

In the Trade Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

While the politicians in Washington are proceeding to carve out the life of the Wagner Labor Disputes Act...

The amazing story of the development and the results of the sit-down strikes in the giant rubber plants in 1936...

Neither side is anxious to have this hot potato occupy the center of the stage but it is inevitable...

The Ku Klux Klan, the Black Legion, the Goodyear Stalwart Club and countless other anti-union organizations...

Bribing politicians, giving city policemen bonuses to club and tear gas union pickets...

Headlines Are Due

In the revealing of this story before the N.L.R.B., America will get a concise picture of the whole story of the difficulties and problems that faced the C.I.O. in its early days.

Tom Girdler as a member of the Board of Directors of Goodyear, P. W. Litchfield, company president, Akron city officials and others should be in for some very unpleasant publicity.

The company will probably try to avoid the issues by the simple device of raising the cry of "revolution" and "Soviets" against the sit-downs...

In particular, on May 20, 1936 Goodyear yelled that the workers formed a Soviet at plant two when a group of cool-headed union committeemen took charge of the plant...

Although 21 union men were arrested for "rioting" the frame-up charges were exposed and the union militants freed.

Boomerang Statements

Another time Cliff Slusser, vice-president of the company, got drunk and tried to get tough with union militants in the plant, according to the unionists, and he was ejected for his own good...

There is no question but that an intelligent answer will stop the company's counter-offensive when the hearings begin. Unfortunately, prominent union officials like John House, Goodyear Local president, and Stanley Denlinger, attorney for the U.R.W.A., have made some ill-advised statements on sit-downs...

One thing is certain, however. For the first time in C.I.O. history, the whole story of sit-downs, etc. from every point of view is going to be told.

REFUGEE NEEDS A TYPEWRITER

The American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees needs a typewriter for a refugee recently arrived in this country. In order to enable him to earn a living, a typewriter is an urgent necessity...

320,000 Miners Solid in Strike

Lewis Drops Miners' Economic Demands; Holds Out Only for Closed Shop

(Continued from Page 1)

John L. Lewis and Philip Murray, leaders of the U.M.W.A. committee in the current negotiations, therefore made a pretense of fighting for these just and necessary demands of the coal miners...

The miners, the best organized group of men in any industry of the U. S., could have halted the present backward movement of the C.I.O. and taken the leadership in the forward march of all American labor.

Negotiators Give Way But obviously Lewis and Murray did not take this fight very seriously. The very idea of leading a great pioneering movement in their industry for the 30-hour week is beyond them...

While all union men are rallying to the cause of the valiant soft coal miners, the present strike is seen as one more compelling reason to cement an honest fusion between the two houses of labor. Labor, as the present strike indicates, needs all of its strength to fight the reactionary employers and their anti-union campaign.

M-Day Plans Deprive Labor of All Freedom

(Continued from Page 1)

Government service, the same as it does the men in the army, nor would there be any high wages paid to the man who stays at home.

Contracts Voided The government intends to have an easier time with respect to other working conditions. All legislation on hours and conditions, as well as trade union agreements on these subjects, will merely be declared null and void.

Whereas: the Roosevelt government's frenzied preparations for war are a mortal danger to all workers—unemployed as well as employed—and include the launching of a gigantic program of over a billion dollars for arms, twelve hundred millions additional for warships, and whereas the relief appropriation of 1936 was \$1,425,000,000 as compared to 1938's \$725,000,000, and

Whereas: the billions of dollars being appropriated for destruction and death are being taken from the mouths of the unemployed and could be used for W.P.A., food, clothing, and a housing program, and

Whereas: the Roosevelt government is already engaged in a campaign to militarize the relief and W.P.A. workers by the use of generals, captains, and other army officers in the administration of relief, W.P.A. and N.Y.A.

Therefore Be It Resolved: 1. That the Unemployed and Project Workers Union of New York, voicing the determination of more than 3,000 unemployed and W.P.A. workers, declares its firm opposition to any war launched by the government.

Among the first laws to be scrapped will be those dealing with women and child labor. There will be a Reserve Woman Power Division: "The specific mission of this division is to recommend methods for the recruiting, training, and infiltration of women, not gainfully employed, into industry, commerce, and auxiliary services."

Lewis and Murray call the miners out on strike for the closed shop.

The closed shop is an important union weapon to consolidate the union position and to resist the employers' efforts to break up the union organization. But one has got to be a pretty smug bureaucrat to forget all about the economic demands of the workers and send them out into battle only for the closed shop.

Strike Effective The miners, with the splendid discipline and courage for which they are famed, have shut down every mine tight as a drum. To date the strike is pretty near 100 percent effective.

Behind the stubborn demand for the closed shop lies the fear of Lewis that the mine operators will utilize the fight between the A.F.L. and the C.I.O. to break the organization of the mine workers.

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TROTSKY GREETS TRESKA ON 40th YEAR AS FIGHTER

The fortieth anniversary of Carlo Tresca's participation in the working class movement was celebrated last Friday night in New York City with a banquet in his honor in which representatives of many political shades of opinion joined.

In spite of all the profound divergences, which neither you nor I have the habit of denying or attenuating, I hope that you will permit me to express the deepest esteem for you, as for a man who is every inch a fighter. Your sixtieth birthday is being celebrated by your friends and I take the liberty of including myself among them.

Yours, Leon Trotsky April 10, 1939.

CONVENTION OF PROJECT UNION OPPOSES WAR

Rapid Growth Reported In Membership of Organization

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) NEW YORK—A city-wide convention of the Unemployed and Project Workers Union, attended by 82 delegates representing 22 locals, adopted a resolution denouncing Roosevelt's war-mongering and declared the firm opposition of the U.P.W.U. to any war the United States may enter...

The officers' reports were accepted as read and Sister Pearson was applauded when she announced that the U.P.W.U. had grown from 13 locals which split from the Workers Alliance last fall, to 22 locals—a gain of nine—with 17 unemployed locals and four W.P.A. locals.

Whereas: today the world is threatened by a war in which the workers and farmers will once more be called upon to lay down their lives to protect and expand the imperialist interests of the bosses, and

Whereas: the unemployed workers will be among the first to be slaughtered, as in the last war, and

Whereas: the Roosevelt government's frenzied preparations for war are a mortal danger to all workers—unemployed as well as employed—and include the launching of a gigantic program of over a billion dollars for arms, twelve hundred millions additional for warships, and whereas the relief appropriation of 1936 was \$1,425,000,000 as compared to 1938's \$725,000,000, and

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Hear Witnesses At Passport Trial

Previously Disclosed Evidence Points to Link With Soviet Secret Police

(Continued from Page 1)

From the testimony given by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Zuckerman, it is clear that, as intimate friends of the Stalinist defendant Sharfin, they must have been aware of both his political connections, although they deny this, and of the activities of the passport ring. Witness, for example, that Zuckerman was the main link between Sharfin and the forgers, and the Tammany politicians who facilitated the certification of the phoney passports.

Next government witness of importance was introduced by Prosecutor Werner. He is Adolph Rudewitz, of Chicago, the man whose name and birthdate were used by "Robinson" in obtaining a passport. From the introduction of evidence, followed by the examination of Rudewitz by Werner, it was learned that the Chicago man's name was taken over by the so-called Robinson and, with the assistance of Blatt, was legally changed by court order from Adolph Rudewitz to Adolph Arnold Rubens, in which name a passport was obtained on April 7, 1936.

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Columbus Circle Rally Is SWP May Day Plan

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) NEW YORK, April 17—Local New York of the Socialist Workers Party is planning a May Day rally at Columbus Circle for the afternoon of May 1, E. R. McKinney, City Organizer, announced today.

The slogan will include the anti-capitalist slogans characteristic of May Days of past years, as well as slogans against fascism, against the W.P.A. lay-offs, for increased relief and for the six-hour day.

The demonstration will be a colorful affair with banners and music. A joint committee of the Party and Young People's Socialist League is working on the arrangements.

There will be no general united front May Day in New York this year. "The object of a united front on May Day," a party statement points out, "is to involve masses of workers in genuine class struggle demonstrations, under genuine working class slogans."

Stalinists Violate Tradition The demonstration called by the Stalinists will, to be sure involve masses. But the character of the demonstration will be clearly patriotic, class collaborationist and in favor of the so-called collective security front of the "democratic" capitalists against the Rome-Berlin axis.

The Socialist Workers Party feels that under the circumstances, the May Day tradition can best be upheld by a demonstration which will be clearly anti-capitalist and anti-war in character.

Beginning at 2:30 "A united front of small and relatively isolated political parties and groups," the statement continues, "is no substitute for such united action as May Day requires generally. On the contrary it is a meaningless and deceptive caricature of the united front. The Socialist Workers Party therefore will celebrate May Day under its own banner. The Party invites all workers who want to fight against war and fascism, all workers repelled by Stalinist social-patriotism and union wrecking to join in the demonstration. All unemployed and W.P.A. workers who want to fight against W.P.A. lay-offs and for higher standards of relief, and all workers who want to carry on a relentless struggle against the boss are urged to join in the demonstration with us on May Day."

The demonstration will take place at Columbus Circle and will begin at 2:30. The speakers and the program for the demonstration will be announced in coming issues of the Socialist Appeal.

C.P.'s Mr. FORD SQUIRMS OUT OF DEBATING JAMES

The average Communist Party leader is usually ready to argue for hours at a time about the necessity of building "our" war machine and stopping the aggressors, or how the Trotskyists with their revolutionary slogans are undermining traditional American institutions.

Mr. Schuyler reports that C. L. R. James was willing to meet Mr. Ford on a public platform where each would have equal opportunity to express his views in democratic fashion. But Mr. Ford, the Communist Party leader, when approached, "curved like an Australian boomerang."

Mr. Ford absolutely refused to debate James, and blew off steam over the proposal in a long letter to Cris in which he gave no coherent reason for refusing the debate, but merely called James by the most selective assortment of names to be found in the Daily Worker.



"Enclosed is a money order for a ten dollar (\$10.00) greeting in the May Day issue of the APPEAL for the Boston local. 'Here's hoping for a slam-bang May Day issue!'"—Bill Trainor, secretary of the Boston Branch.

LAST CALL FOR MAY DAY APPEAL: On Wednesday, April 26, this special 8-page May Day issue of the Socialist Appeal will be out.

Branches have until Saturday, April 22 in which to place their extra bundle-orders, send in their greetings and collection lists for the May Day issue. Many branches have yet to send in greetings: Chicago, some of the New York Branches; St. Louis, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, California; Detroit, Cleveland, Akron and others.

Watch for the May-Day Appeal! The Voice of Militant Labor!

Inventor of Cotton Picker Says Planned Economy Only Way Out

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) JOHN RUST, co-inventor of the only practical cotton picking machine, told this reporter that his invention would greatly accelerate technological unemployment. The lot of the share cropper, he maintained, already miserable beyond description, would grow steadily worse.

Mr. Rust stated that the tractor had already displaced half a million to a million cotton tenants. His own picker, which is about to be introduced, can do the work of 50 to 100 hand pickers. Large-scale introduction of the new machine will displace 75 to 80 percent of the remaining tenants and sooner or later almost all wage labor will become superfluous except that necessary to operate machines.

The tenants who remain will be compelled, if the land is suitable, to buy the machine lest they be unable to compete. Mr. Rust, who is not merely an inventor but also a man fully conscious of the social consequences of a practical, commercial invention, stated that it was the duty of the government to absorb displaced tenants and laborers on nation-wide housing and cooperative farm projects.

Will Train Workers The Rust Foundation, which is being organized by both Rust brothers, will have as one of its functions the training of the unemployed to use the new machine, so that some of them will find new types of employment at higher wages.

Asked what he thought of the A.A.A. and the various government crop reduction programs, Mr. Rust replied that he was absolutely opposed to them. He is in favor of some type of domestic allotment plan whereby the farmer will receive a bonus on each bale of cotton sold for consumption in the United States.

"Although a large scale housing program, cooperative farm projects and retraining may do some immediate good," the inventor concluded, "only the introduction of a planned economy of abundance based on production for use will solve the problem of technological unemployment. Under such an economy new inventions cannot cause unemployment but can only serve to lighten the burden of toil and raise the standard of living generally."

Yezhov's Victims In Spain Must Cry Out

Yezhov, the former head of the G.P.U., fell into disgrace for a number of reasons. But undoubtedly connected with his fall are the Spanish events. The rout of the armies of the Republic brought about with the direct and most active participation of the G.P.U., represents a very great danger both for the G.P.U. and its masters in the Kremlin.

Innumerable crimes committed on the Iberian peninsula by Stalin's employ must now inevitably come out into the open. Scores, hundreds, and thousands of witnesses, victims, and participants are now departing and fleeing from Spain to all parts of the world. They will carry with them everywhere their testimony concerning the crimes of the G.P.U. in Spain. Truth will become accessible to broad circles of the population in all countries.

If the Republicans had been victorious, many would have been inclined to condone Stalin's crimes: "Conquerors are not brought to judgment." But it has now become perfectly clear that the infamous murders of revolutionists only served to facilitate Franco's victory. The blinders will fall from the eyes of many a blinded man.

In pursuance of his traditional method, Stalin has tried, by a timely removal of Yezhov to say: "Yezhov is guilty of all this—not I." But after all this, who will believe this cowardly cunning which begins to look more and more like stupidity? For the crimes in Spain, Stalin himself is personally answerable to the world working class—both for the perfidious policy of the Comintern and for the murderous policy of the G.P.U.

Almost in every country in the world there are people who have passed in one way or another through the hands of the G.P.U. After the massacre of Spain, the number of such individuals has enormously increased. When forced to free their victims from the clutching claws, the agents of the G.P.U. usually say: "Remember we have far reaching hands." The fear of this threat seals many a lip. We must now do all in our power to make the terrified ones speak up. Our comrades in all countries must explain to all former victims and semi-victims of the G.P.U. that it is their direct duty to tell everything they know. Their relatives in the U.S.S.R. will not suffer if the revelations assume a mass character. The organizations of the Fourth International can and must give these revelations such a mass character. At present, this is an extremely urgent task in the struggle against the international Stalinist Mafia.

The ABC of Marxism

By HAL DRAPER A simple, clear and comprehensive explanation of basic Marxist ideas—for study classes and self-study. 40 pages, mimeographed pamphlet, printed cover. Published by the National Educational Dept., Socialist Workers Party, 116 University Place, New York City. Single copies: 10c, 15c by mail. 7c in bundles of 10 or more.

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