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FIGHT WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY FOR:

- 1. A job and a decent living for every worker.
- 2. Open the idle factories-operate them under workers' control.
- 3. A Twenty-Billion dollar Federal public works and housing program.
- 4. Thirty-thirty! \$30-weekly minimum wage-30-hour weekly maximum for all workers on
- 5. Thirty dollar weekly old-age and disability
- 6. Expropriate the Sixty Families.
- 7. All war funds to the unemployed.
- 8. A people's referendum on any and all wars.
- 9. No secret diplomacy.
- 10. An independent Labor Party.
- 11. Workers' Defense Guards against vigilante and Fascist attacks.

A Political Strike

The nation-wide strike of building and construction workers on W.P.A. against the coolie wage rates established on July 1 by the Roosevelt--Woodrum Starvation Law can and must be successful. Congress is in session and will be forced to amend the law, establishing payment of prevailing hourly-wage rates, if the labor movement puts sufficient pressure to bear.

This is a political strike. It differs from the usual economic strike and therefore requires a different strategy to win. The usual economic strike is directed against a private employer. If successful it cuts off his doing business and making profit during the strike, and he is impelled to settle the strike by the drain on his pocketbook. In the well-organized building trades unions, a few banners and pickets are enough to turn the trick in the usual strike.

But in this strike the boss is-

Not a Private Employer

He is not being hurt in his pocketbook. There President Roosevelt.

This difference between an economic and a political strike-what difference in strategy does it demand if the strike is to be won?

First of all, it requires as many banners and pickets as possible. In the ordinary building trades strike, a single bannerman may be enough; he is there primarily to make it clear to prospective workingmen that a strike is in progress there; the sight of him is enough usually to keep the job tied up.

But in this strike, the banners and pickets have a twofold task: not only to keep the job tied up, but equally important, to publicize to the entire public the fact that the job is tied up, and why it is tied up. That requires not only tens of thousands of pickets and banners, but a kind of banner that is not ordinarily used by the building trades unions: big signs explaining to the public just what the union demands are and

why they are justified. Secondly, these pickets and banners must be backed up by--

Loads of Publicity

Massed, organized public opinion will win this strike; the first step to organize that opinion is to tie up the projects; the next step is to explain, explain, explain. To depend upon the daily capitalist press to provide the public with information about the strike and the issues involved would be fatal to the outcome of the strike. It is unfortunate that the labor press is so small, without daily papers, etc. In moments like this, one realizes how organized labor penalizes itself by failing to build a real daily press. For the emergency, this lack must be made up for.

It can be made up for by issuing millions of leaflets and distributing them to the general public, by special editions of local labor papers, by buying radio time for union broadcasts, by strikers' speeches on every possible street corner, by cruising sound trucks, by house-to-house distribution of posters and stickers to be displayed in windows facing the streets indicating that that family is sympathetic to the strike-in a word, by all the avenues of publicity already well-tested by the progressive sections of the labor movement.

These are ways to assure the success of the "the best political stock in the nation."

W.P.A. strikers.

There are other ways, too. There is notably the question of connecting up the demands of the building trades workers on W.P.A. with the desires and needs of the-

Unskilled Workers

The unskilled workers, on the same projects, are today largely unorganized. Top pay for the unskilled is about \$55 a month, not enough to live on by a long shot. These laborers are hungry for organization, and the building trades unions have a responsibility toward them. Their support is needed, not so much to tie up the projects perhaps, but certainly in order to win the widespread sympathy without which the strike cannot win. If Congress can be forced to amend the W.P.A. laws so as to provide the prevailing wage rate, it can also be forced to amend the laws so as to provide better wages for the unskilled workers.

If the building trades unions understand the strategical needs of a political strike, we are sure that they will come to understand the pressing need of linking their demands with those of the unskilled workers.

Meanwhile, more power to the strike!

Aping Their Brothers

This past week the British government in India adopted, by decree, a series of laws strictly regulating the activities of any foreigner who comes to India.

Visitors must register with the police as they move about from place to place; they must convince the British that they come only as tourists or on business; they can stay only for a maximum of 3 months.

And these are the same Britishers who talk about fighting for democracy! If a visitor as much as shakes hands with an Indian nationalist who is fighting for the freedom of his country from British rule he can be kicked out as an undesirable element.

Doesn't all of this have a familiar air about it? Isn't this business of passing laws by decree, preventing people from moving about except under the eyes of the police, etc., quite familiar

When we condemn the German and Italian brutal dictatorships let's not torget the dirty work of these British imperialists in their colonies. They are doing their best to ape and outstrip the fascists when it comes to the denial of elementary rights.

But all the King's horses and all the King's men cannot prevent the 400,000,000 people of the Indian Empire from carrying on their battle for independence and freedom from the British

The Press By Arthur Hopkins

Page the Relief Administration-Under the headline, "Here's something college youths have overlooked," a U.P. dispatch tells how a 51-year-old Lincoln, Nebraska, world war veteran has solved not only the grasshopper but the problem of human existence. He carries a butterfly net and is thus able to catch 250 grasshoppers daily which he eats raw. His theory is that they are not only edible but delicious.

France plans to construct a submarine to replace the Phenix, which sank recently with a loss of 61 lives. Gad! What magnificent spirit those French bosses display—with the lives of other per-

A committee of the United Blind Workers of Minnesota will meet with the executive board of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union to plan a campaign to alleviate the living conditions of blind workers of the city and state. Some Minneapolis workers may be blind, but they're not dumb.

Bull-etin-"Business is fundamentally and necessarily moral as a condition of its own existence," says Henry Ford's own mouthpiece, W. J. Camer-He assailed "crack-brained" leaders "who preach to gullible people that business is naturally evil and necessarily predatory."

Judge W. Calvin Chesnut, New York Federal District judge, declares that the case of Judge Martin T. Manton, found guilty of accepting bribes and sentenced to two years in prison, is unprecedented in the 150-year history of American jurisprudence. You bet it's unprecedented. He was not only caught, but actually sentenced to prison!

Several thousand bankers attending a convention of the Minnesota Bankers Association at St. Paul met the secret service in the person of John D. Voss, agent in charge of the Wisconsin district. The U. S. Secret Service is composed of quiet, efficient fellows whose duty it is to protect the president, to make life miserable for counterfeiters, and who investigate and stifle all kinds of attempts to defraud the government. Well, John, what are you waiting for?

Look who's talking!-John C. Gail, counsel for the National Association of Manufacturers, charges that the National Labor Relations Board ". . . has been hostile to employers . . . have violated many elementary principles of fair play, and that they have not only not contributed to a reduction of the volume of labor disputes, but have in fact sown the seeds of future discord."

Horror item: U. S. Attorney General Frank | Told by newspapermen that Murphy believes the LaFollettes of Wisconsin are | Col. Brehon Somervell, N. Y.

In the Disease Ridden Slums We See an Indictment of Boss Rule

The Facts Collected by the Housing Authority, Though Only Partial, Present a Damning Picture of Vermin Infested Slums in Which "One-Third-of-a-Nation" Lives

AN INDICTMENT

By RUTH JEFFREY Couched though they are in clearance" campaign (and crowding among families in are uncovered:

roaches, bed-bugs and lice, and outside privy." lives in daily embittered inti- FACTS ARE

macy with armies of rats. the under-privileged youth who tion with those two factors. The pair. fill our schools, streets, fac- summary ends: tories and employment agen-

NO WONDER EPIDEMICS START IN THE SLUMS

conditions in slum areas:

up a large housing project with buildings, and fire and other from tuberculosis." it will cost \$500 a block to get dent that these new national States epidemics start in the slums!"

to be of nation-wide prevalence and not at all confined to large dare issue to its citizens. cities. In a national health sur-

sion was recorded, as of 1936: softpedalled fact. The very "Overcrowding was not con- worst slums are more than proconservative figures and con- fined to cities of any particular portionately filled with Negroes servative phrases, the facts size. It prevailed in small and assistance is far less than which the United States Hous- cities, as well as in those with proportionately meted out to ing Authority has picked up in a population of 500,000 or more. them. Where assistance does its surface-scratching "slum- In the Central region over- reach them facts such as these which it will mail free to any-small cities was almost as "In one tenement house just one) present a shocking pic-great as in the large cities, demolished on the Bedford

while in the West cities with a Dwellings Site of the Housing If we could see the entire population of less than 25,000 Authority of the City of Pittscountry from coast to coast in averaged a slightly greater de-burgh, the notorious Wesley bird's eye view, nearly one-gree of overcrowding than the Row tenement, twenty-four Nehalf of its populated surface—|larger cities in this area. In the gro families were living. There or as the President would have South overcrowding was the were no bathing or sanitary it, "one-third"—would look like greatest in the smaller cities facilities whatever; there were a hideous running sore, where . . . Regardless of the size and three disgraceful outdoor toilthe population, pale, underfed. location of the city, relief and ets for all twenty-four families; diseased, fights a losing battle low income families frequent- the sixty-four children scramagainst a plague of cock-ly shared a hallway toilet or an bled over rank weeds and heaps of rubbish; and one 9member family occupied a single room. Unfortunately In these blighted areas live A government summary of Wesley Row is not the only rot the American masses — the this survey indicates that ser-ten slum dwelling occupied by "free American people." Here jous overcrowding and inade- Negroes-or whites either, for flourishes the American Home quate toilet facilities were not that matter. Forty percent of in (almost) all the touching the only failings investigators Pittsburgh's dwellings are subbeauty of a woman's magazine observed in these slum-dwell- standard in the sense that they editorial. Here are conceived ings, despite their preoccupa- need some form of major re

CONDEMNS NEGROES "The housing information TO DISEASE, DEATH

collected in the Health Survey ". . . Unless special public of the U.S. Public Health Ser- measures are extended and vice was confined exclusively radical health measures are ap-Note an incidental footnote in to the problem of overcrowding plied, it does not seem likely government bulletin on health and to the adequacy of toilet that the Negro group in Pittsfacilities. It did not take into burgh will grow appreciably by "The newspapers recently account the many other aspects natural increase. The birth rate reported a particularly dram- of deficient housing, such as is not sufficient to offset the atic example of the fact that the use of one room as a com- high death rate. In 1933 Neold frame buildings are often bined kitchen, dining room, liv-groes, being 8.2 percent of the infested with vermin, beyond ing room and bathroom. Con-total population in this city, hope or possibility of extermin- gestion in the halls and on the suffered 14 percent of all the ation. The Syracuse Housing streets, lack of adequate venti- deaths, 15 percent of infant Authority is in process of de- lation, absence of sunlight, in- deaths, 24 percent of the deaths molishing several blocks of sufficient natural or artificial from pneumonia, and no less slums preparatory to putting illumination, dilapidation of than 35 percent of the deaths

U.S.H.A. assitance. Demolition hazards were not recorded. These few quotations just has actually been delayed by The Public Health Service in scratch the surface. The story the pressing problem of what dicated, however, the close re- of how tens of millions of to do about the rats. It is esti- lationship of these factors to Americans really live in this mated there are half a million accidents, infectious diseases land of freedom and opportuand normal growth of chilper former occupant) and that dren." Maybe it is not an acci- It is obvious that the United rid of them and thus prevent reports confine themselves to which is at best, by its own neighboring areas from becom- one or two factors at a time, figures, helping only 4 percent, ing doubly infested. No wonder All factors, surveyed in one the "aristocracy" of slumpaper, might produce a more dwellers, certainly will not Bad conditions are admitted damning document than any solve the housing question. Oncapitalist government would by the slum-dwellers - that is, Going a little more deeply in- they organize the power that is vey, "Overcrowding and Sani- to the depths of the slums, one theirs, only they can help them-

tation", the following conclu-| becomes aware of a carefully | selves.

He is not being hurt in his pocketbook. There is no drain on his profits. He is Congress and Labor Looks Through New York WPA Building Workers Ready for "Strike to the Finish"

administration.

clared: "The best way to protest is to carry through the chanic.' kind of action we have just endorsed. The only people who can change this law are the Congress and President Roosevelt, against whom the strike is logically directed.

WON LAST W.P.A. STRIKE

In grim answer to a question from a reporter whether he beeved the strike would be successful, Murray replied: "This is our second experience with the W.P.A. on the matter of the prevailing wage. The last strike, in 1935, lasted six weeks

building trades council, the adopt "ways and means" of having the Roosevelt-Woodrum Law amended, in order to "prevent such an atrocious measure from tempting private industry to follow the attempt of the trades workers from receiving a wage rate comparable with the American standard of liv-

The resolution also set up special committees-in actuality strike committees-within each borough under the jurisdiction of the council.

Picketing was to begin Frilocal W.P.A. administrator, had

strike action meant a head-on wants competent men on its ers employed up to July tached to one skilled union me-

what would happen in the event | hours of work! people who made it"-that is, of a prolonged strike, Somer- DANGEROUS vell handed them a telegram PRECEDENT from Col. F. C. Harrington, national W.P.A. administrator, ordering dismissal of all men absent from the job for five consecutive days.

NO RELIANCE ON CAPITALIST PRESS

The issues in this strike are clearly defined, and if the labor is the dangerous movement does not depend on the capitalist press to provide Woodrum Law.

stated that most of the men on private Works Progress Administra- day-would not have to be re- rate of wages. tion, in preventing building placed because the lengthened

INFORMAL HOUSE

Box 245 Kerhonkson, N. Y (Near Ellenville) 120 acres of greenland in the Catskills, 40 acres of pine for sunbathing; handball, ping pong, archery; swimming and horse-back riding nearby; dancing.

Busses met at station Tel. Kerhonkson 118 R

UNUSUALLY LOW RATES

announced earlier in the day | hours to be worked by the rest Hodson-one Roosevelt's direct that "if the A.F.L. doesn't want would more than fill the gap lieutenant and the other an ar- to work for the government, they left. In other words, if the dent New Dealer associated that's its business," Murray present law remains in effect, with Mayor La Guardia-the countered: "When the W.P.A. half the building trades work collision between the labor projects, it appeals to the un- would be fired. For the present movement and the Roosevelt ion." All construction projects law forces the skilled worker will have to shut down. "Labor- to work twice or more hours Indicating his understanding ers cannot work if skilled per month than formerly for of the political nature of the craftsmen are off the job," less wages. A typical example strike, President Murray in his | Murray pointed out. "There are is one category, under which interview with the press de- usually four or five laborers at skilled mechanics are now to work 120 hours of work for \$85.20 as compared to the pre-Asked by the newspapermen vious rate of \$84 for 42 hours coming from Murray's office Nearly three times as many

That would not only mean that at least half the skilled workers would be dropped from W.P.A. but also that the remaining men would receive substantial cuts in their actual income.

But over and above these

vicious effects of the new law provided by the government tor wage-cutting employers. and proved successful in main- the public with the necessary For years it had been univertaining the prevailing wage information, but issues leaflets sally recognized and admitted in the millions to explain its by government officials that In a resolution adopted by the stand, overwhelming public wage rates paid by government opinion will back the building agencies, whether regular presidents of all international trades workers in forcing Con- agencies or the P.W.A. or unions were called upon to gress to amend the Roosevelt- W.P.A., constitute a "floor" for wages in private industries. The crux of the matter was Wherever government agencies admitted by Administrator have for long succeeded in pay-Somervell himself, when he ing a certain rate of wages. strike the first day-Wednes- tends to approximate the same

> The Roosevelt - Woodrum edict is, therefore, a terrible blow against the wage rates of skilled workers everywhere, directly, and indirectly against the wage rates of all workers. That is the tremendous significance of the fight now being waged by the building trades unions-a fight to prevent the government from opening the sinice gates to wage-cutting, dustry alike.

By Max Shachtman

The action of the Stalinist youth organization's representatives on the resolutions dealing with "dictatorship" at the American Youth Congress, offers a significant commentary on the development of the Communist Party line, and on politics in general.

The Stalinists began, a few years ago, to deck themselves out in "democratic" garments for a very deliberate and well-thought-out purpose. The wild-eyed adventurism of the "Third Period" had ended in disaster. The hope that friendly relations could be maintained with the Hitler regime, on the basis of Russia's (and the Comintern's) traditional hostility to the Versailles Treaty, was speedily dispelled by the Nazis' belligerent avowal of designs upon Soviet territory. With the signing of the Franco-Soviet pact, the Seventh Congress of the Comintern in 1935 decreed that henceforward Bolshevism was equivalent to support of class collaboration, a passionate attachment to "democracy" and a holy war against fascism.

How Serious the Change

Virtually at a stroke, the workers were denied both their independent and their leading roles and assigned the part of voting and fighting cattle of the "democratic" bourgeoisie. The French Stalinists resurrected Joan of Arc and Browder re-discovered his childhood affinity for George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson and that other Great American, the Fourth of July spieler. Communism became Twentieth-Century Americanism, Roosevelt the torch-bearer of Progress, and all C.P. members-vehement Democrats.

How was this drastic change of policy carried through so easily in the C.P.? In the first place, it was not so easy. How many members quit the party in disgust will not be known for a long time, because published figures are not yet available. But it is no exaggeration to say that those members who did swallow the new line did so because it was whisperingly explained to them that it was not to be taken seriously.

Not to be taken seriously? Exactly. We don't believe in this "democracy" stuff, it goes without saying, but it ought to make us popular with a lot of people and gain us a large number of recruits and sympathizers. And, once we have won them on that basis, why, it should be a simple matter to teach them to be "real reds." At the same time, it will take the edge off bourgeois criticism and attack, and enable us to penetrate into circles that would otherwise be closed to us. Our "democratic" pretensions will be, so to say, the Trojan horse which will be innocently allowed to enter into the very heart of the masses and within which will be concealed our "revolutionary" ideas. This is not fantastic speculation; it is substantially how Dimitroff outlined the strategy of the Stalinists at the Seventh C.I. Congress; it is how it was explained for a long time, with a knowing wink, by rank and file communists.

Apart from all other considerations, the main trouble with this cunning scheme was that it was conceived in violation of the laws of nature and of politics. No matter how clever and staunch its originators may have thought themselves, no matter how sure the sincere rank and filer was that he would remain, in his heart of hearts, a real revolutionist and that he would "come out with it" as soon the situation warranted throwing off the shrewd disguise-the murderous logic of the position adopted developed with full and predictable

Even though he still believed he was playing an astute game, still deceiving both the bourgeoiste and the proletariat, Browder let more of the cat out of the bag than he thought when he testified before the McNaboe investigating committee in New York. Quite rightly — at least in one sense — he pointed out that it is impossible to reconcile the accusation of hidden revolutionary aims with the fact that the people recruited by the C.P. nowadays are won to its fold by the emphasis on capitalist Democracy and the need of preserving it. But he was right in only one sense; and wrong in another, namely, in that he secretly believes that if it is ever decided to make another "left turn" in policy, all those recruited by the C.P. on the "democratic" basis will string along merely because Browder's apparatus so decrees.

The Logic of Politics

There is a logic in political lines that no person, no movement can escape. Once the Stalinists took their "democratic" course, they were confronted with such widespread skepticism that, ever since. they have had to spend most of their time going to the most radical extremes in order to prove their "sincerity." Where the ordinary bourgeois politician, for example, merely states his patriotism, the Stalinists find themselves compelled to shrick to the pitch of blatant chauvinism. Where an ordinary bourgeois democrat merely states, in a quiet and unostentatious manner, that he is not a believer in dictatorship or fascism, the Stalinists are now compelled to eat course after course of crow and even to denounce communism and dictatorship in the same breath with fascism and

That's the meaning of the ignominious, self-humiliating posturing of the Stalinists at the American Youth Congress. To prove that they were not reds, that they were blown-in-the-bottle democrats. they were forced to vote for a resolution which, in sum and substance, places communism in the same bag with fascism. Hitler's regime, Mussolini's regime, were denounced in the same terms as Stalin's regime and, for that matter, the regime of Lenin in the early years of the revolution. For, as we understand it, in those years at least both Lenin and Stalin called the Soviet republic a dictatorship of the proletariat.

"Be it resolved that this Congress of youth record its opposition to all forms of dictatorship. regardless of whether they be communist, fascist,

Nazi or any other type, or bear any other name!" That's the resolution Gil Green, boss of the Young Communist League voted for. Unbelievable? Yes, yes, but literally true nonetheless. Far more unbelievable is the fact that his organization still bears the name "communist."

We have said for some time: There is nothing hour-increasing and mass fir- communist about the Communist party except its ings on W.P.A. and private in- name. How long will we have to wait before it becomes possible to drop those last three words?