

PICKET LINES FORM IN DETROIT

Cops Attack S.W.P. Anti-Coughlin Rally

Workers Boo Coughlin Police Stooges as Large Open Air Bronx Meeting Is Broken—Eleven Arrested "for Collecting Crowd"

A crowd of five hundred workers participated in an anti-Coughlin mass demonstration and meeting, organized by the Socialist Workers Party on Tremont Avenue, the Bronx, the evening of May 24—and became the object of a police attack.

While the crowd was listening to Arthur Rosen, Socialist Workers Party speaker, a club-swinging platoon of La Guardia's police drove into the crowd, punching and seizing demonstrators and spectators. Rosen was jerked from the platform and dragged into an automobile.

Police then proceeded to seize Socialist Appeal salesmen and those carrying anti-Coughlin placards. They were all taken by police cars to the Bathgate Avenue precinct station.

Cops Attack Again

Aroused by the sudden attack of the police, the milling workers booed and hooted the arresting officers. The workers refused to leave the scene, whereupon the police went into action again. Massed police rushed the crowd, pushing the workers onto the sidewalks and down the street. Those demonstrators who were not arrested immediately took up the sale of the Socialist Appeal in defiance of the police terror.

Earlier in the evening, the Bronx Branch of the Socialist Workers Party had mobilized on Tremont Avenue for mass sales of the Socialist Appeal, carrying anti-fascist, anti-Coughlin banners and placards. Immediately, hundreds of workers gathered about the demonstrators, indicating their sympathy with the militant slogans against the Coughlinites. Demonstrators answer Coughlin

Lining the street for a block, the S.W.P. banners read "Smash Father Coughlin's Anti-Semitism," "Smash Coughlin's Anti-Labor Offensive," "Build Workers Defense Guards."

Workers Want Action

Attempts of indignant workers to get action against the Coughlinites by the American Labor Party and the Communist Party failed. These organizations, tied to Mayor LaGuardia, refused to act since LaGuardia's police have demonstrated their benevolence toward the Coughlinites.

Street salesmen of the Socialist Appeal during the last weeks have been contacted by numerous workers anxious to join in a struggle against the Coughlinites and other Fascist gangs.

Many of these workers participated in Wednesday night's anti-Coughlin demonstration. At the height of the anti-Coughlin demonstration, the police arrived. They first ordered Socialist Appeal salesmen off Tremont Avenue. In answer, the Socialist Workers Party set up a speakers platform, and defied the police to silence the only real fighters against the Coughlin fascists.

Manfred Werner, the first speaker, called attention to the fact that Father Coughlin's hooligans had complete police protection on Fordham Road in the Bronx for their sale of the

CANADA FOURTH INT'L LEADS JOBLESS FIGHT

Unemployed in 34-Day Struggle against Conditions on Relief

By S. S. JORDAN (Special to the Socialist Appeal) TORONTO, Ont.—More than 2,000 unemployed in Toronto's suburbs are still in fighting mood despite being forced back into slave labor on May 4 after thirty-four days of a splendid struggle led by the Socialist Workers League of Canada (Fourth International).

Only when cut off relief altogether and faced with starvation did the strikers vote to retreat as an organized body and go to work for their miserable dole.

York and Scarborough townships, the largest working class municipalities in the Toronto district, and traditionally the spearheads in eastern Canadian unemployed struggles, were the first to meet head-on with Hepburn's Ontario government in its April 1 onslaught upon relief standards. Hepburn slashed his rates another ten percent and, backed by the municipal authorities, demanded that the unemployed go on working at garbage and ash collection, street cleaning, weed cutting, etc.

Below Health Standards Even before the cut, the Ontario Medical Association had declared relief to be 50 percent below minimum health standards. Unemployed are now getting less than five cents per meal per person. Yet the Hepburn government had just passed a new two cent gasoline tax for "social services."

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Coughlin-- Agent of The Sixty Families

By GRACE SAUNDERS Father Coughlin, anti-Semitic priest, is a vital threat to the American working class because he is first and foremost the agent of the reactionary American capitalists—our own 60 families. This is his real role on the American scene, and it is because of this that he constitutes a menace.

Coughlin, it is true, borrows his propaganda methods from Hitler and Mussolini. But he uses these borrowed methods to further the cause of fascism in this country. Anti-Semitism, attacks on democratic forms of government, demagogic appeals to the unemployed—these and the rest of Coughlin's propaganda—have but one aim. That aim is the grinding down of American workers until they become the defenseless slaves of their American bosses, the Girdlers and the DuPonts.

Obscure Course In furthering this basic purpose, Coughlin tacks frequently from one side to the other. These maneuvers are designed to obscure the fundamental direction of his course. But they do not alter that direction.

At the moment, Coughlin has some kind words to say about the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis. It is imperative to bear in mind, however, that this support, extensive though it is, is of a temporary and superficial nature. Coughlin has approved every land grab of his European fascist pals, whether these have come about as a result of a war or of strong arm bullying. Mussolini's seizure of Abyssinia; his "rescue" (Coughlin's word) of Albania for the "benefit" (Coughlin again) of its million inhabitants; Hitler's rape of Czechoslovakia; Franco's brutalities against the workers and peasants of Spain—all these fascist activities are volubly cheered in the columns of Social Justice.

For Danzig Seizure More, Coughlin is already, beforehand, endorsing Hitler's projected seizure of Danzig and a strip of the Polish corridor. "In the matter of Danzig," says Social Justice, "there is no question but sooner or later an adjustment must be made. . . . Germany must, and will, have her railroad and highway across the corridor. We do not see that Poland will be 'sacrificed' by acceding to it."

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War Camps Await Anglo-Soviet Pact Developments

Further developments in the European crisis waited this week on the outcome of the Anglo-Soviet negotiations for a mutual assistance pact.

With obvious reluctance, Tory Britain came somewhat closer to meeting Joseph Stalin's alliance proposals. If Moscow accepts Chamberlain's latest plan, the result will be a tripartite Anglo-French-Soviet alliance.

If this arrangement is actually consummated, there will be a definite crystallization of the contending camps in Europe. If Hitler decides the odds against him are too long, he will engineer a series of new but minor crises with a view to extracting a fresh Munich settlement out of England. If he sees a chance of splitting the "peace front" wide open by speeding up instead of slowing down the tempo of the crisis,

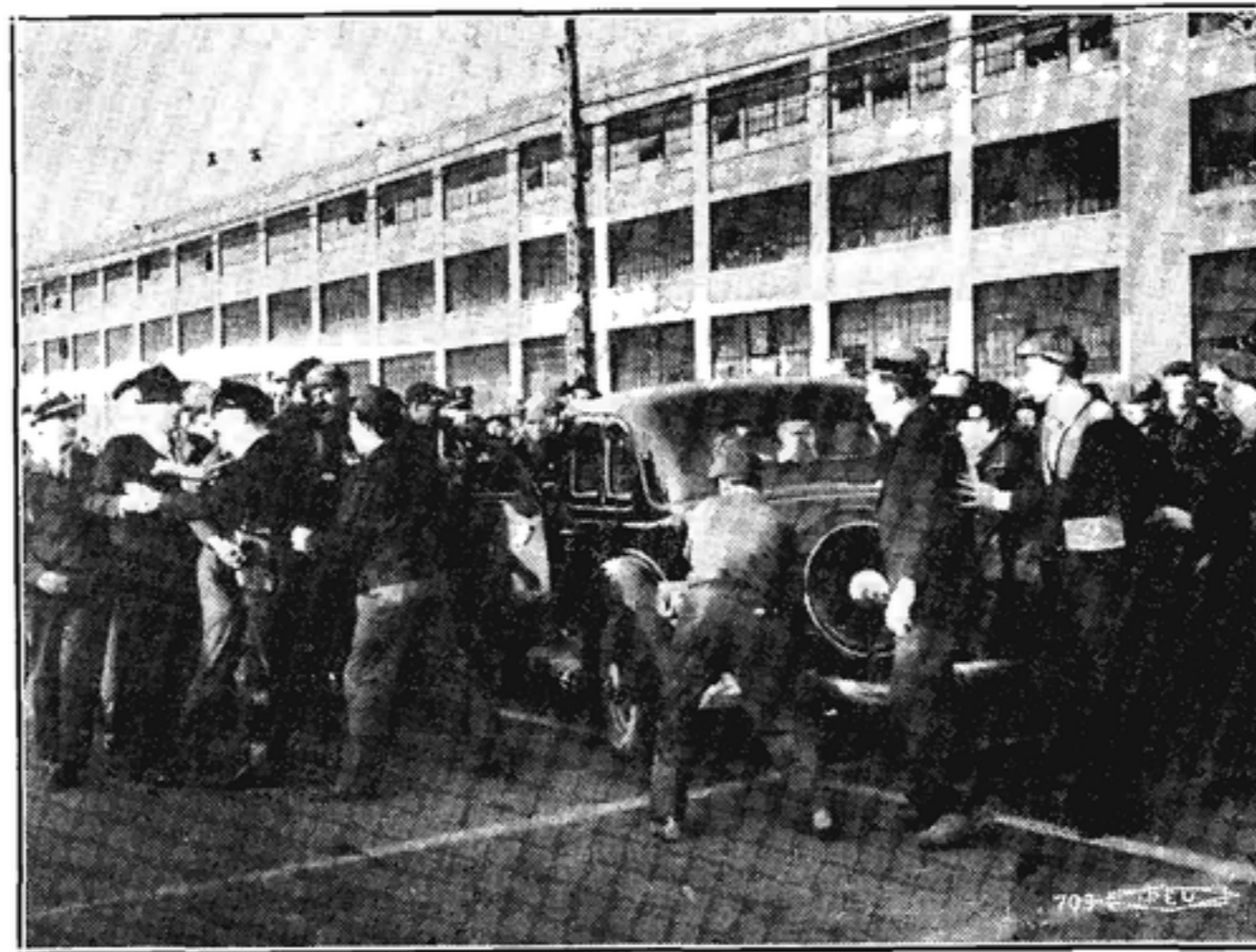
the result will be war, and war soon.

Value of Pact The British pact with Russia is obviously worth a good deal more to Britain than it is to the U.S.S.R.—that is why the British have gone much farther than they intended or desired in order to get it. With this pact, they hope still to bring a settlement of some kind—however temporary—out of Hitler.

For the Russians the promise of aid in case of attack is worth about as much as Anglo-French promises to Austria and Czechoslovakia. Assuming a new appeasement settlement which will enable Hitler once more to turn his attention to the east, just what will this pact be worth to Russia?

Or can we assume that Joseph Stalin, like Chamberlain, is also planning to wave the pact in front of Adolf's nose in hopes of a little side-deal of his own?

The Spirit of 1937



Strikers at the Fisher Body Plant No. 1, Flint, Mich., helping a scab out of a car during one of the great strike struggles of the auto workers.

An Open Letter to LaGuardia on Hounding Of Anti-Coughlinites

May 25, 1939

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, New York, New York.

Honorable Sir:

Last Saturday evening, May 20, at approximately 8:30 P.M., four individuals were arrested on Times Square while selling an issue of the Socialist Appeal which carried an expose of Father Coughlin as a mouthpiece of Fascism in America.

The technical charge placed against them, as is the police custom when they wish to infringe upon civil rights, was "disorderly conduct." It is a matter of witness that the defendants were selling their newspaper and in no conception of the term conducting themselves in a disorderly fashion.

At exactly the same time and in the same location, Times Square, numerous followers of Father Coughlin were selling their magazine, "Social Justice," which is loaded with venomous attacks against the Jews, Negroes, and other racial minorities, and which carries a program identical with that of Hitler and Mussolini just before they seized power.

These followers of Father Coughlin were left entirely unmolested by the police.

Yesterday, on May 24, an exactly similar occurrence took place, when the police arrested eleven individuals who were peacefully selling the Socialist Appeal in the Bronx at Tremont and Marmion Avenues, and booked them on the same technical charge of "disorderly conduct."

This is not the first time that your police have shown tender solicitude and partiality for the fascists, protecting them while bringing police clubs down on the heads of the anti-fascists. On February 20 at Madison Square Garden your police protected a huge mass meeting of the Nazi German-American Bund. The greatest police force in the history of New York was assembled to make sure that those vultures enjoyed a successful meeting. Those who protested this insulting provocation to American labor were brutally attacked by your police.

The arrests on May 20 and May 24 are only the latest indication of the partiality of the police in attacking the anti-fascists and protecting the fascists. You, as Mayor, are directly responsible for their actions, and we hold you accountable for these police violations of the elementary rights of free speech and free press.

Why is your police so interested in protecting free speech for the fascist forces in America? Why are they so interested in denying free speech to the anti-fascist forces in America? And above all, where do you yourself stand?

On Wednesday, May 31, at 10:00 A.M., the case of the eleven Bronx defendants is scheduled to be heard in the Magistrate's Court at 161st Street and 3rd Avenue. On Thursday, June 1, at 10:00 A.M., the case of the four Times Square defendants is scheduled to be heard in the Magistrate's Court at 54th Street and 8th Avenue.

If you are genuinely interested in safeguarding civil liberties and democratic rights, as you maintain in your public utterances, then you will show it by conducting a personal investigation of these cases where civil liberties and democratic rights were so flagrantly violated.

We demand, moreover, that you instruct your police Commissioner, Mr. Valentine, and his Department of your City Administration, to desist from provoking, attacking, and arresting anti-fascists who are courageously attempting to expose the insidious and great danger of fascism to the American people, particularly at this time, the danger of Father Coughlin.

It is high time you brought your opposition to Fascism down from the nebulous clouds of oratory to the sidewalks of New York where fascism right now is fanning race-hatred and flogging its poisoned literature on the people of New York City.

SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY, Edward Frank, Organizer

CONVICT TEN FOR FIGHTING N.Y. EVICTION

U.P.W.U. Led Action Against Eviction of Unemployed Family

(By Staff Writer)

NEW YORK—For fighting an eviction, ten members of the Unemployed and Project Workers Union faced charges of disorderly conduct before the Bronx Magistrate's Court, Wednesday, May 24. Nine of the unemployed union workers received a suspended sentence, and one, Bernard Ross, the leader of local 5 of the U.P.W.U., was fined ten dollars or three days in the workhouse.

The arrests took place last Monday evening, May 16, when the members of Local 5 and Local 7 of the Unemployed and Project Workers Union moved the furniture of an evicted family into the Home Relief Bureau. The union committee then demanded an immediate food and rent check for the family. Bernard Ross, the Committee spokesman, stated to the relief officials that they had promised the union committee that the Hyman family would receive relief but that this promise was constantly broken. He announced that the committee would therefore

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Criminal Syndicalism Law Pushed by Administration

The Roosevelt administration is taking a direct hand in the attempt now being made to push through Congress the most ironclad criminal syndicalist law ever proposed.

The proposed law, known as the Smith Omnibus Bill (H.R. 5138), would make it a Federal offense, punishable by ten years in jail and \$10,000 fine, to advise, teach or abet a change in the American capitalist system.

The Roosevelt administration is particularly interested in those sections of the Bill making it a Federal crime to advise, counsel, urge or solicit any member of the Army and Navy to demonstrate dissatisfaction with conditions in the service.

High Officials Testify This was brought out by four ranking members of the armed forces whose testimony before the House Judiciary Committee

Auto Workers Strike Five Briggs Plants

Detroit again Feels the Spirit of 1937 Strikes as Workers Rally to New U.A.W. Drive—Company Stalls on Union Demands

DETROIT, May 27.—Picket lines in Detroit again! The splendid never-say-die spirit of 1937 is back on the strike lines that have shut down the five plants of the Briggs Body Corporation tighter than a drum. The lethargy, passivity and even disgust with unionism that characterized the stagnating period of the factional wrangle in the Auto Union seems to have vanished into thin air.

Thousands of workers, singing, cheering men and women, march in mass picket lines before the gates of the plants. At their head are huge union banners and fighting militant slogans. Not a single worker stayed behind when

FOOD WORKERS PREPARE FOR STRIKE ACTION

Fund for Organizing Automats, Preparing Strike Is Voted

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) NEW YORK—The cafeteria workers of New York City packed the Manhattan Center Thursday, May 25, in a tremendous rally called to answer the impending anti-union drive of the organized bosses. 6,000 members of the union, with hundreds turned away, heard the answer of the Affiliated Restaurateurs to the demands of the union and pledged themselves ready for action if it was needed, to enforce their demands and defend the union.

A \$100,000 defense fund was voted, to be raised by a tax on the membership, to be used in preparing a strike and organizing the Automat cafeterias, stronghold of the open-shop chains.

The general contract of the union with the Affiliated Restaurateurs Association and the independent stores expired on April 30, and protracted negotiations have been carried on for a new one. The union demands a new one-year contract with a 20% general increase of wages, a minimum of \$18 per week for unskilled workers, a sharp increase in the minimum for unskilled countermen, and a seven-hour day for female employees.

Reject Boss Terms The Affiliated Restaurateurs responded after three weeks of (Continued on Page 2)

Local 212 of the United Automobile Workers called them out on strike. Not a single scab has thus far made his appearance at the gates. The strike is solid. The morale is high.

This is the opening gun in the fight to re-establish the Auto Workers Union to the prestige and strength it enjoyed in 1937. New union enthusiasm, already mounting, will reach new heights and march forth to battle the Chrysler and General Motors Corporations if the Briggs workers win.

Answers Boss Attack For almost a year the corporations have been deliberately and systematically provoking the union, undermining union conditions, violating seniority provisions, firing stewards and committeemen. The Briggs workers suffered under these constant attacks no less than the others. By this slow war of attrition the company hoped to destroy the union. But they met their match in the Briggs local, by far and away the best organized local in the International, with almost 18,000 members, and led by a group of fighting militants headed by Emil Mazey.

Almost two weeks ago, Local 212 opened negotiations with the management to settle pending grievances and negotiate a new contract. The company stalled, refusing to agree to a single demand of the union. In the meantime, a company stool pigeon became so provocative that several hundred union men "marched" him out of the plant. Using this incident as a pretext to further obstruct negotiations, the company fired three stewards from the Mack Ave. plant; Peter Upper, Milton Ollenbrook, Edward McGarry, as well as Bill Mazey, a member of the local union's executive board.

Strike Is the Way!

It became clear as daylight to the union leaders and membership that the company was not to be talked into a new agreement over the negotiating table. Strike was the only language they understood. In rousing, densely packed strike meetings the Briggs workers voted almost unanimously to shut the works down. And shut it down they did!

When the Briggs workers pulled the switches and stopped making automobile bodies, Chrysler, De Soto, Plymouth, part of Dodge — ten plants in all of the Chrysler corporation — Lincoln Motor (subsidiary of Ford) and Bohn Aluminum were forced to close down for lack of parts. A grand total of more than 75,000 workers are affected by the strike.

Widespread Support

Hundreds of militants from the Chrysler corporation are finding occupation for their new-found leisure on the picket lines with their Briggs brothers. William Marshall, President of Chrysler Local 7 has pledged complete support. The International Union has authorized (Continued on Page 2)