

NEW MILITANT

Official Organ of the Workers Party of the U.S.

VOL. 1, NO. 27

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1935

PRICE 3 CENTS

S. P. Congress Meets Amid French Crisis

Blum Speaks; He Hails Social Patriotism of The Stalinists

Leninists Alone Hold Aloft Banner of Revolution

By Special Correspondent
PARIS, June 15.—On the evening of June 12 the 32nd national congress of the French Socialist party finished its work. Let us review its actions and draw up a balance. Has any new word emerged from this Congress, any word truly capable of mobilizing the masses, of pointing out to them a concrete goal, precise and clear in the present crisis of French society and of the Third Republic? One will search in vain the decisions of the Mulhouse Congress for an answer to this question. To understand this Congress we must review the days preceding the latest ministerial crisis brought on by the fall of the Flandin government.

Why Was Flandin Defeated? Following the results of the recent municipal elections which showed important gains for the so-called "peoples front" (bloc of the Communist party and Socialist party including the Radicals) there was a flight of gold from the reserves of the Bank of France. The franc was endangered by speculation. Thus the capitalist class decided to create a panic in the country which would enable it to put over a "strong government," following the classical maneuvers formerly successful, from Poincare to Doumergue. This time, however, the maneuver did not yield the results they counted on. Flandin received only a minority of votes when he demanded extraordinary powers from the Chamber of Deputies. The ex-socialist, Bulson, president of the Chamber, met with the same fate. Despite the promise the latter received from the Radicals that they would give him a vote of confidence, the ministry of National Union, formed by Bulson with the participation of renegade socialists (Frossard, Lafont), fell on the critical question of extraordinary powers, a large fraction of the Radicals (70-80) voting against.

Stalinist Parliamentarism
A new situation arose. It appeared that the Radicals, captives of the National Union since February 6, 1934, wished to retrieve their liberty. The Stalinists in "Humanite" shouted about the victory of the "People's Front" which had overthrown two ministries in the course of 24 hours. They even took the initiative in calling together the "left" parliamentarians in order to explore the possibility of re-establishing a "radical" government as a solution of the ministerial crisis. It would be interesting to expand on the maneuvers of the Stalinists with Frossard and the Radicals. Let it suffice for the moment to emphasize that the new element of this crisis was the conversion of the Communist Party to the policy of "parliamentary support" offered to the Radicals. From social-patriotism to parliamentary collaboration: such is the latest chapter of Stalinism in France. The Communists (Stalinists) were less "contrary" than the Socialists themselves. The Communists said they favored a government which extended as far to the right as the Neo-Socialists (expelled from the S.P. for reactionary views) and the moderate liberal Bonnevay. How far removed from the tactic of "social-fascism!"

The Radicals Capitulate
The new Communist policy of parliamentary collaboration was very embarrassing to the Socialists, who were playing at intrinsigence. A "choice morsel" of this latest ministerial crisis was purveyed by Leon Blum in Le Populaire, June 11, in which he informs us of the proposals made by several Radical "friends": "Observe, Socialist delegates, how prudent and politically-minded your Communist comrades are. They limit themselves to voluntary agreements, to suggesting leaders, and enunciating general formulas. They refrain from presenting a detailed program and of elaborating any positive proposals precisely over which the voluntary" (Continued on Page 4)

Eight-Page New Militant First Step to Daily Paper

By A. J. MUSTE
National Secretary of the W. P.
Two kinds of complaints about the New Militant come into the national office. Some comrades write to this effect: "The New Militant does not carry enough news about strikes and organizing campaigns. There are too few articles analyzing these practical class struggle activities and illustrating effective tactics which can be used in similar situations. We also need articles in simple language presenting the Marxist point of view on the Roosevelt program and contrasting it with our revolutionary solution of the problems confronting the American workers." Such comrades go on to say that both in the new unions and in the old, young militant workers are coming to the front who will constitute an important part of the developing revolutionary movement, although they still know very little about Marxist theory. Unless the New Militant contains plenty of material directly tied in with the experiences of these workers and adapted to their stage of development, it cannot be sold and is not read.

Other comrades write: "The New Militant does not contain enough theoretical material. Many important international developments occur and there is no comment or analysis, sometimes not even a passing reference to them. There is too little news and interpretation of events in the rival parties, no criticism of the false positions they are taking." These comrades point out that the revolutionary party cannot be built simply out of new and as yet unpolitical elements, that we have to win to the W. P. the advanced workers who are already members or under the influence of other parties and that this can be done only if we are constantly demonstrating in our organ the superiority of our party's theoretical position. They argue likewise that unless we impart a solid education to our own members and give them directives and long range perspectives in their work they cannot carry on their practical work effectively either.

Interestingly enough, similar complaints come from sympathizers of the party. Some of them are interested in the W. P. primarily because they believe that it is based upon a correct Marxian program, because they have been convinced by our analysis of developments in the Soviet Union and in the international revolutionary movement. They look to us to provide them regularly with full information on these subjects. Other sympathizers have been attracted by the practical effectiveness of the party in great struggles such as have occurred in Toledo and Minneapolis and in the development of imposing mass organizations such as the National Unemployed League. They desire to get information about these matters and feel that they can "sell" the New Militant to their friends mainly on this basis.

Unlike some complaints, these complaints all have a substantial (Continued on Page 4)

Perkins Hunts Troops Smash Reds in Akron Illinois Strike

Government "Survey" Trick to Avert New Strike

By JACK WILSON
AKRON, Ohio.—New and delicate problems confront the Workers Party and all class conscious elements in the rubber industry here as a secret investigation of "subversive" activities under orders of Francis Perkins, secretary of labor. This announcement aided conservatives in the General Tire Co. local of 1,000 to avert strike sentiment which had led the workers to vote by a 75 percent majority to walk out if the company didn't agree to negotiate on seniority. The prime purpose of the federal investigation is to answer the question, "Is there a radical element in control of the A. F. of L. in Akron and Ohio which is acting independently of the national officers and the executive council," Miss Perkins admitted. This latest move completes the offensive of the rubber barons to smash all progressive elements among the workers and enforce an open shop policy through terrorization.

The Government "Survey"
The government intimidation of the workers was first revealed in veiled hints by Hugh Friel, federal conciliator, when he spoke before the General workers, and he succeeded in temporarily frightening the union leaders. Of course, when pressed for further explanation Friel attempted to add that a government survey of profits etc. was also part of the probe but this didn't fool anyone. The fact remains, clearly and openly, that the federal government is taking overt steps to crush the growing influence of the revolutionary elements among the increasingly class-conscious workers.

Unfortunately, many rubber workers do not yet realize the insidious attack can seriously cripple the recovery of the betrayed unions through the possible damage to the only hope of the workers, the party and the progressives. It scarcely need be added that the A. F. of L. bureaucrats will join hands with the government in this dangerous attack. (Continued on Page 4)

500 in New York Pledge Support To C.S. Victims

Bitter Attacks of I.L.D. Fail to Shake Mini

Almost 500 workers and enemies of reaction attended the Mini Appeal Dinner held in New York City Wednesday night. A message to the Sacramento appeal pledging an unending fight for reversal of their sentences was unanimously adopted. The speakers of the evening included Murray Baron of the Socialist Party; A. J. Muste, Secretary of the Workers Party; Arnold Johnson of the National Unemployed League; John Chamberlain, literary critic of the New York Times; and Carlo Tresca, editor of Il Martello. Professor Sidney Hook of New York University presided. Announcement was made by Herbert Solow of the N.P.L.D. of progress made in the formation of a united defense committee, which now includes the W. P., S. P., N.P.L.D., N.U.L., League for Industrial Democracy and several other organizations. Words of greeting from labor organizations in various cities were hailed with cheers, as was a message from Norman Mini, Prisoner 57606 of San Quentin.

Steps have been taken here and in Chicago to launch a nationwide, broad, militant defense movement which can rescue the Sacramento case from oblivion and fight the infamous anti-labor verdicts. The I. L. D., which represents Mini's seven co-defendants, has deliberately failed to answer invitations to confer with the N.P.L.D. and the National Labor Committee of the Socialist Party on these steps. This week's Socialist Call will carry an interview with Murray Baron, one of the S. P. delegation to the temporary Sacramento appeal committee, in which he says that "the provocation offered by the I.L.D. in ignoring repeated appeals for a united defense will not be accepted; we will stay in this fight until the infamous horse-trade verdict of Sacramento has been set aside."

According to an announcement by Herbert Solow, who spent four months in Sacramento directing the N.P.L.D.'s work there, and who is acting secretary of the temporary national Sacramento appeal committee, a call for cooperation signed by the N.P.L.D., the Socialist Party (through its National Labor Committee representative), the W. P. and the League for Industrial Democracy (which aided the N.P.L.D.'s trial fight), has been sent to the Workmen's Circle, National Unemployed League, Workers Alliance (Continued on Page 4)

Woll Opens Drive on AFL Progressives

NEW YORK (FP).—The American Federation of Labor will expel local unions that admit Communists, according to an announcement in New York City by Matthew Woll, third vice-president of the A. F. of L., speaking for President William Green.

Local unions and even international unions that admit Communists may have their charters withdrawn, Woll stated. The statement was made in connection with the situation in the fur industry, where a movement is under way for amalgamation of the International Fur Workers Union, A. F. of L., and the left-wing independent Fur Workers International Union. In this industry, the independent union, which has followed aggressive policies, controls the New York market. The A. F. of L. group was faced either with being a negligible factor in the New York market—the largest and most important in the industry—or of accepting the left-wing union's offer for a merger and controlling the industry. The recent Toronto convention of the I.F.W.U. authorized the amalgamation.

The statement's indication of similar action against all A. F. of L. affiliated bodies, however, was seen as the answer to the restlessness pervading the entire federation. The rapid growth of the A. F. of L. in the last few years has brought a new aggressiveness and a swift growth of rank and file sentiment which has expressed dissatisfaction with the leadership's policies, particularly in the steel, auto and rubber industries. It has been estimated that the coming A. F. of L. convention will have from 100 to 200 of such aggressive, left-wing delegates as compared with 15 in the last convention.

Sergei Trotsky Jailed By Stalin Bureaucrats

Students at Edinburgh Offer Trotsky Rectorship

June 7, 1935.
To the Students of Edinburgh University

Dear Sirs,
I am indebted to you for your so unexpected and flattering proposal: to put me up as a candidate for the rectorate of your university. The freedom from any nationalist considerations which you show is a great tribute to the spirit of the students of Edinburgh.

I appreciate your confidence all the more since you, as you yourselves say, are uninfluenced by the refusal of the British Government to grant me a visa. Nevertheless I do not feel that I have the right to accept your proposal. The elections to the rectorate, you write, are conducted on a NON-POLITICAL basis and your letter itself is signed by representatives of every political tendency. But I myself occupy too definite a political position; all my activity has been and remains devoted to the revolutionary liberation of the proletariat from the yoke of capital. I have no other right to responsible posts, I would therefore consider it a crime toward the working class and a disloyalty toward you to appear on no matter what public tribune not under the Bolshevik banner. You will find, I have no doubt, a candidate much more in conformity with the traditions of your University.

I wish you with all my heart the greatest success in your work.

Sincerely yours,
—L. TROTSKY.

Deploy Militia in Omaha Strike

Fire at Pickets and Public but Morale Holds Strong

By PAT MURPHY

DAVENPORT, Iowa, June 21.—The militia took over Omaha Sunday, June 16. The state's entire military forces converged on the city fully equipped to intimidate the strikers of the Omaha and Council Bluffs Railway Company who walked out on April 20 when their demands for higher wages, shorter hours and full recognition of their union was refused. The troops are under the command of General Paul who is an old hand at beating down the workers. He boasts that in 1922 he helped beat down the strikers in Nebraska City, Nebraska when the packing house workers were on strike.

June 15 the police department turned their riot guns on a crowd of strikers and sympathizers at 24th and L streets. Rioters fell at each blast. One was killed and 50 wounded. Among the injured were several women. A check of the injured disclosed that 30 were suffering from buckshot wounds and the remainder hurt when clubbed by police. Later Saturday night the police opened fire on another crowd at 35th and K Streets. During the rioting six cars were burned and several overturned. Several hundred spectators, gathered at a tram company depot on the outskirts of South Omaha, were dispersed by nauseating tear gas bombs hurled by police and guardsmen.

The strikers and the company were ordered, by Governor Cochran of Nebraska, to arbitrate. The strikers are willing, and appeared at the designated hour with their arbitrators. But the company refused. In Council Bluffs no cars have left the barn since the strike was called. The strikers in Omaha and Council Bluffs have the sympathy and support of the citizens. Little patronage has fallen to street cars since the strike began.

The morale of the strikers is holding strong. They are determined to win their rights to organize.

WHY WE SKIPPED THE LAST ISSUE

The press of work and the consequent lack of forces occasioned by the recent plenary session of the National Committee of the W. P. compelled us to skip the last issue of the New Militant. The primary cause, however, was the sudden illness of the editor.

AN ACT OF VENGEANCE Mother Asks for Investigation of Latest Series of Persecutions

By NATHALIE I. TROTSKY
Recently rumors have circulated widely among comrades to the effect that this time Stalin has chosen our youngest son Sergei as the object of his vengeance.

Friends keep asking us: is this really true? Yes, it is true: Sergei was arrested at the very beginning of this year.

If at first one could hope that the arrest was accidental, that in a day or two he would be freed, it is clear now that the jailers have far more serious designs. Since many of the comrades are deeply concerned by the new blow struck at our family it would possibly be best if I stated the entire case in a letter intended for general information.

National Guard Shoot Lumber Men in Tacoma

Striker Persists Despite Brutal Terror from All Sides

Never in Politics
Sergei was born in 1908. At the outbreak of the October revolution he was a nine year old boy. He grew up in the Kremlin. In families whose older members are absorbed by politics the younger ones are often repelled thereby. Such was also our case. Sergei never occupied himself with political questions; he was not even a member of the Communist Youth (Komsomol).

In his schooldays he was absorbed in sport, the circus, and he became an accomplished athlete. In the university he concentrated on mathematics and mechanics. As an engineer he received a professorship in one of the higher technical schools and in the last couple of years he carried on there an extensive pedagogical activity. With two other colleagues he published recently a special work entitled: "Light Gas Generators of Automobile-Tractor Type." The book published by the Scientific Automobile-Tractor Institute was warmly received by the most outstanding specialists in the field.

Stayed in Russia
When we were forced into exile abroad Sergei was still a student. The authorities allowed members of our family either to accompany us or to remain in the U.S.S.R. Sergei decided to remain in Moscow so as not to be torn away from that work which from then on absorbed his whole being.

The material conditions of his existence were very difficult but did not differ in this respect from the living conditions of the overwhelming majority of the overprivileged Soviet youth. Of course, the shameful slanders continuously spread by the Soviet press about L. D. Trotsky and his co-thinkers could not fail to cause moral suffering to Sergei.

But of this I can only surmise. My correspondence with my son was limited exclusively to "neutral" everyday subjects, never touching on political questions and the special living conditions of our family circle (it should be added that even these letters reached him only in exceptional cases). L. D. did not correspond at all with our son in the years of exile so as not to give the authorities the slightest pretext for persecutions or simple annoyance. And, as a matter of fact, in the six years of our present emigration Sergei continued his intense scientific and pedagogical work without any interference on the part of the authorities.

Six Months in Jail
Things took a different course following the assassination of Kirov and the famous trial of Zinoviev and Kamenev. Correspondence ceased entirely. Sergei was arrested. From day to day I expected that correspondence would be resumed. But almost half a year has elapsed since Sergei has been in prison. It is precisely this that compels me to think that the jailers have some special designs in mind.

Is it possible to conceive that under the influence of events my son became involved recently in opposition activity? I would be happy for his sake if I could think so because then Sergei could bear up much easier under the blow that has been dealt him. But such a supposition must be considered absolutely out of the question. From various sources we knew that Sergei was just as much removed from politics in recent years as before. I personally had no need even of these testimonials as I know only too well his psychological make-up (Continued on Page 2)

TWO KILLED IN SOUTH CAROLINA MILL STRIKE
UNION, S. C. (FP).—Supt. T. M. McNeil of the Monarch textile mill in Union has been charged with being an accessory before the fact in the killing of two men during a strike at the plant. Witnesses disagree on who murdered the men—one a constable, the other a foreman—but a special mill police officer and the son of the slain foreman have been arrested.

The trouble occurred during the first day of strike at the mill, after members of the United Textile Workers of America had objected to the hiring of a non-union worker. Gov. Johnston of South Carolina has come to Union to attempt to work out a settlement.

ALBANY, N. Y. (FP).—Fatal industrial accidents reported to the New York state department of labor during May totaled 127. This is six more than in April and 27 than in May, 1934.