

In the World of Labor

By Paul G. Stevens

Anti-War Actions In British India

Meeting at Bombay three weeks ago, the All-India Congress Committee, governing organ of the five-million strong Indian National Congress, adopted an anti-war resolution whose practical consequences are bound to embarrass British imperialism no end.

"Congress has repeatedly declared its policy of uncompromising opposition to Fascism and war," the resolution declares, "and its determination to resist the exploitation of Indian man-power and resources in the interest of British imperialism."

Citing the necessity for active war resistance, the Congress Committee directs affiliated organizations to begin active anti-war propaganda; to agitate among the people against recruitment into the British army; to organize railway and dock workers for preventing the transportation of war materials; to build up a national army of Congress volunteers for militant war resistance, etc.

The A.I.C.C. likewise stated that "they will refuse to help the Central government in war and recruitment, and that they will resist with all their powers the working of the new amendments to the Government of India Act."

According to a dispatch from Peshawar, at a conference of various tribal chiefs it was decided to "accord no support to Britain in any war in which she might be involved. Badshahgul (a chief) who addressed the conference stressed the need of organization of tribesmen with a view to making united action possible in any crisis."

From the looks of things, the war-mongers in Downing Street have far more to fear from national organizations in the colonies than from the Labour fakery at Transport House. In a crisis, however, it is not excluded that the working masses of the mother country will break through the social-patriotic barriers put up by their treacherous leaders and join hands with the oppressed colonialists to put an end to the tottering rule of the Chamberlains and the Churchills.

Workers in the Lead of Independence Movement

The anti-war sentiment of the Indian masses is only one phase, however, of the struggle for independence from Great Britain. Equally

significant is the spread of strikes around economic issues.

On that front, the workers of India are in the vanguard of the independence struggle. In Bombay alone, 50,000 night shift textile workers are on strike. Lockouts and the closing of night shifts are spreading. The textile strike is extending rapidly to Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Cawnpore, Jubbulpore, etc., and may soon assume nationwide proportions involving hundreds of thousands of textile workers. These workers are engaged in conflict not only with the despotic British government, but also with the anti-labor actions of the Popular Front Congress ministries. In many cases the strikes are directed against native Indian capitalists and mill-owners.

Behind the Breakdown of Anglo-Russian Negotiations

Anglo-Russian negotiations for a "peace pact" have virtually broken down. Sorely pressed, the British seem to have been prepared to make all manner of concessions. Their lack of success has given rise to greater stress among British publicists on news items relating to negotiations between Berlin and Moscow.

After the revelations of Krivitsky and others, A. J. Cummings, political editor of the London News Chronicle, now reports that he has definite information on proposals made by Berlin. Writing in that paper on July 11, he says: "Unofficially and indirectly Hitler has made the following proposals to Moscow:

"(1) Freedom of action for Germany in Eastern Europe, involving no threat against Russia or the Ukraine.

"(2) Partition of Poland.

"(3) Freedom of action for Russia, with full German support, in Asia and the Far East.

"(4) Germany's withdrawal of cooperation with Japan—that is, dropping Japan from the Axis.

"(5) Political Russo-German alliance on these lines."

No one can vouch for the veracity of these proposals. But, as Mr. Cummings points out, "for months past there has been practically no anti-Russian propaganda from Germany."

That speculation about relations between Hitler and Stalin has reached such a stage of precision and that an actual truce in the bitter propaganda carried on by both sides has been reached, is in itself significant of the real trend in Kremlin foreign policy.

Boss-Court Railroads Iowa Union Men to Jail

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criticism of them. The owner of the truck admitted under cross-examination that he had had no labor difficulty for over six months. Another witness had seen THREE men in a BLACK car, all wearing striped overalls and checkered jackets. But another state witness had seen three men with Suede Jackets. The chief state witness, Mrs. Hilda Chuasee, positively identified Fouts and Johnson in a "big black car," though at the time she claimed to see them she was travelling in a car at a rate of 44 feet per second and was simultaneously picking some books off the floor of the car and straightening her hat. The union car is blue.

In answering the phony prosecution testimony which bore the obvious marks of coaching, the defense proved that Fouts was registered and answered a roll call in his union on March 8 and 9, and that on those same nights he was home. Three union officials established the fact that Johnson was in their office on March 9; and a newspaper owner testified that Johnson signed contracts in his office on that very day which testimony was confirmed by a former commissioner of Iowa Unemployment Insurance.

Vox Populi, a weekly paper published in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, commented on the trial that: "From all reports that come to this newspaper, those men did not get a fair trial and were railroaded about as much as anyone could be."

The Northwest Organizer, official organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council, points out that the drivers union had become the spearhead of organized labor in Sioux City as elsewhere. The victories of the drivers have inspired thousands of workers in all trades to join unions. Hence the fact that the bosses in Sioux City and Omaha have tried every foul trick to stop the growth of the driver's movement, and have now resorted to the foulest trick of all—frame-up.

Fouts and Johnson are now out on bail. Local 383 plans to appeal the case to the State Supreme Court to prevent the two men who have been identified with the trade union movement of the city for years, from being victimized by the bosses and their lackeys in the courts. Funds are urgently needed for the defense.

All funds and communications of solidarity should be sent to Sid Jarrett, secretary of the Fouts-Johnson Defense Fund, 1021 Fourth St., Sioux City, Iowa.

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July 22 issue of the weekly, The Nation. LaGuardia's answer appeared in the New York Times of July 21.

Specific Cops Cited

Incidents cited by The Nation included: Coughlinites beating up anti-fascist literature salesmen while police stood by and did not interfere; a policeman, arresting an anti-fascist and telling him: "We Coughlinites have 30,000 men and when the time comes I'll resign from the force and we'll settle the question our way."

Another policeman (in both cases The Nation has offered to produce their shield numbers) boasted that 6,000 police are enrolled in the Coughlinites Christian Front. "On several occasions observers have seen policemen preserve the posts of Social Justice salesmen until they returned from lunch, barring anti-Coughlin vendors who try to step in."

Appeal to LaGuardia

In its editorial, The Nation said:

"The Christian Front is not a benevolent or religious fraternity. It is a faction of political violence, whose police members constitute an armed fascist nucleus. As such its members should be purged out of the police department to the

last man. There is no need for us to tell Mayor LaGuardia or Commissioner Valentine how to go about that job."

Liberals Act Alike

LaGuardia's answer, whitewashing the cops, follows the familiar pattern in Italy, Germany, Austria and other fascist lands, where liberal governments refused to act in any way against the rising fascists. Why do liberal regimes act that way? The Nation's explanation was that "they did not have the will or the good sense to take even such strong measures against their enemies as were compatible with democratic procedure."

Does LaGuardia lack the will or the good sense? It will be in-

teresting to note the further comment of The Nation.

Won't Act

The anti-fascist workers must realize, however, that just as LaGuardia has never uttered a word of criticism of the Italian fascist regime but depends on Italian fascist organizations for part of his votes, so LaGuardia, or any other capitalist politician, has direct and indirect ties with fascists or their reactionary financiers, and will do nothing to break those ties.

The fight against fascism cannot be conducted by the LaGuardias. It will be conducted only by the workers, organizing the Workers Defense Guards to meet the fascist menace.

WORKERS' FORUM

RADIO UNION RANK & FILE REJECTS LABOR SKATE

The June 24 elections in Radio Local B-1010, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, A.F.L. were a vindication of the rights of the rank and file members. Sullivan ran unopposed for President and the arch-reactionary Beedie declined to run for reelection as Business Manager, leaving that post clear for Emil Katz.

Only a few weeks prior to the election, William Beedie, then the Business Manager, and representative of the International Office, suspended Katz and Sullivan, the business agents on the fake grounds that they were behind in dues. The fight between Katz and Sullivan on the one hand and Beedie on the other was smouldering for almost a year.

Beedie wanted complete bureaucratic unchallenged control over the union. Katz and Sullivan, very popular with the rank and file, represented the healthy sentiment of the rank and file for trade union democracy. Katz and Sullivan appealed Beedie's dictatorial move to the International Office and were reinstated. There is no doubt that the fat boys in the International Office felt that if they supported Beedie, the membership would not pay a penny in per capita to the I.O.

Cheer Declination

At the membership meeting where nominations were held the members cheered when Beedie declined to run — and for good reason. Beedie is a name that is synonymous with everything foul in the radio industry. His record is one continuous string of sell-outs. His latest one was a two year sell-out, in which the majority of union members did not get a penny in increased pay, or a minute in reduced hours. None of the proposals were submitted to the membership. This was an added reason for putting the skids under Beedie.

Members will be wise to continue watching Beedie, who is one of the slickest labor-skates in the country. He may have a few aces up his sleeve.

Tasks before Union

Now that the elections are over a great responsibility rests on the shoulders of Katz and Sullivan. If they are to continue having the respect of the rank and file they must inaugurate frequent democratic shop-meetings to air the pent-up grievances of the membership. They must begin to educate the members in trade unionism. They must fight to put in practice the slogan of the I.B.E.W.—for the thirty hour week!

They must start a real genuine mass campaign against Emerson. They must fight the rotten speed-up by controlling the rate of output on the lines. Finally they must expose the supervisor-stooges who penetrated the union.

Members have to doubt the sincerity of Katz and Sullivan — too long have they associated with Beedie and done the dirty work for him. They have to vindicate themselves in the eyes of the rank and file.

ANSWER TO DUBINSKY HAILED IN LYNN

Editor:

Congratulations on your slashing answer to Dubinsky in the July 18 issue of the Appeal. It has the enthusiastic approval of the Lynn militants. When a bureaucrat like Dubinsky calls a proposal to form Workers Defense Guards "crazy"; when he labels anti-fascist fighters like Milton who make such proposals "lunatics"; when he starts crawling before Coughlin and sniveling about his sanity, his respectability, such a man must be pitilessly exposed be-

A Letter to the Editor

James T. Farrell Answers Broun

Editor:

In answering a critic named Mr. Brent in The New Republic of June 28, Heywood Broun made the following remarks concerning me: "If Mr. Brent had attended the Writers' Congress of two years ago he would have encountered a one-man picket line in front of Carnegie Hall. The legion of protest consisted of Mr. James T. Farrell, who wrote A World I Never Made. Now Mr. Farrell in his sincere and earnest way can use as many short and ugly words as any writer living, but his addiction to this theory of literature has not made him a progressive. There is nothing to prevent an author's being a realist and a reactionary. Escape can be found in a swamp as readily as in an ivory tower."

Feeling that these remarks called for an answer, I addressed one to Mr. Bruce Bliven, editor of The New Republic. Without seeing fit to ask my permission to summarize and quote from my letter rather than print in full, he presented a one paragraph summary of it with quotations in The New Republic of July 12th. Inasmuch as I am anxious that my letter in full be printed, I am including it here, and I would be grateful if you would print it in your columns.

Sincerely yours, JAMES T. FARRELL.

New York City, July 6, 1939.

James T. Farrell's letter to the New Republic follows: **Bruce Bliven** The New Republic 40 East 49th St. New York City. Sir:

I trust that when Haywood Broun takes his next catechism lesson, or—if he has completed these—when he examines his conscience next year to make his Easter Duty, he will seek to acquire some information concerning the sins of contumely and mischief making. For it is a moot point whether or not the sin he committed against me in the New Republic (June 28) is describable as one of contumely or as mischief making. Personally, I think it is contumely. However, I do not wish to labor the point, and would suggest that Mr. Broun consult his confessor. Likewise the question as to whether or not his sin is mortal or venial is one which he must settle in his own conscience and with advice from the proper authorities. Saint Thomas Aquinas said: "contumely essentially involves a certain dishonor, if the speaker's intention is fixed on taking away the honour of the hearer by the words that he utters, this properly and in itself is utter contumely; and that is a mortal sin no less than theft or robbery." However, while Haywood Broun's sin raises problems in his own conscience, my duty in this matter is perfectly clear. As Saint Thomas Aquinas said: "Sometimes . . . we must rebut contumely put up on us for two reasons . . .

"And the Angels Sing!"



the one is the good of him who offers the contumely, that his boldness may be checked and he may not try such things on us again, according to the text: 'Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he imagine himself to be wise'; the other is the good of the many, whose advancement is hindered by the contumelies put on us."

Since, then, it is my duty to answer Mr. Broun, I shall do so, and my only hope is that he be led to face his own duties in this matter with the proper gravity.

Statement of Position

Mr. Broun seeks to dishonor me by stating that I am a reactionary. He based his contumely on the allegation that I picketed the second American Writers' Congress. I did not picket that Congress. But had I done so, such conduct would not prove that I am a reactionary. The League of American Writers organized this Congress. Some of the reasons why I am opposed to the League of American Writers are the following:

1: On all major issues and policies, it has followed the line of the Stalinist Third International. When the Third International changed its political line in 1935, the League of American Writers altered its policies to fit the new line. I am opposed to the Third International.

2: I am convinced that the policies of the League of American Writers are calculated to lead this country into war, and I am opposed to war.

Undemocratic

3: The League of American Writers has already furnished abundant illustrations to prove that it is an undemocratic organization.

4: The League of American Writers has protested against the jailing of writers in Germany and Italy. I agree with

On the Line . . . with Bill Morgan

(Continued from last week)

Migratory Workers Camp

The three of us pulled into Marysville dead tired and hungry. The kids were almost asleep. It was about ten P.M. and the dark streets were pretty unfriendly. So were the police. "Keep moving"—"Keep moving" was all they had to say as we rolled along looking for a place to camp. At about ten-thirty I see a bunch of workers in an old '28 Dodge heading for the D Street Bridge. They seemed to know where they were going so we followed.

"Boy, you ought to get a look at that camping place. There is about a thousand—it seemed—people all trying to keep alive long enough to get enough dough to get out of this pest hole. Old pieces of canvass and cardboard were tied and stuck together to make tents. Many were sleeping without blankets. Men, women and children all jammed in a disease ridden "camp." Concentration camp is what it should be called. No sanitary facilities. Just the river. And you should see the river! We parked the heap and after cooking up what was left of our coffee and beans, turned in for a night's fight with the mosquitoes. And what mosquitoes! Millions of 'em."

"I am up at the crack of dawn to get the low down on conditions and prices for apricots, and I see that daylight is the right time to really appreciate this 'camp' where migratory workers are forced to stay until they find work. It was bad enough in the dark but now it looks like a prison yard. At the river I find men, women and children all pushing and shoving for a place to bathe, to wash clothes and dirty pots and pans. Kids trying to swim around in garbage and filth. Men shaving in water full of dirty clothes. It is the combined washing and bathing and sanitary arrangements for migratory workers as arranged by the City Fathers. What a dump! And we are forced to remain until apricots are ripe."

How About Relief?

"Everybody is broke. There is hardly a dollar bill in the crowd. They have come from all over. Oklahoma, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Nevada, southern California, Arizona and Idaho. A hundred different accents and a million different reasons for being on the rocks. Each family is a little suspicious of the other at first but poverty and misery soon get everyone talking the same lingo. We swap a little coffee for some sugar. We swap an old tire which has already gone thirty thousand miles, for two gallons of gas. We chip in eleven cents toward a brand new second hand blanket for an old man with the cough."

"We ask what is the chances of getting some S.R.A.-State Relief Administration assistance. Not much chance, says a guy with a wife and four kids, 'I went up there yesterday and they told me to leave town! It seems he gave them an argument and they signed the bulls on him."

"We talk it over. We are without a scrap to eat and there is not only no chance to borrow anything in this crowd but it is criminal to even think of doing so. It will be two weeks before the apricots are ripe and until then we have to hang around. There is no place to go and on two gallons of gas you can't go joy riding."

"Down to the local S.R.A. office in Marysville. In front they got two bulls and you are supposed to have a pass signed by some chair warmer on the public payroll. I leave the boys in the heap to watch out the bulls don't borrow none of our belongings and I walk over to the front door. After a bit of verbal dodging and bluff I get to go in. Upstairs there is an office which is almost as crummy as the 'camp'

under the D Street Bridge. They ask 'What do you want' like you had made a slight mistake and thought you was in the First National Bank.

Trying to Get Relief

"Well, I fill out the application with the able assistant who is trying to determine how he can give me the go-by without no trouble. This guy is wise to all the tricks and he keeps making cracks about how difficult it is to take care of everybody. I get the hint and I says, 'Look, buddy, you don't have to take care of nobody. I can take care of myself. All you have to do is O.K. this here slip for relief and your little job is finished. The State will pay the bill and I am paying taxes along with about nine hundred other suckers who are living on a dump outside of town. I am a worker and I have two growing sons to feed. If you don't give me relief then give me permission to hold up a grocery store. I don't care which, but act like you was in a hurry.'

"This makes the office-boy excited and he calls in the head man which has overheard the whole conversation through a thin partition. Says he, 'Now, my good man, you must not try to threaten or bulldoze this relief office. We are only trying to carry out the duties assigned by the State government and you are not going to get anywhere by acting tough.' I don't like this guy at all. He has a profile like a bird of prey and eyes which remind me of a herring. So I ask him for advice instead of going over the ground twice.

"'Ahem,' says he like a man unveiling a statue of himself, 'You had no right to come to California in the first place. You should have stayed in the State of Washington. We are not responsible for you or your two sons!'

"Is that all you got to contribute?' I asks. 'So I should have stayed in the State of Washington, eh? Perhaps I should have remained in the orphan asylum where I grew up—only they kicked me out when I was sixteen. Maybe I should go back there, eh? And you are not responsible for my two boys, eh? You're god-damned right you're not! I am and I intend to remain responsible—what do you think of that? And as the responsible person in this little gathering of humanity I am going to see that my boys and I eat. What do you think of that? If you don't give me relief I will take some. And I will go back to the D Street Bridge and tell the men that you said it was O.K. to go ahead and help themselves from the local cockroach capitalists. Now what do you say?'

"In the end they give me a ticket for some surplus commodities. Corn meal and beans, coffee and canned beef and a few other things. But I do not get certified for regular relief. I am an alien in this country although I was born here and worked most of my life to put aside enough to send the boys to school. And here I am. Now, we got a job to do. You know what it is.

"When them apricots are ripe we are going to get skinned alive on prices unless we begin now to put up a fight. We got to organize. We got to go to the migratory workers and tell them that we know the answer and if we all stick together we will get a decent rate for them apricots. Unless we do we are going to be living in this pest-hole of a 'camp' for the next twenty years. We gotta build the Socialist Workers Party, too, so that we can take over them apricot trees and give them back to the people. We gotta get in there and work and organize and build a revolutionary movement."