

Ford's River Rouge Is Aflame With Union Men

**Ford Drive At Crucial Turning Point;
Now Is The Moment For Real Action!**

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 21—Ever since the great union victories of the United Automobile Workers of America in General Motors and Chrysler, the hope and dream of every auto worker has been to organize Ford. It can now be done!

The auto workers first demanded this of Homer Martin. And he sold out to Ford.

They demanded it of their new leaders at Cleveland when Martin was put to rout. These new leaders fiddled around with Ford and that "Ford drive" frittered away.

The auto workers demanded again at St. Louis at their most recent convention that a serious attack be planned and carried out against Ford.

At St. Louis the first real step was made. A drive was begun. There was much publicity. Organizers were put to work.

And with this little preliminary sign from the UAW that it was out to do battle with Ford, the Ford workers began to pour into the UAW.

They came in because the overwhelming majority of the Ford workers were ready to fight.

They were fed up with the terror and speed-up of the Ford regime.

An overwhelming majority of the workers at the Lincoln plant joined the UAW!

Michael Widman, sole director of the Ford drive, an appointee of the CIO, was in charge. Money was available. The UAW and the CIO had contracted to pay an initial sum of \$50,000 each into a Ford Drive Fund.

Widman's drive was chiefly propaganda and publicity. But the results of even this two-cylinder drive were tremendous.

At Christmas time 90% of the workers at the Lincoln plant were signed up.

A TIDAL WAVE!

At River Rouge a tidal wave of unionism swept the plants. Not tens, not hundreds, but thousands upon thousands of Ford men joined the UAW!

When these formerly cowed and terrorized Ford workers poured in by many thousands into union ranks it meant only one thing: the black Bastille of Harry Bennett was crumbling.

With a courage and crusading zeal equalled only by the sitdown wave of 1937, the Ford workers were sweeping aside all obstacles on the road to unionism.

The Ford drive came to a head Christmas at the Lincoln plant. Everyone expected a strike. The men expected it. The management expected it.

Union organization was at its peak. Then Harry Bennett, the czar of the Ford army of thugs and gangsters, laid off 200 Lin-

coln workers, and thereby threw down the gauntlet.

Immediately James F. Dewey, Federal labor conciliator, came into Detroit. Bennett said it was a seasonal layoff—a patent lie.

Bennett and Dewey made a deal. They made an agreement whereby the union would submit a list of the 200 men to Bennett. If "justifiable grievances" existed they would be put back to work. This was no settlement at all!

Yet Michael Widman accepted it! Bennett announced that all these 200 men would go back to work by January 1st since it was only a layoff.

AND WHILE THE TRUCE WAS ON, BENNETT MOVED THE WHOLE MERCURY SET UP OF THE LINCOLN PLANT Instead of 200 there were now 500 men out of jobs!

THE UNION'S MOVE Every Ford worker was watching this situation keenly, what would the union do?

The union is in a position to take hold of the Ford empire and shake it till all the fight is out of it.

But Widman is waiting for the Government to do something for the union at Lincoln, and meanwhile the Ford management is laughing up its sleeve.

And now at the huge River Rouge plants the situation is ripe for union action. Everything is hanging in the balance. Just as it did on Christmas day in Lincoln.

Widman, however, is repeating the tactics which ruined the Lin-

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GRACE CARLSON IN NEW YORK

Grace Carlson, Trotskyist candidate for U. S. Senator from Minnesota in the last election, arrived in New York this week on her national lecture tour. Her speaking dates are:

FRIDAY, January 24, 8 p. m., Lenin Memorial Meeting, Irving Plaza, Irving Place and 15th Street, New York City.

SATURDAY, February 1, 8 p. m., at the banquet tendered her by the New York Local of the S.W.P., Germania Hall, 160 Third Avenue, corner 16th Street, New York City. Admission \$1.

(See page 2 for complete schedule of her tour.)

Grace Carlson Reports Negro Audiences

By GRACE CARLSON

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 20.—Perhaps the most stimulating aspect of this tour for me has been the opportunity to meet and talk with the militant Negro workers of the steel mills, auto factories and other mass production industries of the Ohio, Michigan and upper New York areas. These Negro workers have found equality with the white workers in the great CIO unions of these industries. And now they are more than ever determined to establish equality for Negroes in other fields and to drive Jim Crow out of the country.

I want to pay a special tribute to our Buffalo (N. Y.) branch; though a newly-formed branch, our comrades there have not only distributed literature and discussed political problems with Negro workers, but have also done unusual work in fighting at union meetings for the Negroes' right to jobs. It was natural, then, that in my Buffalo audience there were 25 Negro workers.

Good work in this field is being carried on in Toledo also. Our friends there were able to arrange to have me address a meeting sponsored by the Toledo Discussion Group at the colored Y. M.C.A. and 90 of the 40 persons present were Negroes. The question and discussion period showed that they are anxious to abolish Jim Crowism in the army, and are impressed by our program of trade union control of military training. What stands in the way of whole-hearted acceptance of this program by the Negroes is the reactionary, lily-white AFL unions. We must make clear, in explaining our military program, that it goes together with a fight against the lily-white policy in the unions.

From the reports of Akron rubber workers, Cleveland auto and Youngstown steel workers, I am confident that Roosevelt's "all-out" program will meet with difficulties. These workers know of the huge profits of the bosses in the war industries, and they are militantly opposed to the plan of one-sided sacrifices for the workers.

The mass distribution of the APPEAL in these areas and the excellent propaganda work of our comrades has played its part in building this militant attitude of the mass-production workers. And we're just beginning!

Last night my first Boston meeting was held, with approximately 70 present, and Comrade Antoinette Konikow presiding. What a wonderful old fighter she is!

The Kept Press And Henry Ford

It is interesting to recall, in connection with the complete willingness of the capitalist press to run Ford's lying full page advertisement, "Does Ford Pay Good Wages?", that when Upton Sinclair's novel on Henry Ford, "The Flivver King," was published a couple of years ago, all the leading newspapers, including the NEW YORK TIMES and NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE, completely boycotted it, did not review it, and refused to accept paid advertisements for it.

A special edition of 200,000 copies of Sinclair's book was bought by the United Automobile Workers Union, a singular piece of unusual news copy in itself. But the boss press would make no mention of it.

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CHURCHILL'S ANTI-LABOR ACTS FOLLOW U.S. 'AID'

On the Strike Fronts: Are Inspired By War Power Bill

RYAN AIRCRAFT ALL SET TO BE SHUT DOWN

BULLETIN

Just before the strike deadline, Ryan Aircraft signed up. The contract, union officials said, was equivalent to that won by the Vultee strike.

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Jan. 19.—The test case in the aircraft industry now is Ryan Aircraft here. The company has offered the UAW-CIO 54 cents starting, with an increase in four months to 58 cents. This offer was flatly rejected by the union and in its place was demanded a 75-cent minimum.

The union membership voted some 700 to about 20 to empower their negotiating committee "to call a strike if and when necessary." The outcome will determine pretty much the way the Solar aircraft men will vote on the 24th of this month, and will also affect the future of the huge Consolidated plant that will employ 35,000 men when completed. At present the AFL holds the contract at Consolidated, but is doing little to organize it.

Incidentally, the Fish Cannery workers under the militant Seafarer's International Union, working next door to the aircraft companies in San Diego, start at 65c. an hour and require no previous training. It cannot be said that the aircraft industry is under effective union organization until they pass the fish-cannery scale.

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Jan. 17.—A "peace-time" version of the "Work or Fight" decree made by President Wilson during World War I was issued to workers considering a strike at the Ryan Aeronautical Company in San Diego, California.

Lieut. Commander Maurice Sparling, Naval Reserve officer attached to California draft headquarters, declared that, in event of a strike, workers available for selective service must be reclassified.

In effect, this means that workers otherwise liable for training but placed in deferred status because of the essential nature of their work: "Continue work or face the possibility of being drafted."

Babcock-Wilcox Strikers Hold Their Lines

BAYONNE, N. J., Jan. 20.—The Babcock and Wilcox Company, which has a practical monopoly on the manufacture of boilers for the U. S. Navy, after years of paying out lush profits to its wealthy stockholders and starvation wages to its workers has been confronted with a determined demand for a new set-up since January 3, when its 450 workers went out on strike.

The workers, members of Local 423, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, CIO, have shut production down cold with a 24 hour a day picket line.

The strike was called after the company had refused every single major concession asked by the workers. While the company had a reported "earned" surplus of \$4,024,473 at the end of 1939, and showed a profit of \$1,474,905 for the first half of 1940 "less dividends" declared in six months to June 30, 1940, the management turned down a request of the union for a 10 cent hourly raise from the present 55 cent minimum. The average unskilled wage in the entire industry during the depressed year of 1938 was 69 cents an hour.

The company, of course, is yelling "sabotage of national defense" all over the lot. The strikers are blowing away this patriotic smoke-screen with a splendid organized picket-line, divided into 12 squads of about 20 men each, which operate in scheduled shifts. Every morning and at 4 P. M., all the strikers picket in mass to show the bosses their full strength and determination.

Organized labor in Bayonne, including a number of AFL locals, is backing the strike 100 percent. Over a dozen local unions, representing 10,000 workers, established the Labor Committee in support of the B & W Strikers at a meeting in the Labor Lyceum on January 10.

Besides the wage demands, the strikers are asking the union shop; eight legal holidays a year; seniority on a plant-wide basis; paid vacations of from one to two weeks; guarantee of the return of their jobs to draftees and Company payment to draftees during training with the money to come from a fund set aside from profits from war orders.

SHIPYARD MEN IN FRISCO GET QUICK RESULTS

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 19.—3500 shipyard workers knocked the "no strike" policy of the bigshots of the AFL Metal Trades Council into a cocked hat when they tied up the S. F. plant of the Bethlehem Steel Co. for over four hours last Friday.

The strike occurred as a result of the refusal of six machinists to join the AFL Machinists Union. Their obstinacy was undoubtedly instigated by the labor-baiting corporation, for after the brief tie-up five of these men joined the union and the sixth quit the job.

Had there been a real industrial union set-up in the shipyard the walkout last Friday might have been utilized to completely unionize the plant and gain other conditions as well. As it is, electrical workers face the same problem just settled by the machinists and are now threatening to walk out to obtain one hundred percent unionization.

TOP LEADERS SCARED

To be sure, the leaders of the metal trades unions were more frightened than the management at the militant action and solidarity of the workers. Instead of pushing the advantage gained by last Friday's demonstration for new demands and the preparation of a struggle for higher wages, they are already relegating "future disputes" to the "conference table."

Al Wynn, secretary of the AFL Metal Trades Council whined: "There will be no more work stoppages."

The 3,500 shipyard workers will have plenty of opportunity in the near future to express their opinion on Mr. Wynn's surrender policy.

The Bethlehem shipyard has been experiencing a small-scale boom working on \$32,000,000 worth of Maritime Commission and Navy Department shipbuilding contracts.

All Sailors Union members of crews working on ships docked at the yards were called off their jobs in a solidarity move with the strike after SUP officials had determined that the "beef" was legitimate.

Similar Reactionary Events Take Place In China, Mexico, Cuba, Uruguay They Mirror Coming Events Here

Britain's ruling class has already demonstrated what kind of results will follow from the passage of Roosevelt's "all-out" aid bill.

Churchill and his associates waited just long enough to be sure that Roosevelt's War Powers Bill will be adopted. They waited for Willkie to endorse it on behalf of the Republican high command, and for Winthrop W. Aldrich, chairman of the great Chase National Bank, to endorse it on behalf of Wall Street. They waited long enough to see that William Green endorsed it in the name of the AFL, and that the CIO top leadership weren't going to fight it.

Then, assured of the passage of the bill, the British rulers began to move:

1. They announced that the British government will conscript men and women for "national defense" factories, making it a criminal offense for a worker to leave his job without governmental permission.

2. The same day—January 21—that this decision was promulgated by the British government, it also announced the suppression of the London Daily Worker, organ of the British Communist Party.

SETS A PRECEDENT

The suppression of the Daily Worker was obviously designed to set a precedent under which the government will outlaw other newspapers—such as the New Leader of the Independent Labor Party, and numerous trade union organs which have been critical of the government—and prevent workers' gatherings and meetings.

Undoubtedly, the first paper to be suppressed was the Daily Worker precisely because it and its publisher, the Communist Party, are in exceedingly bad odor among the great masses of the British workers. The Stalinists are tarred with the brush of the Stalin-Hitler pact and its further implementation this month by the renewed Stalin-Hitler trade agreement. The Stalinists are hated as agents of the Stalin who overran Poland and Finland by prior agreement with Hitler.

That is why the Daily Worker was the first paper to be suppressed; the government was calculating that the mass hatred of Stalin would lead to acceptance of this gag move. But the British workers will learn to their sorrow in the coming months that the suppression of the Stalinist paper has opened the door to suppression of every section of the labor movement which does not knuckle down to Churchill.

Systematic suppression will take place. In no other way will the Churchill government smother the aroused resentment of the British workers. That resentment has already made itself heard, on the very day the conscription of factory workers was announced. Even the pro-British United Press was constrained to report, on January 21, that the decree had "roused a storm of protest." And, indeed, only men recoiled to slavery would remain silent while they were chained to the factories. Especially so when their conscription contrasts with the complete freedom of the British capitalists to profiteer as they please.

ELSEWHERE TOO

What has happened in Britain is not an isolated case. It is happening wherever Washington comes to an understanding with the rulers of a country for close collaboration. In China, since

the Chiang-Kai-Shek government received a big loan from the United States, with a pledge of still bigger ones to follow, Chiang has thereby been encouraged to turn and rend the Chinese labor movement. In Mexico, since Camacho came to a complete understanding with Washington, he has turned sharply to the right, vigorously striking out at the trade unions. In Cuba, having made a deal with Washington, Batista now refuses to carry out his election promises to give full legality to the trade unions. In Uruguay, President Baldomir dictatorially overrules the vote of the country's Congress against ceding bases to the United States; to hell with the popular will, he says, for he has the support of Yankee warships.

Thus "aid" from Washington produces reactionary fruits everywhere. And all this even before the War Powers Bill is adopted by Congress! The reactionary consequences that have already occurred are but grim harbingers of what is to come after Roosevelt has wrested those powers from Congress.

HERE NEXT

And in these reactionary consequences abroad are mirrored what is to come here in the United States.

Churchill undoubtedly came to an understanding with Roosevelt before he made the drastic moves of January 21. London and Washington collaborate as closely as two war allies, and at the least Roosevelt must have indicated no disagreement with these Draconian moves against the British working class. Thus Churchill's anti-labor moves pave the way for similar, and worse, moves here.

The full reactionary meaning of this war is beginning to unfold! The millions of workers and farmers who passively accepted the march toward American participation in the war will now awake, with each day's news, to ever deeper misgivings about the role of the American capitalist government.

These misgivings are already vocal in many places. The "isolationism" of many workers and farmers is not at all like the pseudo-isolationism of demagogues like Senator Wheeler. The "isolationism" of the masses has a solid healthy core: distrust of the capitalist rulers.

That healthy core, during the coming days, will provide the foundation for the only real alternative to Roosevelt: it will develop into proletarian internationalism.

Not by turning our backs on the rest of the world, but by uniting the workers of this country with the workers of the rest of the world—that is the road out! You have only your chains to lose. You have a world to gain!

IN NEW YORK!

LENIN MEMORIAL MEETING

Hear GRACE CARLSON

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24th

8:30 P.M.

IRVING PLAZA

Irving Place and 15th Street

New York City

AUSPICES: Socialist Workers Party

Admission 25c

ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

The long-simmering tension between Chiang Kai-shek and the "Communist" armies has come to a boil again. Chiang's troops and the Stalinist-controlled Fourth Route Army have clashed in Central China and General Yeh Ting, the Communist commander, has been arrested and is being held for court-martial.

This is by no means the first heavy strain on the Kuomintang-Communist Party alliance. Similar clashes occurred in Shansi province, some time ago, although on that occasion the conflict was presented as one between the Communist forces and local Shansi provincial troops, with Chiang Kai-shek intervening as a "mediating" force. That Chiang this time has gone so far as to arrest one of the most prominent Communist Party leaders is an indication that the present strain is much greater and is linked to developments of broad international significance.

For the present incident necessarily bears a direct relation to the Soviet-Japanese negotiations now in progress in Moscow. Stalin is "demonstrating" how useful he can be to the Japanese in China. For such demonstrations he uses the Stalinist-controlled forces in China with characteristic cynicism. The Chinese national struggle interests him only as a function of Kremlin policy. If tomorrow the interests of the Kremlin bureaucracy should require hamstringing that struggle, he and his minions would act accordingly and without hesitation.

Chiang Kai-shek has continued, however, to hold the whip hand in his deal with the Chinese Stalinists and through them with the Kremlin. He has kept the main Communist forces in the arid wastes of the Northwest and it was his effort to send Yeh Ting's forces to the same area that precipitated the current clash. Meanwhile in the area under Chiang's control, Communists enjoy little more freedom than they did in the years that

Chiang waged ruthless terror against them. And now that he is emboldened by the growing weight of American support, Chiang is tightening his hold still further and is daring an actual test of strength with Joseph Stalin.

It is curiously ironic that Yeh Ting the arrested commander, should be the central figure in the immediate foreground of this development. For Yeh Ting was one of the Army commanders who revolted in 1927 when Chiang broke his alliance of that time with Stalin. Yeh became one of the first "Red" army commanders in Central China and in December, 1927, he was the military leader of that fatal three-day insurrection known to history as the Canton Commune.

Thus Yeh Ting in a way symbolizes the successive cycles of Stalin's twisting policies in China. He fought under Chiang Kai-shek, in 1926-27, against him in the years that followed, under him again in 1937-40, and last week against him once more. And each of these military-diplomatic maneuvers has left the Chinese revolution deeper each time in the morass. Each cycle has moved the Chinese Communists still farther away from the aims and policies of a Chinese proletarian revolution. The Stalinist-controlled armies of today bear no positive relation any longer to that revolution. They are merely military pawns that Stalin moves around in accordance with the off-changing requirements of the Kremlin's near-sighted and criminal policies.

The armed clash and arrest of Yeh Ting is apparently to be followed by a fresh attempt at conciliation. Chou En-lai, the Communist Party representative in Chungking, expressed "regrets" over the occurrence and promised an end to friction. But Chou En-lai too had to flee Chiang Kai-shek's executioners in Shanghai fourteen years ago. It looks as though he too is reaching the turn of still another cycle in the ironies and the tragedies of the class struggle in China.