

THE FIGHTING WORKER

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Jim Crow Army Beats Down Negroes

8 POINTS HIDE WALL ST. AIMS

Shrouded in "secrecy", preceded by all manner of rumors and reports, Roosevelt's meeting with Churchill, was revealed to a breathless world with a sensationalism and propaganda technique worthy of Hitler himself.

If the official "8 points" issued after the meeting were all the con-

Out of the Horse's Mouth

"Whatever the outcome of the war, America has embarked upon a career of imperialism, both in world affairs and in every other aspect of life here... At best, England will become a junior partner in a new Anglo-Saxon imperialism, in which... the United States will be the center of gravity. Southward in our hemisphere and westward in the Pacific the path of empire takes its way... the scepter passes to the United States. All this is what lies beneath the phrase "national defense."

Virgil Jordan, of the National Conference Board, in an address before the Bankers' Association, December, 1940.

ference produced, it could truly be said that the mountain had labored and brought forth a mouse. As a series of pretentious and meaningless words they rank with the 14 points of the last war — except that the plagiarism is a very poor job indeed.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Such empty, high-sounding phrases are so much eye-wash to hoodwink the masses. They are necessary for the imperialist

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For Negro - White Unity An Editorial

The letters published in this issue paint a bitter picture of the accumulating grievances and deep resentment against the inhuman treatment of Negro soldiers at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, and in the surrounding countryside.

A few weeks ago Fort Bragg, N. C., was the center of the reign of terror in which Negro private Edward Turner and a white M. P. were killed, and 7 others wounded.

In Ft. Meade, Md., 2 Negro conscripts were kicked out of the camp theatre for refusing to sit in the Jim Crow section of the theatre — the first six rows.

At Fort Custer, Michigan, after having received permission and invited down their families and friends, the conscripts were put to work and kept busy 18 hours a day, making the trip of many relatives and friends a source of fruitless financial outlay and keen disappointment and resentment.

ABUSED AND BEATEN

In the army set up to fight for "democracy", the Negro conscripts are cursed, abused, beaten and robbed by the white M. P.s. Unarmed and unable to resist they are hounded and bulldozed by men armed with sawed off shotguns and revolvers.

A shameful fact is that many northern whites are caught up in this atmosphere and imbued with the Nazi theory of "white supremacy".

It is worse outside the camps.

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White Exploiters Plan Race Riots

Negro Soldiers Write of Inhuman Treatment

Camp Robinson, Arkansas,
94th Engineers,
August 14, 1941.

THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

This letter is being written in behalf of myself, and the thousands of other Negroes inducted into the army of the U.S.A., by the Selective Service Act, as part of the National Defense Program.

To this measure, there is no outward objections or criticism because as Americans, we feel the responsibility of protecting America against any form of aggression, or any attempt of in-

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AFL-CIO UNITY MOVE LIKELY

The imperialist war overshadows everything. A few months ago, before Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, the Stalinists in America were in a bloc with John L. Lewis to take over the CIO leadership from Phil Murray and Sidney Hillman. The Stalinites and Lewis were "against" the Roosevelt war program, while the latter two gentlemen went down the line with dear old Franklin.

The FIGHTING WORKER pointed out at that time that the convention of the Auto Workers would be the testing ground for which side would win.

But times have changed. The Stalinites no longer speak of FDR as a war-monger, since he pledged

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Smash Jim Crow!

FEAR RACE RIOT, SAYS SOLDIER

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ward destruction, by foreign agencies.

However, I do have a complaint that merits consideration and adjustment. At present, my unit, from Fort Custer, Michigan, is maneuvering at Boughton, Arkansas. We pitched camp here Sunday, August 10, 1941.

During the short time we have been stationed here, several incidents have occurred that are provoking and disgraceful to a country that boasts of freedom and democracy.

PRESENCE RESENTED

By authority of our commanding officer, J. M. HARMAN, Major, we were given permission to go to Gurdon, Arkansas, about four (4) miles from our camp site. Upon arrival in Gurdon, we immediately proceeded to the Negro district, realizing the customs of the south, in regards to Negroes. Nevertheless, our presence in Gurdon seemed to have been resented both by the white military police and the citizens.

The white military police restricted the Negro soldiers to certain streets in Gurdon, and the citizens tried to run us down with their automobiles, while on the highway and when crossing the city streets. As a result, disorder and a near riot was instigated. The mil. police abused and threatened the colored soldiers with revolvers. Violence was prevented through the clever diplomacy of our officers, also white. Gurdon, Arkansas, was immediately placed on the "off limits" list and Prescott, Arkansas, about twelve miles away, was selected as a suitable town for Negro soldiers.

As a result of the incident in Gurdon, Arkansas, the State police, on the following night, maliciously attacked one (1) of our guards, while walking post at camp. After abusing him, they remarked, "don't let us catch any

of you niggers in town or on the highways."

TENSION HIGH

On Wednesday night, August 13, 1941, in Prescott, Arkansas, the State Police again maliciously attacked and openly fired upon Negro soldiers. Consequently, tension is high, and trouble is likely to start any moment due to such abuses of Negro soldiers.

A soldier is a soldier and there is no feasible reason why Negro soldiers should be constantly mistreated and white soldiers be allowed to run free and enjoy their spare time in any way he chooses.

It is absolutely urgent that some measure be taken to correct this situation in order that serious trouble may be prevented. I feel that your organization will give this matter due consideration, and will investigate the charges that I have made.

This letter was not written due to racial prejudice nor bias, but as a true account of what is happening to the Negro soldiers in the South.

Thanking you for your time and consideration, I remain,

Thou Shalt Not Kill

Reverend Prusinski, pastor of the St. John Cantius Roman Catholic church, last week sprinkled holy water on a monoplane at the Rubinkam airport in Chicago. The plane is to be used to train Polish-American workers to bomb and machine gun their fellow workers in the war. If women and children get in the way, that's their lookout. As the pastor said: "God is on our side".

BUILD THE WEEKLY FIGHTING WORKER

I am enclosing \$_____ for a sub_____ bundle order _____ contribution_____ to the **Fighting Worker**.

Name _____
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City _____

LETTERS FROM CAMP ROBINSON

(Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from two personal letters from the same camp, and turned over to us for publication).

94th Engineers,
Camp Robinson, Arkansas,
August 13, 1941.

Hello Honey.

Here's hoping that my letter will find you very much more comfortable and contented than I am...

We have been close to having a race riot, and right now the tension is so great until something might happen any minute. Monday night a bunch of colored soldiers went into town, and had a run in with the white military police. The white police were armed, and our boys were not... Last night the state police caught two of our boys sitting outside the camp and beat them up badly, then left word that they had better not be there when they came through...

Its hell when a white soldier can do anything he pleases to do, and a colored soldier is forbidden to walk on certain streets. The boys are not going to stand for it. Hell may break loose at any time...

August 15, 1941

...Its hell down here...The white hill-billies surrounded the camp yesterday, armed with shot-guns and pistols and told us we had better not be there when darkness falls. They also beat up an officer, who had a platoon of colored soldiers out on the highway and told him to get those "niggers" back in the woods where they belonged. We immediately packed up and moved our camp about 7 miles farther up the road. However, that does not help much as they wont let us leave the camp site...

We have no ammunition whatsoever, therefore there is nothing we can do but hope and pray that they dont attack us before we can manage to slip away from here...

TURN THE IMPERIALIST WAR
INTO A CIVIL WAR

The Fighting Worker

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**For Negro - White
 Unity**

(Continued from page 1)

The southern exploiters, working on the line of divide and rule, have taught even the "poor whites" to hate the sight of a Negro in uniform.

No wonder many Negroes are saying: if we have to fight for democracy let's start right here at home — against our own boss class. No wonder so many go "over the hill". Out of 1100 in the 94th Engineers, 74 were officially reported to have gone AWOL. And this is only one camp!

The demand for an Army investigation by the pot-bellied brass hats is hopelessly futile. These tragic racial outbreaks are directly traceable to the vicious Army segregation policy. The brass hats will "investigate" for months behind closed doors. They are responsible for the Jim Crow policy in the first place.

The boss class politicians make pious speeches about the Negroes' right to equality. The latest of these hypocrites is Paul McNutt, Federal Social Security Administrator. Roosevelt, commander in chief of the armed forces, says he never even heard of Jim Crow in the army (!), and sets up paper committees to do something about it — hush it up, that is.

USO MAY SATISFY STALINISTS

Nor will the U.S.O. be of any help. Organized and controlled by the boss class flag wavers, it is Jim Crow from the start to fin-

Our Main Enemy Is At Home —
 Our Own Boss Class

**Wall St. Seeks
 World Rule**

(Continued from page 1)

"democracies" to line up the cannon fodder for the "just" war.

Meaningless as the points are, in the eyes of the world Roosevelt has put the U. S. forward as the ally of Britain for the "final destruction of the Nazi tyranny". Willy-nilly, the US masses are pushed another step closer to the war. To accomplish this Roosevelt went over the heads of the American people, Congress, violated his oath of office and his constitutional duties. This is democracy in action.

But no one will believe that Frankie and Winnie met just for this purpose or to issue such a statement. Their real program and decisions were not stated, but as in the case of the Brenner Pass meetings of Hitler and Mussolini, it's not hard to discern their main lines.

WHAT WAS NOT STATED

In the Pacific and the Far East

ish. At the best it will set up some inadequate, miserably furnished recreational centers. This may satisfy the Stalinist Party leaders who are for the war at all cost and to hell with the Negro people. But it wont satisfy the Negro outcasts.

Something must be done. But to be effective and meaningful it must be done by the united militant action of the working class itself — Negro and white, in industry and in the army. The soldiers with the aid of the labor movement must set up their own rank and file welfare committees, on the basis of equality and without discrimination. This is the first step. It will have the full support of all honest and courageous elements in the working class.

CHICAGO MEETINGS

League Speakers every Saturday
 night at 8 P. M.
 Plebian Forum:
 34 South Peoria

the problem is the isolation and defeat of Japan preferably by the latter capitulating, if necessary by war. Aid to the Soviet Union was agreed upon—enough to continue her resistance, but not enough to help her win against the Fascists. They agreed to wring concessions out of Stalinism against the Soviet Union and the danger of proletarian revolutions. They agreed to try to render ineffective any French move to place their navy or colonies at the disposal out of the African area if possible; to prepare now for the use of the of the Nazis; to keep Germany stored-up American dollar to help fight the developing social revolutions that will arise out of the imperialist war.

Behind the conference and the 8 points lies the aim of the US Imperialists to redivide the world to their own needs, with Britain playing at best the role of a junior partner, possibly as America's policeman in Europe.

**Stalinism Supports
 FDR's New World
 Order**

Support of Wall Street's imperialist plans for a new world order dominated by American imperialism is a cheap price for the cynical Stalinist bureaucrats to pay in return for FDR's promise of aid. Isvestia, government organ, gave unstinting approval to the 8 points, seeing in them a "united front of peoples standing for freedom and against enslavement by Hitler's Fascist armies." Unfortunately, not only Stalinism, but the Soviet Union and the working class of the world will pay dearly for this criminal bootlicking of imperialism.

**DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION A-
 GAINST WORLD CAPITALISM
 AND ITS STALINIST AND
 OTHER AGENTS**

CHICAGO CLERKS GO CIO

Chicago, Aug. 20:— After picketing William Green for his stalling tactics and his condoning of racketeering in the AFL, 1,000 Chicago retail clerks, who ousted Max Caldwell, member of the Frank Nitti mob, from their Union 12 weeks ago, applied for a charter in the CIO last week.

The AFL leadership answered this step by a raid on the new Union. In collusion with the Hillman Company, large grocery chain, the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers — a union notorious for its slashing of wage scales, chartered a small group of company managers and immediately gained "recognition" from the company.

LEAFLET BLITZKRIEG

The rank and file, acting under the leadership of the Temporary Working Committee, answered this raid with a leaflet blitzkrieg and a highly successful meeting of over 500 Hillman workers who voted to follow their leadership into the CIO.

A large factor contributing to the Butcher's raid was the lack of any real aid or even substantial promises from the CIO leadership. Some of the leaders of the Working Committee, fearful that the CIO would not give the workers any help, fell into the company trap and joined the Butchers' Union. But after seeing the company intimidate people into joining this stooge outfit, they swung back.

A concentrated organization drive is under way by the new Union, Local 329 of the CIO.

INVARIABLE LESSONS

In the eleven weeks of struggle the workers have learned from close experience the tie-up between the gangsters who have usurped the Unions and the political machines. The AFL bigwigs have fiercely resisted any further exposure of their gang-rule. Only last week, according to Caldwell, he was offered his job back, despite the fact that he stole hundreds of thousands from

New Try At AFL-CIO Unity Likely

(Continued from page 1)
ed "aid to Russia". In fact Roosevelt is now the democratic "dove of peace" and Stalin himself praises him sky high. The result therefore is that the Stalinists have withdrawn their opposition within the CIO, leaving Mr. Lewis for the moment high wide and dry.

STALINISTS HAVE MUSH IN MOUTHS

The auto convention brings all this out. Deserted by the Stalinists cringing before the slashing Hillman-Reuther attacks, the Lewis-Addes forces put up only a weak fight and sold out even that. The unprincipled deal between Addes and strikebreaker Frankenstein further confused the issues before the convention.

Throughout, the Hillman-Reuther forces took the offensive — for a clear cut reactionary program of tying the auto workers and their union to the war program, the OPM, and the whole Wall Street regimentation drive. Militant rank and file sentiment, bursting forth on dozens of occasions, nevertheless found itself without organization or leadership.

All of which means that Hillman and Roosevelt are again in a position to organize pressure for unity with the AFL. Hillman

the Union treasury.

While the CIO has at least given the clerks an opportunity to have their own Local, the leadership of the Working Committee must be clear in its appraisal of the CIO leadership. They will get from these people only what they force out of them. Even their own new International has been long on promises but short on actual aid.

If the Chicago retail clerks have learned the lessons of their 11 weeks struggle for class struggle policies and rank and file control, they will be well prepared for the future.

(and Murray) are now strongly in the CIO saddle. They are known as staunch Roosevelt supporters and Hillman especially is for AFL-CIO unity.

With William Green slated — according to certain advices — to quit his post as prexy of the AFL this October, the road towards unity seems smooth indeed — providing no further obstacles come in Roosevelt's path.

WORKERS NEED DIFFERENT UNITY

As far as the workers are concerned the unity of the Hillman machine and the AFL leadership might bring a little relief from jurisdictional squabbles. On the other hand, such a unity would tie the workers a hundred times more firmly to the war chariot.

Rank and file militants today still have an opportunity to maneuver one group against the other and to gain some democratic concessions. With a solid, war-minded bureaucracy in a new "unified" federation, however, things might be considerably different.

The trade union movement needs UNITY, but not the unity of its misleaders into a stronger machine. It needs honest unity on a militant, democratic, and anti-war program. It needs unity under a new rank and file controlled leadership.

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and Picket