

# In the World of Labor

By Paul G. Stevens

## South American Situation Fraught With Revolutionary Possibilities

(This week's column by Diego Montanez)

Unrest and turmoil continue in Latin America. Chile and Ecuador have just had a little trouble. Mexico had a minor outbreak last week in the rich mining state of Guanajuato and United States diplomatic sources hint that they expect further developments. Information from Brazil indicates that the constant jockeying for control of the government is fast approaching the point of eruption into open civil war. In Argentina the reactionary, pro-British President Ortiz, with the aid of the Stalinists, whips up an anti-German spy hunt. Throughout the Latin part of the continent one finds the same ferment that preceded the sweep of revolts that took place in 1930.

With so many capitalist governments tottering, a splendid opportunity for revolutionary action should exist. But, with the exception of the numerically small sections of the Fourth International, and to a certain extent the Nationalists Party in Puerto Rico, the clever smile of Roosevelt and the pro-imperialist turn of the Stalinists have wrought havoc among the labor and progressive movements of the continent.

The situation of the capitalists is complicated by several factors. There are the struggles between the "democratic" and "dictatorial" powers for control of the industries and markets and military bases, the struggles between the U.S. and British capitalists, the struggles of the native capitalists for a larger share of the booty, the fuses occasionally raised by sections of the native capitalists who prefer "liberal" means of ruling, the continual battles between sets of job-hungry officials, the maneuvers of the labor bureaucrats and Stalinists, and under them all the restless stirring of the hundred million workers and peasants.

The fresher bureaucratic government cliques that took power in the wave of revolts nine or ten years ago have become worn out. New and still fresher strata are being pushed forward. In Brazil a large section of the ruling class, in-

cluding many of the army leaders, has grown tired of the inept and unsteady Vargas dictatorship. They are preparing for an attempt to replace it with one more to their own liking. This attempt will be bitterly resisted by the Vargas group, probably to the point of bloody civil war.

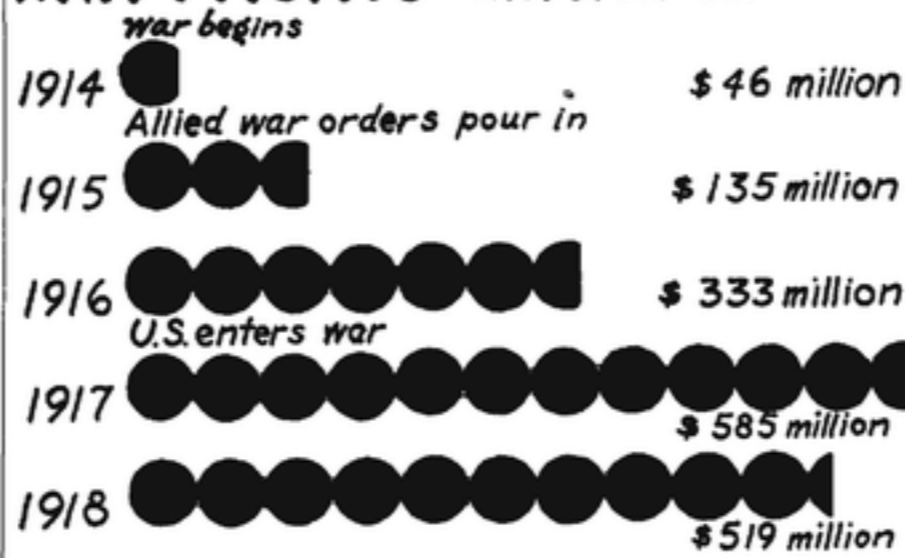
In the course of such a war both sides will ferociously turn upon any section of the working class that raises its head. The advanced workers, who supported the large and influential Communist Party in the past, have by now lost all faith in the Stalinist relic that preaches support of the very government that murdered and jailed thousands of its old militants and keeps it illegal even today. Whole masses have voted against the "new line" with their feet. Others, to a surprising and significant extent, have drawn the lessons of the Stalinist degeneration and have come over to the Fourth International.

Though the Stalinist lackeys of the imperialist police "reached the depth of announcing over the Moscow short-wave radio the real names of party members who they knew were opposed to the support of Yankee imperialism" (quoted from the unanimous decision of the Sao Paulo Regional Committee of the C.P.), the Communist organizations in Parana and Sao Paulo (the latter the Brazilian equivalent of New York State), as well as many individual militants, have broken with Stalinism and joined the Leninist Workers Party (Fourth International section in Brazil). Even in the prisons and dungeons of Rio and Fernando Naranho Island where Vargas keeps five to six thousand anti-imperialist fighters, the same process is going on, as new arrivals bring news of Stalinism and the new Fourth International. The Stalinist henchmen now find themselves forced, by the appearance of so many manifestos of disaffiliation by militant C.P. groups, to sign their leaflets: "Communist Party (section of the Third International)!"

The revolutionary, Bolshevik movement in Brazil, inspired by its new gains, has held a congress to consolidate its forces to prepare to move forward to winning the masses of down-trodden, underfed workers and landless peasants for the decisive struggle against the corrupt native and foreign capitalists.

# Who Won the World War?

## WAR PROFITS - U.S. Steel Co.



"Manufacturers must have reasonable profits to do their duty."  
—Judge Gary, head of Steel Institute, 1917.

# "New Masses" and Father Coughlin

By JOSEPH HANSEN

On July 30 Father Coughlin openly and brazenly declared civil war on the American labor movement when he broadcast a speech entitled "The Call to Action" over a nationwide hook-up of more than 50 radio stations.

Coughlin called on his storm troop organization, which he calls the "Christian Front," to take to the streets and fight "cheek to jowl" and "shoulder to shoulder" with anyone who opposes Coughlinism. "We will fight you in Franco's way!" Coughlin threatened to establish a "defense mechanism" in America like Fascism in Italy and Nazism in Germany "such as the world has not seen."

"It is a death struggle!" he declared. "You are either with me or against me."

### THAT IS A DECLARATION OF WAR!

**Didn't Hear Him**  
How did the heroes of Stalin's Communist Party meet this threat of civil war against the labor movement?

The New Masses, official voice of Stalin's American section, declares in an editorial of August 8, that it didn't hear Father Coughlin's speech, that it couldn't locate any radio station which had broadcasted Father Coughlin's speech, that it couldn't even get a printed copy of the speech (Coughlin mails them out by the hundreds of thousands, postage free) and hence had no way of knowing what Coughlin said in his Sunday speech.

Where were the editors of the New Masses? Studying how their comrade General Miaja sold out the rank and file in Spain to fascism and then scammed while his passport was still good? Or listening to WHN, 1250 Kilocycles on the dial (announced in Sunday's New York Times radio section) as Father Coughlin told America what he thought of the "non-religious Jews," the "red leaders" of the American labor movement, the "cowardice" of his opponents, and how he would establish the worst fascist dictatorship the world has yet seen!

Judge for yourself. Without having heard Coughlin's speech, without having read it, they considered it dangerous and important enough to disturb the rank and file of the Communist Party and hence to deserve an answer. They declared that Coughlin's "inciting to violence," "the central theme of his speech last Sunday" is not the "persecution mania of dementia praecox."

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HOLD AUGUST 27 OPEN!!!**  
The Friends of the Russian Bulletin will hold an all day outing on Sunday, Aug. 27 at Rye Beach. The boat will leave the Battery at 10:15 A.M. The entire day will be spent at Rye Beach and the return trip will be made by boat, leaving in the evening. The arrangements committee is preparing a varied and interesting program of games, music, swimming, etc. There will be dancing to the music of a first-rate orchestra on the boat, with a Broadway show on the return trip. Tickets are available at the office of the New International at the nominal rate of one dollar. Please make your reservations early.

**CAMP SEVEN OAKS.** Eatontown, N. J. Tennis, swimming, ping-pong. Plumbing. \$2.50 per day. \$14 a week. Make reservations, please! Phone: Eatontown 515.

but "a smooth and effective bit of fascist methodology."

The New Masses couldn't find out what stations Coughlin utilizes for his nationwide broadcasts every Sunday in the year and which he publishes periodically in Social Justice! That's a lie! They knew very well what he threatened.

The New Masses got a terrible headache when they heard Coughlin preparing his "Christian Front" to use violence in the streets. They know that the only way to defend yourself from violence is by organizing Workers Defense Guards! But these heroes are the last ones in the world to lift up their fists even in self-defense—much less defense of the labor movement. Like a little toy dog that suddenly decides his own bark is too dangerous, they pulled in tail damn quick.

### A Smelly Proposal

But here's the pay-off—last sentence in the editorial, New Masses' method of fighting America's fascist demagogue who announces to the world that he is taking "Franco's way":

"It is the first duty of progressives to learn where and from what stations Coughlin is broadcasting and to make their feelings immediately known to the owners."

Make their feelings known to the bosses who are backing up Coughlin with hard cash!

Doesn't that sound sweet and democratic and on your toes, grandmother!

But it smells like Stalinist General Miaja's way of fighting Franco!

# Negro Workers at Phila. Rally Hear SWP Position on WPA, Relief

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
**PHILADELPHIA, July 29—**At an outdoor meeting attended by 75 Negro workers, S.W.P. speakers exposed the company-union role of the Workers Alliance.

Reuben Plaskett, Negro Newark unemployed leader, received a warm reception when he took the stand and explained the part of Roosevelt as initiator of recent cuts in WPA and as strikebreaker.

Prominent Stalinist whips stood aghast as point by point the treacherous, class-collaboration policy of the Communist Party in the Workers Alliance was unmasked.

Stalinist Tried to Interrupt  
Sterling Rochester, member of the C.P. Philadelphia executive committee, attempted to interrupt a speaker, presumably because a profane word was used. (Really these Trotskyites should be sent to Sunday school!) However, the workers present, intent upon the message of the S.W.P., insisted that the speaker continue.

So interested were the workers, that the meeting did not adjourn until midnight.

Alliance Members Friendly  
Plaskett, surrounded by a dense crowd of listeners, turned the reactionary slander of Stalinist questioners into boomerangs. Workers Alliance members directed good political questions at him, and received answers that left them friendly to the program of the S.W.P.

The workers liked the S.W.P. program of a 20 billion dollar Federal Works and Housing Program, of turning all war funds over to the unemployed, of opening the idle factories

# MILLIONS OF MEN AWAIT CALL TO WAR

13,000,000 Million Men Under Arms in War Crazy World

(Continued from Page 1)

have gone as far as to send military missions to Moscow to discuss matters of strategy even before the political pact is concluded. This step, designed as pressure on Hitler and Stalin alike, is regarded as a cover-up for the continuing deadlock of the pact negotiations.

2. In Tokyo: the issue of Japanese adherence to the Italo-German military alliance has again come sharply to the fore. The Japanese have been engaged for three months in undeclared warfare against the Russians on the Mongol frontier. They have so far been reluctant, however, to join the axis alliance for fear of finding themselves confronting Britain, France, and probably the United States, as well as Russia, in war. The Germans, on their part, have been none too anxious to bring Japan in so long as they believe there is hope of "neutralizing" the Russians.

But in the last month the Japanese have come to grips with the British in a determined effort to win a deeper Japanese foothold in the all-important foreign concessions. An anti-British campaign, sponsored by the Japanese, is in full swing.

With Roosevelt's move in revoking the trade treaty, signifying to the Japanese that they will certainly have Yankee imperialism to contend with in any case, the Nippon militarists are pressing for the axis alliance link. The Japanese civilian leaders are angling for a more flexible stand which would leave Japan some negotiating leeway if they do find themselves in the tight spot of facing war simultaneously against all the Western powers and Russia.

### Danzig Seesaw

3. In Danzig and Warsaw: The Poles repeat and repeat again that they will fight if Hitler lays a finger on the fair face of "Polish" Danzig. The Nazis declare they will fight if Poland prevents the restoration to the Reich of "German Danzig." Neither side wants a war over this issue and Hitler is still angling for another cold coup that will enable him to come before the Nuremberg congress in September with another triumph to present to the starving people of Germany.

# Stop Fascism In America!

(Continued from Page 1)

## Depression Sweeps Italy

When the great imperialist bandits called off their World War and proceeded to split up the booty, recording the details of this transaction in the Versailles Treaty, the Italian overlords of industry came out at the short end of the stick.

Instead of vast colonies teeming with slaves and wealth which they had expected to chain to their profit machine, they got little more than what was already under their domination when they first ordered the Italian workers and farmers into the trenches.

As a result, the war debt rested unusually heavy on the shoulders of the workers and farmers and they were filled with discontent.

On top of this, the tremendous factories and mills which had been constructed with feverish haste by the big industrialists during the World War in order to rake down as much as possible of the highly profitable war orders, now faced a greatly narrowed market. Factories and mills began shutting down.

### Unemployment swept Italy.

Hundreds of thousands of hungry workers drifted from city to city searching for jobs. Young people found themselves facing a blank and desperate future, without hope of work. And with the pillars of the buying power of the workers thus torn out, thousands of small merchants came crashing down in bankruptcy.

Everybody cast about desperately for some way out of his misery.

Nor were the big industrialists or the big land owners any too happy. Their profits continued to decline. Excepting only their own living standards, they slashed every possible cost to the bone. Nevertheless, profits declined still lower. Goods piled up to the roofs in the warehouses, and still no one came to buy. The capitalists cast greedy eyes on the concessions which the powerful trade unions had managed to wring from them. With all the hunger of a safe-cracker sizing up a small-town bank, they even studied the insurance reserves and the savings of the poor. After all, they decided, the Italian workers and poor farmers were used to starving!

Many of the most clear-sighted workers, small farmers and merchants felt that there was only one way out and that way was socialism. That is, shifting the wheels of industry into high gear under the ownership of all the working people as a whole and producing for the use of everybody instead of the private profit of a small handful of stockholders.

When the strikers began operating the mills and factories in September 1920, all the workers who had been suffering from the depression felt jubilant. It was only necessary to continue and to extend this action. Open up all the idle factories and set the machines to work! Then there would be jobs for everybody, short hours, plenty of food, clothing, and the good things of life.

But the small handful of stockholding families, who had until then owned and controlled the national industries for their own private benefit and who, like similar families in other countries, consider themselves the axis around which the earth revolves, felt a cold sweat break out on their brows. It was necessary to do something and to do it quick. They put their heads together. There was only one way out so far as they were concerned and that was to increase profits by drastically cutting wages. But how break through the trade unions?

At first they tried ordinary strikebreakers—\$10-a-day men who will swing a club on the head of any worker who dares to stand up for his rights, or for a slight extra commission shoot him in the back.

But the entire working class was too strongly united and militant to be overcome by these raw time-worn tactics.

They repulsed this offensive of the bosses.

The capitalists saw that there was no way to bring back their profits except by streamlining the attack with cunning and deception. If the throat of the labor movement could not be cut by a frontal swipe, then it was necessary to stick the knife in from behind.

No one was better fitted for this job than Benito Mussolini.

(Continued in next issue)

# On the Line . . . with Bill Morgan

Is there anybody who does not know the story about the sixteen blind men who made a special trip to the Bronx Zoo just to become acquainted with that most extraordinary of all beasts, the elephant? I thought so. Well, it seems these men all walked up to the animal in question and reached out to feel it so that they could determine its size and proportions. As soon as the beast felt sixteen pairs of hands on his hide he turned away and ran for cover leaving the sixteen blind men standing around in a circle. Each had grabbed at the elephant and each thought he knew what the beast looked like.

"It is similar to the snake" said the first because he had felt only the elephant's trunk.

"No, not at all," said the second who had touched the feet. "It is more like a tree."

"All wrong, all wrong," muttered a third, "a beast with ears like that is more like a jackass."

And so every blind man went home with his own idea of what an elephant looks like. And each blind man went about describing this beast to all his friends. You can imagine the result. Today many people are under the impression that an elephant is little different from a seagull.

### Some Can See, But Won't Look

And now we come to the people who can see but who refuse to look. These people go about spreading stories about beast and man which would make your few remaining locks turn a cold, stone grey. As has been said: "There are none so blind as those who will not see."

Now then, unless we are to be in the same boat with the blind men, we must take a good look at the people we want to talk to and about. The blind had an excuse but we have none. If we are to really convince the workers that they are on the receiving end of a baseball bat we must get out and take a good look at them and spend a little time talking with them. Some of us are in for a shock.

Take my friend Thistlethwaite for instance. Here is a guy who has read all the books and newspapers. He can recite the constitution of his union backwards in pig latin. He has a reputation as a crackerjack motion maker on the social committee. In other words, a smart guy. But like the hero in the Palm Olive Soap ads he lacks a certain something. And without that certain something his social life is about as gay as a crutch.

He tried everything. He asked his best friends. He even took up physical culture but it was not until he decided to re-examine his ideas with some original research that his life took on a new meaning. Try it sometime.

### Follow an Idea Through

Take some idea which has been politely accepted and never investigated and follow it down to the ground. A good problem and one which has been the subject of discussion for a long time is the composition of the Communist Party. It's not what you think.

If you are under the impression that all members of the C.P. are in full agreement with the line of Holy Joe (better known as Butch) you are showing all the earmarks of a guy who has been living in a tightwad's pocketbook.

Matter of fact, if you take the trouble to really sit down and discuss with rank and file members of the C.P. you will discover that they, for the most part, have some good, healthy instincts. Many are really for this line of democracy and it comes as a shock to learn the real meaning of the "peace and democracy" baloney which Browder & Co. have been slicing. Many really mean it when they say they are against fascism—only they don't understand how to fight fascism. Most of them are not aware of the policy followed by the Stalinists in Germany when Hitler took power. Many are trying to establish democracy in their union and find it hard to understand just why the Stalinists keep stalling and stalling

### Democracy versus Fascism?

"A modern war between the great powers does not signify a conflict between democracy and fascism but a struggle of two imperialisms for the re-division of the world. Moreover, the war must inevitably assume an international character and in both camps will be found fascist (semi-fascist, bonapartist, etc.) as well as 'democratic' states. . . Finally, in France itself, parliamentary democracy, already sufficiently weakened today, would undoubtedly be one of the first victims of war if it is not upset before its start." (from War and the Fourth International)

# The Army Has a New Rapid-Fire Rifle . . .

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Just out—

# "Let The People Vote On War"

By JAMES BURNHAM

3 cents per copy. Bundle rates: 60 cents for 25; \$1.00 for 60; \$1.75 for 100; \$16.00 for 1,000

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# LET'S ALL STICK TOGETHER

Come on all you fellows Who work on the WPA Let's all stick together And we'll get more pay.

The government's all against us Of this we have no doubt But let's all keep together And victory we will shout.

Colonel Harrington is the man Who says we'll get more hours But if I say no and you say no We will send him to the showers.

WPA striker Streater, Ill.