

RUMBLINGS OF REVOLT SHAKE WAR CAMPS

Hands off the Trade Unions, Mister Roosevelt!

AN EDITORIAL

Hundreds of labor unions and central labor bodies have been sending to Washington their protests against the union-busting campaign being conducted by the Roosevelt government through the Department of Justice and its Federal Bureau of Investigation—the G-Men.

What they are protesting against was aptly summarized by Thomas V. Smith, secretary-treasurer of the General Drivers Union of Omaha, Nebraska, in a recent statement to the Labor press on the FBI persecutions of the Midwest teamsters' unions:

"The Department of Justice and its Federal Bureau of Investigation is on a road which is surely leading to the development of American soil of the same sort of anti-labor political police which is the instrument of the ferocious dictatorships in Europe and Asia."

Arnold Cracks Down on Labor

The Department of Justice has answered these protests, in the form of a letter by Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold, sent to the secretary of the Central Labor Union of Indianapolis and simultaneously published in the press on Nov. 20.

The Roosevelt government plainly declares in this letter its intention systematically to employ the Sherman Anti-Trust Act against the labor movement, listing "five types of union activity" as "unquestionably violations of the Sherman Act."

The Sherman Anti-Trust Act was passed by Congress in 1890 as a law against the industrial monopolies, under the pressure of mass discontent. By the most flagrant formalism, the courts, in typical judge-made law, proceeded to apply the Sherman Act, not against the monopolies, but against labor unions as "restraining commerce." In that way Debs was sent to jail, the famous Danbury Hatters union members stripped of their life savings, etc. As the result of a national wave of labor revolt, Congress in 1914 passed the Clayton Act expressly exempting unions from the anti-trust laws.

But the Clayton Act and similar legislation have been whittled away by the judges for the benefit of the bosses. It was bad enough when bosses used the Sherman Act against unions, but the climax came when Attorney General (Tea-

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Behind the Lines

By GEORGE STERN

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The tight game of power politics involving the United States, Japan, and the U.S.S.R., is beginning to be played a little faster and more furiously. It is by far the most important sector of the diplomatic front of the war, far more important than any in Europe, because its outcome will decide in large measure the form and tempo of U.S. entry into the war itself and will have a decisive effect upon the further evolution of the conflict.

Fresh signs of approaching agreement between Japan and the Soviet Union have forced Washington to increase its pressure upon Tokyo. Cordell Hull and Sumner Welles roll out their verbal batteries. Once again the inviolability of Wall Street's "interests" in China are reaffirmed and Japan is angrily informed that these "interests" will be vigorously defended.

Without any effort to depict it as a coincidence, the Navy Department announces a sizeable increase in the submarine force attached to the U.S. Asiatic Fleet. The largest and newest submarines in the navy will take their places in the first line of prospective action against the Japanese fleet in the Pacific. The announcement comes as a little semi-colon or dash punctuating the diplomatic barrage. A semi-colon or a dash—because the matter is far from concluded.

The Main Strategy
Let us reiterate once again the central significance of this diplomatic tug-of-war: it still remains the essential strategy of the Allies, including of course this country, to transform the war into a war against the Soviet Union as the most convenient and least damaging way out of the present impasse. This was the hope raised so high at Munich only a lit-

tle more than a year ago. It has by no means been abandoned, even though the powers, driven helplessly by forces they could not entirely control, are at present at war.

In Europe the main hope of carrying out these plans continues to be the hope that Hitler will be displaced by another regime, preferably a dictatorship of the "moderate" Reichswehr generals and possibly even a restored Hohenzollern monarchy. With such a regime, the British and French indicate they will find it possible to make a deal that will end the stalemate on the western front and turn war's spearhead eastward again.

The Game with Japan
In the Far East the strategy consists of keeping Japan and Russia at sword's points and to ensure thereby Japanese participation in the eventual anti-Soviet drive. We have said in this column repeatedly that it is a question of Japan's price. Britain and France have already all but withdrawn to the sidelines and it is U.S. imperialism that is left to play the game of combined pressure, wheedling, promises, threats, and counter-threats that is called modern diplomacy.

The Russians, fully conscious, naturally, of the stakes, are pushing ahead with all their might to get in first with a deal at Tokyo. General agreement "in principle" has already been announced and we can look for sizeable Soviet concessions to the suspicions of the Japanese militarists.

For them it is a question of being convinced of greater immediate gains to be had through elimination of the western powers from China than through a deal with the Western powers that will involve Japan in an early war against Russia that would take all that remains of her material resources.

JERSEY S.W.P. POLLS STRONG ANTI-WAR VOTE

Only Party with Program for Workers in State Elections

Official announcement was made this week that Alfred Lowenthal, candidate of the Socialist Workers Party of Essex County, New Jersey, had received 1,306 votes in the November 7th elections for General Assembly.

This vote, a few hundred lower than that polled by the Thomas Socialist Party and the Stalinist Party, was generally regarded as an encouraging reply to the campaign of the Socialist Workers Party, which had run throughout the campaign as the party of revolutionary struggle against the war and the war-makers.

The capitalist parties, here as elsewhere throughout the country, were extremely careful to avoid all mention of the main issue, the war. Not once did either party's candidates for any office in the state take any position on the war.

They insisted that that was a national issue, and that the elections were state issues. But even on the state issues both parties showed how completely bankrupt they were.

After the war question, the most important issues in the elections were unemployment and relief, pressing labor legislation, and steps against racial discrimination and Jim-Crowism.

As the Newark Socialist Appeal, SWP election paper, made clear, the two boss parties had no more of an answer to these problems than they had to the war.

The Relief Problem

With a quarter of a million unemployed and with no money appropriated for relief, neither boss party dared to offer a real answer to the problem. After an 8-month session the Republican-controlled Legislature had been able to adopt only the idea of a state referendum on relief to appropriate \$21,000,000 through a bond issue for the years 1939 and 1940. (The minimum required to maintain even the present low standard for the two year period is \$60,000,000.)

The Republican Legislature presented this referendum to the people for a vote—but the Republican Party before the elections came out strongly against its passage. In this way they hoped to do two things: 1. Avoid appropriating money for relief. 2. Avoid the responsibility for not appropriating the money. The Hague Democrats on the other hand came out for the referendum, hoping to pick up

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His Turkey Dinner



Give Thanks—Twice!

You May Not Know It But Conditions Are So Good, F.D.R. Gave Us 2 Thanksgivings

Thursday is Thanksgiving Day.

Young and old, good and bad, rich and poor, lithe and lame—all are supposed to pause, pray and give thanks. It's an old American custom, even older than the horse-drawn trolley and the buffalo nickel.

Naturally, there are many people who have things to be thankful for.

The Sixty Families, for example, will have one helluva time on Thanksgiving Day.

In their lavishly appointed mansions, they will sit around innumerable big, fat turkeys and in between their fowl mouthfuls and burps, give thanks.

That the President is a big Navy man,
That the war has finally started,

That the big, fat contracts are rolling in,
That profits are sky-rocketing,

And that, as a matter of fact, every day is Thanksgiving Day—for the Sixty Families.

President Roosevelt will have many things to be thankful for. After the newsreel men have left with their clips of the Chief Executive carving up the biggest turkey of them all, the Prez will pause and give thanks.

That he has in Frank Murphy an Attorney General who knows how to frame up that blankety-blank Minneapolis labor movement,

That he was able to ram through Congress a juicy part of his program for involving

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BOSSSES SPURN JUST DEMANDS OF AUTO UNION

Corporation Makes Big Haul of Profits, Offers Slaves Slim Pickings

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
DETROIT, Nov. 22—Chrysler workers will go without their thanksgiving dinners Thursday, thanks to the lockout the corporation is maintaining in its stubborn refusal to make any reasonable concessions.

No agreement is yet in sight on the question of wages, the latest issue over which negotiations have bogged down. The UAW-CIO originally demanded an all-around 10 cents an hour increase in wages. It revised this proposal downwards to five cents. In terms of annual wage increase the original sum of \$18,000,000 was revised downwards to \$8,000,000.

Corporation officials countered with an annual wage increase of \$3,000,000 which the UAW justly rejected as "ridiculous." The union's rejection is buttressed by some very solid statistics:

For the first six months of 1939 the Chrysler Corporation reported a net profit of \$26,000,000. Rising prices dig a deep hole into the wages of the Chrysler worker but they hardly make a dent in the millionaire stockholders' dividends.

Below Subsistence Wage

"The 'subsistence wage' for a family of four in Detroit, according to the most recent Department of Labor figures, is \$1,423.85," R. J. Thomas, union president said.

"Chrysler production workers do not earn anything near that amount. The average hourly wage in June of this year was 93 cents. Given forty weeks of work a year, at thirty-two hours a week, Chrysler workers earn \$1,190.40 a year.

"That is \$233.45 less than the government says is required to keep a Detroit family of four in the ordinary necessities of life."

Dickinson At It Again

The other day our pious Governor broke into print again. This time, however, he wasn't on his knees to Jesus, but to the Chrysler corporation. His pipeline to God always makes a detour to the back door of the auto companies.

Somebody told him, it seems, that the negotiations were reaching a settlement. So in jumped "little Dick" in the nick of time to offer any scabs who wanted it state protection. If the local cops can't get strikebreakers into the plant, I'll send down my National Guard, so the statement ran. Now if the corporation wants to put the kibosh on negotiations and start some strikebreaking it knows where to look to for support.

Third Camp Raises Its Head in First Weeks of War

In Prague, Dublin, India, Paris, Moscow War-Makers Tremble at Spectre of Masses In Rising Against Their Bankrupt Rule

By FELIX MORROW

The first known large-scale struggle of a section of the masses against its "own" government during this war has taken place. The Czech students and workers have the honor of initiating the revolutionary struggle against the war-makers.

That this open clash came during the first months of the war, whereas years elapsed during the first world war before such a clash—that is the difference in the tempo of the two epochs.

The main attention of the "democratic" press has been concentrated on the dramatic resistance of the Czech students. It is clear now, however, that the workers also participated in the struggle. As early as Oct. 27, the Nazi officials of Prague officially branded "labor agitation" as "the work of Trotskyite Communists"—the universal designation of revolutionists by reaction. That strike calls were answered by the workers last Saturday is discovered from an official assertion that the strikes were terminated by Monday. But that would indicate that the strikes were not for economic demands, but were political protest strikes, in solidarity with the students, called for a specific time period and then terminated.

In addition to the execution of twelve student leaders and the herding of thousands of others into concentration camps, it is reported that the Nazis fired artillery into the workers' quarters of Prague. The desperate measures taken by the Nazis is a measure of the profound crisis undermining their rule.

Europe Sits on Powder Barrel

But their rule is not the only one which is being undermined. As everybody understands, the measures necessary to a totalitarian regime mean that internal contradictions have reached an intolerable tension—only the most dreadful oppression keeps the internal contradictions from exploding. And this explosive situation exists outside of Germany too.

The Nazis, in answer to the "democratic" glee over the meaning of the Prague events, retort—in the words of the *Diplomatisch-Politische Korrespondenz*, Foreign Office publication—that England and France, in Palestine and Damascus among other places, "have shown what methods they themselves are accustomed to use."

France Under Martial Law

France is today also a totalitarian regime—in the "democratic" form of martial law. To its previous repressive measures the government on Nov. 19 added new ones—"effective as long as France is under martial law"—under which "individuals dangerous for national defense or the security of the state may be transferred from their place of residence to a center that the War and Interior Ministries select." Which, translated into plain language, means that the decree gives these ministries power to proceed against anybody without recourse to the usual legal procedures, courts, etc., the ministries having the authority to define what individuals come under the decree. "With these decrees the government," says the *N. Y. Times* report, "will be in a position to take drastic action against any insubordination such as has been advocated in clandestinely circulated propaganda." These Hitlerite methods mean that France, like Germany, is a smoldering volcano.

Uprisings in North Africa

What does the Nazi taunt about Damascus mean? There are rumors current in Paris about uprisings in French North Africa. Not a single dispatch has been published from Algiers in the American press in weeks! The French censorship is even stricter than that of the Nazis, all dispatches being subject to censorship before being sent. The volcano is smoldering.

Indian Volcano Seething

Britain is in no better plight. At the very beginning of the war the "jewel of the Empire," India, with its 375 millions of revolting slaves, demands in irreconcilable language its freedom from British rule. Even Gandhi, who himself wanted to give unconditional support to Britain in the war, has now been compelled to threaten civil disobedience if the British do not yield. Remove India from the foundations of the British Empire, and the entire structure comes crashing down.

Yet so impotent are the British rulers that they can do nothing about the inspiring symbol which shows the way to the five hundred million colonial peoples oppressed by Britain: at England's very door is Ireland which, despite a government pliant in England's hands, will have nothing to do with the imperialist war.

Fritz Thyssen, who financed Hitler's rise to power, has left Germany because of a lack of faith in Hitler's war program. Such a break within the ruling clique is one of the harbingers of the downfall of a regime. But the British have little to be happy about. For among their own ruling caste are such figures as Lloyd George, who conducted the last war and who now—at the very beginning!—has so little faith in the ruling class' ability to withstand the shocks of war that he wants, somehow, somehow, to reach an understanding with Hitler.

The Spectre Haunts Europe

But if they could not reach a stable understanding in the years of "peace," they can find none now. Each imperialist power needs what the other also needs, and only arms can settle the argument. There are no bridges back to the "peace" of Munich. A long and pitiless war is ahead, and its vistas frighten the ruling class of every country. For at the end of it they see the spectre which is haunting Europe today more than ever before: the spectre of revolution.

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The Appeal Needs Your Aid!

By MARTIN ABERN

The second half of the National \$10,000 Organization and Press Fund Drive must go over the top on scheduled time. The twice-weekly SOCIALIST APPEAL is at stake.

Without doubt our Party and its sympathizers are quite capable to insure the maintenance of our most important instrument for spreading the program of the Fourth International and the Socialist Workers Party.

Our semi-weekly paper has been maintained without missing a single issue since our twice-a-week was established. One must not even contemplate a retreat, but, on the contrary, must look forward to increased frequency of the SOCIALIST APPEAL.

The Party branches in the past have responded to the requests for the necessary financial assistance to sustain the SOCIALIST APPEAL. By a similar response in the second half of the campaign there can be no doubt that our Press can be maintained and established on a sounder footing than ever.

The reports from the Party branches throughout the country indicate their readiness to proceed with full speed to fulfill their quotas. We are confident that all supporters of our revolutionary Press will make every effort to fulfill their quotas for the National Organization and Press Fund Campaign before February 1st.

THE HORRORS OF WAR—

"PARIS, Oct. 21 (Delayed)—Paris is putting the finishing touches to her wartime wardrobe . . . Women are going practical all along the line . . . We are wearing short skirts at all hours; we insist on keeping smart, but we have no heart for frivolities. We have put away our plumed hats and our splashy jewelry; maybe we'll begin to take them out when the boys begin to return home on leave. Hair is coming down or off; coiffures are being simplified, for high, formal hair-dos are incompatible with gas mask practice.

"The day after war was declared, nearly every dressmakinghouse in Paris, except Lanvin and Paquin, was closed. Molyneux kept the ground floor shop open just to sell such things as perfumes and lipsticks; the rest of the place was shut tight . . . Chanel closed

ed on the first day of mobilization, reopened soon after, and reclosed on the day the Russians marched into Poland.

"Lanvin was a rock in the storm. She kept her place open and, with one mannequin, showed her winter collection to the few intrepid clients who still wanted to see it . . .

"The couturiers are on their mettle, and the French never work so well or fight so well as when confronted with apparently impossible obstacles. There's been a lot of talk of the possibility of transferring the couture to Biarritz. Asked about this, M. Lelon said, 'Never! Paris is the style capital. It would never be the same anywhere else.' And Agnes said, 'What an idea! When you get to Biarritz, you can't think of designing anything but a beret.'

Feminine Fashion Dept. in The New Yorker of Nov. 11.