

# Socialist Appeal

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## Demonstrate on May Day To Protest Against Boss War

### MAY DAY MANIFESTO OF S. W. P.

TO THE WORKERS OF THE UNITED STATES:

May Day, 1939, finds the American workers in a position where it is necessary for them seriously and resolutely to prepare for the mighty struggles that are to come.

Everywhere in the world, the people tremble under the dark shadow of the new world war. The war lords of every great power including the United States pour tens of billions of dollars into their military machines, and make ready to drive tens of millions of their subjects into horrible death on the battlefields.

In the United States, reaction has grown bolder month by month. The courts, backed by the police, are smashing at the rights of labor. Unemployment increases once again to staggering proportions. An onslaught is directed against the relief system, and hundreds of thousands of families are tossed aside into starvation and misery.

#### THE PERVERSION OF MAY DAY

Through a tradition of two generations, May Day has been dedicated to the international solidarity of labor and to the struggle of the labor movement for a better world.

In the present black reaction, the tradition of May Day is itself perverted and destroyed. In Germany, the unspeakable Nazi tyrant, having broken all of labor's own organizations, cynically uses May Day to drive the workers, between ranks of armed storm troopers, into a parade in his honor. In the Soviet Union, the workers who in November 1917 gloriously marched to victory are now lashed within the straightjacket of the G.P.U., and are compelled to march through the streets on May Day to shout made-to-order slogans of praise and dedication to the butcher of the Kremlin. In France, the treacherous leaders of the official labor movement have this year cancelled the May Day general strike through which the French workers have for decades shown their determination to be free.

In the United States, the largest May Day demonstrations, under the control of the Stalinists and the labor bureaucrats, are this year being used not to advance the rights and hopes of labor but to prostrate labor before the government which is smashing relief and to line up labor under the chauvinist slogans of the coming war.

#### LABOR MUST FIGHT

Let the workers determine to fight and they can easily halt the tide of reaction. The masters, fascist or "democratic"; their lackeys, the Stalinists, the social-democrats, the labor bureaucrats, can all be swept away by a mighty surge of the working class.

Squarely upon the labor movement rests all hope for the future. Within labor's potential army are gathered the tens and hundreds of millions who do the work of the world. Labor's hands run the machines whereby mankind lives, drive the trains and trucks and airplanes, till the soil, draw the minerals from the rich earth.

The decision and the responsibility is labor's. If labor gathers together its own strength, heals its own internal divisions, casts off its treacherous misleaders, becomes conscious of its own mighty destiny, no power of reaction can stand against it.

## 140 Tulsa Oil Strikers Framed by Company

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

TULSA, Okla.—In a desperate effort to break the four-month strike of the Mid-Continent Petroleum workers, company officials framed charges through a county grand jury against 140 members of the Oil Workers Union (C.I.O.).

The grand jury which brought indictments of "conspiracy," "incitement to riot," "seizure of private property," etc., consisted mainly of officials of oil companies here.

The witnesses before the jury were confined to company stooges. Not a single striker or union official was called to testify!

The basis on which the unionists were indicted was the first day of the strike when they made preparations to shut

down the plant after notifying the company. If the men had walked out without taking care of the boilers and other equipment, serious damage would have resulted and charges of "sabotage" hurled at them.

**Fear Unionization Wave**  
This strike has been bitterly fought by the oil companies because they fear a wave of unionization in those oil fields. Use of tear gas, hiring of strike-breakers, and use of the National Guard has featured the anti-union drive.

Unable to win by those methods, the company is trying a judicial frame-up. Since the company owns the city political machine body and soul, the indictments were hardly a surprise to the unionists.

To be victorious in the great forthcoming struggles we must know what and how to fight.

#### AGAINST THE WAR

Roosevelt, Hitler, Chamberlain, Daladier, Mussolini, have completed their gigantic plot. They are now prepared to begin again the struggle for the re-division of the world, the battle to decide which of the powers shall have first choice in exploiting and oppressing the great masses of mankind.

THIS WAR IS NOT LABOR'S WAR. Labor's war, in EVERY country, is AGAINST the war-makers, against Roosevelt as well as Hitler, Chamberlain as well as Mussolini.

Within every great power, THE MAIN ENEMY OF THE WORKERS IS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY. Against that enemy must labor's blows be first directed, not against the brother-workers and farmers of other lands.

NO SUPPORT, NOT A PENNY, NOT A MAN, TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN ITS WAR!

FOR A POPULAR REFERENDUM BEFORE DECLARATION OF OR ENTRY INTO ANY WAR! Why do Roosevelt and his fellow war-makers fear the voice of the people? Give the right to vote to all those over 18! Old enough to fight—old enough to vote!

NO SECRET DIPLOMACY! The people have a right to know what is being prepared for them. Why are the diplomatic negotiations conducted behind locked doors? What military commitments are being made behind the backs of the people? Let the truth be known!

ALL WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED! Billions of dollars are being poured into the war machine, to be used to murder workers for the sake of profits, while unemployed are thrown on to the streets. BREAD, NOT BATTLESHIPS!

#### DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF LABOR

During the past year, a rapidly growing attack, led by the courts and joined by all the agencies of government, has been launched against the rights of labor. The Supreme Court, the courts on the West Coast, in Pennsylvania and Illinois and New York, Congress and the administration are combining with the police and Hague and the "Associated Farmers" to curtail the right of assembly, obstruct union organization, eliminate the closed shop, illegalize the sit-down, limit or forbid the right to strike.

The war mobilization plans of the government include regulations which will prevent labor from exercising any civil rights whatever except the right to die and to work inhuman hours under slave conditions.

AGAINST THE ATTACK BY THE COURTS ON THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF LABOR!

FOR THE FREE AND UNHAMPERED RIGHTS TO ASSEMBLY, FREE SPEECH, UNION ORGANIZATION, PICKETING, CLOSED SHOP, SIT-DOWN!

#### JOBS AND A LIVING WAGE

After six years of the New Deal, the economic depression and crisis are in no way improved. At least 13,000,000 unemployed and their families are outside of private industry. Millions more are on part-time or getting starvation wages. The great bulk of the youth are turned out of school with no chances of ever getting jobs. At 40 or less a man is judged too "old" to work.

THIRTY DOLLARS — THIRTY HOURS! The great tradition of May Day, which started in this country, was built up in the victorious battle for the eight hour day. The time has come for the labor movement to protect itself by carrying through on a nation-wide scale the struggle for the six hour day, thirty hour week. FOR THE THIRTY HOUR MAXIMUM WEEK THROUGHOUT PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC WORKS!

According to the government's own figures, the present wage level is only about half that needed for adequate health. FOR A THIRTY DOLLAR MINIMUM WEEKLY WAGE FOR EVERY WORKER, EMPLOYED OR UNEMPLOYED!

OPEN ALL IDLE FACTORIES AND OPERATE THEM UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL! While millions are out of work, and tens of millions need clothes and food and goods of all kinds, thousands of factories are closed or operating only a small fraction of the time.

(Continued on Page 3)

## CONSCRIPT BRITAIN'S WORKERS

"Appeasement" Deal  
Again Rumored  
In Europe

### THIS WEEK CRITICAL

Conscription of the British working class for war was decided upon in London this week.

Simultaneously the British began cautiously sounding out the possibility of some kind of modified repetition of the Munich deal which will postpone the outbreak of war sufficiently to enable them to complete their chain of European alliances.

**Not Much Choice**  
In this and in this alone was there some chance of a postponement this week of the armed showdown that has been so agonizingly imminent for months.

This did not offer the peoples of the world much of a choice, for if the war is postponed, it cannot be for long.

While superficially events seemed to hinge on Hitler's speech this Friday, actually the key to the next act in the tragedy lay in the extremely complicated diplomatic moves made by the opposing camps in the mad scramble for allies. One of these moves was the sudden return of the British ambassador to Berlin, an action which set the European rumor factories buzzing with reports of a fresh deal in Munich.

**Practical Reasons**  
Any British move in such a direction would be motivated, however, by some very real and practical considerations. The attempt to form a bloc for immediate war through re-vamping alliances throughout Europe has hit a number of very sizeable snags.

1. The Russians have replied to the British proposal of a mutual guarantee with a plan for a rigid and sweeping military pact that would be directed not only at Germany but at Japan as well. It was also clear that the Russians, fearing a fresh Chamberlain-Daladier double-cross, wanted to make sure that they would not be left holding the bag in any showdown.

This was a way of putting the British on the spot and at the same time enabling Moscow to keep its skirts clear for the continuing possibility of a minimum agreement with Hitler which would pit Germany and Italy against Britain and France with Russia sitting pretty on the sidelines in the first stages of the war. The British were obviously unenthusiastic and the parleys were lagging.

2. The axis diplomats raised a new barrier in the path of the Anglo-French bloc by swinging Yugoslavia into their orbit. With the prospect of a southeastern and Balkan bloc composed of Hungary, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, the Rome-Berlin axis placed Rumania and Greece in a cruel dilemma and could boast by and large of nullifying the effect of the British guarantees to those two countries. Turkey, on its part, was waiting to see what the Russians could do and meanwhile sat tight. The Rumanians sat tight. (Continued on Page 7)



## Socialist Workers Party Stands for---

A POLICY OF MILITANT WORKERS' STRUGGLE AGAINST THE BOSSES

—not cringing in the anterooms of Roosevelt, LaGuardia, and all the lackeys of the bosses who say they are "pro-labor" but knife labor in the back every time the bosses need it.

A POLICY OF ACTIVE, AGGRESSIVE ACTION AGAINST THE AMERICAN FASCISTS THROUGH WORKERS' DEFENSE GUARDS

—not empty pleas to the strike-breaking police and government authorities or futile literary campaigns.

A POLICY OF FIGHTING THE WAR-MONGERS

—not betraying the interests of the American working youth by supporting the bosses and Roosevelt in their preparations to hurl this country into a new slaughter-fest for markets and profits.

A POLICY OF INDEPENDENT WORKERS POLITICAL ACTION THROUGH A LABOR PARTY

—not trailing helplessly in the tow of the boss parties and tying the workers to the capitalist band wagons.

A POLICY OF FIGHTING MILITANTLY FOR EXPANDED RELIEF AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

—not supinely lying down in the face of the New Deal offensive against the meager benefits given like charity to the 15,000,000 unemployed.

A POLICY OF UNITING THE WORKERS OF THIS COUNTRY AND OF THE WHOLE WORLD TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF THE BOSS SYSTEM AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD SOCIALIST COMMONWEALTH OF PEACE AND PLENTY FOR ALL.

## SAILORS VOTE STRIKE TO BAR HIRING HALLS

Hopkins' Pledge to  
S.U.P. Leader Broken  
By Government

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

SAN FRANCISCO—A general membership meeting of the Sailors Union of the Pacific here today, April 20, voted for a coast-wide tie-up if that is needed, to put an end to the U.S. Maritime Commission attempts to hire sailors outside the union hiring halls.

When Harry Hopkins, Secretary of Commerce, last week finally answered the demands put to him by the S.U.P., and gave his written pledge that the shipping commissioners of the Bureau of Inspection under him would cease running fink-halls, it looked like a successful end to the long fight of the Sailors Union against governmental hiring halls.

But scarcely was Hopkins' written pledge in the hands of the sailors when Admiral Land, Roosevelt-appointed head of the U.S. Maritime Commission—a body independent of the Department of Commerce—announced that the Maritime Commission would continue attempting to man its ships with men supplied from outside the hiring halls.

What is more, Admiral Land said that Hopkins' subordinates, the shipping commissioners, would continue to supply the Maritime Commission with lists of sailors.

As soon as Admiral Land's position became known, a general S.U.P. membership meeting was called, with all ships' crews and stand-by men ordered to drop work and attend. The nine hundred who attended voted unanimously to accept the resolution introduced and passed by the S.U.P. meeting held simultaneously in Seattle with Harry Lundeberg, union secretary-treasurer, speaking.

Picket lines will be thrown around the Maritime Commission docks when the ships come in. If that doesn't stop them, the entire coast will be tied up.