

"War Is the Issue!" - Says Call to Writers and Professionals

In the Labor Unions - By B. J. WIDICK

A conference on war prices was initiated by Labor's Non-Partisan League of Massachusetts for the coming week end at Boston.

No doubt, this is the beginning of a national move on this problem by affiliates of the CIO and by certain forces within the union movement, and it deserves considerable attention.

The official call for the conference states: "One week after the beginning of war, wholesale prices of 30 foods had jumped 17 per cent."

"No one knows how soon still higher prices, speculative or real, may seriously confront one and one half million in Massachusetts."

"The time to begin to organize for action is NOW."

"Labor, consumer, cooperative, farmer and social groups are cooperating to make this conference an effective step to protect standards of living."

Price Councils "We urge you to take part in its program, which includes the following definite objectives:

"1. To create permanent War Price Councils, on a state, city and neighborhood basis."

"2. To support utmost use of existing federal, state and municipal safeguards against unjustified price increases."

"3. To supplement legislation defending living standards. To create neighborhood buying groups, able to deal directly with farmers' marketing cooperatives."

WIDE INTEREST SHOWN IN S.W.P. CANDIDATES

4-Page Campaign Issue of Appeal Gives Full Party Program

(Continued from Page 1) Library Staff Association, the Citizens Union of the City of New York, the Joint Committee of Teachers Organizations and the New York City League of Women Voters, the Campaign Committee announced today.

Requesting that Candidate Shachtman express himself on the issue of fascism, the South Bronx Committee For Toleration, 403 E. 138 St., writes, "Desirous of ascertaining your stand with regard to the organizations known as the 'Christian Front' and the 'Christian Mobilizers.' Your reply will be publicly read at a mass meeting which we will hold on October 25, 1939, at P.S. 65, 141 St. and Cypress Avenue, in the Borough of the Bronx."

Accepting their invitation, Candidate Shachtman will speak at a public mass meeting of the New York League of Women Voters, Monday Evening, October 23, at Bronx High School of Science, 184 Street and Creston Ave., the Campaign Committee announced.

The Campaign Committee also announced today that Candidates Shachtman and Paine will appear at a meeting of the Womens City Club of New York, 20 West 51 Street, on Wednesday, November 1.

Removed from the ballot on a mere technicality by the Board of Elections, George Lyman Paine was conferring with legal counsel on the next move in the fight to restore his name to the voting lists, the Campaign Committee declared.

"Despite the efforts of the Board of Elections to deny the voters of Manhattan an opportunity to solidize themselves with the only anti-war candidate now up for election in that Borough," Dwight MacDonald stated, "the wide interest already displayed in the Manhattan candidate of the Socialist Workers Party speaks well for the vote he will roll up on election day."

In an edition of thousands of copies, the Campaign Committee issued the first of its special tabloid supplements of the Socialist Appeal Wednesday, containing the election platform of the Socialist Workers Party and the statements of the two candidates. Questions requesting further information on the campaign are flooding the offices of the Committee for Shachtman and Paine, Dwight MacDonald made known today.

The tabloid campaign edition amplifies the anti-war, anti-fascist platform of the S.W.P., declaring for a Popular Referendum on War, and the formation of Workers Defense Guards against fascist provocation. Full rights for the Negro people and an end to the gouging of the poor round out the election platform.

Speaking before another well-attended election campaign rally Wednesday, October 18, at Hollywood Gardens, Prospect Avenue and 162 Street, Shachtman stated, "I have been surrounded on all sides by questions requesting me to state my position on County Reform. Yes, I am for County Reform. I'm for it one hundred percent. As a matter of fact, I'm for it so much that I would like to see the present crowd of officeholders dispersed and in their stead have this County administered by subway workers, needle trades workers, longshoremen and building trades workers. In other words, I'm for County Reform to the extent that the workers themselves engage directly in running the affairs of government."

Monday, October 23, Shachtman will speak at Bronx Terrace, Third Ave., at Claremont Parkway, at another of the series of election rallies arranged by the Campaign Committee. Earlier that same evening, Shachtman will address the New York City League of Women Voters at the Bronx High School of Science, 184 St. and Creston Ave.

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League for Cultural Freedom And Socialism Condemns War Plans of American Profiteers

Signed by 59 radical writers, a statement issued last week by the League for Cultural Freedom and Socialism pointed to the war as the great issue of the day, and called upon writers and professional workers to join with them in opposing the war and the war-makers. The statement, which speaks for itself as an outspoken declaration against the imperialist war now raging in Europe as well as against the Roosevelt-Wall Street War Deal which is seeking to drag the people into the war, is here printed in full:

Several months ago the League for Cultural Freedom and Socialism addressed its founding statement "to all artists and writers concerned about the present drift of the United States to reaction and war."

"Cultural circles, formerly progressive," we wrote then, "are now capitulating to the spirit of fascism while ostensibly combatting its letter. . . . To the war drive of the fascist powers, they reply with a war drive of their own. . . . Inspired by Stalinist and social-reformist propaganda, they advocate a new war for 'democracy.' Yet this war must give birth to military dictatorship and to forms of intellectual repression far more violent than those evoked by the last war."

Since this was written, the Stalinist regime has joined hands with Hitler, and Poland has been partitioned between Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia. The thunder of the second world war is now shaking Europe. These great historical events have shattered old alignments over here and are creating new groupings. Less than a week before the Berlin-Moscow pact was announced, for example, four hundred American writers, artists, educators and intellectuals signed their names to a statement of faith in the Soviet Union as a bulwark of "democracy." Clearly worried by the formation of the LCFS and similar groups, the four hundred sharply rebuked all critics of Stalinism as friends of fascism. This document has now become a historical curiosity.

Roosevelt Joins Allied Cause

But this is no time for crying. "We told you so!" The actual outbreak of war in Europe has reduced even the Stalin-Hitler pact to a second-rate question. The great question now is: what is the attitude of American intellectuals, regardless of past illusions, towards American participation in the war? War has become the issue.

It took almost three years to swing the United States into the last war. Already the Roosevelt administration has served notice that it will attempt to do in months what the Wilson administration took years to achieve. Already it is devoting its chief energies not to domestic reform but to foreign policy. So far as it lies in the power of the New Deal, American blood and treasure will be lavishly expended to help France and England crush once more their ancient imperialist rival.

We loathe and abominate fascism as the chief enemy of all culture, all real democracy, all social progress. But the last war showed only too clearly that we can have no faith in imperialist crusades to bring freedom to any people. Our entry into the war, under the slogan of "Stop Hitler!" would actually result in the immediate introduction of totalitarianism over here. Only the German people can free themselves of the fascist yoke. The American masses can best help them by fighting at home to keep their own liberties.

ANNOUNCEMENTS SEE SPLENDID FRENCH FILM, "End of a Day." Theatre party, Oct. 23 thru 27. Tickets: Downtown Labor Center, 51 E. 7 St., or National Office (Caldwell), 65c.

An attractive poster has been prepared to advertise the column in the Socialist Appeal by J. R. Johnson on "The Negro Question". The use of these posters on newsstands and at meetings will help to increase the sale of

The Duty of Artists and Writers

The war issue most intimately concerns American intellectuals. Farrington summarizes the effects of the last war on our culture: "With the entry of America into the war came a sharp change in literary development. Regimentation due to war psychology destroyed the movement of social criticism. . . . The liberal movement in economics and politics came to an abrupt end." Nor can we have any illusions about the effect on our cultural life of American entry into this war. It will mean corruption for those who accept it, spiritual if not physical imprisonment for those who refuse to conform. Every branch of our culture will be set back for decades.

What can American artists and writers do at this time? In a practical, immediate sense, they can help make articulate the strong opposition which the great majority of the American people still feel to our entry into the war. The masses, who have nothing to gain and everything to lose from another war, are far from endorsing the President's foreign policy. But this sentiment can again be cheated, deceived, propagandized out of existence as it was in the last war, unless it is made conscious and given organized expression. Here the intellectuals can be of the greatest service.

In a more general sense, American writers and artists must put themselves on record against the war as a symbol of their acceptance of the responsibilities of their profession. In the last war, a whole generation of writers committed spiritual suicide by taking part in the orgy. Only for the sake of their own integrity, American intellectuals must now signalize their opposition not only to war in the abstract but specifically to American entry into this war. It would be a betrayal of the human spirit for them to keep silent at this time.

War is the great issue today. We call upon all American artists, writers and professional workers to join us in this statement of implacable opposition to this dance of war in which Wall Street joins with the Roosevelt administration.

(Signed) Lionel Abel, Kay Boyle, James Burnham, V. F. Calverton, Eleanor Clark, James Peter Cooney, James Decker, David C. DeJong, Paul Dobbs, F. W. Dupee, James T. Farrell, Charles Henri Ford, Philip H. Gray, Jr., Clement Greenberg, William Gruen, Esther D. Hamill, Robert Hivnor, Melvin J. Lasky, James Laughlin IV, Dwight Macdonald, John McDonald, Sherry Mangan, Ralph Manheim, Alan Mather, Clark Mills, Norman Mini, George L. K. Morris, Culbertson Myers, Gilbert Neiman, Helen Neville, George Novack, Lyman Paine, Kenneth Patchen, Carl Peterson, William Phillips, Arthur Pincus, Fairfield Porter, Philip Rahv, Kenneth Rexroth, T. C. Robinson, James Rorty, Harold Rosenberg, Harry Roskolenko, Meyer Shapiro, Delmore Schwartz, Winfield T. Scott, Gordon Sylaner, John Wheelwright, William Carlos Williams, Bertram D. Wolfe.

FOR THE LEAGUE FOR CULTURAL FREEDOM AND SOCIALISM The following non-members of the League have also signed the above statement: Louise Bogan, Anita Brenner, Joseph Cornell, Robert Fitzgerald, Malcolm Greene, Weldon Kees, Victor Lawson, Gorham B. Munson, Katharine Anne Porter.

(Please address all communications to: Dwight Macdonald, 117 East 10 St., N. Y. C.)

DEFENSE WILL APPEAL MPLS CONVICTIONS

AFL Convention Protested Anti-Labor Indictments

(Continued from Page 1) formula into disuse. Now, at the direction of Attorney General Murphy, it is revived again by the Federal government itself!

Prepare Appeal The WPA Defense Committee, set up by the Central Labor Union, central body of all AFL unions here, is appealing the convictions to the next higher court, the Federal circuit court. The defense committee will hold a joint meeting today with the defense committee set up by the St. Paul AFL central body to take the next steps in defending the Twin City labor movement against the government prosecutions. An appeal for financial and moral support of the WPA defendants will go out to all unions throughout the state.

AFL Protests Action The possibility of a national trade union appeal on behalf of the victims was indicated, when the AFL national executive council sent the following wire to George Murk, chairman of the Minneapolis defense committee. The wire said: "Executive council passed resolution protesting against activities of federal courts for proceeding in several instances against labor unions or members in efforts to discipline them for union activity which the labor unions have a perfect right to exercise as members of organized labor. Will send you copies of resolution." The telegram was signed by Joseph N. Webber, AFL vice-president, for the executive council.

(Continued from Page 1) caucery, high-handed and arbitrary action drove from the CIO the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, and the office workers in New York and San Francisco. They plunged the West Coast labor movement into bitter internecine warfare. They walked through picket lines, broke strikes, organized a fistful of paper unions, helped keep the CIO chained to a company union political policy. The Stalinists stymied in its tracks the further growth of the CIO after its initial tumultuous upsurge.

Penetrated CIO Lewis was not ignorant of their union-wrecking role. His information came through a thousand sources and a thousand protests. The evidence was piled mountain-high. But nothing could disturb the idyllic nuptials. The marriage was undisturbed by differences because no fundamental differences existed. And the Stalinists brought all the relatives and friends to live in the Lewis household. Lee Pressman handed down the law to recalcitrants from the sanctum of Lewis' own office in Washington. Len de Caux doctored the news in the official CIO paper. Organizers whose only two virtues were incompetence and Stalinist affiliation were saddled on every CIO union and Stalinist office girls in every office that would take them.

In their bureaucratic and dictatorial methods, Lewis saw only a worthy continuation of his own methods. In their belly-crawling before Roosevelt, in the "democratic front against Fascism," Lewis could only see an alliance based on common principles.

Break on War As Stark points out, the complaints of Murray and Hillman over increasing Stalinist influence in the CIO had little effect until now. Until . . . the recent Hitler-Stalin pact led to the sudden abandonment of the Communist fight against fascism and nazism, and affected the Communist policy in the trade unions where they were influential.

The conflict between Lewis and the Stalinists has drawn to the sharpest point over the



MARITIME WORKERS DO THE BEST JOB

A couple of maritime workers, B. and G., carried on the most effective work recently on behalf of the Press. They proceeded to contact sympathetic longshoremen and teamsters in San Francisco and collected a sum of \$24.00 for the anti-war Press, the Socialist Appeal and The New International.

It can be said, too, that local San Francisco is now among those in the forefront when it comes to systematic distribution and sale of the Socialist Appeal. Under the very able direction of Eloise Booth, the Literature Committee and the comrades generally are taking seriously the task of circulating our Press. Also several subscriptions have come in lately from there.

San Francisco has three squads of three each, which rotate over three districts, North Beach, Mission and Fillmore. Two meetings are held per week in each district. The crowds are big and sympathetic. Oakland holds a meeting each Friday with a speaker from San Francisco. On occasions as many as 60 papers have been sold at a single meeting and the average is about 35.

OTHER BRANCHES INCREASE ORDERS A new order of five copies has been placed from Ithaca, New York. The Harvard Socialist League in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has placed an order for 30 copies of each issue. Minneapolis has taken steps recently to improve the sales and distribution of the Socialist Appeal by covering more systematically the largest and most important newsstands in the city. Comrade Chester Johnson reports that the results of these renewed efforts merit very close and sustained attention. Also they expect to be able

to utilize their forum season for increased sales and subscriptions both of the Socialist Appeal and The New International.

In the matter of subscriptions in the past week Chicago, Los Angeles and Plentywood, Montana obtained the best results. Chicago sent in four new subscriptions and four renewals; Los Angeles, five new subscriptions and Plentywood, four. The record for the past week is 28 new subscriptions and 13 renewals as follows:

Table with 2 columns: City, Renewal. Chicago 4, Los Angeles 5, Minneapolis 2, Plentywood 4, St. Paul 2, New York City 2, Boston 3, Rochester 2, New Haven 1, Allentown 1, Cleveland 1, Illinois 1, Missouri 1, Total 28

Among the cities that are doing very well in systematic distribution of the Press are Rochester, New York and Lynn, Massachusetts. Boston expects to be able to utilize various forums for sale of the Press, having had some successes recently in that respect.

South Bend now has a new agent, Luther J., and Frank Dart is the new agent in Flint, Michigan. Jack Glover in Los Angeles is achieving more success in building a systematic circulation of the paper.

PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE PROMPTLY The attention of agents and branches is called again to the imperative necessity for payments to be made promptly and completely on the bundle accounts. A few important cities have been a little lax in recent days, but they report that this will be remedied quickly.

LEWIS CRUSADE SPELLS END OF CP INFLUENCE IN CIO

question of war. Not, to be sure, between a pro-war and an anti-war policy. Far, far from that. It is a conflict between two camps of war-mongers: Lewis supporting the camp of Roosevelt and his "democratic" allies and the Stalinists backing the Hitler-Stalin combination, both of them in hostile opposition to the real interests of the workers on the question of war. The issue of the war makes the divorce final and irrevocable.

Will the patriots of the Stalin-Hitler alliance resist Lewis' purge? On what ground? On the grounds of bureaucracy, on the grounds of the invasion of local and international autonomy by Lewis and Co.? What a pitiful song for them to chant after they established themselves beyond the slightest doubt as the champions of the bureaucratic intervention of Hillman and Murray in the factional struggle in the United Automobile Workers Union. They are not likely to get much attention from the rank and file of the CIO unions, who are quite familiar with their records, on such a program. The rights of minorities, the right to hold political opinions, in a word, inner-union democracy—this is the very last program on which the Stalinist wreckers, bureaucrats and dictators can expect to get even the slightest hearing.

Union militants and progressives who will fight to the end against any manifestation of bureaucracy, can have little sympathy for the Stalinist wreckers themselves. The Stalinists are reaping the harvest of the rotten seeds they have been sowing in the CIO movement. Their conflict with Lewis is in no way progressive—it is a conflict between two imperialist flags.

Compliance Certain But this prediction may be made safely. There will be more compliance than resistance from the Stalinist union bureaucrats. Confronted with the choice between the fleshpots of the Lewis machine and all the power and popularity of being on the right side of powerful American imperialism on the one hand and the "foreign," "alien" G.P.U. apparatus of Joe Stalin on the other—their will be little doubt assailing the

minds of the Stalinist crowd, from Bridges, Curran, Quill down to the lowliest business agent.

Lewis gave them a little word of advice, says Stark: "He is said to have bluntly told those in the room [the executive committee meeting] that there was no room for promotion in the CIO for any one who was affiliated with or tried to carry out the Communist party's policies. Any one hoping for a labor career, he said, should not become a member of the Communist party."

This ukase will wreak havoc with the Stalinist forces in the CIO movement. Not only will the leaders know which side their bread is buttered on—but the supporters, members and fellow-travelers of the C.P. in the unions will fall away like chaff before the wind. All the young hopefuls, the career boys who hopped on the C.P. bandwagon to get a job, will hop off with very indecent haste, all the fellow-travelers who wanted to be on the "right side" will become the most rabid opponents of the Communist party. The air will reek with disclaimers—more people will "deny" affiliation with the Stalinists than most people ever believed belonged to them.

The decapitation of Stalinist influence in the trade unions will cleanse it of a virulent poison. The method of their elimination, the issue that provoked it, unfortunately will not strengthen militancy and democracy—it will strengthen the hand, for the time being, of the war-mongering Lewis clique. But only for the time being. The real struggle of the rank and file will rise with greater force in the days and months to come.

Class conscious militants must take care not to line up with either of these imperialist camps expressed in the struggle between the Stalinists and the Lewis bureaucracy. Their duty is clearly indicated. It is the formation of the third camp against imperialist war and its recruiting sergeants in the labor movement. The purge of the Stalinists—by all means! But class conscious workers will organize to extend this purge to the other camp as well, the Lewis-Hillman gang. And that purge can only be carried out with healthful effects for the union movement when it is carried through by democratic means which brings the rank and file into action.

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the paper to the Negro workers. The posters are on sale for five cents by the National Negro Dept., 116 University Place, New York City. YOU ARE INVITED to join the Labor Bookshop Circulating Library. Hundreds of titles. Latest novels, Marxian classics, books on Economics, History, etc. Lowest rates in the city! 15c per week. Join now! BOOKS BOUGHT in lots or in single volumes. Estimates given on request. Write or visit Labor Bookshop, 116 University Place, N.Y.C.

LIFE ISN'T HARD FOR ALL PEOPLE IN HITLER-LAND

According to the Reich Statistical Bureau, German National Socialism has given to at least one portion of the population butter as well as guns. Since the Nazis seized power in 1933, the small number of Germans earning above \$40,000 a year has increased their total income by four hundred percent. Thus, while this small group eked out a mere total income of \$140,800,000 in 1936, their earnings have increased to \$584,000,000 in 1939. Which, as the saying goes, is plenty of butter. The lone dissident note struck by the official income figures reveal that fifty-five percent of the population made less than \$12 a week in 1938. This evil majority, the figures disclose, embracing the lowest income brackets, earn as low as \$480 a year, or 23 percent of the total national income. In contrast, the 1.2 percent of the population at the top receive 14 percent of the total national income.

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