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On Its 22nd Anniversary

Long Live The Russian Revolution!

Twenty-two years ago this month—it was October by the old Russian calendar—the workers and peasants in the Czar's former empire rose, arms in hand, and put an end to the bloody war. The guns put into their hands to fight the external enemy, the masses turned on the enemy at home.

The Russian Bolsheviks showed by example that it is entirely possible for the millions of suffering men and women who daily are herded for bestial exploitation into factories and mines and mills and fields—and battlefields—to take their fate into their own hands.

This great lesson of the Russian Revolution is more alive in the minds and hearts of mankind today than ever before. It is the specter that haunts the oppressors. It is the hope that animates the oppressed.

October Is Still Our Guiding Star

The living example of the October revolution cannot be erased from the memory of the toiling masses—not by the defeats sustained by the revolutionaries nor by the victories of capitalist reaction in the intervening years.

For the passage of years has demonstrated still further that the victories of capitalist reaction are altogether hollow. Capitalism itself is no longer viable. It is torn up and devoured by its own contradictions. It can no longer assure security and peace to anyone. Crises and wars, the slow starvation of unemployment or the sudden death of the battlefield—these are the only alternatives capitalism offers mankind. The temporary defeats that the armies of capitalism have administered to the revolutionaries have only succeeded in prolonging the death agonies of capitalism.

The Fight Against Turncoats

The counter-revolutionary policy of the Kremlin clique has, to be sure, dealt heavy blows against the international working class. In seeking to preserve its own parasitic privileges, the Stalinist bureaucracy has been of the greatest help to the

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Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

Constantin Smetanin, the new Soviet ambassador to Japan, has arrived in Tokyo. He is expected in the nearest future to open negotiations with the Japanese government parallel to talks already going on in Moscow between Molotov and the Japanese envoy there.

In Tokyo all the newspapers that reflect the views of the Japanese army command are demanding more and more insistently that Japan take the road of an accord with Russia rather than with the United States.

It has gone so far that Yomiuri Shimbun—one of the most influential Tokyo dailies—already boasts that Russia will be the first nation after Japan to extend recognition to the projected puppet central government in China to be headed by the renegade Wang Ching-wei.

Capt. Alexander Kovalev, the Soviet military attache in Tokyo, was quoted by the Domei News Agency as declaring in an interview that "in so far as China is concerned, there is no reason for dispute between Russia and Japan." He was also stated to have warned Japan against falling for Anglo-American propaganda "designed to drive a wedge between Japan and the Soviet Union." He added, finally, that Smetanin might soon meet at some undisclosed place with Panuchkin, the recently-arrived Soviet ambassador to China.

The Yomiuri Shimbun said bluntly that the Russian-Japanese deal would be based upon So-

viet abandonment of aid to the Chiang Kai-shek government and Japanese non-interference with the Soviet "sphere of influence" in west and northwest China. That region would be made the starting point, the paper added, for a Russian drive toward India.

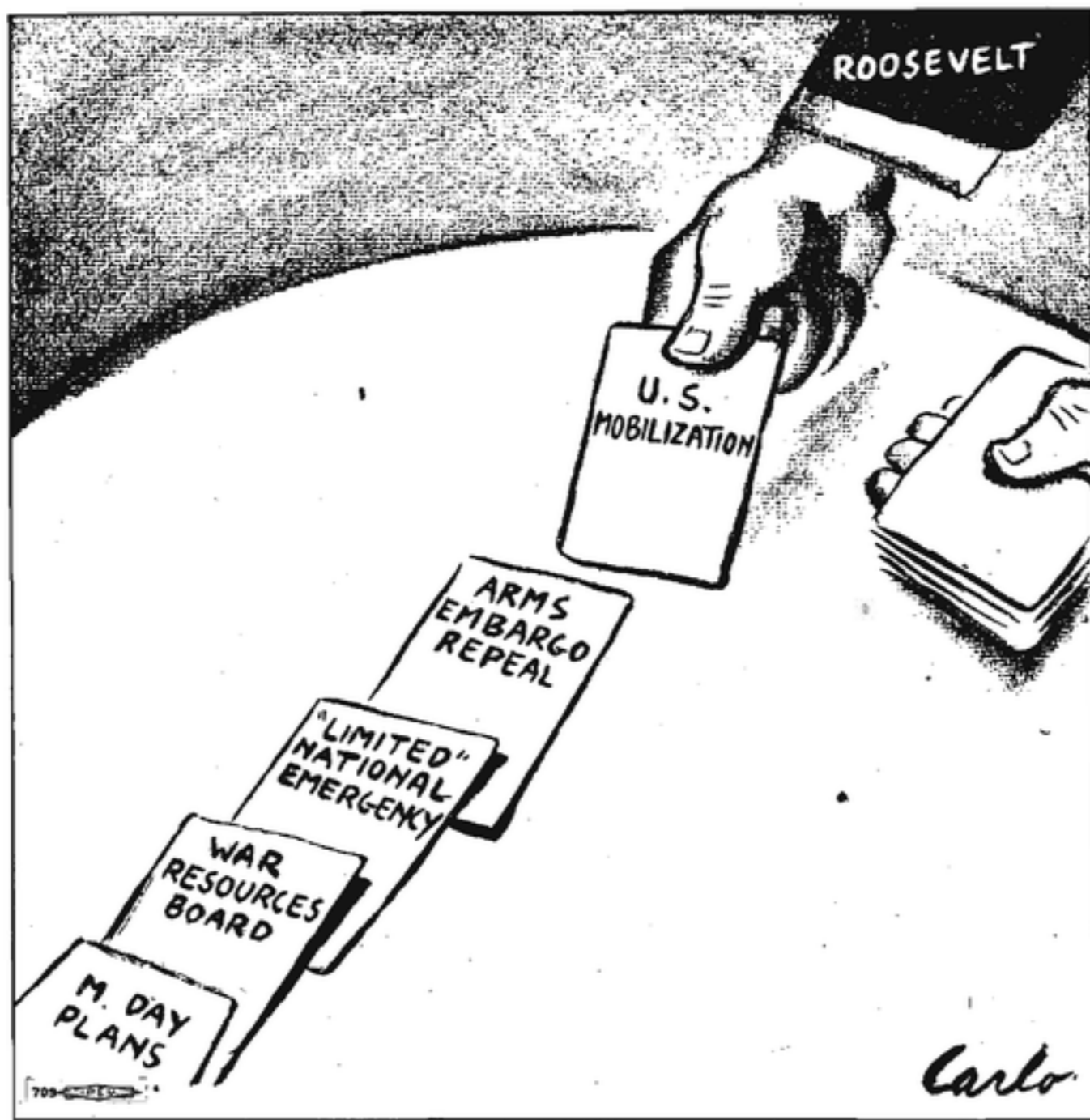
This program, or something very much like it, now has the open approval of the Japanese militarists. Another 180 degree turn to amaze the historians of this twisted era!

Not that the Japanese militarists have abandoned their fundamental hostility to Russia! Not by a long shot. They have either actually concluded that a deal with Stalin would be more profitable right now than a deal with Britain and the U.S.—or else they are trying to raise the Anglo-American ante.

The issue in the Pacific may be forced sooner than many expect. Involvement of the Netherlands in the war would raise at once for Japan the question of the rich Netherlands East Indies at a time when British naval forces in those waters are totally incapable of dealing with Japan. It has long been assumed that the U.S. Navy has been assigned the task of policing the Pacific in precisely such an eventuality.

But it is obvious that it would be more expedient to avoid conflict with Japan at this juncture—if only the Japanese price does not come too high. That is what has yet to be determined. And until it is, the Russo-Japanese rapprochement will hang fire.

The War Deal



GOVERNMENT WITNESS ADMITS COACHING BY G-MEN IN TRIAL OF MINNEAPOLIS WPA STRIKERS

Confirms Charge of Defense That Federal Agents Are Behind Frame Up — Sentencing Of 8 Convicted in First Trials Deferred

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 9.—The high-light of the first ten days of testimony in the third trial of WPA workers came suddenly Tuesday morning, when Police Sergeant John J. Finn blurted out the fact that he had been coached in his testimony by G-men.

Flustered on the stand under the probing of defense attorneys, Finn had shot at him the question: "Did you discuss your testimony with anyone?" Finn answered: "I just merely rehearsed—I mean, just went over my testimony with Noonan and J. H. Rice" — two operatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Finn's admission caused a buzz in the courtroom. But it merely provided official confirmation of the fact, already known to the labor movement, that the prosecution of the WPA workers for their participation in the nationwide WPA strike last summer was being engineered direct from Attorney General Murphy's office in Washington. The G-men are in his department.

Agents-Provocateurs Last July, during the strike, it was discovered that the FBI had planted G-men, disguised as strikers, among the pickets, and that these G-men had been present when police, on July 14, fired on pickets, killing one and wounding a score of others.

The 25 workers now on trial were on that picket line at the WPA sewing project, and are being tried, presumably, for having dodged the bullets. Unwittingly the government has itself testified to the widespread strike sentiment among the 1100 workers on the sewing project. Only a handful of them reported to work during the week of the strike, despite all the strikebreaking threats made by Roosevelt, Murphy, Governor Stassen, Mayor Leach, etc.

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FIRST RETURNS INDICATE LARGE VOTE FOR S.W.P.

Election results in the New York City contest for the Council are still unknown. It will be several days before the count is finished. First returns, however, indicate a large anti-war vote. In partial returns from the Bronx, Max Shachtman, SWP candidate, has already polled well over one thousand votes. As soon as the complete figures are available, the Socialist Appeal will publish the full vote received by Max Shachtman, as well as the write-in vote received by George L. Paine in Manhattan.

The union refused the flat "No" answer of the relief administration. They demanded the Sporn case be heard. The answer of the home relief bureau was arrest for the union committee. The first arrests in the case brought jail sentences for the union committee.

CIGAR STRIKERS SPIKE SCABBY 'BACK TO WORK' MOVEMENT

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) ALLENTOWN, Pa., Nov. 10.—The strike of more than 650 workers of the General Cigar Co. continued in full swing this week despite the frantic efforts of the factory owners to start a "back to work" movement.

Since the 100 per cent walkout which was called several weeks ago by the Cigar Makers International Union, Local 91, picket lines have managed to curtail production. Frantic efforts of the bosses to hire scabs were met with defeat.

Mr. Josephs, superintendent of the factory to see what they could do to supply workers for production. Josephs told them to use whatever means they wanted and the stooges have been working in the union to start a "back to work" movement. Their first shady maneuver was to send out a postcard to the membership pinning a false statement on the union president, Louis Segel, saying that the president was for an end to the strike.

The strikers called a show-down on Wednesday night, and by a three to one vote they decided to remain out until victory is won. The "scabs" in the union were routed.

Josephs also tried to get the local high school superintendent to get him 500 school girls for work in the factory. The school superintendent called up and wrote post cards to hundreds of students until he ran into one girl who knew about the strike. She told him that she wouldn't work as a scab and warned him that many parents will be up in arms against him when their kids bump into the picket line. The school superintendent decided it wasn't safe for him as a strikebreaker and called the whole thing off.

In the meanwhile organizers have met with success in organizing General Cigar Co. factories out of town—Wilkes Barre, Perth Amboy, Kingston, Nanticoke, South River, and Evansville, Indiana. Workers everywhere are urged to aid the strikers by sending funds to the union secretary, Johannes Semon, 408 Allen St., Allentown, Pa. and to boycott cigars made by the General Cigar Co. — "White Owl," "William Penn," "Little Bobbies" and "Robert Burns."

No Collusion with the War Department!

On the eve of the A.F. of L. and C.I.O. conventions, Assistant Secretary of War Johnson's liaison officers confidentially showed the A.F. of L. and C.I.O. leaders the M-Day plans.

Behind closed doors, the labor leaders protested—in vain—for the M-Day plans mean virtual extinction of the unions when the war starts.

But at the A.F. of L. and C.I.O. conventions they endorsed Roosevelt's fake neutrality program, the first step on the road to war!

Let the A.F. of L. and C.I.O. members know what the government officers said behind those closed doors! No secret diplomacy between the government and labor officials!

Labor Offered Nothing, Stays Away from Polls In National Elections

ARREST GROUP ASKING RELIEF FOR NEEDY MAN

Union Rejects "No" Answer of Home Relief Bureau

NEW YORK CITY, Nov. 10.—Charged with disorderly conduct for demanding that David Sporn, a 65 year old starving man be placed on the home relief rolls, seven members of the Unemployed and Project Workers Union, Local 22, were given suspended sentences by Magistrate Andrews in Magistrates Court today.

After the home relief bureau repeatedly turned down Sporn's request for food and rent, a committee from the unemployed union went to the bureau officials. They explained that the man was suffering from a heart ailment, that he had nothing to eat, nowhere to sleep, and needed attention immediately. The bureau officials refused to listen to the case.

The union refused the flat "No" answer of the relief administration. They demanded the Sporn case be heard. The answer of the home relief bureau was arrest for the union committee. The first arrests in the case brought jail sentences for the union committee.

But the man received no food. The next day one of the local union members saw Sporn searching through the neighborhood garbage cans. Approached by the union member, Sporn admitted ashamedly that he was trying to find a bite to eat.

Again the union committee went to the home relief bureau. A conference with the adminis-

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Vote With Feet as Boss Politicians Avoid Issues of War and Jobs—Results Indicate Advance of Reactionary Forces

Tuesday's election results showed three chief features: (1) The apathy and lack of interest shown by vast sections of the electorate;

(2) The petering out and even collapse of nearly all the local "good government" and reform movements, together with the resurgence of the local machines;

(3) The continuing advance of conservative and reactionary forces, though as yet still in a comparatively cautious manner.

Low as were the registration figures this year compared to the preceding six or seven years, millions even of the registered voters did not bother to go to the polls.

All indications suggest that it was particularly the unemployed and the workers who stayed away.

A drop in the total number of voters is to be expected in those years when posts in the Federal government are not at stake. Nevertheless this is not sufficient to explain the size of the decline this year.

Avoid Main Issues The reason is undoubtedly to be found in the fact that many millions of persons realized that the chief problems concerning them received no expression whatever in the contests. The unemployed and the bulk of the workers are occupied above all with two questions: the war, and jobs. On the whole, the political parties bent every effort toward keeping these two paramount issues out of their campaigns. Consequently, millions of voters felt that they had nothing much at stake, and showed their attitude by keeping away from the polls.

In California and Ohio, in contrast to the rest of the country, the problem of jobs and a decent living entered the elections through the appearance of pension plan referendums on the ballot. In these two states, as a result, the voting was extremely heavy—in California, the largest on record.

Nearly all the "good government" and fusion groups, which only a few years ago were capturing the popular imagination, made a feeble showing. They fell like ten-pins before the well-oiled machines.

Tammany Sweep In New York City, Tammany, pronounced dead two years ago by all the "civic leaders," made a clean sweep. Every single candidate favored by the gilded lily of civic virtue, Mayor LaGuardia, was defeated.

In Philadelphia, the old-line Republican machine ousted the New Dealish mayor. In Tennessee Boss Crump guided his ship safely to port, as did the Kelly-Nash boys in Chicago. So it was in every important city.

In Reading, Pennsylvania, the Social-Democrats, who are simply Quaker State LaGuardias, were relieved by the Republicans of the comfortable offices which they have been so happy to hold these many years.

This humiliating end of "good government" is in its own way a recognition by the people of what a fraud these movements really are. Advertised as the solution for the ills of society, they show

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The Anniversary of the Russian Revolution

Right of Revolutionary Optimism

By LEON TROTSKY

In the weekly of the well-known newspaper *Paris-Soir*, an extremely instructive conversation is reported between the French ambassador Coulondre and Hitler on August 25, at the time of their last interview. (The source of the information is undoubtedly Coulondre himself.) Hitler sputters, boasts of the pact which he concluded with Stalin ("a realistic pact") and "regrets" that German and French blood will be spilled.

"But," Coulondre objects, "Stalin displayed great double-dealing. The real victor (in case of war) will be Trotsky. Have you thought this over?" "I know," Der Fuehrer responds, "but why did France and Britain give Poland complete freedom of action?" etc.

These gentlemen like to give a personal name to the spectre of revolution. But this of course is not the essence of this dramatic conversation, at the very moment when diplomatic relations were ruptured. "War will inevitably provoke revolution"; the representative of imperialist democracy, himself chilled to the marrow, frightens his adversary.

"I know," Hitler responds, as if it were a question decided long ago. "I know." Astonishing dialogue!

Both of them, Coulondre and Hitler, represent the barbarism which advances over Europe. At the same time neither of them doubt that their barbarism will be conquered by socialist revolution. Such is now the awareness of the ruling classes of all the capitalist countries of the world. Their complete demoralization is one of the most important elements in the relation of class forces. The proletariat has a young and still weak revolutionary leadership. But the leadership of the bourgeoisie rots on its feet. At the very outset of the war which they could not avert, these gentlemen are convinced in advance of the collapse of their regime. This fact alone must be for us the source of invincible revolutionary optimism!

MASS MEETING!

ON THE 22nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

Whither Soviet Russia?

The Meaning of Stalin's Role in the European War

Wednesday Evening, November 15th, 1939, at 8 o'clock

Hear the Answer by

Sarah Rice and J. P. Cannon

Formerly National Organizer, F.S.U.

National Secretary, S.W.P.

IRVING PLAZA, IRVING PLACE at 15th Street

Socialist Workers Party—4th Int'l. Admission: 25c