

Big Business Knows Roosevelt Prepares War Entry

(Continued from Page 1)

"to save democracy from the madman Hitler," not a war for any kind of ideal—just a merciless butchery for profit.

Expect only Short Interval

"(1) This 'war of nerves' results in the same political and economic alliances as does the battlefield. Real neutrality, in face of this conflict, becomes less possible the longer it continues.

There in cold italicized print is the declaration of Big Business BEFORE WAR BROKE OUT IN EUROPE, that when it did break (regardless of who was labeled the "aggressor") it would not be long until dough-boys from the farms and factories of America began crossing the Atlantic in the "old-fashioned" way to fight for the profits of Wall Street.

The second point announces the imminence of the then undeclared European hostilities and raises questions which will immediately confront the individual capitalist when the shedding of blood begins:

"(2) So long as the bloodless war rages, only the slightest unexpected spark may be required to set off the fuse. And once the fuse starts abroad, even with domestic neutrality, a host of business problems immediately arise:

"a. What happens to business even in part dependent upon foreign export?"

"b. What happens to business using imported materials?"

"c. What happens to security values on exchanges which are shaken by crises as well as by dumped, frightened funds?"

"d. What business adjustments will be made necessary by the Neutrality Act when it is for the first time widely applied?"

"e. What happens to every-day prices when warring powers really begin feeding civilian and military needs with American merchandise?"

Even the most humble house-wife already knows the answer to that last question. On the day Hitler marched into Poland prices immediately began to skyrocket at the expense of the family pocketbook and to the high advantage of the vaults in Wall Street.

All Emphasis on War Preparation

Without pausing to answer the questions it has raised, apparently considering them self-evident, the analysis rushes to the main business at hand: What is the immediate perspective for which the capitalist class must prepare and organize itself?

"(3) Most important of all among the problems imposed by today's headlines is the program for preparing American business and economic life for the possibility that America will be drawn in."

The bulletin then emphasizes with a pithy slogan the point which must be driven into the mind of every individual belonging to the capitalist class:

"The Business Man Must Not Keep His Eyes Closed Until the U. S. Declares War."

That is, don't be deluded by any statements issued for propaganda purposes that the Roosevelt government wants or intends to remain neutral.

"Among the most unfortunate business misconceptions is that the executive can remain oblivious of the need to adjust his business to war until the United States is IN."

Mobilization Already on Way

With the utmost clarity the analysis then underscores this warning to members of the capitalist class with a very concrete explanation of the "effect of today's events" and the "ostrich-like error" of not understanding that war conditions are about to envelope American industry:

"(1) The Plan for the MOBILIZATION OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY has not only been completed by the War and Navy Departments for years, but several phases of this Plan are already in operation."

Despite the delicacy in phrasing what could be more clear than that emphasized declaration: MOBILIZATION... already in operation?"

"(2) The recent appointment of the WAR RESOURCES BOARD is the most dramatic hint to business that the coordination of the nation's economic resources is NOT merely academic study."

In brief, before Hitler began bombing Poland, the top leaders of Big Business were notifying the capitalist class as a

whole that its executive arm in Washington, D. C., was prepared and that now it was merely a question of time.

Cold Logic of Business

Next point in the explanation about the "unfortunate" and "ostrich-like" error of not realizing what is happening, is declared by the bulletin itself as "most important of all" that is, the juicy and delectable question of WAR ORDERS:

"(3) Command performance: Most important of all is the presence of Section 120 of the National Defense Act, under which the President in time of war or when war is imminent, and he is the one to decide when war is imminent, is empowered, through the head of any Government department, to place an order with any firm for any product or material that may be necessary."

How different is this analysis presented by the leaders of the capitalist class to their membership from the propaganda they foist on the public through the daily press! None of the fevered war slogans here! None of the clarion calls to battle for God and Country! Just the hot inside tip: Roosevelt will soon plunge the United States into war, therefore PREPARE FOR PROFITS.

That is the message sent out confidentially by the Sixty Families — the Morgans, DuPonts, Mellons, Rockefellers, Girdlers—to the class they head.

(The second installment in this series of articles exposing the preparations among the capitalists for war will appear in the next issue of the Socialist Appeal.)

In the Labor Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

Here is a choice bit of information that Attorney General (I Break Strikes) Frank Murphy let slip a few days ago in Washington.

"Detective organizations set up by industrial concerns to prevent sabotage would work closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation," Mr. Murphy explained to a New York Times reporter.

Employ Spies

What does it mean? The federal government is enlisting the services of stool-pigeons, company spies, strike-breaking organizations, to fight "sabotage."

And what is "sabotage" to a Pinkerton? Or a Tom Girdler agent? Or any stool pigeon in a union? Workers have had not a little experience with this in the last few years. "Sabotage" consists of being a good union man, fighting for rights and good conditions within the plant.

The federal government can't just jail every good union man who feels that, war or no war, workers have a right to fight for just demands. That would be too crude. It would expose the war dictatorship too much.

Frameups Ahead

So the government must now prepare the ground work for a frameup. "Sabotage by spies" becomes the theme song of the FBI. Once that is accepted, any worker in the plant who remains a union militant is branded a "saboteur." He "disrupts" national defense. Company stool pigeons will hurl the charge. The FBI is going to "work closely with them."

Yet the United Rubber Workers of America's convention, to mention the latest union convention held, went on record to support the Roosevelt administration in its war moves!

Seniority Rights!

Our prediction of last May that the question of seniority rights during war-time would become a greater issue apparently is being borne out by various information coming to the office.

Unions everywhere are beginning to ask for the continuation of seniority rights during war service. That is, if a worker is taken from the plant for army service, his seniority continues as though he remained in the plant.

What is our attitude towards this demand? We can only reiterate what was published then. "Now every unionist is in favor of seniority rights under all circumstances. What is disturbing is the calm acceptance of the idea of conscription in war-time.

Workers should never give up an inch of their rights under any conditions, if it is possible. Fight for seniority rights in event of conscription? Sure. The best way to fight against it, however, is to fight against the conscription of labor.

While on this subject, it might

be worthwhile to repeat certain other elementary strategy for unionists in this period.

War does not substitute new problems for old ones in the union movement. It adds new ones and intensifies the present problems. The rising price level makes the wage question more acute. The government demands for war production will intensify the struggle over hours of work, conditions of work and the speed-up.

What to Do

Every present headache of a shop committeeman increases. Before actual declaration of war, the bosses will give in to serious pressure because the prospect of additional profits is too tempting to permit big shutdowns.

However, the bosses hope to end all the business of making any concessions once war starts by the use of the federal machinery to hogtie labor. The "impartial" labor boards consisting mainly of professional and business people are supposed to settle all labor disputes, backed by the US Army. What's new for the labor movement is how to fight these boards. Direct negotiations between unions and employers is the general slogan around which this struggle can be carried.

DON'T MISS 'A NIGHT IN HARLEM'

"A Night in Harlem" with dancing and entertainment, arranged for Saturday October 7 at the Mimeo Club, under the auspices of the National Negro Department, will be an affair the committee in charge reports that no one will want to miss. Special entertainment to be announced later is being arranged. The proceeds from the affair will be used to carry on the activities of the National Negro Department, the printing and distribution of an anti-war manifesto to the Negro people and to aid in the publication and distribution of the pamphlet "Negro and War" by J. R. Johnson, now appearing in the Socialist Appeal.

At Your Service THE APPEAL POSTER SHOP

What Your Dollar Can Do

- A dollar puts a Socialist Appeal salesman on an important street corner for one day. Five dollars permits free distribution of two hundred Socialist Appeals. Ten dollars puts a full-time field organizer to work for one week in the anti-war campaign.

Anti-War Campaign Committee Socialist Workers Party 116 University Place, N.Y.C.

Dear Friends:

I enclose... as a contribution to the anti-war work of the Socialist Workers Party.

Name Address

Progressives Make Important Gains at State Convention of Minnesota A.F.L.

Large Votes Polled by Militants on Various Issues Indicate Growing Strength Of Progressive Forces in Labor Unions

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

DULUTH, Minn.—Nearly 900 delegates from AFL unions assembled in Duluth last week to take part in the 57th state convention of the Minnesota Federation of Labor, the largest ever held.

A number of victories were chalked up by the left-wing bloc in the convention, but the three outstanding gains made were resolutions adopted unanimously for a national referendum on war; in support of the W P A Strike Defense committees in Minneapolis and St. Paul; and a resolution passed by an overwhelming majority for the repeal of the Stassen slave act.

The resolution supporting the WPA strikers came towards the close of the convention and was reported on by George Murk, chairman of the defense committee, who held the complete attention of every delegate with his account of the work of the defense committee had done. The report was climaxed by news that sent a thrill through everyone—that all the defendants had been released on bond that very afternoon.

The vote on repealing the Stassen act as amended is recorded after a minority report from the legislative committee was made by Gene Larson of the Minneapolis Milk Drivers. The minority position was upheld by speaker after speaker, including Miles Dunne and Ole Ogg, both from Minneapolis drivers' unions.

The resounding vote to reject the majority report and accept the minority report left no doubt as to the sentiment of the delegates present on the Stassen act.

Significant in this vote was the fact that the majority report expressed the position of Robert Olson, president, and George Lawson, secretary of the state Federation and all their supporters. The attempt to put the state federation on record for amending the Stassen Act instead of repealing it is simply further indication that Lawson and his buddies have been an distill are playing along with Stassen in

their own personal interests and not in the interests of the labor movement of Minnesota. This overwhelming vote to repeal was a thorough and unquestionable victory for the militants whose attitude towards Stassen remains uncompromising.

Discuss Political Activity

The other high spot of the convention was the fight over the resolution introduced by the Executive Council of the state Federation, recommending an amendment to the constitution banning endorsements of political candidates by the state body. The resolution was adopted, but not until blow after blow had been struck at it.

Henry Schultz, International representative of the Electrical Workers, made the outstanding speech in opposition, pointing out that only through political action can the unions safeguard what they have won through economic action. He called to mind the experiences of organized labor during the world war and warned that these things would be repeated if the workers relaxed their political vigilance.

Lawson was the most vociferous defender of this proposal, and for good reasons. Opposed to the Farmer-Labor party in Minnesota, wishing to free himself from any restrictions that might be placed on him by the state Federation as a body, and seizing upon the opportunity to administer a severe blow to the progressives in the Minnesota labor movement, Lawson spoke out with great heat against political endorsements.

Following the discussion, a motion was made to refer the resolution to the 1940 convention. In a rising vote, the motion was lost. Following this, a demand was made by ten or more unions for a roll-call vote and the motion was declared lost 342 to 223.

Chairman Bureaucratic

The high-handed methods of President Olson who chaired the meeting were displayed even before the rising vote was taken when, in true bureaucratic fashion, he took a yea vote on the motion to refer but did not take a no vote. It was obvious to everyone present that, had the vote been completed, the motion to refer would have been carried by a real majority.

But even this was not the extent of Olson's contemptuous disregard for democratic procedure. In a rising vote, the recommendation for the amendment was won by a slim margin of nine votes over the required two-thirds majority. And the clamorous demand for a roll-call vote by many more than ten unions was denied! The convention became an uproar. Almost every delegate was on his feet calling for a roll-call vote. So President Olson declared the convention adjourned for the day.

On Wednesday morning John Boscoe, president of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, asked for a recount. Olson re-

ANTI-WAR RESOLUTION

WHEREAS war brings death, suffering and misery to millions of working people and profits to the employers, and WHEREAS the present war crisis has raised the prices of the necessities of life, and WHEREAS William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, in his Labor Day address, expressed the sentiments of the workers of this country by taking a stand against war, and WHEREAS the Railway Executives of the 21 railroad craft unions have gone on record for a referendum of the people on war, therefore BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, reaffirm the stand of the labor movement against war, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we demand the adoption of a constitutional amendment that would take the war-making power out of the hands of Congress and refer it to a vote of the people.

Adopted by the Minnesota State Federation of Labor in convention assembled at Duluth, Minnesota, on September 13, 1939.

NEWARK SWP PRESSES ANTI-WAR ACTIVITY

NEWARK, Sept. 18.—A week of anti-war activity in which the program of the party was carried into every working-class district of the city culminated in a mass meeting last night at which over 200 workers heard Comrade Max Schachtman at Kreuger's Auditorium.

The anti-war program of the party won enthusiastic approval from the hundreds who were reached during the week by party propaganda. During the week three street rallies were held, attended by hundreds of workers in each case. Thousands of anti-war leaflets were distributed, and many copies of the Socialist Appeal and other literature were sold and distributed.

A novel feature of the party activities was the appearance of a horse-drawn wagon carrying huge signs bearing the anti-war slogans: THIS IS NOT OUR WAR! THIS IS A WAR FOR BOSSES PROFITS! FIGHT AGAINST WAR!, which was driven all over the city advertising the various street meetings and the mass meeting. This was seen by thousands of workers and everywhere it went it won favorable comment from those who saw it.

Many valuable party and YP-SL contacts were made as well as several new members, as several new members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED BICYCLES to help build up the Socialist Appeal newsstand routes. Anyone willing to loan or donate a bicycle should get in touch immediately with the Labor Bookshop, 116 University Place.

THE GENERAL FUND RIDES AGAIN!!! Two solid hours of uproarious, side-splitting entertainment. Also "How the People Can Win in 1939" and the new tableau "Get the Rope," among other sketches to be presented by the G. F. Newcomers will be initiated into the G. F. at this session. Perpetrated by the

Minimum Guaranteed Earnings!!

WANTED—Men, Women and Students to sell the Socialist Appeal as a part time job. Socialist Appeal now selling very fast on the streets. One dollar a day guaranteed. Possible to make much more. Apply all day from 12 o'clock on at 116 University Pl., Abe Miller.

Form Picket Line Around Pennsylvania Cigar Plant

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

ALLENTOWN, Pa., Sept. 19.—Picket lines were again established in front of the General Cigar Co., when the 735 workers who have been out on strike since August 18, voted on Saturday morning to remain out until a contract is signed.

This action was a reversal of their previous vote, taken last Thursday to return to work while negotiations were being conducted between the factory owner and the union, Local 91, AFL, of the International Cigar-makers Union.

The union membership voted to continue the strike because they felt that the bosses' promises to negotiate their differences "in the near future" might mean sometime next year.

Resent "Expert" Organization started in the factory about three months ago, when workers who had been with the company from 10 to 15 years were fired to make room for "loyal" scabs that were without work when the General Cigar Co. closed its Detroit plant rather than pay union wages.

An "efficiency expert" by the name of Walton was brought in to the plant. He made the women's blood boil by trying to make a showgirl palace out of the factory. Stout women were told that they have to wear girdles. All women were told to use lipstick, powder, and rouge and orders went out to the factory superintendent that he was not to hire any one who wears eyeglasses.

Walton got under everyone's skin, and one young worker, Louis Segati, called a meeting of the factory workers. About 250 came to the meeting and discussed ways and means of organizing. Fire Organizer The next day Segati received his dismissal notice from the boss. One half hour later the entire plant walked out as one man in demonstration of their solidarity with Segati. The 735 workers set up their picket lines. Nothing moved in or out of the factory. The picket lines held firm throughout. Last week the boss met with Kennedy of the Inter-

national, and the result was a "paper" which stated that the boss was willing to negotiate some time in the future.

A meeting was called and the workers voted to accept the bosses' offer to negotiate and return to work. After the vote was taken it was learned that the boss had not even signed the paper or stated when he was going to carry on negotiations with the union.

Last Saturday's meeting of the strikers took up the entire question again. By an overwhelming vote they decided to go back on the picket line until a written contract is signed.

Among the demands of the union are closed shop contract, grievance committees operating in the plant, and one contract to cover all the workers in the shop.

Today, with the picket line resumed, the determination to hold out for victory is greater than ever. About 50 scabs who are working in the plant were "educated" about 11 this morning amid a shower of tomatoes, flour bags, and other missiles. Traffic was tied up along Highway 22 where the plant is located and about 2,000 spectators and sympathizers cheered the pickets on.

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Join the Socialist Workers Party

You Can Aid the Fight Against War by Signing Nominating Petitions for SWP Candidates

All citizens resident in New York who sympathize with the campaign of the Socialist Workers Party to place a candidate in the Bronx and one in Manhattan on the ballot for the Councilmanic Elections are asked to sign a nominating petition immediately.

Drop in at headquarters, 116 University Place, N.Y.C., or at the headquarters of the nearest branch to place your name on a petition. If you have friends who are registered voters too and who will sign the petition, bring them with you or give us their names and we will have a canvasser call upon them.

The circulation of a petition for signatures among your shopmates, if you are in a position to do so, will give the campaign a big boost.

Absolutely no obligation is entailed in signing. Without any commitment on your part, by signing a petition, you give the only anti-war party in the United States a chance to fight against the second world war from the vantage point of the ballot.

We need your help now as never before in placing our anti-war, anti-fascist candidates on the ballot for the coming election.