

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR!

Nationwide Campaign For War Referendum Launched by SWP

Workers Asked to Help Circulate Petitions; Raise \$10,000 to Fight War; Distribute Leaflets by Hundreds of Thousands

By HAL DRAPER Secretary, War Referendum Campaign Committee

The campaign for a people's referendum on war is launched.

The Party Convention decided that we must transform ourselves into a CAMPAIGN PARTY OF ACTION AND AGITATION. This means bringing all the forces of the party to bear upon a single issue, for a given period of time, concentrating our activity to develop a mass movement around our slogans.

Just as a lens concentrates the sun's rays into a burning shaft of heat, so we must focus the resources of our organization into a mass campaign around the slogan: "LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR!"

Campaign Objectives

The objectives of the campaign are definite. By the time this issue of the Appeal is out, the branches will have received full directives. Between August 1 and September 15—the duration of the campaign—we want to carry the slogan, and with it the anti-war message of the party, to at least 200,000 workers.

We will distribute 15,000 copies of the pamphlet "Let the People Vote on War" by James Burnham.

We will secure 25,000 signatures to the Petition to Congress for a People's Vote on War.

We will raise by September 15 one-half of the Anti-War Fund of \$10,000 voted by the Convention.

We will distribute 100,000 copies of a four-page printed leaflet.

We will raise the circulation of the Appeal by 1,000 per issue—400 new subscriptions, 600 increase in bundle orders.

Every branch will hold one indoor mass meeting and a weekly street-corner meeting during the campaign on the slogan: "LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR!"

Up to Branches

These are the first steps of the campaign. Branch quotas for these objectives are printed in this issue. Every week we shall announce the standing of the branches in carrying out each quota.

We want to develop mass workers actions around the campaign. More of that later. But we wish to emphasize right now that everything depends upon the initiative of the branches in putting the slogan into action.

The demand for a people's referendum must be carried into the homes around your neighborhood, to the shopmates who work next to you. The branches must reach them, even if they have never reached them before.

Into the shops and trade unions—into the homes of the workers—into the streets, with the slogan: "LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR!"

Just as the fight against war begins at home, so the organization of the anti-war mass movement begins with the gearing of the party for action. Give to the anti-war party! Build the anti-war paper! Recruit the workers to the movement for the people's vote on war!

Branch Quotas Set for \$10,000 Fund

\$10,000 FUND DRIVE (50% of amount below to be raised by Sept. 15)

Table with 2 columns: Branch, Quota. Lists various cities and their respective quotas for the fund drive.

Federal Agents Try Blow Against New York Teamsters

NEW YORK, July 27—James Dolan, union delegate of Teamsters Local 282, was yesterday subpoenaed by U. S. District Attorney John T. Cahill, in connection with the refusal of the teamsters union to make deliveries to struck W.P.A. projects.

After lengthy questioning by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Dolan was released.

This was the first move to repeat in New York the prosecution of striking unions and labor leaders which was launched in Minneapolis on Monday, when a grand jury was convened by Attorney General Murphy's orders, to act on "evidence" against the unions gathered by an army of F.B.I. agents.

You're Right, Colonel, The People Would Vote Against War!

This is Colonel J. T. Taylor, speaking on May 31 for the American Legion against a war referendum, before the Senate subcommittee:

"I do not think that any mother is going to vote to send her son to war, and I do not think that many young men... would want to go into war or become involved in war at all. They would vote for their own safety. And that is a thing that cannot be considered so far as military effort is concerned."

"If we have to submit a matter of that kind (war) to a plebiscite, we might also submit various other questions... such as questions of relief. Let them vote on the question of relief, and you will see where you go." Colonel Taylor, don't tell us you're against a referendum because you're certain the people would vote against war? Well, answers the Colonel, "This is not a pure democracy, but it is a democracy in which the confidence of the people has been placed in their selected leaders." Colonel, did you say "democracy" or "hypocrisy"?

ALLENTOWN WORKERS FIGHT W.P.A. LAYOFF

Call on Unemployed To Revive Old Time Militancy

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) ALLENTOWN, July 21—More than four hundred workers gathered here last night at the courthouse steps to protest W.P.A. layoffs, the new 130-hour regulation and the abrogation of the prevailing wage for union mechanics.

The meeting was called by the Lehigh County Unemployed and Project Workers Union as part of an organization drive. The strike movement on the projects had not met with any response in the area, neither A.F.L. nor C.I.O. nor Workers Alliance calling the men out on stoppages. Only the U.P.W.U. issued literature endorsing the strike movement, and while unable to actually initiate strike action because of the division of the project workers into manifold organizations, got an excellent response in the form of the courthouse meeting. Charles Hautman of the U.P.W.U. was chairman of the meeting, at which a former C.I.O. organizer and Sam Gordon of New York were invited speakers. The speakers related incidents from W.P.A. strikes in other areas and called upon the Allentown workers to revive that militancy which several years ago placed them at the very forefront of the organized unemployed movement. The crowd greeted the call to action with repeated applause. In the course of the meeting, Lester Heckman, long a leader of the local jobless, was called to the platform by the chair. (Continued from Page 1)

Don't Let Congress Bury the Issue!

AN EDITORIAL

Authoritative polls, the accuracy of which nobody has challenged, have proved that an overwhelming majority of the people of this country are in favor of the plan for a popular referendum on war. This plan would, by amendment to the Constitution, take the power of entering a war out of the hands of Congress and put it where it belongs—under the control of the people as a whole, who would decide through a direct referendum vote.

What About the War Referendum?

Congress is in the act of adjourning, after a session lasting seven months. It has had plenty of time to vote every single military and naval appropriation asked for by the Roosevelt war machine—appropriations totaling two billion dollars.

It has had time to revise tax laws in accordance with the demands of big business.

It has had time to launch the biggest attack on record against the unemployed.

It has had time to waste hundreds of hours listening to its members shoot their mouths off about nothing at all.

It has had time to debate day after day on "neutrality acts" which in the last analysis are only alternative proposals for carrying out the war policies of the Sixty Families.

But Congress could not find one minute to take up on the floor the crucial issue backed by the mass sentiment of the people—the issue of the war referendum.

The cowardly Ludlow, in the House, and the chicken-hearted LaFollette in the Senate, introduced bills which partly embodied the referendum plan—and then sat back like mice while their bills were buried in Committee pigeon-holes.

Meanwhile, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the start of the last world imperialist war, the new war crisis deepens hourly. In all probability it will rise to a new height within the next weeks. Before autumn begins, the war may have started.

The recently concluded anti-war convention of the Socialist Workers Party dedicated the party to the struggle against the war. We have pledged our hands, our brains, and our lives to that struggle. As, one by one, all other parties, groups and organizations, swing into the war camp, WE AND WE ALONE CAN RIGHTFULLY CALL OURSELVES THE ANTI-WAR PARTY.

Acting under the instructions of the convention, and spurred by the acuteness of the world crisis, we are beginning a renewed campaign against the war, a campaign to rally the masses of the people in struggle against the war. We propose to carry this campaign through to the end, to the day when the war system and the war-makers are overthrown, and replaced by a society of peace and freedom and socialism.

As the first stage in this campaign, we are going to take the issue of the war referendum out of the Congressional pigeon-holes, and call upon tens of thousands of workers to join with us in demanding that the will of the people shall be carried out.

It is the masses of the people who must suffer and die in a war. The masses of the people, then, have the right to decide whether a war is worth suffering and dying for. But the people can win that right only by fighting for it. Roosevelt and Congress have proved fully that their intention is to deny the right to the people, and to flout the democratic will of the majority.

The people must, then, take the fight for the war referendum into their own hands.

Let the people vote on war! Let the people decide!

A.F.L. WANTED STRIKE EXTENDED

Strike action against all government projects was the vote of the majority of the heads of all international unions of the A.F.L., when they convened at the call of William Green in Washington on July 12. This fact was reported for the first time in the July 20 "West Coast Sailor", organ

of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, in the minutes of the Headquarters branch meeting where Harry Lundeberg, secretary-treasurer, described the union representative's report on the July 12 meeting: "Dushane (the union representative) reports that

among the union representatives at the A.F.L. meeting, the majority of them went on record in favor of striking all government projects that employ A.F.L. skilled workers, as a protest and in the event some form of relief from this wage slash by the government is not ob-

W.P.A. Strike In N. Y. Continues; Building Trades Unions Consider Tie-Up on All Gov. Financed Jobs

BUILDING SLUMP CHARGED TO BIG BANKERS

Experts' Testimony Exposes Attempt to Blame Unions

By RUTH JEFFREY

Testimony proving that the big banks were responsible for the paralysis of the construction industry was given by experts last week before the Temporary National Economic Committee, but got little or no mention in the daily press!

The week before, Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold had attacked the building trades unions before the same body and got headlines in the press, some of the papers devoting almost an entire page to his statement.

Announcing forthcoming prosecutions of forces "restraining building activity", Arnold had proceeded to absolve the banks and real estate interests, the construction materials corporations and the building contractors, leaving labor as the scapegoat in the anti-trust prosecutions.

Wants Wage-Cuts

In exchange for a vague promise of more work over the year, Arnold had demanded (Continued on Page 2)

MINNEAPOLIS DRIVERS WIN WAGE DISPUTE

Stop Labor Commission from Putting Through Wage Cut

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) MINNEAPOLIS, July 20—

General Drivers Local 544 won a signal victory this week over the transfer bosses—and over Governor Stassen's three-man "labor" commission.

The Stassen commission, after holding hearings on the dispute, had advised Local 544 to accept a wage decrease and to forget about paid vacations for the union members.

The union bluntly rejected the commission report and opened direct negotiations with the bosses.

Weekly Wage Principle

Maintenance of the weekly wage while shortening the weekly hours was the major point in the dispute and the union won out.

During the two-year period covered by the contract there will be a progressive shortening of the weekly hours from 46 2/3 to 45 1/3 while the weekly wage remains constant.

\$265 per Man

The difference between what (Continued on Page 2)

T. A. Murray Issues Ultimatum in Move to Force New Ruling

By TONY CHAPMAN

NEW YORK, July 26—While union spokesmen declared today that the strike of skilled workers on W.P.A. projects in this city is "at its height," Thomas A. Murray, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council, today predicted a complete tie-up of all government-financed construction jobs if W.P.A. administrator Col. F. C. Harrington "does not come across with a favorable ruling under section 15-B of the new Relief law in support of the prevailing rate of wages."

Friday Deadline Likely

The unions claim that under this section Harrington can pay union wages on all projects begun before July 1. If no favorable word from Harrington is received by Friday, when the full Building Trades Council meets, Mr. Murray strongly intimated that the action to extend the tie-up will not be delayed indefinitely.

At last Friday's meeting of the Council, the plan to extend the tie-up to government-financed projects other than W.P.A. was supported by a small minority. "The minority plans," Mr. Murray said, "may well become that of the majority and therefore that of the Council itself if by Friday Colonel Harrington does not come across with a favorable ruling under section 15 B of the new Relief law in support of the prevailing rate of wages."

Important Projects Involved Among the construction projects to be affected by an extension of the strike will be the Queens Midtown Tunnel, a P.W.A. project, and the Queensbridge Housing Development, financed by the U. S. Housing Authority.

Asked by reporters what power could force either Attorney General Murphy or Col. Harrington to make a swift decision under section 15 B, Mr. Murray replied that "It is up to the President of the United States." That both Murphy and Harrington have thus far de-

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FATHER COUGHLIN ATTACKS AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT

By JOSEPH HANSEN

Father Coughlin, the "radio priest," succeeded this week in utilizing Liberty magazine (Aug. 12) for an exposition of his Americanized version of anti-labor Jew-baiting.

Coughlin claims that he is not an anti-Semite, but rather a self-appointed protector of the interests of the Jews in general against their own "atheistic" leaders who foster communism by refusing to join his crusade.

"Then Father," asked Liberty's Edward Doherty, "why don't you make it clear that you are opposed to Communists?" Why make a sharp distinction between Jewish communists and Gentile communists?

Because the leaders of the Russian revolution were Jewish, explains Coughlin, and the Jewish people are silent about communism.

Coughlin's Cloven Hoof

Having put the finger on the non-religious Jews and labelled them as responsible for the Russian revolution, although it is well known that Jewish capitalists, like other capitalists, opposed it and only the Jewish workers like other workers, fought for the revolution, Coughlin justifies Hitler with the assertion that Nazism "was a defense mechanism against

Communism..." and "Nazism found Communism too closely allied to Judaism to make any distinction between the two."

Wall Street Talk

Then he indicates his real target, the labor movement: "See what the C.I.O. has done already in the United States... it has been able to bring chaos in industry... the C.I.O. is pretty well contaminated with leaders who are Red in thought and action."

Wall Street should contribute heavily to Coughlin's treasury for that attack against labor, maybe even add a station or two to Coughlin's network. For this was the exact line of propaganda pursued by Hitler and Mussolini—both political agents of Big Business—on their road to power and destruction of the labor movement.

First they made a scapegoat—the Jews, whom they blamed for all the country's ills. Then they labelled their victim, the labor movement, as Jewish-led astray by Jewish Communist leaders—and wiped it out with terror and violence.

Praises Fascism

Coughlin ends his diatribe against the non-religious Jews with a big hand to Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy and Fascist Spain which he claims, in the teeth of all facts to the contrary, have "escaped the international banker" and eliminated unemployment.

"There," ends Coughlin, "I've actually said a good word for the totalitarian countries, so naturally, I'll be called both a Fascist and a Nazi."

No, Father Coughlin—not both a Fascist and a Nazi. Only a fool would accuse you of being merely an agent of Germany or Italy. You are an agent of Big Business right here in the United States—you are an AMERICAN fascist demagogue.

Baby Buggy Picket Irks Relief Official - Father Wins Bed

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

CHICAGO — That Kastile baby simply would grow! Its feet hung over the end of the "buggy. It didn't seem to realize that its parents were on Relief and couldn't buy a bed for it. The Relief doesn't furnish baby beds.

Brother Kastile took his troubles to the Local of the Illinois Workers Alliance (no relation to Lasser's outfit). There he got some advice.

He put his baby in the buggy and wheeled it up and down in front of the relief station with a placard. A crowd gathered around. People began to look out of second story windows. Just then one of the officials from down town Chicago arrived in his car. He dashed into the station.

"Get that man off the street!" he cried. "Take his address and send him home!"

In a few days a check for twelve dollars arrived to buy the baby bed.

Moral: An ounce of action is worth more than a pound of postal cards.