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FIGHT WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

ON THE WAR FRONT:

For:

1. Military training of workers, financed by the government, 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 officers.
3. Confiscation of all war profits—all company books to be open for trade union inspection.
4. Expropriation of all war industries and their operation under workers' control.
5. Trade union wages for all workers drafted into the army.
6. Full equality for Negroes in the armed forces—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 unemployed.
7. Expropriate the Sixty Families.
8. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade Unions.
9. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.

Organize Ford!

Henry Ford possesses the greatest individual fortune in the world. And the extent of his wealth is an index to the intensity with which he exploits labor.

The rule of his realm is a rule of violence. Not intelligence, nor mental adroitness, nor mechanical creativeness, nor administrative genius, but sheer brute force and physical terror are the stock-in-trade of Ford's rise to wealth and power.

He has at his disposal a private army, a ruthless and mercenary gang of professional thugs, gunmen, paroled gangsters and similar degenerate scum. The black-jack, the brass-knuckle, the club and the gun are the symbols on the Ford coat-of-arms.

Ford stands today as THE challenge to the CIO and all organized labor.

What every boss and corporation executive in the country is asking himself these days is: Can Henry Ford get away with it? And if he can, they quite logically reason, so can they. And they too can copy Ford's methods.

Unorganized workers everywhere are watching the Ford union drive with breathless attention. The workers in the aircrafts industry, in Little Steel, are asking: Can the Ford workers do it? If they can, so can we.

The gigantic strikes which won union conditions for the General Motors and Chrysler workers in the Spring of 1937 paved the way for tremendous organizational advances in other industries. Those strike victories forced such viciously anti-union corporations as U. S. Steel and Westinghouse Electric to grant union contracts in fear of strikes. In the same way, a clean-cut victory now for the Ford workers will give a nation-wide impetus to the organization of all the unorganized workers and, in addition, will force every reactionary employer in the country to put back into his files any illusory plans he may have for smashing the union in his industry.

The supreme danger to the Ford union drive is that the union leadership may permit or encourage the notion that Ford can be brought to heel through legal decree, court order or government pressure. To place any hope in a possible favorable court decision means, at the least, months of disastrous and demoralizing delay, during which Ford can undermine and beat down the union drive bit by bit.

And in the end, what hope is there that the government will enforce any pro-labor decision of any board or court? None whatsoever. The bosses' government knows that a victory for the Ford workers means an unparalleled expansion of industrial unionism, it means possible strikes and demands in Bethlehem Steel, DuPont and elsewhere.

And the bosses and their government are dead set against this.

The awarding of the bulk of the war orders to open-shop, non-union corporations, including the Ford Motor Co.; the demonstrative fashion in which the War Department slapped down the feeble protest of Sidney Hillman against the latest contract to Ford—every evidence exists and cries out: The government will stand with Henry Ford against the workers!

But all this should not daunt the Ford workers. They can lick Ford and lick him to a frazzle if they are willing and ready, and seriously prepare to utilize their one decisive weapon, strike action.

On that day when the word "Strike!" sweeps like a hurricane down the miles of assembly lines, the Ford workers will learn the real might and solidarity of labor.

It will be the greatest picket line this or any other nation has ever seen. By the hundreds of thousands, the auto workers of Detroit, Flint, Pontiac, Saginaw, Toledo, Cleveland will pour into the lines. From a thousand miles away, by old jalopy or by freight, union men will come, rubber workers, glass workers, steel workers, AFL teamsters and machinists, Negro workers, women workers and housewives—the whole outpouring of the concentrated power and wrath of the working class will swell the picket line against Ford.

Ford's finks and stool-pigeons and thugs will not avail him.

And with trembling hands, Ford will sign a union contract and be goddam glad he has not suffered worse.

"Good Neighbor"

Workers in the British colonies in the Western Hemisphere are receiving an impressive lesson on the true meaning of President Roosevelt's policy of "aid to Britain short of war," as well as on his "Good Neighbor" program.

On January 3, a presidential order suspended the eight-hour day for workers employed in the construction of naval and air base sites leased by the United States from Great Britain.

This abrogation of the law—which requires the eight-hour day for all workers employed "upon any public works of the United States"—was justified on the grounds of "extraordinary emergency."

Just how extraordinary, is explained in the following section of Roosevelt's order:

"The application to these projects of the eight-hour limitation would involve such a departure from local labor practices and regulations as would be likely to adversely affect the local (colonial) labor situation."

In a word, "aid to Britain short of war" is to include the full assistance of United States imperialism in enforcing the continued brutal exploitation of the native peoples in the British colonies.

But there is more to this move than simple expedient co-operation with the British exploiters, by affording no example of better working conditions to inflame the native workers with ideas of improved standards.

The workers in the United States can see in this move one step further to break down the conditions of labor in the United States. Roosevelt thus encourages the drive of the National Association of Manufacturers to destroy the eight-hour day under the pretext of an "extraordinary emergency" in the interests of "national defense."

Months ago the Navy Department suspended the eight-hour day for government work in Alaska and the Pacific island bases of the U. S. In August, when the number of unemployed still exceeded ten millions, the War Department instituted the 48 hour week in place of the 40 hour week in the government arsenals.

This latest action of Roosevelt is not merely a clue to the real purposes of American imperialism with respect to the colonial peoples. It is one more ominous forecast of what the boss class is planning for the American working class in the immediate future.

Class Is Class

The ruling caste of the British Army doesn't permit the idea of class superiority to be overlooked for one instance, even in the distinction it makes between dead Italian soldiers and dead fascist commanding officers.

In reporting the capture by the British Egyptian forces of the Italian desert fortress at Nibewia, Egypt, the *New York Times* of December 16 reports:

"Many of the men (Italian soldiers) jumped into the refuse trenches," said an Italian surgeon who is still here caring for the wounded. "They did not know it but they were jumping into their own graves because the shells came pouring into the trenches after them."

The following choice bit appears later in the *Times* story: "The refuse trenches provided graves for the dead. General Maletti was laid out in state in front of his tent before burial."

Workers and peasants in uniform are just so much garbage to be buried in offal pits. But a fascist general, well, that's something different to the British ruling-class officers!

Class must be respected at all cost, and particularly since Churchill's plea to the fascist generals, Italian royal family and the rest of the ruling Italian regime to make a "revolution" against Mussolini. Churchill does not intend to put any ideas in the heads of the Italian masses. Class is class, as the saying goes, and Churchill and the British officer caste want even the British soldiers to understand this.

Industrial Insurance Racket Robs The Poor

SEC Investigation Shows Workers Swindled Out Of Hundreds Of Millions Yearly By Big Insurance Outfits; No Remedy Proposed

By DON DORE

"He's so low he'd steal the pennies off a dead man's eyes."

That, in a manner of speaking, characterizes the life insurance companies who last year alone sold \$3,676,466,446 worth of "industrial insurance" policies to new millions of duped workers.

For 95 percent of all these policies, as the past ten year record proves, will lapse before they are paid out.

Last year 66 life insurance companies held active industrial policies amounting to \$21,140,150,492. According to the past records, only five percent of these policies will ever be paid out at face value for deaths or by maturity.

Hundreds of millions of dollars are paid yearly, in weekly dime and quarter installments, as premiums on the small \$100 to \$1000 life or "old age" insurance policies sold under the "industrial insurance" plan. These policies are deliberately pushed upon the poorest strata of the workers by high-pressure salesmen who know in advance that sooner or later, by virtue of unemployment or inadequate income, 95 out of every 100 policy holders will lose all or most of their investment through lapsed policies or surrendering them for a fraction of the amount paid out in premiums. And this is also the most expensive form of insurance.

This is the dirtiest racket, among many, described in a monumental three-volume report of the Securities and Exchange Commission, which has just completed a study of the life insurance companies. The study, begun in July 1938, covers the practices of the 306 legal reserve life insurance companies now in operation. A summary of its findings has already been given to the Temporary National Economic Commission.

This summary describes the methods of selling industrial insurance through playing on the fears of poor workers. Unable to save a penny ahead, most workers are frightened at the thought of

dying and leaving their dependents without even funeral expenses. Most of these policies are sold on this basis.

The section on industrial insurance is but one of the highlights of the report, particularly revealing because this racket is directed at the poorest sector of the working class. The Metropolitan, Prudential and John Hancock insurance companies carried over three-fourths of the total of outstanding industrial insurance in 1939.

These companies, and other leading firms, according to the SEC findings, have also perfected means of eliminating all real competition and have been able to fix high premium rates, regardless of costs involved in the companies' operations. "Section 11 of the report states: 'The principle life insurance companies have for several years undertaken to eliminate rate competition by means of inter-company agreements and gentlemen's understandings.'"

The officers and directors of the companies use their offices for their own gain, employing the funds paid in on premiums for personal deals and investments. The report outlines the innumerable ways this may and has been done:

"He may borrow money (from the insurance fund) directly or in the name of a corporation he owns or controls; he may sell goods, or services to the insurance company, possibly at a premium; he may cause the insurance company to purchase his own securities or to provide money for financing a speculative business venture he is promoting; he may place friends or business associates on the payroll of the insurance company at exorbitant salaries; he may pad expense accounts or draw compensation in advance with no contemplation of repayment; he may direct the depositing of company funds to his advantage; he may cause preferential contracts to be executed in his favor, or, if he

acts in concert with at least some of his fellow directors, he may even change the form of the company from mutual to stock or stock to mutual, which ever best serves his private purposes."

Every life insurance company without exception was found to be guilty of some or all of these practices.

The magnitude of the swindle, the enormity of the profits garnered by a handful of companies, can best be realized when we consider that in 1939 this one type of insurance company controlled total assets (admitted) of \$29,243,411,498. Their total income for one year, 1939, was \$5,453,133,586, or about \$2,000,000,000 less than the estimated total of federal governmental fiscal receipts.

The life insurance companies are the greatest single aggregate of wealth in the country. As the report states, "The life insurance companies are becoming the principle savings institutions of the country."

These institutions are directly linked with the most powerful capitalists and banks. "The five largest life insurance companies," reports the SEC, "have interlocking directorships with 100 other insurance companies, 145 banks or other financial institutions and 534 industrial, real estate or other corporations. The interlockings with commercial banks are particularly important, the five largest insurance companies having 40 common directors with commercial banks in New York."

All this is but a minute fraction of the SEC findings, which constitute one of the most damning indictments ever leveled at any capitalist institution by a government agency. What will be the upshot of this devastating exposure? Nothing!

For like all similar investigating committees (the oil trust, banks, utilities, etc., have been investigated in the past) this committee too winds up its hundreds of thousands of damning words by recommending—nothing!

Distrust Of Yankees Revives In Argentina

By QUEBRACHO

BUENOS AIRES — (By Mail) A few weeks ago it was hard to foresee that Argentine and Uruguayan public opinion would react the way it now has, on the question of ceding to the United States naval and air bases on the South American coast. The movement developing in that respect is very extensive and ardent and completely analogous to that produced in May, 1940, against the possibility of Argentina's entry into the world war. It is evident that the South American masses don't want to be dragged into the imperialist massacre no matter how much the "democratic" and liberal press which serve Anglo-American imperialism (that is the nature of almost the entire press here) try to coat the pill.

After my last report to the Socialist Appeal when it appeared that the masses were ready to docilely accept as a "lesser evil" the ceding of military bases to the United States, there arose an unexpected and growing clamor. That feeling spread not only among groups of the nationalist bourgeoisie and the liberal petty-bourgeoisie, but also to a good part of the trade unions and student organizations. They all issued manifestos and held heavily-attended public meetings against the "pretensions of Yankee imperialism."

It is necessary to recognize the fact that this was attained in good part as a result of the activity of the Stalinists who, since the Hitler-Stalin pact, concentrate their fire against England and the United States, after having for years supported the "democratic" imperialist nations. Tomorrow, Stalinism will probably again become the accomplice of the "democracies."

But it is evident that if their present activity could find so much of an echo, it was so because that feeling, although as yet not openly manifested, was already in the spirit of the popular masses—a spirit which we Trotskyists have done our share in creating.

Secondly that activity bore fruit because of the patriotic sentiment of a people that always has considered itself the first in Latin America and one of the standard bearers of Western civilization in the world. That feeling, impels

the Argentines to reject any perspective which will place them on the same level as the Central American republics. The reaction in the army and navy also has been particularly adverse. Hence, one can be certain that for the present it is improbable that the United States will obtain military bases in Argentina.

YANKEES MORE SUCCESSFUL IN URUGUAY

However, the situation in Uruguay is different. It is the smallest country in South America without an army and navy which might put up any resistance. The cession of air and naval bases to the United States or their construction with a loan from Washington would give that country the opportunity to acquire a great importance in this continent which, besides bringing them many benefits would flatter the national vanity of the Uruguayan bourgeoisie. Therefore, and in spite of popular opposition and the resignation of the "Herrerista" ministers who are connected with nazifascism, President Baldomir announced that he is ready to go forward with the construction of the bases. It remains only to overcome the opposition of Argentina.

In a recent meeting held in the city of Colonia, the foreign ministers of Argentina and Uruguay considered this matter, but as yet it is hard to say what decisions were reached during the conversations because the agreements are kept a secret. However, it was decided to summon a new meeting attended by all the countries who have interests in the Plata River basin, namely Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay, because a cession of military bases on the Uruguayan coast at the mouth of the great river will affect the interests of all those countries. If Argentina aims to oppose the construction of that base at the new conference, that attitude will be overcome because U. S. influence predominates in the other nations mentioned.

Meanwhile a British mission headed by Lord Willington, ex-vice-roy of India, arrived in Buenos Aires, heralded with great publicity and "the compliance of Roosevelt." This mission, which plans to continue its tour through-

out South America, came with the primary purpose of propagandizing for the British cause and at the same time, to try and salvage English interests in this country. The principal results of the visit have been a series of drastic measures, such as the pretended "nationalization" of the railroads, which will assure English stockholders a certain profit which they do not earn at present, and the granting of a large credit to England.

On the other hand, an Argentine mission, headed by Senor Prebisch, general manager of the Argentine Central Bank, went to the United States and has just obtained a 110 million dollar loan, after great efforts were exerted to make Argentina accept the principle of "continental defense," that is, the cession of air and naval bases in the South Atlantic. This loan, which I will deal with on another occasion, is a real attempt against Argentine economy, and will throw this country at the mercy of the Yankee wolf. It will only benefit the U. S. and England. The U. S. because that loan, and the closing of the European market, will enable Argentina to purchase American commodities which formerly were imported from Europe because of an unfavorable trade balance with the U. S.

And England will benefit because that money will serve as credit to finance English purchases of meats and cereals in Argentina, while English gold is reserved to buy commodities from the U. S. Credits are thus demanded from Argentina, the nation's favorable commercial balances are blocked in British pounds, and in exchange the country is offered paper on its foreign debt which cannot be placed here and which consequently must be financed in the U. S. In this way the financial center of this semi-colonial country shifts its seat from London to New York. And instead of utilizing the opportunity to obtain economic liberation since the old master Britain is weakening, Argentina is falling more and more under the heel of a new master, more exacting and many times more powerful: Wall Street.

Dec. 23, 1940

Valiant British Brewers Expose Fifth Columnists

By JOSEPH HANSEN

Some people argue that capitalists are not being parasites. Others believe, however, that this is going a bit strong, especially in wartime. After starting the war, they maintain the capitalists continue to do their bit. Standing bravely at their posts at home and seeing that law and order function smoothly, the capitalists by their example inspire the soldiers to more heroic and self-sacrificing efforts on the battle front. Likewise the workers in the munitions industries feel better when the boss is right there to see that no saboteurs disturb the workers with disruptive talk about higher wages or shorter hours.

Only intolerant people would deny the weight of evidence in support of the latter view. Take, for instance, the public-minded stockholders of the Highgate-Walsall Brewery, whose annual general meeting was reported in the most recent issue of the *London Economist*. Despite bombs, convoy sinkings, destruction, and even loss of property, these stout-hearted British stockholders, aside from putting by enough reserves to take care of plant destruction by bombs, have carried right on as usual—so that the output of the brewery "has shown an increase notwithstanding the enforced advance in prices to our customers."

The public naturally appreciates that "this advance in prices has been forced on us by increased taxation imposed by the three Budgets." The cost of war must be footed by some one, and the stockholders are performing a patriotic duty in seeing to it that the cost is passed on to their customers. How can such patriots be termed parasites? Only a red unable to adjust himself to society could cavil at the pleasure of the Chairman in reporting that: "Notwithstanding continual rises in the cost of labour and materials, especially barley... the trading profit has shown a satisfactory increase."

Whoever loses his equilibrium enough to call these sturdy pillars of British capitalism parasites fails to take into consideration their role in guarding the home front, especially against Fifth Columnists. Stockholders possess an innate gift which permits them to recognize a genuine Fifth Columnist instantly. This is proved by the Chairman's exposure of an insidious campaign unleashed by organized propagandists against the British Government: "Using the war as a means to an end," he informs the company meeting, "they still persist in worrying the Government. Such conduct in exploiting the national emergency is reprehensible."

The Fifth Columnists Unmasked

Loyally defending his Government, the Chairman of the stockholders of Highgate-Walsall Brewery levels an accusing finger at the Fifth Columnist activity of the Oxford Temperance Council. The Chairman brings out into the blinding light of day the scurrilous tactics of this unholy crew: "At the moment these agitators are concentrating on bringing about a reduction of the use of materials for brewing, such as barley, and the shortening of the permitted hours of sale in licensed houses."

These agents of a foreign power boring from within, shall not succeed, however, in their sabotage of the defense program. The stockholders of the Highgate-Walsall Brewery stand in the breach! They defend the interests of the farmers: "It would be grossly unfair to farmers who grow malting barley to cut down supplies to brewers, for they would be forced to sell their malting barley at the price of feeding barley, which on this year's figures would have been about one-half of its value." The stockholders likewise champion the interests of the workers: "The Government know only too well the serious unrest, discontent, loss of working time and interference with the output of munitions which was caused in the last war by the too drastic curtailment of the supply of beer."

From the report of the Chairman, it is clear that the agitators of the Oxford Temperance Council are in communication with the foe. Only Nazis could disseminate propaganda of such virulent nature: "Not content with demanding that the quantity of beer brewed should be curtailed, these agitators go further, and still using the war as an argument, urge that also the sale in licensed houses should cease at an earlier hour in the evening."

In the welter of blood of the Second World War, it is a comfort to know that the British capitalists while increasing their profits are defending the ramparts of democracy and the interests of the poor even down to seeing that Fifth Columnists don't separate the working stiff from his mug of beer.

LENIN MEMORIAL MEETING

Speaker

GRACE CARLSON
Trotskyist Candidate for U. S. Senator
from Minnesota. Member National
Executive Board of the Workers
Defense League

*Lenin's Ideas Are Stronger at the Beginning of
World War II Than They Were in 1914.
Hear How Lenin's Ideas Will End the Present
Imperialist Conflict.*

Friday, January 24, 1941
8:30 p.m.

IRVING PLAZA
Irving Place and 15th Street
New York City

AUSPICES:
Socialist Workers Party Admission 25c