

THE FIGHTING WORKER

WORKERS OF THE WORLD
UNITE!

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

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DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION AGAINST WORLD IMPERIALISM

EXTEND THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION
FOR A POLITICAL REVOLUTION AGAINST STALINISM

June 22 — The murderous Nazi butchers have turned upon the Soviet Union to execute their long planned assault upon the first Workers State. The "super-Wrangel" of World Imperialism is conducting the "holy" war.

The fascist attack on the Soviet Union opens up a new stage of the Imperialist War. It ushers in the phase of civil wars and revolutions. The first important turning point of the war was the capitulation of the French ruling class to forestall revolution. Next came the powerful pressure of American intervention against the Axis powers, which by causing a virtual stalemate laid the basis for the German attack on the S.U. in a desperate attempt to circumvent United States' aid and to break out of its mounting difficulties.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR OF DEFENSE.

The workers of the world must

UNION MILITANTS OUST RACKETEERS

Chicago, June 21. — The upsurge of labor militancy and struggle for higher wages is coming into open conflict with the bureaucracy in the Unions. Not only in the CIO, but in the AFL as well.

In Minneapolis the Teamsters, plagued by the Roosevelt politician, Dan Tobin, national head of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, went over to the CIO when there was a threat by Tobin to expel their leaders as "Trotskyites".

But the revolt against the AFL top leadership is far deeper. That is illustrated by the militant struggles of the Retail Clerks and the Wholesale Grocery Supplies Union, composed of warehousemen of National Tea and Kroger's.

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come to the aid of the Soviet Union in its revolutionary war of defense against imperialism and its fascist agents who hope to make a colony out of the Soviet Union. The real defense of the first Workers State, warped and distorted almost beyond recognition by Stalinism, demands an increased struggle against Stalinism as an imperialist agency in our ranks. A revolutionary war of defense means a struggle against the imperialist invaders AND against Stalinism and other imperialist agents within.

Stalinism cannot defend the Soviet Union, it can only betray. Hitler came into power as a result of the betrayals of the Social Democracy and the 3rd period policies of Stalinism of splitting and wreck-

ing the labor movement. The Franco-Soviet Pact, the criminal policy of Peoples Frontism in Spain, and then the Stalin-Hitler Pact paved the way for the Nazi encirclement and frontal attack. Stalinism has capitulated against every imperialist pressure since the revolutionary defeats in Germany in 1923. It has abused and betrayed the loyalty of the working class to the Soviet Union. It has played capitalist power politics. It is forced into this war to protect its own neck. The working class can expect no proletarian policy of defense, of extending the October Revolution, from this force.

THE UKRAINE

In September 1939 the FIGHTING WORKER stated, "Today Sta-

linism makes it possible for Germany to take Poland and Hungary. Tomorrow Hitler will be at the gates of the Ukraine... By removing Poland, by undermining the internal conditions in the Soviet Union, with Stalin's help, Hitler will prepare the way for his counter-revolution in the Soviet Union."

Many months before the war started we criticized and rejected Trotsky's slogan for an "Independent Ukraine", pointing out that this would play into Hitler's hands. The revolutionary defense of the Ukraine against Hitler demands the ousting of the Stalinist bureaucrats, but this political revolution against Stalinism must be a part of the general fight against Stalinism and against counter-revolutionary intervention in the whole of the Soviet Union, on the basis of genuine democratic SOVIETS and a democratic Red Army.

WHY HITLER ATTACKS NOW

Powerful American pressure against the Axis has altered Hitler's plans. He must match American economic might with more materials. These he must obtain from the Soviet Union, by capitulation if possible, by war if necessary. Hitler must try to break out of the new stalemate America's economic and military might has created. Above all, German Imperialism, in

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FORWARD TO A WEEKLY FIGHTING WORKER

Today the working class needs a voice as never before — a voice to denounce the growing barrage of imperialist war-mongering, a call to action to rally to the support of the endangered Soviet Union against German and world imperialism and against Stalinism, a stinging whip against the jackal cries of the bosses agents in our ranks.

A monthly organ is not enough. THE FIGHTING WORKER MUST BE MADE A WEEKLY! Every revolutionist worth his salt will hail this decision.

The betrayal and renegacy of whole sections of the labor movement, the treacherous pacifism of the Stalinists, preparing to plump for open support of the war when Stalin finally makes a deal with Wall Street; the pacifism and war-mongering of the different sections of the Socialists; the op-

portunism of the Trotskyites; the capitulation of the Lovestones, Hooks, and other—all point to the need for the spreading of the voice of international workers solidarity among the American workers.

We are proud of our paper and its record. The FIGHTING WORKER since its foundation has consistently pointed the Marxist road, exposed the New Deal as a War Deal, condemned from the outset People's Frontism as capitulation to the bosses and to fascism (Spain, for example), showed the way to a workers (Soviet) Spain, and on many other crucial questions maintained the line of Marxism.

To issue the FIGHTING WORKER as a weekly our small resources will force us to reduce its size and format. We are confident that in the short time remaining before

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F.D.R. - Strikebreaker

Los Angeles, June 17: — The "smiling President" has bared his teeth. Strike-breaking, use of troops, and a Work or be Drafted threat are Roosevelt's answer to the bitter need for something approaching a living wage by the workers of DuPont's North Am-

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Cowan Statement Denounces Boss Press Lies

Workers Must Guard Against Dies Committee Smear Tactics

C. B. Cowan

In this period of increasing strike action of workers against the attacks of the employers and their government, the infamous Dies Committee play an increasingly vicious role in the general attack against the workers and their organizations.

The Dies Committee, considering all struggles of the working class as "UnAmerican", attempts to break every strike by discrediting the strike leaders as Communist, Nazi, Alien, exconvict, and so forth. It hopes thereby not only to discredit individual trade union leaders, and militant leading workers, but to sow confusion and fratricidal strife in the ranks of the working class.

The latest example of this role of the Dies Committee is shown in its action in taking me, C. B. Cowan, before its sub-committee, compelling my testimony and misquoting and distorting my answers to the leading questions of their infamous red-baiter, Mr. J. B. Matthews. This testimony, given Thursday, June 12, 1941, appeared in the press in distorted form on a national scale on the evening of June 12th and the day of June 13th.

HALF TRUTH AND LIES

The above referred-to published accounts constitute, in general, a vicious fabrication of half-truths, distortions and lies, made for dual purpose of discrediting the Cleveland Alcoa strike leaders, and to discredit myself and my organization by presenting me to the public as a stool-pigeon and informer. In order to further expose the strike-breaking and red-baiting tactics of the Dies Committee and that portion of the public press which does service for the committee, I submit the following facts:

At 7 PM on the night of Wednesday, June 11th, 1941, I was served with a subpoena signed by speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn, commanding me to appear in Washington, D.C., at 2 PM the following day to answer questions which the Dies Committee might see fit to ask. Previous to this, neither I nor my associates had in any way, directly or indirectly, been in touch with the Dies Committee, its operative or any of its agents. The subpoena was served by United States Deputy Marshall, John Wein of the Cleveland office.

TAKEN DESPITE PROTEST

I was informed by the Deputy Marshall to immediately get in touch with Mr. Jackson, local head of the Cleveland Dies Committee Office, who had already arranged transportation for me to Washington and return. I got in touch with Mr. Jackson late that night and protested this summary action of his committee and demanded to be

released from this subpoena. I was given no choice but ordered to proceed as per instructions. The subpoena gave no indication of the nature of the questions to which I would be subjected and I assumed that I was to be questioned concerning my own organization, the Revolutionary Workers League, U.S.A. I immediately notified the National Committee of my organization at Chicago by special-delivery air-mail, and also wired my attorneys in Richmond, Va. and Washington, D.C., to be present to represent me at the hearing.

Statements appearing in the press to the effect that I flew to Washington are misleading, as I went to Washington by plane under compulsion and at government expense. I was met immediately on getting off the plane by representatives of the committee and hurried to the committee offices on the fifth floor of the old house office building, where it was made clear to me that the committee was interested in discrediting the leaders of the Alcoa strike.

COMMITTEE ALREADY HAD ALL INFORMATION

At this time many old records and photographs concerning my public record in the Communist Party from 1930 to 1935 were presented to me from the files of the Dies Committee, as were also the public records, photographs, and public statements and signed documents of many others who were openly and publicly associated with me during the period of my membership in the Communist Party.

Among these records were those of publicly self-admitted members of the Communist Party, as follows: Al Barry, Edward Cheyfitz, Fay Stephenson, Ben Gray and others. Many of these pictures, records and quotations from speeches, etc., were from original copies of the Communist Party's and Young Communist League's own publications such as the "Daily Worker", "The Hunger Fighter", "The YCL Builder", and so forth.

In addition to the above material, I was shown letters and documents secured by the Dies Committee covering approximately ten years past, which documents and letters had been secured thru the carelessness of members of the Communist Party, thru raids on Party offices and the actions of stool-pigeons within the Party. I was shown one batch of extensive confidential material of "Comrade" Goldfrank, publicly known as organization secretary of the Communist Party in Ohio, which had recently fallen into the hands of the Dies Committee.

All of the above material, plus police records, and records from the Vital Statistics Bureau, prove conclusively that the Dies Commit-

tee had in its possession, long before my appearance, positive proof of and public admissions of membership in the Communist Party by the individuals above referred to.

I here state that I have no love for the Communist Party nor its methods. I quite well know that it is the policy of the Communist Party to use its publications to expose militant workers to the agents of the government and to the employers. I also know that it has been the practice of the Stalinists to play the role of stool-pigeons in shops, factories and offices, and on the WPA to secure the firing of any militant worker who dared to oppose the Party line or protest the actions of the Stalinist bureaucrats.

NOTHING BUT CONTEMPT

I have nothing but contempt for informers and stool-pigeons. I wholeheartedly support the strike of the Alcoa workers all down the line. It is my position, in policy and practice, that any differences within the ranks of the working class should be fought out in the ranks of the working class itself, and not in collaboration with the Dies Committee or any other agency of the bourgeoisie.

I now, therefore, summarize my appearance and statements before the Dies Committee as follows:

1—I did not voluntarily go before the Dies Committee.

2—I was not permitted to state my position, or that of my organization, The Revolutionary Workers League, U.S.A., before the committee.

3—Although my attorneys sent me telegrams in care of the Committee, and appeared in Washington to represent me, I could not see my attorneys nor have I been given those telegrams.

4—I gave no information whatsoever on any person in or out of the Communist Party which information was not already a matter of public record. I gave to the Dies Committee only confirmation of the membership of Edward

TENTH PLENUM

The 10th Plenum of the Revolutionary Workers League, U.S., was held June 14-15. The political agenda consisted of a report on the latest phase of the imperialist war; the Waller case; Fighting Worker; and Organization. The major part of the time was devoted to organizational plans to extend our work. Outstanding is the Plan to raise \$500.00 in a month and start issuing the FIGHTING WORKER ONCE A WEEK.

Although the pressure is so great that many groups are liquidating, while others experience adverse factional fights, the League revealed progress at its Plenum.

Cheyfitz, Al Barry, Fay Stephenson, Ben Gray, myself, and a few others like Andrew Onda, Johnny Williamson, etc., who were and still are publicly self-confessed members of the Communist Party up to the close of my membership in the Communist Party in 1935.

5—I stated to the Dies Committee that I know nothing whatsoever about Communist Party membership since 1935 other than that which I read from time to time in the daily press.

6—I stated to the Dies Committee that I knew nothing whatsoever about Pat Martin or Mr. Radden. I never identified any pictures as being those of Alex Balint. All pictures shown me which I positively knew had been published in the public press including that of the C.P., I admitted were of myself, Al Barry, and others. I also stated definitely that the name Alex Balint had never at any time appeared on the rolls of the Communist Party or the Young Communist League to my knowledge. I also stated that Mr. A. E. Stevenson, of the Cleveland Industrial Union Council, was not a member of the Communist Party while I was in that organization and that I did not know whether he was a member now or not; although I did state truthfully, what is publicly known, that Mr. Stevenson attends meetings from time to time at which self-admitted members of the Communist Party are also present.

BEWARE SMEAR CAMPAIGN

It should be apparent from the above that it is the intention of the capitalist class to use such agencies as the Dies Committee and the press to discredit, slander and undermine every strike leadership and to sow confusion, distrust and fratricidal strife within the working class.

The working class must not be duped and confused by these tactics, nor allow itself to be provoked into fratricidal strife, but must instead unite on a revolutionary Marxist program to itself cleanse the movement of the Stalinist virus, without collaborating or subordinating itself to the capitalists or their agencies.

Signed: C. B. Cowan,

June 15, 1941.

NEW ADDRESS

In the future we request all our friends and sympathizers, as well as fraternal organizations, to write to the Fighting Worker and International News at the address of our publishers:

DEMOS PRESS,
855 N. Ashland Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

**RWL Statement
On Cowan Hearing**

The following statement of comrade Cowan should be a warning to all workers. Militants brought before the Dies Committee are asked questions that are organizational in character and so organized as to make the witness appear as an informer, even though he crudely confines his answers to already publicly known information.

This experience re-emphasizes the position of the R.W.L. not to give any information at all to the police or any such creatures, and to present only political positions and publicly known facts in connection therewith, without divulging any information about individuals, whether or not this is already known to the bourgeoisie.

Revolutionists should take the political offensive before such bodies, of course using good sense and sound tactics. When, as with the Dies Committee, political statements are prevented and are struck from the record as "irrelevant", revolutionists must present their line anyway by denouncing the committee. If then gagged and arrested, we shall nevertheless have achieved our purpose to a great extent.

On the basis of comrade Cowan's statement it is clear that he did not act as an informer. His statement is a complete repudiation of the reports in the boss press. At the same time the Political Committee feels it necessary to make public that it has censured comrade Cowan for his serious tactical blunders, for not first taking up the matter with the P.C. before appearing, and for testifying without his attorneys present. Comrade Cowan has recognized the correctness of this action.

The P.C. has taken steps to secure a stenographic transcript of the hearing. As soon as this is obtained we will be glad to send a copy to any comrade writing in.

Political Committee,
Revolutionary Workers League.

DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION

(Continued from Page 1)

driving all the Allied armies off the continent, now face only one powerful army in Europe — the Red Army. Hitler cannot afford to take long chances off Europe with that army threatening him in the rear. Its elimination, if possible, is a prelude to further onslaughts against the Anglo-American group.

Hitler's Balkan victories completed the encirclement of the Soviet Union, and with pressure on Japan to come to its aid, German imperialism hopes to make quick work of the Soviet Union.

**GERMAN-SOVIET UNION WAR
INEVITABLE**

The Hitler-Stalin Pact and its devastating effect as a betrayal of the working class is now clearly revealed as a Pact of Treachery to the interest of the Soviet Union. The German attack will enable the other imperialists to 'double-cross' Stalin as double pay for his former aid to fascism. Instead of assuring peace to the Soviet Union, the Pact in reality helped to weaken the Soviet Union while Hitler was preparing his blows.

In the June, 1941, FIGHTING WORKER we stated, "Both the Hess and Stalin-Hitler incidents reveal internal differences over policy within respective ruling groups; in Germany it is over when to attack the Soviet Union, and in Soviet Union over when to put up effective opposition to Hitler's steady march eastward to vital Russian spheres... The iron ring of the Axis encirclement, of imperialist encirclement, is tightening... At this juncture it is Germany that holds the key. Under her leadership an Axis attack (or through a truce with England, a "united" struggle) against the Soviet Union is possible."

"RED IMPERIALISM"

It is now clear that the Red Ar-

my seizures of Baltic areas were DEFENSIVE steps against an Imperialist attack under German leadership. This we pointed out at the time of these invasions, against the Shachtmanites and others who spoke of "Red Imperialism." It was not a question of Red Imperialism but of defense against impending attack. Even Stalin could see that his neck was in danger.

**IMPERIALIST ANTAGONISM
WILL GROW**

The Anglo-American imperialists will gladly promise aid to Russia, to get her deeper into the war with Germany. But it is all too probable that a semi-truce will develop between these two camps, while Germany drives into Russia. If necessary, they will even, despite any promises, come to the aid of Germany, to accomplish the overthrow of the Soviet Union.

Nevertheless, in spite of this, the long time imperialist antagonism will remain and grow.

Anglo-American interests are outright gleeful about the turn of events. Roosevelt will take "credit" for it. It further exhausts German men and materials, and makes that much more distant an attempted invasion of England while America's war effort can now be intensified. England also gains time in the Near-East.

Japan especially is on the "spot". If she does not come to the aid of Germany, the American Imperialism will use this to drive a wedge between the two, and further weaken her position in Asia. If she does come to the aid of Germany, America gains even more by Japan's exhaustion in such a war, while the United States strengthens her bases in the East Indies and Chinese areas.

Roosevelt will now try to use the Stalinists internationally as Hitler used them yesterday. Stalinism will make desperate efforts (probably already under way) to sell-out to American Imperialism for "aid" against Germany. On this, the May, 1941 issue of the FIGHTING WORKER stated: "It is our opinion that the Tokyo-Moscow pact is only a temporary zig-zag in the move away from the Hitler-Stalin Pact and TOWARDS a Roosevelt-Stalin Pact".

**THE LINE HAS CHANGED
AGAIN**

If the choice was left up to Stalinism alone, it might still have capitulated to Hitler's demands. But Stalinism, despite its bureaucratic control, cannot be isolated from the economy on which it rests.

Hitler's demands were probably for more than the peaceful concessions possible under the Soviet Union property relations. Immediate concession to them might have brought on an internal explosion

against Stalinism. No face-saving formula was possible. Rapid work is necessary to consolidate the Soviet Union against the imperialist invasion and the Stalinist wreckers.

If American Imperialism "aids" the Soviet Union against Hitler the United States Stalinists will again become open social-patriots, as they were up to the eve of the Hitler-Stalin Pact. A few quotations of yesterday will show that the "new line" is the same OLD line of supporting one group of imperialists against the other.

"Let us approach the whole question as Americans, from the view point of American national interests, which includes a deep interest in maintaining world peace". Browder speech, August 29, 1939 on the Hitler-Stalin Pact."

"We join President Roosevelt and the best progressive minds of our country in hating aggression and in readiness to support its victims." Olgin, Sept. 2, 1939.

"As patriotic defenders of our country, we join forces with all who oppose reaction, fascism and war." Harrison George, July 4, 1937.

Volumes of this social patriotism of yesterday (which will again be dished out) could be quoted.

WHAT MUST BE DONE

The working class must defend the Soviet Union and the Red Army against the imperialist attackers who are using the Fascist as their spearhead.

The working class must fight the Stalinist and other imperialist agents within our ranks. Reject the Trotsky formula of a truce with Stalinism when the Soviet Union is at war. To defend the Soviet Union the Stalinites must be removed from leadership of the struggle. Stalinism cannot defend the Soviet Union. A new revolutionary party must be built in the S. U. Only the revolutionary Marxian parties and the genuine workers Soviets can defend the Soviet Union. Defense of the Soviet Union demands above all the extension of the October Revolution.

If the United States becomes an "ally" of the Soviet Union, the workers must continue their line of a fight against the war measures of Wall Street. Revolutionary defense for the Soviet Union — revolutionary defeatism elsewhere, that is the road to victory.

We repeat the words of the May Day Manifesto of the International Contact Commission, that, "Regardless of the fact that the imperialist war revolves around an Anglo-Axis-American struggle the real struggle BEFORE THE WAR IS OVER will be a struggle between COMMUNISM AND FASCISM."

Weekly Fighting Worker

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war-time censorship is clamped down, our increased frequency will more than make up for this. We hope that increased frequency, enabling us to bring revolutionary clarity to wider sections of the masses, will make it possible to double and triple its circulation and increase its size.

We must increase our bundle orders! We must increase our income to make this possible.

Our first step is a campaign to raise \$500 within a month, through contributions, loans and members and sympathizers activities.

Here are the quotas:

Chicago \$200
New York 100

Cleveland	100
Phila	50
Washington	50
Detroit	25
Los Angeles	50
Richmond	50
Springfield	10
St. Louis	5
Kansas City	50
Davenport	10
Louisville	25
Minnt	25

You, our readers, must help us put this over. The fight against the enveloping maelstrom of capitalist insanity is the duty of every class conscious worker.

HELP MAKE THE FIGHTING WORKER A WEEKLY.

Roosevelt 'Seizes' Plant to Break Plane Strike

(Continued from page 1)

merican Aviation Co.

"We refuse to pay 75 cents — 50 cents an hour is plenty for the working man", the company that took in 19 million dollars profits last year and has 2 hundred million in war orders on hand.

It never occurred to Roosevelt to make the company pay a living wage. The gigantic war preparations of American Imperialism are forcing Roosevelt to come out into the open and show his hand as the representative of the ruling class. Not only Roosevelt — but all the forces inside and out of the labor movement are showing their colors.

Roosevelt's first use of troops is against unarmed striking workers. With these "brave" lads, fresh

from their duty in China protecting "our" interests, the backbone of the strike was broken. The entire bourgeoisie, from the most reactionary to the most "liberal", gleefully supported Roosevelt's "confiscation."

As stated in the last issue of the FIGHTING WORKER, the Bowron administration was "pro-labor" only during the election campaign. At the strike the Los Angeles police, headed by Bowron himself, deliberately precipitated violence by trying to escort a few hundred scabs through the picket lines. Tear gas bombs were tossed at weaponless workers. When they were tossed right back, and the wind shifted, Bowron pleaded that it was all a "mistake". But this deliberate provocation gave

the army, walking a short distance away, the excuse to march in and "quell a riot".

How sincere was Bowron's apology is indicated by the new attempt of the L. A. police chief, under direct orders from Bowron, to frame strikers on California's criminal syndicalist law, because he "heard talk of taking over the plant by pickets". This is the mayor who was elected with the support of the CIO, AFL and "Communist" Party May 6.

The leadership of the A.F.L., before and during the strike, set themselves up as scab-herders prepared to execute any order the bosses might give them. This was to be expected. But the scummiest job was that undertaken by Frankenstein, U.A.W. - C.I.O. head, who attempted to demoralize the workers, appealed to the "public" against them, justified the use of troops against peaceful pickets, and threatened to import scabs from all parts of the country. In this treachery (even for him), he was supported by Philip Murray, R. J. Thomas and their clique. After the event, Murray has the gall to issue a statement against the use of troops.

Until Frankenstein's radio broadcast condemnig the strike, the Stalinists had played along with him, as with Thomas and Murray. At the strike demonstration the day before the troops came in, they quoted profusely from John L. who himself did not voice one objection either to Frankenstein's or the army's strike-breaking

The Stalinist leadership evaded the main issue of the situation —

the imperialist war preparations under the guise of "defense" — the issue that all the anti-strike forces stood upon. On this crucial issue the Stalinists have mush in their mouths, not knowing how Soviet Russia will line up in the war. Logically, therefore, the C.P. leadership declared themselves in favor of "national defense", and even welcomed the army if the army "would grant the just demands of the workers". A bitter struggle is now ensuing in the CIO between the pro-Roosevelt patriots and the pro-Stalinist patriots, the latter having hegemony over a goodly section of militant CIO workers.

There can be no argument with the genuine militancy demonstrated by the North American workers. They fought hard but they lost. But they, and the workers who followed and supported their struggle, learned important lessons.

The negotiating for the rank and file must always be in the hands of the local shop stewards over whom the men can exercise democratic control. Proofs of the necessity of a militant picket line at all times was the desperate struggle of the bosses and their agents to break that line.

Hereafter the workers must be prepared to deal with the army. For the minimum of self-defense the union must organize trained workers defense squads. With the threat of the use of the army broad sympathetic strikes should be called for, as an elementary protest measure.

In the North American strike the support of the other CIO unions was mostly on paper. Sympathetic strikes must be prepared beforehand, for the right to strike of ALL UNIONS is jeopardized by the use of troops against one union.

At the same time the labor movement must undertake a campaign for better conditions and democracy within the armed forces and thus win the support of the men.

Roosevelt felt that the aircraft strike was the time and place for a major blow to outlaw strikes in this country. So far he has succeeded, but only in one battle; there are many more to come.

In the strike the capitalist class gave thousands of young militants an object lesson in Marxism. They can begin now to see the true meaning of "national unity" — servile starvation for the workers, so that the exploiting class can reap huge profits out of this war for plunder. They have seen the state machinery in action — its army, its President and soft-spoken politicians, its Mediation Board which stalls for time till the bosses can prepare their resistance, its draft board, its trade union bureaucracy, and all the rest. The state is the executive organ of the ruling class, said Marx and Lenin. This profound thought will now begin to acquire meaning to these workers out of their own experience. In this sense the strike has not failed.

Union Militants Oust Racketeers

(Continued from Page 1)

REVOLT AGAINST TEAMSTERS AFFILIATION

Recently the "leaders" of the Grocery Local (all of whom are paid stooges of the company) attempted to liquidate the Local into the Teamsters, who can be depended on to crush any rank and file militancy. Altho the membership voted two to one against liquidation, the fakery was able to go through with their plans.

But at this point the revolt started. A new militant, progressive group sprang up, the membership was roused to action, and new temporary officers were elected.

The Teamsters have gotten 2 of the leaders of the revolt fired and have refused any permission that the workers maintain an autonomous Local. William Green, president of the A.F.L. has sustained the local bureaucracy of the Teamsters. At a meeting held Monday, June 16th, therefore, the workers decided to become an independent Union and to petition for a Labor Board election.

CALDWELL REVOLT

The retail clerk's situation is similar, but has gained more publicity. Racketeer Max Pollack, alias Max Caldwell, signed up the Grocery chains; A & P, Hillmans, Kroger's, National Tea and independent owners, into his illegally chartered Local 1248. For four years Caldwell collected \$2 a month (with a 5 cent fine for each day the dues were paid late), with the help of the managements and the corrupt leaders of the local and national AFL.

Finally, however, workers in the Irving Park store of Hillman's refused to pay dues to the gangster leaders. Five were fired, but the temper of the workers in the store was so threatening they were reinstated in a few minutes.

As we go to the press, the workers are suing for an accounting of the \$910,000 they paid in dues and are preparing a strong organizational campaign.

William Green's special emissary, Frank Fenton, and C. C. Coulter, head of the Retail Clerk's International, were forced to "suspend" Caldwell and promise a full examination of the books and a new election — in reality, a stall for time to get control of the situation.

Prominent in both cases is Francis Heisler, labor attorney, who is handling all legal aspects for the workers, and who is giving his time without any retainer fees.

POLITICAL MACHINE TIE-UP

Caldwell is a member of the Frank (the "enforcer") Nitti gang. Defending Caldwell is Harold Marovitz, brother of a state senator, friend of Jake Arvey, democratic political leader, and friend of democratic mayor Kelly. Opposing the Kelly-Arvey-Nitti alliance of politicians and gangsters are States' Attorney Courtney, the Teamsters' gangster officials and the politicians and business forces behind them. McCormick's Chicago Tribune is their organ.

Although the workers must take advantage of this fight for publicity, etc., it would be fatal to depend on any of these crooked politicians and gangsters to give them anything. They can depend only on their own independent action, their own rank and file control, their own organizing campaign.

In both unions, there is some talk of going CIO but the National Tea workers have taken a correct attitude. Their main emphasis is on a democratic, autonomous union, CONTROLLED BY THE BANK AND FILE. No matter where they go, if they can get that they will have a strong, effective union.

Stamm Group Folds Up

The past year has seen the dissolution of the Lovestoneites, Fieldites, and several other groups. Latest to capitulate is the 'Revolt' group. This organization having no sound political basis for its existence from the very beginning, functioning as a tail to the trade union movement, has taken stock of itself and at a conference held the end of May, decided to liquidate.

The capitulation of these groups — even before the U.S. has fully entered the War — represents the effect of the high pressure War Drive by American Imperialism. They reflect the Right shift in the labor movement and add to its demoralization.

The fate of these groups indicates the difficulties facing revolutionary forces today. Lack of a Marxist program that would have given them backbone was a big factor in their disintegration.

Rather than join a revolutionary Marxist organization and continue the class struggle, they simply, like the Arabs, "fold their tents and silently steal away."