

In the World of Labor

By Paul G. Stevens

French Teachers Uphold Militant Anti-War Tradition

These days bear witness to the fact that history does repeat itself. Sadly enough, little seems to have been learned by humanity as a whole to take advantage of the repetitions quickly. It is all the more gratifying to find that certain sections of it have at least not unlearned their correct reaction to events such as are recurring now in new form. Among the teachers of France a strong tendency is today repeating the valiant anti-war stand of the unionized teachers during the last war. It is still a minority today, but substantial enough to carry important local unions like that of the Ardeche region by big majorities.

The Teachers Union of the Ardeche has recently adopted resolutions which not only denounce the war preparations of the French bourgeoisie in the abstract, but also call for concrete resistance to the campaign of the government which is enrolling the educational personnel of the country in the war machine under the sign of "passive defense."

"The Ardeche" section, says one of the resolutions, "true to its past intransigent struggle against war, affirms that 'passive defense' is a sinister deceit and that it is meant to lead to nothing else but passive acceptance of war. The section calls upon the national union to denounce most energetically the criminal lie of 'passive defense'; it protests against the scandalous attitude of the C.G.T. (the General Federation of Labor) and the Federation of Functionaries who are not only not doing anything in this sense, but on the contrary, are complacently doing the dirty work for the General Staff."

"Its attention having been drawn to the Ministerial Circular of February 4 relative to the teaching of 'passive defense', the section contests the right of the minister to introduce new teaching material by means of a simple circular announcement into the schedule; remarks that no legal compulsion exists obliging the teaching personnel to participate in the teaching of 'passive defense'; observes that the application of the Ministerial Circular leads to a militarization of academic life similar to that practiced in the totalitarian states . . . etc."

At the National Council meeting of the union early in April, the organized minority called for similar action, proposing in addition, a public propaganda campaign to be conducted by the union in its traditional anti-war spirit. The resolution of the minority recalls the

past actions of the union against capitalist war and continues:

"The particular task of the teachers is to revive the hatred of the popular classes against the war which become impossible the day on which the proletariat refuses its consent or simply its resignation to it."

"The union denounces energetically the imperialist character of the present international tension which is laying the ground for a conflict between various capitalist group interests camouflaged as ideological blocs. . . Reaffirms its complete hostility to the threatening war and refuses to follow the lead of the governments engaged in a policy of intense preparation for the massacre."

Of course, the bureaucratic machine succeeded in defeating the resolution and the practical motions flowing from it, but the agitation along the lines described is widespread among the teachers and through them, reaches vast layers of the working population.

Two New Revolutionary Organs: In France and in Argentina

In recent weeks two new publications have seen the light of day which are in every sense powerful contributions to the international arsenal of revolutionary Marxism. They are the magazine "La Voie de Lenin" in France and the newspaper "La Internacional" in the Argentine.

"La Voie de Lenin" (Lenin's Road) is edited by comrade Jean Rous in collaboration with Fourth Internationalists and other comrades belonging to the P.S.O.P. (the French Socialist Workers and Peasants Party). Devoting a good deal of its space to theoretical articles by Trotsky and to polemics by Rous and Craipeau, its literary section is conducted by the noted proletarian poet Henri Poulaille.

"La Internacional" is published in Cordoba, Argentina by one of the groups working for the constitution of an Argentine Section of the Fourth International. The first number features the interview between Trotsky and the well-known Latin American trade unionist Matteo Fossa and includes excellent material on Latin American as well as on international affairs.

Both publications are well balanced and full of the punch that revolutionary papers should have. We greet them heartily into our midst and wish them the success that their efforts surely deserve.

On the Line . . . with Bill Morgan

"Dear Comrade Morgan:

"I was with the Pincocchio Company of the Federal Theatre from its inception. I was one of the first ones to audition for it, on the basis of which I was prominently cast in a dancing and speaking part. I was with the company for six months and received favorable comment in the press.

"When it became clear that the pink slips were coming the director assured those that had been in the company from the first that they would not be affected. That assurance held for everyone but me and my partner who shared a dance number with me. It all seemed mysterious since our number was a vital part of the show for which there were no understudies. At least twenty walk-on extras and off-stage voices were retained but we were fired.

Director's Manner Changes

"A prelude to what was in store for me was indicated by the director's sudden change of manner toward me. From complimentary approval of my work he suddenly changed to destructive criticism. On one occasion he ordered a change in my part immediately before the curtain rose. I pleaded for an opportunity to run through the new routine but he refused, choosing to hurt the performance in an effort to make me appear incompetent. Further persecution was proved by the fact that our names were crossed off the programs handed to the critics to be sure our names would not be mentioned in reviews of the show. (They overlooked one daily, "Women's Wear," in which we were singled out for our dance number.)

"I also learned that a few weeks before I was fired two other girls were secretly rehearsing our number—both good Stalinists. This was a maneuver to secure their jobs. The unit manager decided that they were a detriment to the show and insisted on our reinstatement. The producer was willing to reinstate us providing that two non-essential workers were fired; he admitted that our firing was an administrative error. The steering committee, which was all Stalinist, refused. But when it became a question of reinstating Stalinists—completely unimportant to the production—the committee did not function. I know of two such people whose pink slips were almost immediately rescinded and in each case someone else was fired.

"My next move was the Workers Alliance. As a member in good standing and a contributor to its various causes (including Lasser's trip to Russia) I felt entitled to their assistance. At the Alliance they would have nothing to do with my case unless I paid a four dollar service charge. Unable to pay the four dollars in a lump sum my request to pay it in installments was rejected—so I gave them my last cent.

"They did absolutely nothing for me while in the meantime my partner who was not a member of the Alliance was reinstated.

"Marion Stevens of the Alliance (who has since made good and has a job in Washington) became interested in my case, especially since my partner got back, and promised to arrange an immediate hearing for me with the Labor Relations Director, Reiss, and a jury, on the basis of discrimination. For some mysterious reason his interest in my case suddenly ceased. He informed me that he couldn't bother with individual cases and that I'd get my hearing in time. After many weeks I was finally called for the hearing. When I arrived, Reiss had me put out of the office saying, "Put that woman out! I know too much about

her case. She has wasted too much of everyone's time around here!"

"The Workers Alliance representatives who were there, said nothing in my defense.

"The producer, Ankrum, promised to reinstate me upon the first resignation from the company. The Workers Alliance used this as a graceful exit from the case. Proof that this was merely a maneuver is the fact that three people have since resigned and I was not notified. The producer simply refused to see me. The first resignation, whose place I was to fill, was filled by a Stalinist who never had anything to do with our show; she had spent the winter in California. . .

"A fantastic and monstrous case is being built up against me to forestall my efforts of reinstatement. In typical G.P.U. fashion my entire past is being investigated and the most unbelievable stories about me are being circulated on the project. I am accused of everything—of having sabotaged a rent strike and squealed to the landlord way back in 1933 (I was a Stalinist in good standing then) to being a stool pigeon for the Dies Committee. . .

"For the past three months I have been working continuously for my reinstatement. I have met with nothing but rebuffs. All doors are closed to me. With every passing day the case against me becomes more colossal—to the point where even non-Stalinists steer clear of me for the sake of their own jobs. . .

"I charge that my firing was perpetrated by the Stalinists because I refused to subscribe to their continuous scabby political activity on the job.

"I further charge that there is collaboration between the union officials of the Workers Alliance and the officials of the Federal Theater Project to prevent my reinstatement. (signed) Bronka Stern"

Not the First Such Story

This is not the first such story to be told about the activity of the Stalinists and their G.P.U. activities on the job. There are hundreds of them. Many workers are afraid to expose these conditions for fear of hurting their friends who have been overlooked by these "rule or ruin" wreckers.

But this is not the way to fight back. The one fear they have is daylight. When they are exposed they run for cover like rats. And unless they are exposed they will continue to bleed the working class by blackmail and bribery, by every underhand method known to gangsters—including murder. Wherever the Stalinists operate the stories are the same. And it is time to bring these scoundrels to account for their crimes.

Every worker who finds himself discriminated against in the shop because he cannot stomach the filthy line of the Communist Party, should immediately expose the set-up and carry it to every worker on the job. The Socialist Appeal will publish the facts if workers send them in.

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

Says the Rev. Chester B. Emerson, dean of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Cleveland, opening speaker in a "Crusade for Christ" sponsored by a group of Twin City laymen: "The church cannot tell society how to improve its economic and political systems. The church is not intended for that. Its role throughout the ages has been to develop men who can do the job in a Christian spirit." And just let the bosses see you try. You and the other sky pilots would be on the streets begging for the "salvation" you try to sell us.

S.W.P. Holds Anti-War May Day Demonstration

(Continued from Page 1)

The demonstration was flanked on all sides by a colorful Y.P.S.L. contingent in uniform. The speakers' stand was surrounded by a color guard of fifty girl comrades of the youth organization. The Yipsel chorus provided songs and a loud speaker system carried the addresses of the speakers into every part of the Circle. Slogans read: "Smash Hitlerism At Home," "Jobs Not Guns," "For Workers Defense Guards, Against Hague's and Coughlin's Hooligans," "For the 6-Hour Day," "All War Funds to the Unemployed," and other militant planks in the program of the Socialist Workers Party.

Jobless Pay for War
Speaking for an hour to an attentive crowd, Max Shachtman, editor of the Socialist Appeal, declared, "The American war machine is being built at the expense of those who can least afford it, at the expense of the unemployed. Over a billion dollars has been slashed from the federal relief budget and that enormous sum is being put at the disposal of the Army and Navy." The crowd broke into cheers when Shachtman made the demand that "All war funds be turned over to the unemployed."

Analyzing the imperialist drive towards war, Shachtman declared, "The sordid imperialist aims of the world-powers are being shrouded in noble slogans for democracy. Yet even prior to the outbreak of war, democracy is being abrogated step by step." Shachtman received enthusiastic applause when he called for the masses' getting the right to decide on the next war. "Let the masses decide their own fate through a People's Referendum on War," Shachtman said. Outlining the opposition in Congress to a popular referendum on war, Shachtman counseled the workers to take matters into their own hands. "You are weak," he said, "not because they are strong, but because you are not united."

The Sixty Families
Contrasting the disunity within the ranks of labor and its consequent inability to make common cause against the class enemy, Shachtman described how the Stalinists and the social democrats are steering the workers into the camp of the 60 families. "These families," Shachtman

said, "are united in a common effort to send millions of workers to their death in order to repeat their profits of twenty years ago." "Expropriate the 60 families," Shachtman declared, "Their money will be more than enough to finance a 20 billion dollar public housing program."

Declaring that the Socialist Workers Party had nothing but contempt and hatred for fascism and anti-Semitism, Shachtman pledged a ceaseless struggle against every form of capitalist reaction.

The speakers also included Bert Cochran and E. R. McKinney for the party and Louis Becker for the Y.P.S.L., with William Morgan as chairman. Becker declared, "This May Day, as never before, we, the revolutionary youth, renounce all ties with capitalism." He denounced the conscription of British youth into the army and warned against the impending conscription of American youth.

Y.P.S.L. Gains Recruits At May Day Meeting
Inspired by the militant anti-war spirit of the Y.P.S.L. at the New York May Day demonstration in Columbus Circle, ten youth joined the ranks of the Y.P.S.L. fighters.

Following the demonstration, the Yipsels held a brief meeting where the national secretary delivered an analysis of the importance of the only anti-war demonstration in the streets of New York this May, and contrasted it with the disgusting parade advertising the World's Fair held by the Stalinists.

The spirit and morale of the Y.P.S.L. was conveyed to the new members. They were greeted by the membership assembly, and by the national secretary in his address.

In addition, the Y.P.S.L. welcomed into its ranks as fighters against war and fascism six youth who, until yesterday, were members of the deceitful reformist substitute for a Y.P.S.L. attached to the Norman Thomas outfit.

British Lion and the Draft

What a humiliating spectacle for all of world labor is the performance of the British Labor Party in the face of Chamberlain's conscription plan!

The Labor Party parliamentarians whine and plead in the House of Commons that conscription is not "necessary" at this time, that it will "cause bad feeling", that it ought to wait until the war begins, that at least wealth might be conscripted a little at the same time.

They think they can give Chamberlain advice on how best to fight British imperialism's war.

Chamberlain taunts them. You want the war, dont you, he says; you criticized me for "appeasing" instead of going to war. Very well, then; you've got to be serious about it, and you can't seriously get ready for this so-popular war of ours without drafting the workers into the armies under the threat of guns and prisons.

Chamberlain threatens a General Election if they don't stop whining. And these Labor Party cowards and traitors don't dare face the thought of an election.

When the entire British working class should be aroused to a flaming, nation-wide struggle on every front against this dictatorial plan of Chamberlain's to draft the workers for the imperialist slaughter, the Labor Party chiefs try to hide their miserable heads, and proclaim themselves better English patriots than Chamberlain.

They are only tasting the dregs of their own treachery. Since they long ago swung to the side of the war, they cannot genuinely resist any of the required steps in preparing for it. They are only the tamed eunuchs of Britain's imperialist rulers. And they have all a eunuch's softness and sterility.

Poles Balk At Ceding Danzig To Reich; Powers for Yielding

(Continued from Page 1)

of the puppet president, Ignace Moscicki, behind whom the army oligarchy, headed by Marshal Edward Smigly-Rydz, rules with an iron hand.

Russian Position
Meanwhile the position of Russia in the diplomatic-military set-up remains as uncertain as ever. At the May Day celebrations in Moscow Marshal Voroshilov and other Soviet spokesmen were just generally bellicose, but failed to be very specific about the objects of their wrath.

In London a very crude attempt was made to cover over the obvious inconclusiveness of the parleys with Moscow by spreading reports that the British were worried about what Portugal, the Vatican, or Japan might think if England went into an alliance with Russia. The fear was expressed, with regard to Japan, that conclusion of an Anglo-Russian alliance would drive Japan firmly and finally into a military pact with Germany and Italy.

Japan's Place
Of course this is so much bunk. Japan is already bound to Germany and Italy as much as she ever will be. Japan's only reservation is that she will not be drawn blindly into a European war except under conditions from which the Tokyo militarists think there is some immediate advantage to be gained. In considering this possibility, the Japanese have to remember that they will have to deal in the future not only with England, France and Russia but with United States imperialism as well. Roosevelt's move in sending the Pacific fleet back into the western ocean was by no means lost on the saber-rattlers in Tokyo. That is why publicly, at least, the Japanese are being cautious about any European commitments.

No, the real reason behind the bogging down of the Anglo-Russian parleys is still the fact that the Russians are demanding the most iron-clad guarantees that Britain and France will be actually carrying out their end of the bargain before the Russians have to move. If they don't get these, the Russians threaten constantly to seek terms with Hitler. But such ironclad guarantees the British are by no means willing to give. The English are used to double-crossing, not being double-crossed. So the stalemate continues.

The S. P. is not and never will be a revolutionary party. The S. P. cannot carry on a Socialist struggle against war. On this May Day it falls after avowed supporters of the pro-war policies of Roosevelt and of the arms budget—the S.D.F. At the first shot of the war—if not before—the S.P. will crumble away, together with the pink-tea pacifists and isolationists with whom it has identified itself.

The S.P. will never be a Socialist force in the union and unemployed movement. It has no trade union line or discipline. The S.P.'s overtures for a merger with the Social Democratic Federation show the direction in which the S.P. leaders are faced. If the merger is not yet consummated, it is because they cannot decide on the exact shade of pink they prefer.

The S.P.'s "internationalism" permits it to be an uncritical member of the same Second International with the strike-breaking Blum of France, of the Negrins of Spain who shoot down the revolutionary workers and hand Spain over to the fascists.

Finally, the S.P.—far from being a revolutionary party—can be called a party at all only out of habit. To its lack of a line, of discipline, of real leadership, add a deep-going organizational disintegration.

To the Socialist Party left-wingers we say: How long will you wait, outside the main stream of revolutionary action, while you try to doctor the galloping gangrene of the S.P.? The question is: For or against the revolution? If you answer "For," you belong with US—NOW!

We leave the shambles of the S.P. because we are left-wing Socialists, revolutionists. We

"We Break With the Socialist Party"

(Continued from Page 1)

there was any possibility of stemming the drift of the S.P. toward reformism and decay, we worked loyally within its ranks. This period is over and we have drawn our conclusions—

S. P. Not Revolutionary
The S. P. is not and never will be a revolutionary party. The S. P. cannot carry on a Socialist struggle against war. On this May Day it falls after avowed supporters of the pro-war policies of Roosevelt and of the arms budget—the S.D.F. At the first shot of the war—if not before—the S.P. will crumble away, together with the pink-tea pacifists and isolationists with whom it has identified itself.

The S.P. will never be a Socialist force in the union and unemployed movement. It has no trade union line or discipline. The S.P.'s overtures for a merger with the Social Democratic Federation show the direction in which the S.P. leaders are faced. If the merger is not yet consummated, it is because they cannot decide on the exact shade of pink they prefer.

The S.P.'s "internationalism" permits it to be an uncritical member of the same Second International with the strike-breaking Blum of France, of the Negrins of Spain who shoot down the revolutionary workers and hand Spain over to the fascists.

Finally, the S.P.—far from being a revolutionary party—can be called a party at all only out of habit. To its lack of a line, of discipline, of real leadership, add a deep-going organizational disintegration.

To the Socialist Party left-wingers we say: How long will you wait, outside the main stream of revolutionary action, while you try to doctor the galloping gangrene of the S.P.? The question is: For or against the revolution? If you answer "For," you belong with US—NOW!

We leave the shambles of the S.P. because we are left-wing Socialists, revolutionists. We

join the SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY because there we see the rallying center for all militant workers who wish to raise their fists unitedly to strike blows for the cause of the working class, to fight against the bosses in peace and in war, and to ACT for the Social Revolution.

(Signed): HARRY DIMON, Newark br., former Trenton organizer; ALICE FALIK, secretary East Side branch; ROSLYN FARMER, East Side branch; STANLEY LANE, East Side branch; GEORGE PAPCUN, org. East Side br., former National Organizer; BILL PETERSEN, Newark br.; DAVE ROTH, Boro Park br. and Y.P.S.L.; DAVE SHARON, East Side br. and Brooklyn College Y.P.S.L.; JULIUS DAVIDSON, East Side Y.P.S.L.; DAVE KLEINMAN, C.C.N.Y. Y.P.S.L.; DON MURRAY, C.C.N.Y. Y.P.S.L. (resigned January 1939); JEAN-NETTE REISEN, Y.P.S.L., Bronx; CYNTHIA WHITE, Williamsburg Y.P.S.L.; FRANCES WOLFE, Hunter Bronx Y.P.S.L.

C. P. STAGES JINGO PARADE

(Continued from Page 1)
American peace-time history was nowhere mentioned. Only one slogan attacked W.P.A. slashes: "Extend W.P.A.—No Cuts." The unemployment and relief questions were dismissed with "Adequate Relief to the Unemployed."

The most prominent banners of the day strove to create a war-hysteria: "Protect the Americas from Fascist Penetration"; "Unite Against Fascist Aggression"; "U.S.A.—U.S.S.R. Cooperation Against Fascist Aggressors." The quotation "United We Stand, Divided We Fall—Thomas Paine" Americanized a float labelled "Collective Security"—Poland, Britain, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., France, China. Another float followed, showing this "Democratic Front" destroying Anti-Semitism.

The youth summed up this approach with "Youth Wants Peace, Support F.D.R."

WHY THEY CARRY GUNS

Arrested and charged with over 60 holdups, two Minneapolis youths explain why they were carrying loaded guns. "We carried them to protect ourselves," they patiently explain. "Against what?" asked the judge. "Why from interference, of course," they answer. Which is exactly the reason for armies and navies: to protect the bosses from interference from the other gangsters who would poach on their racketeering preserves.

SOCIETY NOTES

You Don't Have to Be A Butterfly To Own Industry

Who do you think ran smack into each other a few nights ago at New York's newest night club, the "Monte Carlo"—Barbara Hutton Haugwitz-Reventlow and Doris Duke Cromwell!

Both were attired in black and wore "sparklers" Peggy Hopkins Joyce would have scored as "road-show jewelry."

Totally different in temperament and appearance are these two "Golden Girls" who, between them, control 100,000,000 made in American industries.

If Mrs. Matthew Astor Wilks had arrived and claimed the table between the two "Golden Girls," that would have been SOMETHING. For she, not Barbara or Doris, rates the title, "The Richest Woman in the U.S.A.!"

Mrs. Wilks, who never goes to night clubs, could match Barbara and Doris COMBINED dollar for dollar and then have a few millions to spare.

Which chalks up another point to prove the calamity-prophets wrong—it's not always the night club butterfly who can boast the snootiest collection of gilt-edged stocks!

Sometimes Economy Can be Carried Just a Bit Too Far!

Budget pruners in the New York State legislature who have been slashing away at special State services, appear to have accidentally done away with the most special of them all—the services of Robert Elliott, the executioner at Sing Sing.

Attendants at the prison were amazed to discover that the Sing Sing "special service" appropriation has been dropped from the tentative State Budget.

The bulk of this appropriation, which was \$2,500 for the current fiscal year, is used to pay Elliott his fees of \$150 for each time he pulls the electric chair switch.

It was pointed out that the legislators at Albany could easily have been deceived by the blanket way in which the appropriation was designated and which would make it appear easily dispensable on its face.

But with war coming on and new waves of unrest to be expected from the radical fringe directed especially against the present form of government, it is one of the services which can least be dispensed with. It is expected that the budget pruners will hastily reconsider.