

La Guardia Chisels On Housing Funds

Little Flower Talks Big But Curries Favor of Landlords by Whittling Down Proposed Expenditures

By GRACE SAUNDERS
NEW YORK—Mayor LaGuardia, he of White House hopes, has given another striking example of the system by which he expects to realize his political ambitions. Its simplicity recommends it, plus the fact that it has worked many times in the past. Briefly, it is: talk liberal and humanitarian; act conservative and reactionary. The workers and the unemployed, who represent a sizeable bloc of votes, will (he hopes) be taken in by his words; the moneyed interests, whom an astute politician must not consider, will judge him not so much by what he says, but by what he does.

In a speech last Saturday, dripping with compassion, the Little Flower told 1,200 W.P.A. workers what a fine job they had done in New York City under most difficult conditions, and warned Congress of the dire consequences to the health and "spirit" of the unemployed if the representatives and senators persisted in cutting \$150,000,000 from the already inadequate extra W.P.A. appropriation requested by President Roosevelt. Please such as these are expedient, cheap, and safe, for the question of W.P.A. funds is something on which Congress, and not the mayor, has to act.

Mayor Whittles Housing Fund
When we consider the housing problem, on which definite action is demanded of the mayor and his henchmen, we get another picture of the would-be humanitarian.

Only five days before his W.P.A. speech, and immediately upon his return to New York from Washington where he likewise urged larger W.P.A. appropriations on Congress, LaGuardia said that two bills embodying the provisions of his Committee on Housing Legislation were being sent to the State Legislature.

The bills ask for \$120,000,000 for housing for all of New York State, of which \$100,000,000 would be allocated to New York City. But a full 10 per cent of this amount would be set aside for parks and recreational features, leaving only \$90,000,000 to be spent on housing.

The voters of New York State last November overwhelmingly

endorsed an appropriation of \$300,000,000 for re-housing. Even the use of this entire amount would not begin to solve the tremendous housing problem of the city and state. Why, in his bills, does the mayor whittle down this sum to only a little over a third of the total he advocated? Perhaps he is unaware that filthy, crowded tenements are just as injurious to the health and morale of slum-dwellers as is reduced income.

Curries Favor with Landlords
But chiselling on the amount of the appropriation requested is not the only way in which the people's friend hopes to curry favor with the landlords and banks.

The mayor's bills likewise provide that cities be permitted to make rehabilitation loans to multiple-dwelling owners (a helping hand to the struggling slum-landlords!), and that limited dividend companies which engage in erecting semi-low rent buildings are to be aided by tax exemption.

Chiselling down the housing appropriation, aid to landlords, assistance to prospective landlords—these provisions are of direct benefit not to the slum dwellers, but to the slum owners and the financial interests which back them.

Workers Need Maximum
Commenting on the housing bills, the liberal New York Post ascribes what it terms the mayor's "timidity" to his over-weening fear of the Republican legislature at Albany. The Post may not be taken in by the Little Flower's public lamentations and wringing of hands, but it lets on that it is.

But the workers and the unemployed who are the victims of what the mayor does, in contradiction to what he says, cannot afford to let themselves be duped.

The citizens of this state have expressed themselves unequivocally in favor of the maximum, not the minimum, of new housing. Mayor LaGuardia, the humanitarian, has no intention of carrying out this mandate.

Pressure from workers and unemployed alone is the only means by which the mayor and his henchmen and the president and his co-workers will be made to realize that workers, too, judge by deeds and not words.

New Leader Promises Nice War If We Are All Good Patriots

By MAX SHACHTMAN

So revolting and complete has been the reversal by the Stalinists of the traditional revolutionary attitude towards capitalist armaments and war, that attention is often concentrated upon it to the exclusion of the no less vicious position taken in what was once the opposite camp—the social democracy.

Some former radicals have taken advantage of the widespread indignation at the crudely pro-war position of Browder and Co., and covered their retreat to the social-democratic camp under a barrage of indignant denunciation against the Stalinists. Of that particular brand of renegade, there has lately been more than one representative.

The current "New Leader" (Jan. 21), organ of the Social Democratic Federation, offers us more evidence—if more were needed—that quitting Stalinism for "democratic" socialism is like leaving one recruiting sergeant to enlist with another.

Under the fitting headline, "U. S. Must Arm or Join Appeasement," Mr. William E. Bohn, spokesman for the S.D.F. and one of the "New Leader's" feature stars, takes the floor with an endorsement of the Roosevelt war program as enthusiastic as any you can read in the "Daily Worker." Let our readers hold their nostrils while we present a few samples of Mr. Bohn's garbage:

"Civilization, decency, culture, liberty are at stake. No one should make his decision lightly or on the basis of old catch-words. If war is worse than fascism, then we are lost, for war we shall probably have whether we arm or not. But I don't believe anything else is as bad as fascism."

Maybe not. But nothing could be more sickening than the social democracy which showed its impotence by not lifting a finger to stop Hitler from coming to power and keeping it to this day, and now asks the capitalist class to do that job for it. As we recall, Woodrow Wilson once forced us into the trenches to do a similar job on the Kaiser and Prussian militarism—and a thorough job it was.

"The minute war necessarily means fascism is pure bunk." There is no doubt, on the solemn word of honor of Bohn, and the proof is given by history, which our Democratic Socialist is as much at home as he will be tomorrow in a bed-time theme uniform.

"The minute war [the Civil War and the World War] was over, our men shed the hated military uniforms and went to extremes in demanding the return to normalcy."

Normalcy: the American Legion mob that lynched Wesley Everest in Centralia, Wash. Normalcy: the breaking-up of socialist meetings and headquarters. Normalcy: the suppression of the Communist and Communist Labor parties. Normalcy: the "red raids" and the mass deporta-

tions of radicals. Normalcy: the breaking of strikes from one end of the country to the other. Sergeant Bohn's memory is phenomenal.

"In Great Britain, the World War marked a great advance in democratic controls."

Yes, especially for the 743,702 fallen Britons (not counting the colonial dead) who were buried democratically in common war graves and who were, consequently, unable to enjoy the spectacle of such democratic controls as were exercised in the notorious "Defense of the Realm Act," the murderous suppression of the Irish Republicans, and the forcible crushing of strikes.

"War is just like peace in one respect. In both ways of life, the biggest capitalists take advantage of the citizenry. But it need not be so. The capitalists are our capitalists; the armament plants are our plants. We, through our government, can do with them what we like."

Ugh! what sickening, stinking drivel! Mr. Bohn, says an advertisement of the Rand School, is to lecture there on "Isms in the American Labor Movement." We suggest that he specialize on the subject: "Toadyism to the Imperialist War-mongers and How to Practise It." And we suggest further that in view of the approaching union between the Socialist Party and the Social Democratic Federation, Mr. Norman Thomas, as a gesture of good will and appeasement of old racists, nominate Sergeant Bohn as Director of Anti-War Propaganda of the united organization.

Associated with him—we continue our free suggestions—should be Madame Tony Sender, as Director of Anti-War Work Among Women. The qualifications of this former social-democratic Reichstag deputy are revealed in full by one sentence in her article printed in the same issue of the "New Leader," right next to Bohn's: "Certainly, no mother wants to sacrifice her son on the battle-field. But does she prefer to have him sent to a concentration camp? The sooner we stop the march of fascism, the better this nation is served."

Madame Sender gave plenty of proof of her ability to stop the march of fascism when Hitler's gangsters were allowed to walk quietly into power without meeting the slightest semblance of resistance from her and her fellow-party leaders. But lest we appear to doubt her prowess, we hasten to add that we are quite sure she will prove to be far more energetic in getting mothers to sacrifice their sons on the battlefield in Roosevelt's sacred and ever so democratic war against fascism.

She didn't do so well in that war when it started in Germany several years ago, but then she only had about fifteen million workers to back her up. Now, she's guaranteed to do better, for with Wall Street by her side nothing can stop her.

Not even the sacrifice of every conscripted mother's son.

Stalinists Kowtow To Greek Dictator

Signing "individual declarations of repentance," several hundred Stalinists have capitulated to General Metaxas, whose bloody regime has hounded the labor movement ever since he came into power in 1936. All the prominent Stalinist leaders—Sclavainas, Manoleas and others—have "recognized their errors."

Already inoculated with Stalinist patriotism, it was an easy jump for these cynical functionaries to the "better" patriotism of Metaxas. Their conversion followed the visit of King George II to England, and the weakening of Metaxas' friendship for Germany following the Munich Pact.

ROCHESTER UNION FIGHTS BOSS WAR

(Special to Socialist Appeal)

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—Declaring its firm opposition to any war launched by the United States government, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engine-men, Lodge 99, passed a resolution last week condemning the gigantic program of naval and military expansion proposed by the Roosevelt administration.

The resolution further states that wars are not fought for "democracy," but that the slogan of "democracy" is used to dupe the workers and farmers of this country to "protect and expand imperialist interests."

All War Funds to Unemployed
Warning the workers that the government's preparations for war are a threat to organized labor as already revealed in the M-day plans and the Sheppard-May bill which provides for the prohibition of strikes, punitive discipline of unions and labor leaders, and the government control of press and radio, the resolution declares that the pacifist, non-working class opposition to war has already collapsed and that only firm working class opposition can stop war.

The union further stated its unalterable opposition to all war preparations and demanded that the military and naval budget funds be transferred to the relief of the unemployed. It also demanded that the United States immediately withdraw its armed forces from foreign shores because only "big business" and not labor have financial interests abroad that need "protection."

The firemen and engineers expressed their desire to join together with all forces in the labor movement who share these views and called for the consolidation of all of labor's forces to resist every move of the war mongers.

Demand Popular Referendum
Another resolution passed by Lodge 99 of the Brotherhood asks for a popular referendum before any war can be declared by the government. The union stated that workmen are constantly forced to fight wars for imperialist robbers, but they are never given the democratic right to vote on whether or not they want to fight for "democracy." Since 18-year old boys will fight the resolution also demands that all persons over the age of 18 be permitted to vote on the question of war. The union stands: old enough to fight, old enough to vote.

And millions of unemployed and W.P.A. workers are being called upon to parade on January 28 to "back up the President."

The whole thing's a fraud. Not the "Tories" but the shrewdest and most coldblooded political leader the capitalist class of this country has had in a century, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, is condemning millions of youth to permanent joblessness, is condemning to slow starvation tens of millions of men, women and children.

If these millions could see Roosevelt and his system of hypocrisy and deceit for just what it is, a monstrous device for keeping us all in subjection, they would put and end to that system. Let us concentrate on helping them open their eyes: then they will really be able to fight for bread—and for socialism.

The letter from Harrison, whom the New Dealers have just appointed Public Relations Counsel to the United States Housing authority in Washington, announces his intention to sue the editors for libel. Gathering wind as he sails along, Mr. Harrison demands nothing less than a public retraction by the editors and a public apology by the authors.

In the article, the authors had made some pointed references to what Harrison himself calls his "career in low rent public housing" and his no less low attacks on revolutionary Marxism and Trotskyism, from which he bombastically "dissociated" himself, in the pages of the social-democratic patriots' organ, the "New Leader."

Mr. Harrison's letter will appear in full, it is announced, in the February issue of the "New Internationalist," so that its readers may get his full measure. Appended to it will be a brief reply by Burnham and Shachtman.

At the end of the meeting, the pickets entered the building and astounded the assembled guests with their singing of the "Internationalist."

Times Leads Pack Attacking Mexico

Press Barrage Presages Sharpened U. S. Demands; Kluckhohn Is Kicked Out

Paving the way for stiff demands by the U.S. government upon Mexico, the New York "Times" is leading the American capitalist press in a systematic campaign of vicious propaganda to justify in advance armed intervention against the Mexican people.

Its own hireling, Frank Kluckhohn, having finally been ousted from Mexico for deliberate falsifications, the "Times" has established him at the border town of Brownsville, Texas, from which he continues to write as copiously as ever, since honest observation never was the basis of his reporting.

"Anti-fascist" Racket
Deep moral indignation at the fact that Mexico is selling to Italy and Germany oil produced from expropriated British and American wells, and the plain implication that this means a process of political identification between Mexico and the fascist countries, is the main theme of this unscrupulous campaign.

Truth Untold
That Mexico would be only too glad to sell its oil to the democratic countries, but is prevented from doing so by a boycott imposed by British and American oil companies backed by their governments—of this neither the New York "Times" nor the rest of the kept press says anything.

American imperialism has established a new "definition" of anti-fascism. Any ruling clique of gangsters who agree to serve American financiers and capitalists—such as the Batista mob which murdered thousands of trade unionists in Cuba, the Vargas camarilla which rules by the sword in Brazil, etc.—is christened "democratic."

But the Mexican government, which is attempting to free Mexico from the grip of imperialism, expropriated big foreign oil and land holdings—that the American kept press has the effrontery to link with fascism!

Armed Intervention Demanded
A campaign for use of "our

whole armed might" to "bring about restoration of American properties in Mexico and the elimination of Nazism from that State" is prominently displayed in the "Times" on January 22.

To bolster up the case for pure idealism of the gentleman inaugurating the campaign, Roy P. Monahan, a Wall Street attorney, the "Times" gravely adds that "Mr. Monahan was the complainant against the German-American Settlement League, six officers of which were recently tried for violation of the State Civil Rights Law." In other words, the "Times" vouches for Monahan's pure "anti-fascist" motives: his cheap gesture against a fascist organization is employed to justify a holy "anti-fascist" war against Mexico.

Atrocity Stories
Shots at the home of a consular employe in Mexico City, American businessmen who "are afraid to make public complaints," information which "cannot be sent in detail by American correspondents" and similar atrocity items figure largely in Kluckhohn's concoctions. Mr. Kluckhohn has no imagination: the same items are being employed by Nazi Germany in preparing to make stiff demands upon Holland. Refuting his assertions about secrecy and suppression, Associated Press dispatches from Mexico City have carried the details about Mexican trade with Germany.

Mexican trade with Germany can be ended by the American imperialists and their government very easily: all they have to do is put an end to the boycott they have been waging against Mexican oil and other products!

Senate Stalls On Relief As F.D.R. Evades Responsibility

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maximum of 1,950,000 by the end of June: that is, more than 1,000,000 workers will be thrown on the street.

Nor would the picture be basically altered by the increase of \$150,000,000 in accordance with Roosevelt's recommendation. Colonel Harrington's statistics, placed before the Senate Committee, show that a \$875,000,000 appropriation would require a reduction of the rolls at least to 2,650,000 (370,000 under the current total) by June 30th, and in all probability more than this.

In actuality, Roosevelt's present battle with Congress is a sham, designed only to paralyze an independent fight by the labor movement and the unemployed for adequate relief provisions. Roosevelt is just as determined as Congress to carry through the smashing drive against the unemployed, which started under his auspices during the week following the November elections. He differs with Congress only as to the ways and means of handling it and of dealing with opposition from the workers.

Unemployed Can Rely Only On Themselves

Roosevelt's maneuver has already succeeded in swinging John L. Lewis, David Lasser and Mayor LaGuardia into line behind him. These three have dropped their own plans without a murmur, and are now merely pleading tearfully for Congress to "stand behind the President"; in other words, they have become the spokesmen for Roosevelt's own drive against the unemployed, which dropped 350,000 from the W.P.A. rolls during November and December, plans a further drop of 370,000 by June.

Blackwell Will Speak at Meeting

Russell Negrette Blackwell, just returned from Spain where he was held as a prisoner by the Spanish G.P.U. in Barcelona, will speak at a meeting on February 10th, 8 P.M., at the Stuyvesant Casino, Second Avenue, at Ninth Street.

Blackwell was held on charges of high treason after participating in the armed resistance of the Barcelona workers to attempts to disarm them. The pressure of labor groups in America upon the Department of State once secured his release only to have the G.P.U. rearrest him on board the vessel that was to take him home.

The meeting is under the auspices of the Blackwell Defense Committee.

and maintains the W.P.A. workers at the sub-human average wage of \$32.50 per month. If the unemployed are to get anywhere in protecting themselves from literal starvation, not to speak of advancing the positive struggle for jobs and decent wages, the first step will have to be a breakthrough from subordination to Roosevelt—who is himself the most skillful leader in the drive against the unemployed.

A wholly independent perspective, content with nothing less than W.P.A. jobs for all unemployed workers at trade union wages and the turning over of all war funds to the unemployed, implemented not by lobbyists in Washington but by militant mass actions, is the only hope for the unemployed.

OHIO ACTIVISTS DISCUSS WORK

(Special to Socialist Appeal)

AKRON, Ohio—Despite a hazardous snowstorm, more than 60 people came from a radius of 300 miles to attend the second annual Ohio-Michigan district convention and active workers' conference of the Socialist Workers Party, held here last Sunday.

A 20% increase in party membership was reported for this district during the past year.

B. J. Widick, National Labor Secretary, reported for the National Committee on party progress and perspectives. Special reports on the transitional program and its application to this heavy industrial section were made. Reporters were Art Preis, Ted Selander, Bert Cochran and Blake Lear. Helen March, of the Y.P.S.L. District Council, spoke on the problems of the youth organization.

Adoption of special programs for a national unemployment campaign and a concentrated drive in key industries here featured the convention conference. The newly-organized branch in Flint was welcomed into the district. It was well represented at the conference.

After considerable discussion, proposals for a district organization with a committee of six and an executive secretary were adopted. Art Preis was elected district secretary. The former district secretary, R. Ferguson, was unable to attend because of sickness and his report on the work of the past year was read to the convention.

QUESTIONS

Why doesn't the Soviet government open its doors to the refugees from Fascism?

Why doesn't Stalin's government invite the Jews to settle in Biro-Bidjan, the Jewish Autonomous Territory in Soviet Siberia?

What has happened there since its leaders were executed? Why hasn't Stalin uttered a syllable in protest against the persecution of the Jews by Hitler?

Why hasn't the Stalin government taken at least one hundred children of Jewish refugees if England has accepted 2,000?

Why has the "Socialist Fatherland" refused to give visas even to Czechoslovakian and German communists?

Why don't the American Stalinists, like the Socialist Workers Party, fight for the admission of political and religious refugees into this country?

What is happening inside the Soviet Union and its ruling circles that can explain such things?

Progressives Win In Firemen Vote

SAN FRANCISCO—The progressive slate made a clean sweep in the annual election of the Marine Firemen's Union, cleaning out the last Stalinist.

It was a straight contest between the Stalinists and the progressives who had rallied fifteen months ago against Stalinist domination of this key union.

Defeat Stack

Walter Stack, the one Stalinist who had managed to be elected last year, due to a split vote among the progressives, was defeated for the post of San Francisco patrolman by Joe Golden, who polled 1,568 votes against 1,009.

V. J. Malone, unopposed for re-election as secretary, polled 2,337. Joe Helke, treasurer, and Jimmy Greathouse, Seattle patrolman, were re-elected by four-to-one votes. In every case a progressive won by a decisive majority.

Once a plaything of the union wreckers, the Marine Firemen have rebuilt their union. Here is an example for the C.I.O. longshoremen, the furriers, the New York painters, and other unions wrecked by the disease of Stalinist leadership!

ARTISTS UNION CONSIDERS RESOLUTION ON REFUGEES
CHICAGO, Ill.—A resolution calling for the open door for ref-

ugees was put on the agenda of the Artists Union of Chicago, A. F. of L. at its regular membership meeting on Dec. 27, by membership vote. Introduced by a militant union member, the resolution met with a favorable response. Referred to the Executive Committee for consideration of its form, the resolution has not yet been brought back to the membership.

Barcelona Can Be A Second Madrid

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tal and Stalinist circles. Writing on January 23 from Barcelona, he said it was "hoped to keep on fighting for some days to come, if not longer." The day before, Matthews wrote: "Either the drive will be halted in the next few days or the city will be lost."

Since it is absolutely untrue, from a military point of view, that the fate of Barcelona could possibly be settled in a few days, Matthews' dispatches may indicate that the Negrin government plans to abandon Barcelona instead of making a last-ditch stand.

Tens of thousands of anarchist and socialist militiamen were slaughtered after they had surrendered in Gijon and Santander. It is to be hoped that this lesson will be remembered by the workers of Barcelona and that, no matter what the Negrin government does, the masses organize the defense of Barcelona.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY F.D.R.'S SHAM BATTLE FOR RELIEF

(Continued from Page 1)

Is there any possible justification for Roosevelt's orders to cut down relief? On the contrary, unemployment is as widespread as ever. Even the New York Times business index reveals the frightful situation: it dropped three points this week and stands at the same level as in June, 1933!

In June, 1933, Roosevelt sought to revive American capitalism by "priming the pump." Four million unemployed were hired under C.W.A. and W.P.A.; their wages were to increase purchasing power and start industry going again. That "spending program" helped the business index rise from 90 in June 1933 to 110 in August, 1937. At no time, however, were there less than ten million unemployed who were not given W.P.A. jobs.

Now Roosevelt has abandoned "pump priming." He and the rest of the "executive committee of the capitalist class as a whole"—that's what the government is—have launched upon the most gigantic armament program ever proposed in peacetime America.

They are preparing to revive American capitalism by a world war for the re-division of the world.

A billion dollars less for relief, a billion dollars more for armament—that's the first fruit of Roosevelt's war plans. Bullets instead of bread!

Had Roosevelt's proposed appropriation been adopted by Congress immediately, it would have been plain that he was responsible for the real cuts. Just for

that reason, Roosevelt has engineered a sham battle with Congress.

Here is how he did it:

He issued his figures. The arch-reactionary Republicans and Democrats, as was to be expected, proposed an additional cut of 150 millions. Had Roosevelt desired to settle the matter quickly, he would have sharply spoken out against the cut, he would have used the numerous means he has to put pressure on the Democratic congressmen, he would have broadcast a "fire-side" speech. Whenever Roosevelt really wants something, these are his methods.

Instead, he encouraged the so-called economy bloc. As the New York Times pointed out on January 23, "last week New Deal leaders on the Hill said that the President was willing to accept the cut." When the House of Representatives, on January 13, proceeded to vote, the New Deal leaders in the House had an obvious weapon at hand: a roll call on each restrictive amendment, to record just who were the Congressmen who thought so little of the votes of workers and unemployed. But when Speaker Bankhead inquired if any member wanted to exercise his right and demand a separate roll-call on amendments, no New Dealer demanded a roll-call, and none was taken!

Then, to cap it all, only six Democrats voted against the bill as finally bowdlerized!

The leaflet issued by the "United Labor and Citizens Com-

Chicago Party, Y.P.S.L. Picket Dinner for Fascist

By AL LIEBECK

CHICAGO, Ill.—A mass picket line of 75 S. W. P. and Y. P. S. L. members and sympathizers surrounded the entrance of the University of Chicago's International House on January 22, in protest against a dinner and meeting for Prof. Bruno Roselli, a representative of fascist Italy. Quentin Ogren, a member of the Y. P. S. L., was bodily evicted from the hall when he rose to protest against allowing a fascist to speak.

Y. C. L. Sabotages Line
The picket line was greeted after a half-hour by twelve Young

anti-fascist demonstrators, the Stalinists orated against the "stupid hooligans using Brown Shirt tactics." Despite the Y. C. L. antics, five rank and file Y. C. L. joined the picket line.

The liberals, who had announced their intention to protest, organized a "silent-passive-resistant-non-hooligan-picket line." That is, they stood outside the meeting room, and gave, mournful, though respectful, looks to all who entered. That done, they entered the hall, listened attentively, and democratically helped escort Ogren out of the hall.

At the end of the meeting, the pickets entered the building and astounded the assembled guests with their singing of the "Internationalist."

"Help! Police!"

A threat to call the cops against revolutionists is contained in a letter to the editors of the "New Internationalist" by Charles Yale Harrison, whose recent break with Marxism was condemned in an article by James Burnham and Max Shachtman appearing in the current issue of that magazine.

The letter from Harrison, whom the New Dealers have just appointed Public Relations Counsel to the United States Housing authority in Washington, announces his intention to sue the editors for libel. Gathering wind as he sails along, Mr. Harrison demands nothing less than a public retraction by the editors and a public apology by the authors.

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