollments." It is as if Stal'n intended to leave nothing undone in exposing to every child in the Soviet Union the methods and inner-mechanics of

# Go Forward

Latin American **Workers Face** U.S. Imperialism

By JOSEPH HANSEN =

Vice-President Wallace, the press informs us, has been studying Spanish the past few years. His interest in this language is not strictly cultural. He is learning Spanish the better to represent the interests of American imperialism in the coming period. For the expansive force of imperialism follows geographic. lines and the first area of conquest for U.S. imperials ism is Latin America.

Wallace has already been detailed to represent Washington at the inauguration of President-Elect Camacho in Mexico City on December 1. Almazan, who pretended to be the legally elected president of Mexico has thus been discarded by Washington after being held on the shelf since last July pending "conversations" with the representatives of the Mexican bourgeoisie over the oil expropriations, naval and air bases, and the construction of military highways connecting with the great military highways in the United States.

The Junket of Wallace to Mexico City is thus part of the drive of U. S. imperialism south of the Rio Grande.

In Brazil, the controlled press applauded the idea of "mutual friendship" visits such as that of Wallace

For despots such as Vargas in Brazil and throughout South America it is largely a question of the price that can be obtained through conceding to one or another of the imperialist powers. And this price is expressed in the form of "loans" after "good neighbor" visits to Washington.

A commission from Argentina, for example, is holding out for a \$250,000,000 loan before cementing a "friendship" with the U. S. imperialism which would include construction of naval and air bases on the Rio Plata. Of the South American nations Argentina has up to date carried on the most independent policy in relation to the United States. This was due to the fact that her exports, grain, beef, hides, etc. were barred from this country by high tariffs and went to Europe, principally to England.

The commission which is dreaming of the \$250,-000,000 loan is also asking the Washington administration to make possible the export of agricultural products from Argentina to the United States. But this can only be done at the expense of the agricultural areas. And the switch in the farm vote in the recent election into the Republican camp has already given warning to Roosevelt that the farmers are in no mood to brook increased competition in a market already glutted with agricultural products.

The Roosevelt Administration which could find no solution to over-production save curtailing and destroying crops here at home, will find it scarcely possible to grant the Argentine request that the customs let down the barriers to her surpluses.

## THE CASE OF MARTINIQUE

Already Washington has obtained eight new military bases from Great Britain along the Atlantic coast from New Foundland to Trinidad.

The use to which Roosevelt intends to put these bases are shown clearly in the case of Martinique, French possession in the Carribean.

Operating from the newly acquired base of St. Lucia, U. S. warships are patrolling the vicinity of Martinique, enabling British warships to withdraw for service in the North Atlantic. But the island of Martinique possesses one of the finest harbors in the Carribean, and on top of this there are 110 American bombers on the Island which were sold to the French

government before the capitulation to Hitler. Washington wants these bombers, the harbor, and in fact the entire island, and the neighboring one of Guadeloupe.

Already the capitalist press is laying down the appropriate barrage of propaganda preparatory to direct military action. The New York Times began the campaign with queries about these 110 airplanes gathering rust in the Carribean. But the New York Post has been the most blatant. In an editorial in the November 14 issue it demands: "Why is it important for the free nations of the Western Hemisphere to wrest control of the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe from 'France' at once?" And then after an argument as to the desirability of Martinique coming under U. S. domination, the Post declares: "Our interests command action at once."

As if this language were not strong and plain enough, the Post editorial referred to what purports to be an inside story on conditions on Martinique published the previous day. The story describes the influx of Nazi agents who presumably were sent to agitate the native population against the United States. It speaks of military preparations for defense of Martinique, the possibility of Martinique being used as a base for German invasion of the Western Hemisphere.

The people are starving to death, the article reports--which is probably true as all the Latin American peoples suffer in frightful poverty, although without commiseration from the capitalist press until it is deemed feasible to seize them from a rival

The people of Martinique, reports the article "want to come under the wing of the U. S." and "the 250.000 inhabitants of the island are on the verge of revolution, but have no arms to rise against the

What is this but the classic formula of imperialist conquest? The islands are a rich prize; enemy forces are free to utilize them; the people are starying; they "want" to come under the imperialist wing; they are even ready to carry out a revolution if they are aided with arms-all this sounds like Hitler himself announcing the formula for further expansion. Imperialism speaks the same language the world

## TIME TO LEARN SPANISH!

For the workers of the United States the expans sion of American imperialism southward increases the need for stronger ties with the workers of Latin America in order to obtain greater unity and striking power against the common enemy.

Wallace's example is not bad-it is time to learn to speak Spanish!