The Unemployed Are Not Guinea Pigs!

AN EDITORIAL

On November 5, 1938, the W.P.A. enrollment stood at 3,262,000 persons.

On February 11, 1939, W.P.A. Administrator Harrington announced that the relief enrollment had gone down to 2,985,881.

In three months, *more than a quarter of million persons have been thrown off the rolls*—and into utter misery.

That's the first result of the Billion-Dollar relief cut of Roosevelt and Congress.

A week ago, Congressman Dudley A. White of Ohio, speaking at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York, said that the Congressional Relief Bill reduction was "an experiment to see whether relief expenditures could not be cut down somewhat as economic recovery progressed."

Only a scientific experiment, you understand!

When you experiment with cutting up guinea pigs—it doesn't matter much. If the pigs die, you can get millions more cheap.

But the millions of unemployed and their families are not guinea pigs you can experiment with, or cut up, and leave to die!

Guinea pigs can't fight. Workers can. They must. They will!

Unite to smash the "experimenters"! Don't be a guinea pig!

Demand all war funds to the unemployed!

LABOR! PICKET THE FASCIST GARDEN RALLY ON FEBRUARY 20!

Workers of New York!

Rally to stop the Fascists!

They are mobilizing at Madison Square Garden Monday night, February 20.

Hitler's German-American Bund gangsters, Pelley's Silver Shirt scum and Coughlin's mob of labor-haters have hurled a brazen challenge at the workers of New York.

Wrapping themselves in the cloak of patriotism and "Americanism," the Fascists prepare to spew their anti-labor and anti-Jewish poison throughout New York City.

These gangs have already gone too far. They must be stopped.

What are you going to do to stop this murderous crew?

We must not let this filthy, creeping slime get a foothold in New York.

Gather in front of Madison Square Garden Monday by the thousands!

Be there at 6:00 P.M. sharp!

Let the Fascists feel the anger and the might of the working class—Get out and picket!

Don't wait for the concentration camps—Act now!

On to Madison Square Garden Monday night!

—Socialist Workers Party
N. Y. District

Socialist Appeal

Official Organ of the Socialist Workers Party, Section of the Fourth International — *Issued Twice Weekly*

NOW 3 Cents A Copy

VOL. III—No. 9 | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 1939 | 375 | 3¢ per copy

JAPAN MENACES USSR

California Labor Protests Oakland Police Brutality

Myra Tanner, Y. P. S. L. Organizer, Slugged by Cops for Aiding Roland Bates

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 16.—The brutal slugging of Myra Tanner and Roland Bates by Oakland police has aroused intense indignation in labor circles here.

Long notorious for anti-labor brutality and frame-ups, this last attack upon a picket line by the Oakland police force has brought fresh realization to the labor movement that Workers Defense Guards must be formed if so much as the elementary right to picket is to be safeguarded.

Funds are being rushed to the Defense Committee as the first step in the fight to save the picketers.

California labor is determined that Myra Tanner and Roland Bates shall not be railroaded to prison in a new Tom Mooney frame-up case.

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

OAKLAND, Calif.—Myra Tanner, Division Organizer for the Y.P.S.L., and Roland Bates, University of California student and Y.P.S.L. member, face charges carrying penitentiary sentence of up to five years as a result of an ani-fascist demonstration held here last Friday night, February 10. Comrade Bates was clubbed unmercifully by the police and lies in the hospital as physicians fear a possible skull fracture.

Despite the fact that he was the victim of unprovoked police brutality and that comrade Tanner's only "crime" was an attempt to go to his assistance as he lay unconscious and bleeding in the street, both are charged with assault and battery, inciting to riot and resisting arrest.

Stalinists Twin Copper

Meanwhile the leading Stalinist functionaries involved in the situation have given every indication of an intent to turn copper by issuing statements published in the entire Bay area capitalist press charging the Yipsels with "disobeying orders" and "provoking a riot"!

The protest demonstration was directed against a meeting sponsored by Catholic women's clubs for a Miss Aileen O'Brien speaking on "Social Reconstruction in Spain Under General Franco." The Young Socialist League, together with many anti-fascist workers and students, turned out to protest this brazen fascist propaganda. A picket line was formed early in the evening and grew steadily until the top Stalinist functionaries moved in to "restore order."

On the pretence of "reorganizing the line" they diverted the crowd away from the doors and across and down the street where they launched a seemingly interminable meeting chiefly devoted to the theme that the "real Catholics are for democracy."

Police Close In

In the meantime, the hall was unpicketed except for a single ex-Lincoln Brigader who refused to follow the lead of the Stalinist chiefs. The crowd grew more and more restless as "reorganization" threatened to go on all night. Our comrades protested and many of the crowd took up their slogan of "You can't fight fascism with words."

The police, given time to gain reinforcement, closed in on the Spanish Veteran and hustled him into the wagon. Thereupon the bulk of the crowd, despite the pleas of the Stalinist speakers that they disperse, surged back toward the scene of the picket line they had been tricked away from. Three of the chief tricksters, including Estolv Ward, Alameda County C.I.O. and C.P. official, were paid for their services by being arrested by a zealous police squad which charged through the crowd.

Police *everywhere* were "rioting"—pushing and shoving the crowd this way and that, seizing and destroying the anti-fascist placards while the bulk of the crowd stood their ground singing the "International," and while the Stalinist faithful alternately sang "America" and shouted "Trotskyite provocateurs."

Bates Clubbed

It was at this stage that comrade Bates had his banner seized and was then driven to the center of the street and clubbed into unconsciousness by half a dozen cops. A few minutes later Myra Tanner was manhandled and handcuffed to a lamppost because she asked the police to call an ambulance for comrade Bates.

Clearly, in their own words, she was a "trouble-maker"! Clearly, also, the clubs of the Oakland police force are at the service of "Social Reconstruction" — a la Franco, Mussolini and Hitler!!

Accuse . . . the Y.P.S.L.

Saturday's aftermath showed the Stalinist leaders leaping into print with a demand on the City Manager for an investigation, not of police brutality, but of the Young People's Socialist League. In the same statement they charged the Y.P.S.L. with responsibility for the "riot," and admit-

(Continued on Page 2)

Azana, Negrin Seek Joint Peace Action

Popular Front Leaders At Madrid Said To Agree That New Minister Shall Replace Negrin

DEMOCRACIES WOO FRANCO

President Manuel Azana, who has declared for immediate peace with Franco, and Foreign Minister Alvarez del Vayo, Negrin's spokesman, were closeted together in the Spanish Embassy last weekend in Paris, seeking agreement for joint action.

Azana has proposed that Negrin resign, to make way for a government further to the right. Negrin is reported to have agreed to this point, according to a United Press dispatch. It is significant that it was published without comment by "La Voz," Spanish-language Popular Front-ist New York daily. The dispatch said that Negrin is disposed to agree, "if the naming of a new prime minister will facilitate negotiations that would bring peace to Spain."

That Azana and Negrin are not far apart in their perspectives is indicated by the very fact that Negrin's representatives are conferring with Azana after the latter has openly indicated his treachery to the fight against fascism. Instead of denouncing him for the rat he is, the other Popular Front leaders find themselves close enough to him to seek a common basis for the next steps.

'Democracies' For Franco

Meanwhile the British government decided to grant the fascists de facto recognition while, in close cooperation, France paved the way for a similar step, its emissary to Burgos, Leon Berard, being instructed to inform Franco of France's intention to recognize his government.

Chamberlain and Daladier, once an understanding is reached with Franco, plan to utilize a formal resignation of the presidency by Azana as the pretext for according juridical recognition to Franco, even if any forces are still holding out in Loyalist Spain.

Refugees Persecuted

Spanish refugees in France felt the weight of the Anglo-French orientation. They were subjected to harsh treatment and short rations unless they elected to be sent to fascist Spain. Those dragooned into agreeing to go to Franco-controlled territory were immediately taken to the frontier, while those insisting on remaining loyal to the fight against fascism were informed that they would be interned for the duration of the war.

(Continued on Page 3)

MUNIZ SAFE, BUT CARLINI MISSING

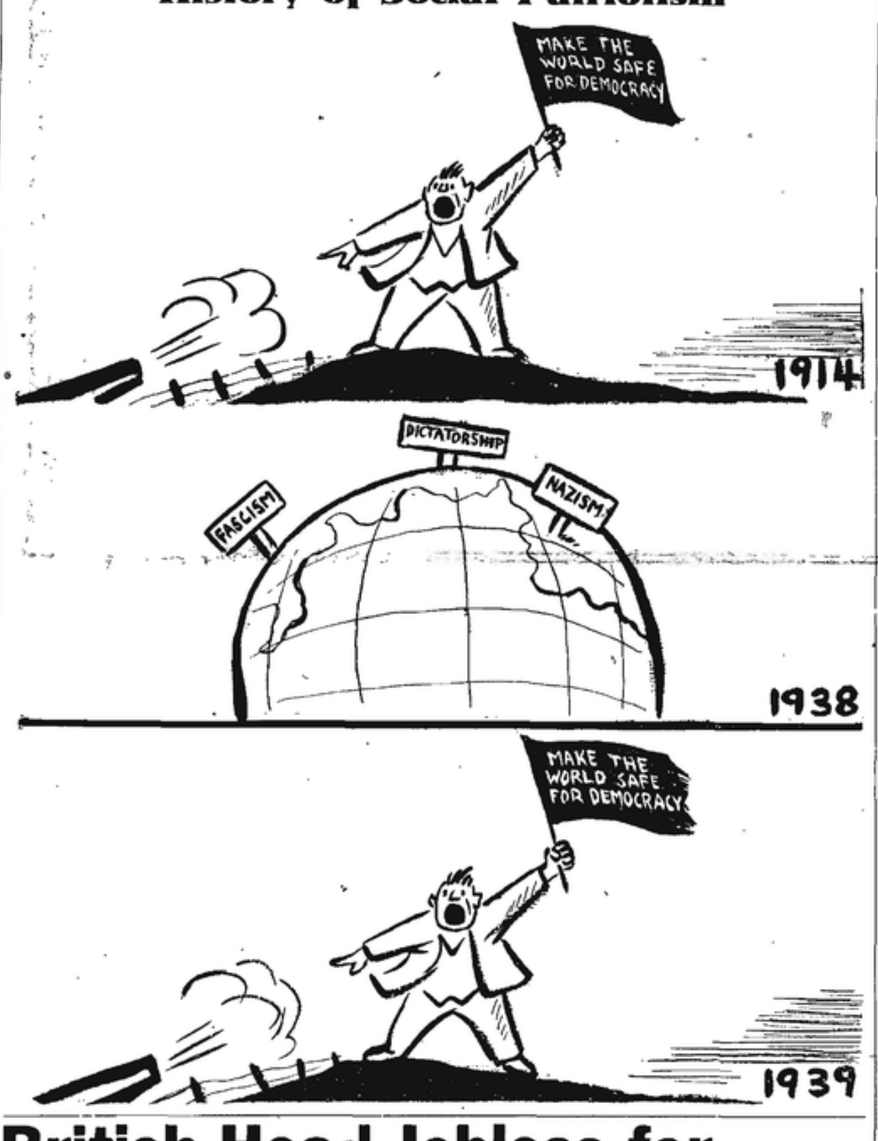
(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

PARIS, Feb. 16—Manuel Fernando Grandizo Muniz, leader of the Spanish Bolshevik-Leninists (Fourth International) who was in prison in Barcelona awaiting trial on Stalinist frame-up charges, succeeded in making his escape from the city before the Fascist army entered, it was learned here.

The fate of Adolfo Carlini, second Bolshevik Leninist leader awaiting trial, was unknown. Friends here feared the worst had befallen him during the evacuation of the city.

All leaders of the P.O.U.M. already serving sentences after the farcical "trial" of a few months ago were released in time to make good their escape, it was also reported.

History of Social Patriotism



FAR EAST CRISIS PUSHES WORLD CLOSER TO WAR

European Diplomats in Wrangle Over Spain Pickings

WAR FUNDS JUMP

The long-awaited Spring war crisis is developing swiftly both in Europe and in the Far East.

On Thursday Japan served a thinly-veiled ultimatum on the Soviet Government over the Siberian fisheries. But it is precisely upon this issue that Japan is preparing a fresh test of strength between itself and the Soviet Union and for this purpose has mobilized troops along the Siberian frontier and warships near Sakhalin, opposite Vladivostok.

In Europe the final stages of the strangulation of the Spanish revolution are paving the way for the *resumption* of the military and diplomatic see-saw between the London-Paris and Rome-Berlin axes which will have to end either in another Munich conference or this time in war.

Mussolini was expected to formulate openly his Mediterranean demands this week. In anticipation of these demands both the British and French governments have been tumbling all over themselves to secure footholds in Franco's capital, to speed up the final abdication of the Loyalist government, and to wean Franco away from his German and Italian mentors.

Arms Increase

In hopes of either extracting a better bargain this time—or of being better prepared if an armed showdown proves unavoidable—Great Britain has stepped up its arms outlay for this year alone to £580,000,000 ($2,900,000,000) and has increased its borrowing plans from $2,000,000,000 to $4,000,000,000 to complete the five-year arms program due for completion in 1942. This includes provision for naval building which, if completed, would give Britain a fleet in capital ships larger than those of Germany, Italy, and Japan combined.

In Washington this week Congress voted $376,000,000 to add 3,000 fighting planes to the Army Air Corps, making a total of 5,500 planes. Secretary of State Hull indicated to Congress that the Neutrality legislation would have to undergo revision in the direction of freeing the hands of the Administration to sweep the country into the war that was accepted by all the spokesmen in Congress as inevitable and close.

With the rapid development of the war crisis in all quarters the imperialist powers in the "democratic" camp are more and more unashamedly abandoning the few, thin trappings of democracy which still adorn their capitalist nakedness. In Britain the establishment of compulsory labor camps and forced conscription is openly on the order of the day. In France the press is already under censorship and demonstrators are arrested for merely criticising the government in public! In this country, we may be sure, the screws will be tightened in direct ratio as the crisis sharpens.

British Head Jobless for Compulsory Labor Camps

The British government is preparing to herd the jobless millions of Britain into compulsory labor camps just like those in Nazi Germany.

Parliament opened debate in London this week *on proposals* designed to set up a compulsory labor service as a means of priming the unemployed workers for service in the army.

Prominent Conservatives in Parliament have come forward openly with the proposals that the government does not yet dare sponsor. These conservatives, led by Sir Percy Hurd, speak with shameless cynicism of utilizing skillful propaganda and a proper amount of "persuasion" to lure the young workers into the armed forces. The next step would be enforced conscription.

These proposals are similar to those in such American newspapers as the Daily News which advocates the complete militarization of C.C.C. camps in the United States.

At the same time, the plans for converting England, Scotland, and Wales into twelve regions ruled by twelve absolute dictators upon the declaration of war proceeded methodically with the appointment of four dictators, despite widespread opposition from the majority of the population. Said Sir John Anderson, Minister for Civilian Defense, to a hostile audience at Glasgow: "We are simply forging another link in the chain of preparations we are making to meet any emergency that may arise under the circumstances of war."

Many local authorities were reported in opposition to the plan since it abrogates their power as elected officials.

The establishment of concentration camps for the unemployed and youth of England will give tremendous impetus to the forces advocating similar measures in the United States.

STALINIST KNIFE-MEN BREAK UP MEETING

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

NEW. YORK — Stalinist gangsters invaded a *meeting of* trade unionists, broke it up and with knives destroyed a score of cane chairs, last Friday.

The United Progressive Furriers, the opposition groups in the Stalinist-controlled Fur Workers Union, were holding a meeting attended by about 300 workers, at the Greek Trade Union Educational *Center*, 167 West 29 Street, when a gang of Stalinists marched in and attempted to take charge of the meeting. When the workers insisted on continuing their own meeting, the Stalinists drew knives and proceeded to wreck the place.

LIBERTIES REPORT PROVES NEED FOR WORKERS GUARDS

LaFollette Facts Show Anti-Union Violence

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—If ever the crying need to form Workers Defense Guards was obscure to any worker, that obscurity should now be completely peeled from his eyes.

After the most thorough exposure ever made in this country of the employers' use of organized and armed force in repressing workers, the Senate Civil Liberties Committee under the leadership of Senators LaFollette and Thomas recommended to Congress on Feb. 13 that the evil be overcome by legislation prohibiting companies from *employing* armed company guards "who have previous criminal records showing a tendency toward violence or the dangerous use of deadly weapons."

Nothing on Private Armies

They further propose that leg-

(Continued on Page 2)

OMAHA TRUCKERS WIN UNION SHOP, WAGE INCREASE

Bosses Yield After Twenty-two Week Struggle

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

OMAHA, Nebr. — The fighting teamsters finally pushed their 152-day strike to victory last Wednesday, Feb. 8, when the five major trucking companies—Watson Brothers Transportation, Union Transfer, Red Ball Transfer and On Time Transfer (all of Omaha), and the Dougherty Van & Storage Company of Sioux City, signed closed shop contracts covering both city and over-road operations.

Adhering to the standard 11-state over-the-road agreement in practically all particulars, the Omaha contract calls for the uniform scale *of* 2¾c a mile for loaded trucks and 2c a mile for dead-heading for operations outside Nebraska. This is a substantial increase over the old scale of

(Continued on Page 2)

Shachtman Will Debate Bohn on F. D. R. Support

Max Shachtman, editor of the Socialist Appeal, will debate Dr. William E. Bohn, prominent social democrat and educational director of the Rand School, *on the* vital question: "Should Labor Support Roosevelt's War Preparedness Program?"

Bohn answers "Yes!" while Shachtman will argue for the opposing position.

The debate will take place at the Rand School, 7 East 15th St., New York City, on *Thursday*, Feb. 23 at 8:15 P.M. sharp. Mr. Elias T. Tartak, director of the School Forum, will act as chairman. Admission will be 25 cents.

At the conclusion of the debate, questions from the audience will be answered by the two speakers in turn.

Considerable interest is attached to this debate, as it is probably the first time that the revolutionary Trotskyist position will be counterposed to the social-democratic stand on the burning question of the Roosevelt arms program, and related to it, the question of the Administration's foreign policy and the attitude of the working class towards war.

It is urged that all who plan to attend the debate come early in view of the limited number of seats available in the hall.