

THE FIGHTING WORKER

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Organ of the Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S.

Vol. 4 No. 5 Whole No. 36

May 1, 1939

Labor Donated

Price: 1 Cent

FDR «Economy» Throws Thousands Off WPA

Unemployed Tired of Profit System

Two hundred thousand workers on WPA have received their 403's. Even the restoration of 100 millions of the 150 millions in additional funds asked by Roosevelt hasn't and won't stop these layoffs. Two cities, Rochester and Allentown are to be the testing ground starting in May for the federal food card system.

In the State of Washington Starvation Camps are springing up and brutally being suppressed by the police. The 30,000 non-citizens laid off WPA are being forced into virtual starvation as various states take similar action to keep them from relief rolls. Dozens of unemployed workers are committing suicide.

After 11 years of depression the unemployed see no way out under the present system. Unemployment is America's major "industry". Three million on WPA; 2,556,000 on the relief rolls under social security aid bills; 300,000 in CCC camps for youth; 1,000,000 farm families receiving rural rehabilitation loans and grants; 1,762,261 persons on direct relief.

MASS FIGHTS COMING

This summer will see hundreds of thousands of worker families literally starving, unless a new unemployed organization based on a class struggle policy is built nationally to fight the Roosevelt Starvation program.

The trouble with the new outfits that are springing up, in Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, California and other places, is that for the most part they are fighting just for immediate demands. To struggle today merely against WPA cuts, no matter how militant the tactics used, or just for better relief conditions, is to help American capitalism further enslave the unemployed.

No unemployed organization is worth a damn if its central plank does not expose the economy of scarcity under capitalism and call for a struggle for Workers Control of Production for Use.

Workers control of production is impossible under capitalism but propaganda and work for it must be started now.

There are more unemployed in the U. S. than in the rest of the "civilized" world put together. At

least half of the unemployed are out of industry forever.

They're looking for a solution to UNEMPLOYMENT. More than any other section of the working class, the unemployed are ready and anxious to take giant steps to undermine and destroy the whole damn profit system.

The Fascist drive for a key position in the Mediterranean and toward the East continues. After the rapid gains in middle Europe by Hitler in his conquest of Austria, Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia and Memel, the Axis partners have moved into the Mediterranean with two important and rapid gains. In Spain they have

consolidated their military victory through Franco. In Albania the Italians have driven another wedge in the Anglo-French plans of "encirclement."

THE STATUS-QUO

The "status-quo" in Europe has definitely been altered. The post-war status-quo was built around the Versailles Treaty, an attempt by the victorious European im-

perialist powers to check the October Revolution, to keep the United States of Europe and to keep Germany and her allies in their proper place.

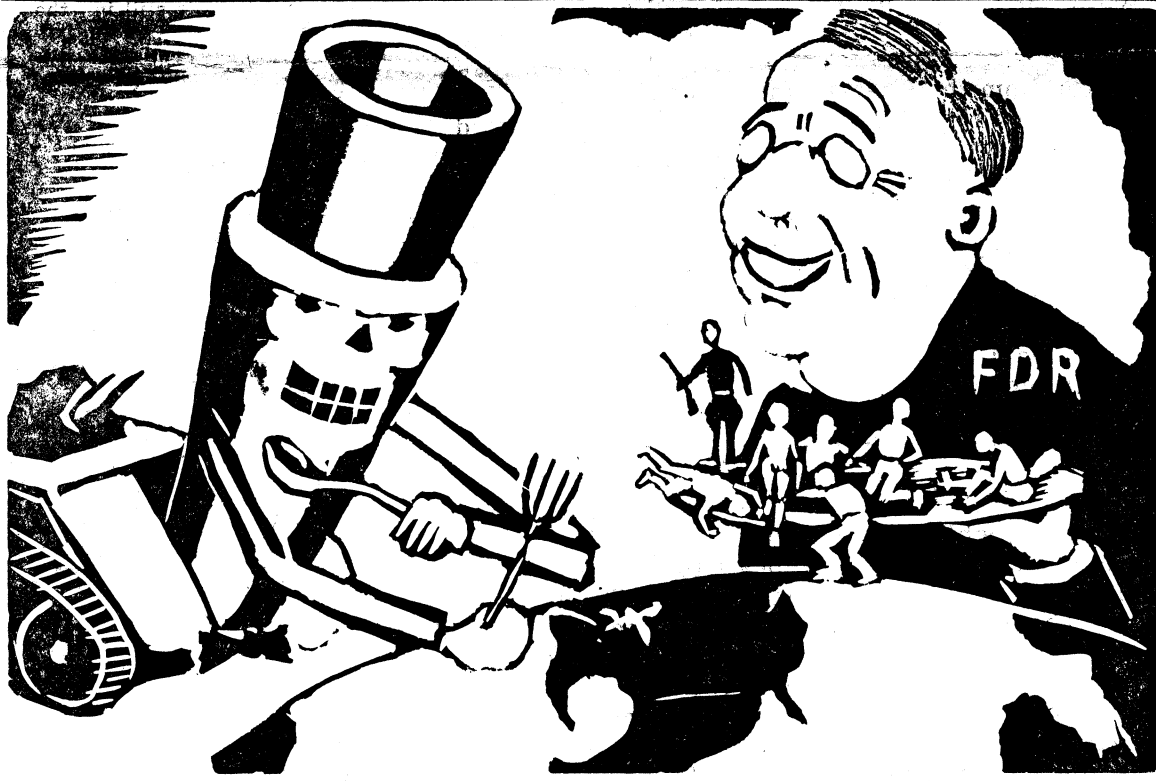
This has gradually been altered from the period of the Nazi victory in Germany. Today the Versailles status-quo no longer exists. The previous relation of forces of the European imperialist powers in the European area has been radically altered but not yet decisively changed. Germany has made important changes from a military standpoint in preparation for the coming imperialist war. But these military points of advantage have not been consolidated economically. In fact economically Germany has enlarged her contradictions.

The Anglo-French have been driven out of Central Europe by Hitler's march eastward. They are now being encircled in the Mediterranean by Hitler and his partner Mussolini. But the Anglo-French still retain the decisive position as world powers in relation to Germany and Italy. Their economy and Empires have only been shaken. They are still far more powerful than the Axis partners.

STOP HITLER MOVES

England and France, however, cannot stop Hitler. They fear the proletarian revolution that imperialist war will bring. They are trying to direct his drive eastward away from the Anglo-French colonial empire toward the Soviet Union and other fields of plunder.

(continued on page 3)



DEMONSTRATE MAY DAY AGAINST ROOSEVELT'S WAR PLANS AND THE CAPITALIST HUNGER SYSTEM

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED — May Day 1939 dawns over a world sick with the rotten fruits of decay capitalism. On every hand, in every capitalist country, the masses are suffering from growing unemployment, starvation, and abject misery. Here in America the everdeepening crisis finds sixteen million workers unemployed, most of whom will never again find work under capitalism. While the number of unemployed grows by leaps and bounds, the sops of relief thrown out by the rulers of society diminish from day to day. Thousands and thousands are being throw off the WPA rolls every day. Direct relief is criminally low in proportion to the costs of living. Relief from starvation turns out to be nothing but a slower rate of starvation. Untold numbers of adults and children die daily from that new "social" disease, malnutrition. And just when the American worker is beginning to wake up from the New Deal drugs, comes the menace of a new world war, a war of one mad imperialist camp against another, a war that threatens to convert the entire world into

one awful charnel-house for the masses of workers and farmers. Aggressor or non-aggressor, Fascist nation or "democracy", the workers must understand that their enemy is at home — their own capitalist class.

REVOLUTIONIST FIGHT BACK

On the world scene there has never been a time when the workers and peasants were so oppressed, nor under such great threat of increasing oppression. This last year has witnessed numerous severe blows to the working class of the world. Chief among these is the crushing defeat of the Spanish workers by the Fascist Franco, whose triumph was guaranteed long in advance by the betrayals of the Socialist and Stalinist hangmen and the Anarchist and Proudhonist leaders who also did their share to defeat the Spanish revolutionary proletariat. Franco has triumphed; Miaja has escaped to asylum by airplane; but what airplanes are at the disposal of the masses? The butchery of the flower of the Spanish proletariat rages with a

(Continued on page 3)

LAND OF THE FREE

LAW AND ORDER

Armour and Co. caught short-weighting three butchers a total of 17 pounds and 13 ounces of meat fined \$25 by a Chicago Judge... Tsk, tsk, Judge, a billionaire concern, relief stations scheduled to close down in a month because the city is broke—my what a soft heart...

Kansas City, Missouri is called the "narcotics capital of the middle west". Even the police are part of the dope ring. Political domination from the top by the Pendergast machine sees to it that the police department protects the KC underworld from interference in their business of dope and illicit alcohol...

And in the Champaign, Illinois, vice quiz, everyone of the city fathers, including the Mayor and Chief of Police is implicated in crimes ranging from murder to aiding and abetting the delinquency of youth... It is a wise voter who knows where politics ends and crime begins!... John Torrio, murderer, gangster supreme, and generally public Enemy No. 1, gets 2½ years for income tax frauds... Harvey, Illinois, Mayor arraigned for embezzling \$10,000 from city funds.

PLANES AND BOOKS

F. D. (I'll be back in the fall if we don't have war) Roosevelt in his efforts to keep America at Peace, signed the bills authorizing \$552,000,000 for defense... The "defense" consists of "flying fortresses", attacking bombers, pursuit planes, and planes to be used to train 20,000 college students annually...

The lucky kids of Blue Island, Illinois, won't have to worry about becoming pilots... Their high school has been closed since March because of lack of funds, and at this rate they'll never get to college!... Of course they'll be able to die as privates, but look at all the glory they have to miss...

The newest army regulation states that single men are preferred as officers. And no wonder — we're still paying pensions to war widows from the last war, and the less pensions we have to pay for the coming war, why the quicker the budget will be balanced!

"THE RICHEST COUNTRY"

Babies for sale to the highest bidder! That is the position Mrs. Dorothy Klein of Chicago is forced into... Deserted by her husband, left with four infants, the oldest 5 years old, and trying to live on \$24 a month which the "relief" agency reluctantly gives. Mrs. Klein offers for sale some of her children so as to be able to feed the others... And 5 members of the WPA and Unemployed Workers Union were arrested at the Humboldt Relief Station in Chicago for protesting standards similar to this...

Orange County, California has a mile and a quarter stretch of luscious oranges — completely covered with waste oil BY THE GOVERNMENT, to prevent the needy from helping themselves, and of course, to keep the prices up...

Northwestern University honor student arrested for stealing food from a restaurant. Unable to find work, and unable to study on an empty stomach, this desperate criminal was captured in possession of a few bananas and oranges... The bookie joints in Chicago are still open...

Fighting Worker Publishing Co.
1904 W. Division Street
Chicago

Rates: \$1.00 per year; 50c per six months.

Special three months subscription rate of 25 cents in blocs of four or more.

Vol. 4 No. 5 Whole No. 36

Negro Slavery

Continued

A NEW FORM OF SLAVERY

Terms like "civilization" and "freedom" under capitalism are harsh jokes. Freedom for the Negro — since the Civil War — has meant the freedom to be exploited by this or that land-lord and bank in the South, or the freedom to be exploited by this or that factory-owner in the North. In other words he has been given the freedom to choose WHO SHALL EXPLOIT HIM; he has merely been changed from one FORM of oppression to another, from chattel slavery to wage slavery.

A slave before the Civil War cost \$1,000 and he had to be fed, sheltered and clothed. After the War Negro workers were employed for \$7 a month. There lies the story of the abolition of slavery in a nutshell.

Seventy four years after the "freedom" of the Negro people, Negroes are herded into Negro ghettos where they pay between two to four times as much rent as whites in similar apartments; they are forced to ride in different parts of trolley cars and trains, excluded from most "white" restaurants even in the North, excluded even from attending "white" colleges; they are deprived of the right to vote in the whole of the South — with rare exceptions — and to a great extent in the North. They are given the dirtiest work for the lowest pay, the last to be hired and the first to be fired. From 35% to 45% of the Negroes in large cities are forced to go on relief. They live under such miserable conditions in their ghettos that from two to five times as many Negro children suffer from tuberculosis as white children.

Under Franklin D. Roosevelt, who is such a great "friend" of the oppressed, who cries nightly for the oppressed Jews in Germany, Negroes are forced to go to separate relief stations in the South, where they get far lower relief rations than even the whites; thousands of Negro sharecroppers are being thrown off their land as a result of the Roosevelt farm program which favors the middle and large farmers; and more Negroes are starving today than in the worst days of chattel slavery.

NEGRO PROBLEM A SOCIAL PROBLEM

The Negro problem is also in part, an agrarian carryover from the Chattel Slavery before the Civil War. Millions of Negroes in the south have been turned from Chattel Slaves into agrarian slaves of one sort or another — slaves to the large landowners from whom they rent land. In certain sections peonage still exists — by fraud and deception blacks are forced into veritable slavery to pay off "debts" to the landowning white.

Along with this agrarian carryover, however, is the increasing shift of the Negro to industry as a wage slave. Negro populations in the larger cities have doubled and quadrupled in the past 20 years. The same process which hurled white farmers off the land and into the factories has thrown relatively far more of the Negro agrarians — who tilled the poorest acreage — into the factory system of the cities.

Thus, while on the surface the dominant note in this complex social problem appears to be the racial question, the Negro problem is primarily a CLASS problem.

The Negroes are an oppressed people. But like all other people they are divided into classes. The rich Negro oppresses his "brother" just as viciously on his lands or factories as the white capitalist. The working class Negro has as little in common with the Negro capitalist as he has with the white capitalist. The working class must defend the whole Negro people against racial discrimination, but it must never forget these divisions of class.

The whole working class is not homogenous. There are differences between an alien worker and a native worker, between a male worker and a female worker, between an adult and a youth, between Gentile and Jew, and between Negro and white, between workers in small factories and workers in large, between workers in one country or one section and workers in another.

BUT ALL OF THESE ARE SECONDARY DIFFERENCES. THE WORKING CLASS IS UNITED BY FAR GREATER BONDS. IT IS UNITED BY THE FACT THAT ALL WORKERS ARE EXPLOITED BY THE CAPITALIST CLASS AND ITS STATE. It is united by the fact that they belong to the same CLASS

DIVIDE AND RULE

The capitalist class tries to take advantage of these differences in order to sow the seeds of dissension among the working class. No minority can possibly enslave a

GERMAN COMRADES PLEA FOR FUNDS TO HELP REFUGEES

Following is a letter from the Red Aid of the Austrian Revolutionary Left:

"RWL U. S.

Comrades:

While I am writing this, the robber troops of Hitler are moving on Czechoslovakia, to annihilate the last residue of independence of these states. We are sitting here at the radio and listening. We believe we hear the cries of despair of our comrades who believed they could find an asylum in Czechoslovakia; the cry for help of our Czech comrades who only a few months ago began to build their illegal cadres and now already are falling martyrs to the Terror.

We do not know what will follow, but we know that the distressed condition of these people, newly suppressed, is dreadful, incomprehensible and inhuman. Thousands of new refugees, tens of thousands of new prisoners for Hitler's prisons and concentration camps. They want help from us, but we cannot do more for the comrades. In a half year Austria, Spain, and Czechoslovakia have broken down. Always new and untold misery and distress to mitigate; our weak

strength can no longer suffice.

Comrades, in the name of the fallen ones, the hunted, the tortured and oppressed we beg you: Help. Help quick, because we can not help much more. Hitler's troops are marching, the world keeps quiet. Democracies and Russia don't feel their interests threatened. Justice does not belong to their interests. There is no possibility to make a profit from it. But the international solidarity of the workers revolutionary movement must not be quiet. Your interests are threatened through the distress and persecution of your brothers. Help us help! For the World Revolution!"

The RWL lends its voice to this plea. The German comrades have been forced to reduce the rations of their own functionaries in the last few months, in order to help other refugees a little more. We urge every comrade not to wait or permit any factional interests to interfere with this work. Contribute every last penny you can! We will immediately transmit these funds to Europe!

Send all funds to:
Aldine Gunn, Secretary Treasurer
1904 Division Street
Chicago

PRESS DRIVE

The Press Fund thermometer of the R. W. L. has tipped the \$200 mark, after nine weeks of the campaign. What it needs now is for the comrades and friends to turn on the heat, in the form of crisp greenbacks, to shoot up over the \$300 mark in the next few weeks.

Iowa Falls is still in the lead with 200% of its quota, but sorely pressed by Kansas City with 149%, Chicago, Detroit, New York, and others.

To help the Press Fund drive and support the new printed magazine, THE MARXIST, a group of friends and sympathizers in Chicago have formed the Current Events Circle. The meetings and parties organized by these comrades in the last month netted about \$25 for the drive.

Let's keep the ball rolling comrades! Send in your little bit today! Keep THE MARXIST coming off the press!

Remember the two for one sub offer — a one year subscription to both THE MARXIST and the FIGHTING WORKER, for \$1.00! Get one for yourself and one for a friend!

Oehler Tour

Comrade Hugo Oehler will leave Chicago for a tour to the east coast, covering 13 cities.

Watch local announcements for meetings from May 20 on.

majority except by working on the old principle of "Divide and Rule." When the capitalists speak of Negro "inferiority", when they incite mobs to lynch framed Negroes in the South, when they give Negro workers separate locker rooms and exclude them from the lunchrooms, etc. of the whites, when they pay Negroes lower wages and give them dirtier jobs, when they seclude them into Negro ghettos — when they do all this they are attempting to divide and rule.

No division in the ranks of the working class has been so constantly utilized by the capitalists of the United States as the division between white and black. Nothing is so detrimental to the white worker and to the working class as a whole as the racial antagonism fostered and developed by the capitalists. THE WHITE WORKER IN AMERICA CAN NOT LIBERATE HIMSELF FROM WAGE SLAVERY WITHOUT LIBERATING HIS NEGRO BROTHERS AND THE REST OF THE OPPRESSED NEGRO PEOPLE.

(To be continued next issue)

Important Documents

BACK NUMBERS OF
Claridad Proletaria
Theoretical Organ of the
Revolutionary Workers League
In Spanish
Volume 2, Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
Volume 3, Number 1
5 CENTS EACH

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS ON THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF MARXISM

Thesis on the Labor and Farmer Labor Party
Documents of the POUM and the Left Wing and an RWL Analysis
Militarism and Youth under American Imperialism
Dialectical Materialism
Outline of Volume 1 of Capital
Anglo-American Antagonisms
Barricades in Barcelona — Hugo Oehler
Road to Power in Spain
5 cents each

Outline of the May 3-7 Insurrection — Barcelona
Mexican Oil
New Zimmerwald
Criticism of Trotskyist Transition Program
Revolutionary Defeatism and Centrism
Communism or Fascism in France
R. W. L. Constitution
10 Cents each

French Rulers Destroy Workers Gains

BONAPARTIST REGIME SMOOTHS ROAD FOR FASCISM

Recent news from France indicates that "democratic" France is protecting itself from the threats of Fascist Germany by showing the French capitalists that it can be just as relentless in its drive against the workers as Fascism.

Daladier's decree government has introduced conscript labor, longer hours, driving speed-up and suppression of "freedom" of the press. It has forced the living standards of the working class down so far that the German worker today has little reason to envy his French brother.

All workers in the "war industries" have been put on a 60 hour work week. Here is the net result of years of struggle for a 40 hour week. War industries include industries of military importance, iron and steel, mining, transportation, chemical, power, etc. This is what the miserable capitulation of the leaders in the trade unions, the C. G. T., both Socialists and Stalinists, has brought about. Further, workers may be forced to put in more than 60 hours by decree of the labor ministry.

VIRTUAL CONSCRIPTION

Workers in these industries are virtually conscripted. No worker can quit his job without a permit from the government. If he does so he is placed on an official blacklist and can not obtain work anywhere. The unemployed must take any job they are "offered", regardless of wages and working conditions, and regardless of where the job is. An unemployed

worker in Marseilles must accept a conscript job in Havre if the government is gracious enough to offer him one.

Military service has been placed on an indefinite basis, instead of for a fixed period of time. The capitalist class is aware that these measures will arouse the resentment of the workers. Hence there is a decree forbidding the giving out of information of military importance. But all the industries are of military importance, so the workers can not protest their misery and suppression. Protest is punished under the espionage laws of 1938.

These decrees clearly show that the Daladier government is paving the way for Fascism. The decree government is a knife at the throat of the working class to stop its revolutionary struggle against capitalism. It was made possible by the class collaborationist policy of the workers' "leaders" and by the set-backs in the one day general strike a few months back.

Only independent working class action can still halt this vicious drive against labor. The workers must organize their struggle not against Fascism but against capitalism as a whole, Fascism and bourgeois "democracy" both. They must take the means of production into their own hands, take over the state, and establish Workers Democracy. The fundamental task, especially in France today, is the formation of a revolutionary party, French section of the New Communist (4th) International.

SCOTTISH, AUSTRALIAN GROUPS GREET RWL CONVENTION

The following are excerpts from a letter to the Third National Convention of the R. W. L. from the Militant Workers Group of Australia:

"1—We have an anti-capitalist orientation — not anti-Stalinist, anti-reformist, anti-fascist, anti-imperialist, all of which are covered by the orientation against capitalism.

"2—...Stalinism represents the main enemy within the labor movement.

"3—Trotskyism is a left variety of centrism, consequently an obstacle on the road to the new Communist (4th) International.

"4—We recognize that the articles in the FOURTH INTERNATIONAL Feb. 1939 on the Anglo-American antagonisms are basically correct.

"5—We endorse the article commencing page 13, FOURTH INTERNATIONAL, Dec. 1938 issue" (an article on revolutionary defeatism, attacking the centrist position).

CALL FOR UNITY

"6—We endorse the resolution on the Soviet Union in the Special Issue of the 'New International Bulletin', containing material of the LRWP" (Fieldites) "Convention"...

"8—We are prepared to join with organizations endorsing point (5) above — or an approximate position — in the establishment of an international center as a preparatory step towards the new, Communist (4th) International...

"We hope that the LRWP and the RWL will be able to come to

an understanding that will clear the way for all those interested in the establishment of an International Center for the New Communist (4th) International."

The Militant Workers Group recently broke away from the Trotskyites.

Convention of the RWL US, Chicago.

Dear Comrades,
The Leninist League sends its fraternal greetings to the 3rd Convention of the Revolutionary Workers League of U. S.

Our Group, having carefully gone through the Draft Program of the RWL, find ourselves in complete agreement with it. One or two points may need clarification but that will be brought up at a later date.

Regarding your proposal of the 11th, Feb., re the international center, we will cooperate to the best of our limited ability in the regroupment of the international revolutionary working class movement.

We greet also the appearance of your theoretical organ "THE MARXIST" in print. A step forward in this period of fear and cowardice, of retreat and capitulation, of slander and betrayal, is of great historic importance.

FOR THE CLASS WAR— AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR. FOR A NEW COMMUNIST (4th) INTERNATIONAL

Comradely yours,
Leninist League
SCOTLAND

Power Politics Ravages Europe

(Continued from Page 1)

They understand as well as the Marxists that only a social-revolution, a proletarian revolution can stop Hitler. And the Anglo-French fear a proletarian revolution a thousand times more than they fear Hitler. Unfortunately, however, the German drive eastward cannot be isolated from the Anglo-French holdings. The imperialist contradictions of these four European powers are too great. Any decisive gains and economic consolidations by Germany and Italy in any move outward not only alters the status-quo but becomes a direct blow against the British-French interests. The imperialist war, which will also involve Japan, the Soviet Union, and the United States is not very far off—unless proletarian revolution puts an end to the whole criminal sit-up.

THE BRITISH ENCIRCLEMENT POLICY

The encirclement policy of Britain is nothing new. The Versailles Treaty was the hub of the former Anglo-French encirclement policy. The British are trying to re-establish this in different form and on a weaker basis.

The pledge of England and France to aid Poland, Greece and Rumania in no way will stop Hitler. The pledge to aid Poland is full of loopholes. The pledge to Rumania has not been made public yet. But there are more than these three countries in the path of the German-Italian expansion move. Unless some of these other small nations of Europe are brought into the "military guarantee" by the Anglo-French, the encirclement policy is so much talk. — because these who are to be encircled can gain new objectives in other smaller countries and encircle the encirclement bloc.

STALINISM FLOUNDERING

The rapid strides of Fascism in Europe, the helplessness of the Anglo-French Bloc has placed the Soviet Union in the most dangerous position. Unable to effectively defend the Soviet Union, Stalinism is again preparing a sell-out, bigger than the Chinese sell-out, than the German sell-out, than the Spanish sell-out.

In his speech to the Congress of the Russian Communist Party, Stalin completely disregards the two last panaceas he put forth, People's Frontism and collective security — support of the "democracies" against the aggressors. Both of these policies have failed miserably. The Soviet under Stalinism is more isolated than ever, precisely because it is dependent not on the world proletariat but on the various imperialists. In a desperate effort to break out of this isolation there is no doubt Stalin is willing to make far greater concessions than ever before. His speech hinted at a possible rapprochement with Hitler.

AMERICAN IMPERIALISM ADMITS WAR PLANS

All thinking people understood that the war to end wars would be followed by a bigger imperialist war unless the workers took over power, but all capitalist defenders denied this. Later when this could be denied no longer they stated that others would fight but not the United States. At last the President informs the world that if war is started the United States will be involved. This was inevitable. There is no dispute among the Wall Street exploiters on this point. Their disputes revolves around the question of HOW TO CARRY ON THE MILITARY STRUGGLE IN ORDER THAT THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS CAN WIN A-

May Day Manifesto

(Continued from page 1)

savagery unprecedented even in the destruction of the Paris Commune. The very savagery of this slaughter indicates the mad desperation of the bourgeoisie and land-owners, stung by the heroic resistance of the working class.

Across the Pyrenees, In France Daladier's government by decree intensifies its ruthless onslaught on positions gained by the working-class in years of bloody struggle. The defeat of the French general strike last November marked a decisive battle lost by the working-class. The temporarily-halted advance of the revolutionary tide now begun to ebb. The sixty-hour week has been supplemented by conscript labor, and the war-industries are geared to the highest possible pitch of production.

In Central and Eastern Europe the year has been marked by an unchecked spread of Nazi domination. It was not the wiping out of Czecho-Slovak independence which was a blow to the working-class; Czecho-Slovak capitalism was no more friendly to labor than is any other capitalism. It was the triumph of Fascism, and not the crumbling of the Versailles Treaty which constituted a blow at the workers.

NEW WAR IMPENDING

Everywhere on the face of the globe the masses have been driven backwards in the accelerated drive of a hungry capitalism which needs a new imperialist war for markets. In Asia the rapacious blood-thirsty advance of Japanese militarism leaves in its wake the screams and groans of thousands of tortured and dying Chinese workers and peasants. In Africa the colonial masses are subjected to ever-increasing enslavement as the great powers jockey for position in the great war for profit, the coming war to redivide the markets of the world. In Latin America, American Imperialism helps the dictatorship smash the workers and peasant movements.

In only one land on the earth have the workers taken and maintained their power — the Soviet Union, product of Red October. But here too, the working class has registered severe set-backs on all fronts. The increasing distortion of the workers state under Stalinism, as agents of the imperialists, has strained the class relationships to such an extent that the whole structure threatens to crumble at the least pressure from the world imperialists. The bourgeois element, internationally and internally, are increasing their pressure in the Soviet Union and even threaten Stalinism. Above all, what remains of the October Revolution is being threatened.

SOCIAL PATRIOTISM IN ADVANCE

In the United States the workers, chained to the chariot of Roosevelt's "liberal" policy by their betraying leadership, by the Lewises, the Greens, the Homer Martins, the Thomases and the Browders, have undertaken no great mass struggle in this year. Reaction has scored a growth in strength, largely due to the failure of the working class to take decisive class action. The sitdown strike has been declared illegal, the right to strike is being taken away. The leaders of the CIO and AFL and the Stalinists, have gone over completely to the camp of social patriotism. They endorse Roosevelt's every war move in advance.

The Socialist, Lovestoneite and Labor Party leaders, who shout against war, are peddling the old pacifist formulas. The "Marxian" Trotskyites, too have made the leap to the right with seven league boots. Revolutionary sounding in words they propose as the present axis of the fight against war, the passing of a bourgeois bill, the Ludlow amendment.

Social Patriotism in times of "peace" is class collaboration. And the reformists and centrists of all stripes, from Cannon to Jim Oneal, have cast aside every semblance of class struggle in the mass movement. Their role in the next carnage is clearly written in their present role as left covers to the imperialist Roosevelt.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD! There is no other road to freedom, peace and security than the long, hard road of class against class. Only liars or hopeless fools will tell the masses to support the reactionary moves of the capitalist class and its agents among the workers. Only the workers' militant action AGAINST the boss class can change the world-scene from one of darkness and despair to one of revolutionary growth.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD! We can stop the threatening world imperialist war only by a social revolution. Don't be deceived by the false promises and crocodile tears of the capitalist class. Work to overthrow the rotten system of exploitation for private profit!

WORKERS OF AMERICA, white and black, foreign and native, men and women, youth and adults, raise your mighty clenched hand on this day of working class struggle, show the exploiters your working class solidarity. Show the rulers of America that you are not miserable slaves. BUILD THE NEW PARTY OF COMMUNISM, the New Communist (4th) International!

Unemployed workers, organize for the class struggle which alone can provide work and security by the overthrow of capitalism. Fight for Workers Control of Production for Use!

CLASS AGAINST CLASS! Only the systematic struggle against the bourgeoisie can achieve a unified and fighting labor movement in place of the torn and split trade union field of today.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS. YOU HAVE A WORLD TO GAIN!

FIGHT THE ROOSEVELT WAR PLANS
FIGHT THE NEW DEAL DRIVE AGAINST THE UNEMPLOYED
FOR A WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT
JOIN THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE
FOR INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION AND THE
CLASS STRUGGLE IN PEACE AND IN WAR

AGAINST ALL THE OTHERS, no matter which side she is on in the war.

THE WORKERS POSITION.

The working class must remember that imperialist war is against their interests. Our task is to overthrow our own capitalists, not to fight for our capitalists against any other country. We must fight to turn the imperialist war into a civil war, remembering always that our main enemy is our own boss class.

Two New Pamphlets
LESSONS OF SPAIN
Bourgeois Democracy Paves the Way for Fascism
NEGRO SLAVERY
Then and Now

Subscribe to
The Marxist

For a new COMMUNIST (4th) INTERNATIONAL.

Armour Men Demand National Contract

STALINIST LEADERS CALL FOR RELIANCE ON BOSS GOVERNMENT; MILITANTS FIGHT FOR SITDOWN

Meeting in Chicago April 8th and 9th, the Policy Committee of the Packing House Workers Organizing Committee set May 10th as the deadline for the Armour Packing Company to begin negotiating with the workers on their demands for: recognition of the Steward System (which has been un-officially recognized at least in a few of the plants), closed shop with the check-off, revision of group insurance, 32 hour week with a rise in wage scales over present 40 hour week scales, revision of present vacation plan (as it is now, a 60 day layoff voids all vacation seniority, and dispensation of existing proficiency system (speed-up) and readjustment of all operations to conform with capacity and amount of load carried.

On the present basis the company is able to pit one plant against another, to maintain differentials in wages and conditions. The demand for a national contract is therefore a key demand of the Armour workers. General rank and file sentiment, however, is for coordinating this demand with demands for a shorter work week no reduction in pay.

DEMAND SIT DOWN

In the face of the ruling by the

Supreme Court on sit-downs, delegates from three Locals called for a national sit-down strike as the means for enforcing their demands. The Stalinist leaders talked about a strike "if necessary", but would consider nothing but a walk-out.

A specific date was set for the company to come to terms. If it refuses by that date the union leadership is instructed to call a national strike.

What the leadership intends to do is obvious. The main line is to get Mayor Kelly and other mayors to force through "peaceful" negotiations. Appeals have already been made to these mayors, and in some instances favorable replies received. But "peaceful" negotiations, at the behest of the capitalist mayors will only mean defeat for the militant packing-house workers.

In many cities the Armour men are getting ready for a show-down battle. Progressive elements are concentrating on strengthening the powerful shop steward committees that are active in many of the plants. These rank and file committees will play the key role in the coming struggles, providing they assert their rights and don't let the top leadership liquidate them.

Apex Ruling Limits Right to Strike

WORKERS ACTION CAN CHECK COURTS

Philadelphia — The decision of the Federal Court ordering the American Federation of Hosiery Workers to pay \$711, 932 for alleged "damages" to the company during the Apex strike in 1937, marks another step in the offensive of the "democratic" bosses against the hard won rights of the workers.

The decision started suits by a dozen other companies against workers who have struck in the last few years.

Coming on the heels of the White-Catlin anti-picketing law in Oklahoma, the Wisconsin anti-sitdown laws, the proposed Stassen anti-labor bill in Minnesota, and the recent Supreme Court decision illegalizing sit-down strikes, this court order is part of the systematic campaign to destroy one by one the democratic rights of the workers.

According to the ruling, a strike which causes loss of profit to a company must be paid for by the union. This will mean raids upon the union treasuries, will in effect cripple the union "war chests" and prevent further strikes.

SAME OLD TRICK

It is an old trick of the bosses in a new form. In 1911 the Supreme Court ruled that the workers of the Danbury Hattery were an "illegal combination" in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust law and fined them a huge sum. The workers' answer was a tremendous organized protest, so that it was impossible for the bosses to repeat this tactic then.

But today, now that millions of workers have been lulled to sleep by the sweet words of Roosevelt, aided by his Browder, Lewis, Green, Thomas stooges, it is possible for the bosses to renew the attack.

Capitalist laws to "help" the working class aren't worth the paper written on. Capitalist courts always interpret them against the workers. Unless — unless the working class organizes independent working class action to fight for its democratic rights. The Apex case ruling, if it is permitted to stand can wipe out the gains of a hundred and twenty years of struggle. Smash this ruling!

David Rey Arrested

Comrade David Rey, militant leader of the Catalan masses, is in the hands of the Franco police. Rey was one of the oldest and most capable revolutionists in Spain. He was a member of the POUM Executive Committee and fought against its centrist positions.

When Franco took over Barcelona this comrade, known both as Rey and Rebull, refused to leave because he could not take his family with him. His brother Jose Rebull, left and is safe in another country.

Thousands of old militants like Rey are in Franco's hands. If they survive his firing squads and forced labor, we have no doubt they will again be in the van of the next social struggles. Help the thousands of refugees gain new homes and continue their revolutionary work!

FOR A WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT

Leaders Changed; UAW Policy Same

ONLY MILITANT SHOP COMMITTEES CAN ANSWER BUROCRATS

Cleveland—The CIO recognized faction of the United Auto Workers met here at its convention to consolidate against the Homer Martin clique.

Despite a superficial display of "democracy" on the floor of the convention, the whole show was run behind locked doors in hotel rooms by Sidney Hillman and Phillip Murray, top leaders of the CIO. The underlying motif again was a fight over jobs between two sets of burocrats, the Thomas clique, with John L. Lewis' blessing, and the Stalinists.

The Stallnists, who controlled almost half of the delegates were completely railroaded out of any posts. All five vice-presidencies were abolished. Militant elements in the union can hold no brief for the union busting Stalinists. Nevertheless their exclusion from key posts by Hillman, because of their "political views" (they agree 100% with the Lewis-Hillman class collaboration policies), is a vicious breach of trade union democracy. Tomorrow Hillman and company will use the same excuse to exclude real militants and revolutionists from posts, just as Bill Green does today.

FIGHT BOTH CLIQUES

Both the Martin and Thomas cliques stand on the same fundamental policy — close collaboration with the big industrialists, against sit-downs, dilly-dallying in the organization of the unemployed, support of the boss' class' war plans. Behind the scenes these two sets of lackeys are helping whether they know it or not, one group of capitalists against the other. The General Motors bloc is anxious to force Ford to pay equal wages with that of the companies under union contract, to drive Henry out of business.

The split has helped both sections of capitalists. The jurisdictional fights will aid the present plans of G. M., Chryslers and Ford, to force down wages and working conditions. The answer of the auto militants should be: "To hell with the union burocrats. Reorganize the Plant Committees in each factory, democratically elected by ALL workers in the plant, whether in the Martin Union, the Thomas Union or no union at all, to fight against the present offensive of the bosses.

Unite the plant committees on a class struggle program into committees of action to get a 30 hour week with 40 hour pay, a guaranteed minimum yearly wage, and to organize the unemployed.

THIRD CONVENTION OF RWL SHOWS GAINS

DRAFT PROGRAM ADOPTED; NOW THE RWL BASIC DOCUMENT

The Third Convention of the Revolutionary Workers League, held in Chicago April 8, 9 and 10, was politically and organizationally the most successful in the League's history.

The full political material submitted by the Political Committee and the Plenum was adopted with secondary but important amendments. The Draft Program was approved unanimously, with two delegates voting for with a statement. A document on Workers Control of Production for Use, published in the April MARXIST, was endorsed, together with a supplement which will appear in the next MARXIST. The eleven documents comprising the report on the International Situation, the Soviet Union, and the report on the Road to the new Communist (4th) International, were likewise approved.

GAINS IN MEMBERSHIP

Organizationally the convention recorded that the League has more than made up in new

members for the loss of the Stamm Revolt group last May; five new units have been established and every unit except one has made gains in members in the last six months. Printed material and the publication of the League Program have increased RWL ties with organizations abroad. The Political Committee reported the progress in the work towards establishing an international contact commission for the New Communist (4th) International.

At the conclusion of the convention a sectarian clique of six comrades was expelled. They voted that the Program and the League are Marxist, but refused to vote for a motion to abide by the decisions of the convention.

The incoming Central Committee was strengthened by the addition of old and experienced comrades, active in the trade union and unemployed field. The League recorded improvement in the proletarian composition of the membership and a consolidation around the fundamental Program.

Class Action Frees 4 Jobless

New York, April 12 — Four members of the Workers Unemployed Union, arrested and beaten for demanding a rent check for an unemployed worker about to be evicted, were acquitted today in Special Sessions.

The case of these workers was well fought by the unemployed union, along class struggle lines. Thousands of leaflets made the issues known to the class. Each

time the case was brought to court, the courtroom was packed by workers interested in fighting this frame-up.

The three Special Sessions judges, after thinking over the situation, retired to the back room and were forced on the basis of "reasonable doubt" to release all the defendants.

A little similar class struggle action will force even greater concessions from the capitalist courts.

Subscribe to the YOUNG WORKER

LEWIS "FORGETS" MINERS DEMANDS

SOLE AIM IS TO PROTECT HIS BUROCRACY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH OPERATORS

New York, April 15 — Negotiations between John L. Lewis and the soft coal operators are deadlocked, while 338,000 workers remain out of work. The operators call this "stoppage" a strike; Lewis calls it a lockout.

Actually it is just another of John L. Lewis' sell outs. Originally the "great labor leader" asked for a 50 cent wage increase and other demands. Today, however, he has agreed to drop 26 demands in return for the closed shop and continued check-off. All that Lewis is interested in is that the AFL Progressive Miners of America does not invade the UMWA territory.

"You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours", that is the type of negotiations now going on. If the mine owners help Lewis fight the PMA, Lewis will help the

miners fight off any wage demands of the workers, and help force the small mine owners into line.

Hundreds of thousands of miners have been thrown out of work in the last few years by machines and the reduced need for coal. John L. Lewis is not representing their interests at these negotiations. Neither by the way is the PMA. The solution for the problems of the mine workers can only be in overthrowing the profit system and substituting in its place a workers society based on Workers Control of Production for Use. The mine workers need organized progressive groups in the unions to fight for the 30 hour week with no reduction in pay, and a guaranteed yearly income. Don't let the operators lock you out of the plants! Organize shop committees now to prepare to operate them yourselves if they try it!

MAY DAY MEETINGS

Detroit — April 30th Times Square Park 1:30 P. M.
Oehler, Bertman, Russo

Kansas City — April 30th, 541 Minnesota 8 P. M.
S. Dolsen and others

Philadelphia — May 1st — 329 Pine St. 8 P. M.
M. Roth, B. Campbell

New York — May 1st, Irving Plaza Hall 8 P. M.
J. Lorenz and others

Cleveland — May 1st, 2071 E. 30 St. 8 P. M.
C. B. Cowan and others

Chicago — April 30th, Newberry Square 3 P. M.
May 1st, 1904 Division St. 8 P. M.
B. Streeter, J. Strong, A. Kohlman and others