

# THE FIGHTING WORKER

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## Wall Street - London Dominate Moscow Conference

### REVOLT GROWS IN EUROPE

Revolt against Nazi domination in occupied Europe is on the march. With worse conditions coming during the winter months, the fascist will find it increasingly difficult to keep in check the rising tide of working class opposition.

The unrest and revolts in Norway have not been and cannot be eliminated by terrorism and brutal suppression. The general strike has been crushed, but the struggle will be driven underground, where it will feed on itself and grow.

#### DEAF EARS

Pétain's appeal to occupied France to stop its opposition to Nazi terror will fall on deaf ears. By this time all Frenchmen should know that Pétain is and has been a fascist-minded senile fool. Terror will not avail to stem the tide of opposition, nor will appeals to national unity and patriotism. The working class faces oppression,

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After much publicity, the Moscow conference to "organize aid to the Soviet Union," is finally about to take place, with the reported arrival of the American and British missions in the USSR.

For a real understanding of the conference some important facts must be remembered:

1—The conference was initially called to offset the diplomatic slap implied by the exclusion of Stalinist representatives from the Roosevelt - Churchill sea conference.

2—The demands upon S.U. that will be made in exchange for "aid," have undoubtedly already been agreed upon by Roosevelt-Churchill, and their various representatives, in numerous conferences.

3—Altho the USSR is hard pressed, the main British mobilization of military forces is in the Near East (Persia sector). The only reply to the Stalinist pleas for opening up a western front has been sporadic air raids on Germany, and small shipments to the SU of airplanes and tanks. After 4 months of war, Britain finally sent

the first tank to the USSR last week.

4—The fake British "aid" has already resulted in open friction between Churchill and the British Stalinists, as revealed in the Churchill - Gallacher parliamentary dispute.

Harry Pollitt, at a recent mass meeting of "17,000," discussed the subject of the dispute (a statement by the British aviation minister expressing the wish to see **both** Soviet Union and Germany defeated). He said: together with statements by Lord Lemoyne and Clement Atlee (Laborite), it constituted "not an isolated episode or 'indiscretion' but a test of government policy." A policy "which can be summed up as limited assistance to Russia, rejection of military action and ceaseless study of the whole problem."

The Moscow conference will bring more important concessions by the hard pressed and desperate Stalinists in return for more **promises** of material aid.

The whole policy, inside and outside the Soviet Union, must be (Continued on page 3)

### RANK AND FILE MINERS FIGHT CHECK-OFF

Buried in the pages of the capitalist press is the story of one of the most promising and heartening developments in the union movement.

Over 20 thousand hard coal miners in Pennsylvania have gone out on strike against the union bureaucrats' increase in dues and special assessments from \$14 to \$24.

In spite of John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers' having closed shops and check-off agreements throughout most of the area, the men have countered to the bureaucrats' ultimatum to go back to work by spreading and extending their strike movement.

Rank and file revolts against the racketeering, thuggery, and cynical high-handed disregard of the workers' needs and rights are occurring in many

sections and unions. In Chicago the Hillman workers, now on strike against the company, provide an outstanding example of the rank and file ousting racketeer Caldwell, and taking back control of their union. The Chicago laundry workers are now making the same fight.

**These revolts, as yet scattered and isolated to a few instances, are signs of the new trend among the rank and file in the labor movement. They portend the coming age of the movement but full maturity will be achieved only with the acceptance of class consciousness as a vital and living part of the working class, not merely in resolutions and pretty programs, but in practice.**

(Continued on page 4)

## JINGOES RULE LEGION MEET

Behind the usual shenanigans and horse-play, the American Legion convention in Milwaukee was the most saber-rattling and war-like in the history of the organization.

The conventions of the Legion have never been noted for democratic procedure, but this one struck a new low in bureaucratic steam-rolling of policies and resolutions.

### STAGED DEMONSTRATION

The convention was little less than a staged demonstration for all-out, open involvement in the war. Roosevelt's office boys had things well in hand from start to finish.

Among those invited to address the gathering were Secretary of Navy Knox, civilian defense head LaGuardia, Paul V. Mc Nutt, federal security director, etc.

Raymond J. Kelly, past national commander, is a La Guardia payroller; Captain W. Miller, former Legion general counsel, has a job under Mc Nutt; Paul Griffith, formerly in charge of the Legion's employment division, has a berth under the war department. The same is true of many others of the top officials.

The resolutions adopted reflected this "leadership". The main resolution practically declared war on Hitler, proposed to send troops anywhere — "remove all geographic limitations on the movement of forces", and pledged full support to the war drive.

Other resolutions called for outlawing "communism as a party", and for cancellation of citizen rights of naturalized citizens engaged in "subversive activities."

To the reactionary Legion heads, strikes and union activity in the war industries are "subversive".

William Green of the AF of L was put forward as the spokesman for labor, to help keep the rank and file in line. He pledged full support to Wall Street's "freedom of the seas" policy and to the entire war program.

A minority report was given at

## WHY DISTURB THE DEAD?

Since the fate of the Soviet Union affects so greatly the struggle for world socialism, why hasn't the Second (Socialist) International spoken out in the U.S.S.R.'s defense? The question is asked in the August issue of THE PLEBS, journal of milk and water socialism, issued by the British Council of Labor Colleges.

### LABOR PARTY SOCIALISM

True, the British Labor Party has spoken its piece, (echoing Churchill), but PLEBS wants the "International" to speak. They refuse to believe it is dead, and call for the exiled executive and deputy executives from 8 countries now in England, to organize an "emergency meeting".

They ask, why does the British Labor Party hesitate to call such a meeting? (Could it be that the British Labor Party is not interested in internationalism?)

We suggest that the "stinking corpse", as Luxemburg aptly termed the Second International, be allowed to rot in peace. It has caused enough damage to the world working class.

The need of the world proletariat is not a revived "International" of Socialist Patriots, nor an "International" of Stalinist betrayals, but a new revolutionary international, based on the principles of Marxism — a new Communist (4th) International.

the convention, but it was not directed against the jingo position of the majority. It attacked aid to Russia in the spirit of Wheeler-Lindbergh.

### RANK AND FILE NOT HEARD

There were no reports from the rank and file Legionaires who are confronted by the same economic problems as all other non-Legion workers. The rank and file member can register his protest against imperialist war only by tying himself up with the labor movement, participating in the fight for democratic rights of the workers in the shops, mines and mills and in the struggles which are certain to come.

He can make himself felt only by raising these questions in his local post, and rallying his fellow Legionaires to this program.

The voice of the rank and file Legionaire will be heard not in the convention halls, but in the day to day fights against the evils which flow from a decadent capitalist system.

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NEWS**  
Capitalism Under Fascist  
Germany  
Workers' Councils and  
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## Revolt in Europe

(Continued from page 1)

starvation and death from disease under Nazi rule,— the shortest and best way out is a struggle for freedom from capitalist oppression and terror.

In Italy the situation is growing worse. As a prisoner of German imperialism, with a food and fuel shortage, with no prospect for glory that the ruling clique can point to, the unrest from below is mounting.

Norway, France and Italy are high spots of what is happening in all parts of Europe. The whole of Europe is being undermined by the most devastating war the human race has ever seen.

Fascist dominated Europe will not be replaced by a capitalist democratic Europe. History has gone past that stage. American and British propaganda, supported by Stalinism, for a "democratic" Europe is a sheer fraud. The new post war Europe will be either socialist or totalitarian and dictatorial. That is the issue before the European masses.

Only the establishment of a United States of Socialist Europe can begin the work of reconstruction of a world that German, British, French, Italian and American imperialism have thrown into the flames.

## The Fighting Worker

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## How Shall the Soviet Union Defeat Fascism?

Sept. 25, 1941:— In spite of the heroic resistance of the Red Army and the people of the Soviet Union, the German imperialists continue to gain despite tremendous cost. Victory against the increased menace of Hitler's hordes is possible, but not on the policies of Stalinism with its internal sabotage and capitulation to the Anglo-American imperialists.

Victory against capitalist invasion of the Soviet Union through its fascist arm is possible on the following main line of march:

### WORKING CLASS PROGRAM

1. The re-establishment of **genuine workers, soldiers, and peasants soviets** in place of the bureaucratic stalinist control from above. The entire working class of the Soviet Union must be armed. The workers, through rank and file soviet democracy, must control the armed forces. The Stalinist and other imperialist agents must be kicked out. Revolutionary Marxists must organize their forces to re-establish a healthy workers' government to defend the Soviet Union in this hour of need.

2. The nationalist policy of Stalinism must be replaced by revolutionary internationalism of the working class. The only real ally of the Red Army is the working class of the world.

The reactionary nationalist theory of "socialism in one country" must be replaced by Lenin's policy of **extension of the October Revolution beyond the borders of the Soviet Union.**

3. The agreement and subordination to Anglo-American imperialism must be repudiated by the

Soviet Union. In its place is needed an appeal and aid to the workers and peoples of Europe to prepare for **socialist revolt** against Hitler's domination. Appeals must be made by press, radio, plane and every means possible.

4. The cancer of national and social - patriotism, of the support of American and British imperialism by the Stalinist parties must be burned out. In its place must be substituted Lenin's policy to turn the imperialist war into civil war, to fight **our main enemy — our own imperialist ruling class.**

On this basis the revitalized Soviet Union and its Red Army, workers militias and irregulars can, not only defeat Hitler and his armed might not only defeat invasion on "21 fronts", but can start a process for the overthrow of imperialism, and thereby bring peace and socialism to Europe and to the world.

## Moscow Conference

(Continued from page 1)  
completely changed to a revolutionary internationalist line. No more military alliances. Temporary and limited agreements for parallel action are worthwhile only if the SU really is able to take advantage of the inter-imperialist struggle, and is not used as a pawn by one or the other side. An end to Stalinist capitulations. **FOR A "WESTERN FRONT" OF REVOLUTION**

The Stalinist call upon the workers to support the imperialist governments must be opposed, by a struggle for independent working class action **against** the imperialists and their war.

The "western front" that the Soviet Union needs is not on the **imperialist** battlefield, but the front of **revolutionary action of the workers** in Hitler-dominated Europe and Great Britain, for a Socialist Soviet United States of Europe. This, and not any crumbs of aid the imperialists may give, can cancel out any and all gains that Hitler has made.

## ARMY TERROR PROTESTED

Chicago, Sept. 24: Last Sunday, at Forum Hall on the South Side, about 4 hundred Negro and white workers rallied to a meeting protesting the terror against Negro soldiers in the South.

The meeting opened with the arrival of 100 workers who marched from Washington Park Forum carrying protest banners and slogans and calling on all to join them.

### STALINISTS AND LIBERALS SABOTAGE PROTEST

The "liberal" Negro speakers upon whom the Workers Party people depended as a **"drawing card to attract the masses"** failed without exception to show up.

Mr. Townsend at the last moment discovered he couldn't keep his speaking appointment; Enoch Waters, editor of the Chicago Defender, and listed as Honorary Chairman, at the last moment went on vacation and failed to notify the Committee; Clayton Powell simply ignored the telegram of invitation.

Mr. Hastings, Negro stooge in the War Department, suggested we all listen to his apologetic broadcast as a substitution for his appearance.

The pro-war Stalinists advised Negro workers to **"spend the day at a picnic or a crap game, but not to support the protest meeting as it was opposed to 'national unity' and the defense of the United States against Hitlerism."**

At the meeting, the talks presented by William Avery, of the Waller Defense Committee, Henry Pelham, Attorney Ulysses S. Keyes, chairman William Harper (who substituted for Waters), and a representative of a striking grocery clerks union, were well received.

Resolutions of condemnation were sent to President Roosevelt, Governor Green, the Fair Employment Committee, and the War Department. A telegram supporting the fight against Jim Crow, sent by the Revolutionary Workers' League, was read to the meeting.

## For Rank And File Control of The Trade Unions!

### Hillman Strikers Push Fight

Chicago, September 23rd — Hillman workers are in the second week of their strike.

The Hillman company, after being forced out of its alliance with Max Caldwell, Nitti gangster, by the action of the clerks at its seven large grocery stores, are now cemented in a new bed-partnership. This time it is the Gorman racketeer machine in the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers.

It is against this second "Caldwell alliance" and for a \$24 a week wage scale for women and \$26 for men that 700 workers are out on strike.

#### MILITANT ACTION

This is the largest strike on Chicago's State St. in years. For the first time in years the militant action of these clerks has won the right to shout slogans to customers and to openly call for boycott. Boss law formerly outlawed these acts.

The strikers are using a number of methods of popularizing their strike. Hundreds of thousands of leaflets have been distributed girls in bathing suits picketed with signs reading "I can not buy clothes on Hillman wages." Two babies in baby carriages also augmented the picket lines one day.

An injunction against mass picketing has been ineffective in checking the strikers. Plans for large picket lines are complete for this week-end.

#### HITS UNDERWORLD ALLIANCE

The strike's political importance lies in the fact that it hits directly at the triple alliance between racketeers, employers and one or another of the three political machines in this area: the Republican, the Courtney-democratic, and the Kelly-Nash-New Deal machines. Mayor Kelly has injected himself into the present scene. The Meat Cutters belong to an opposing block of gang-

## Miners Fight Check-Off

(Continued from page 1)

Only then will we see the ousting of the racketeers and bosses' agents — not just in this or that union, but nationally and generally. Only then will we see the growth of rank and file militancy, democracy and control of their own unions. It is the task of all progressives to participate and aid to the fullest extent the growth of this understanding on the part of the labor movement.

It is a task that is inseparably bound up with the unrelenting fight against the imperialist war, against every attempt to get labor to sacrifice its own interests to a support of "national unity" with the capitalist exploiters.

#### FOR INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

The task ahead of the coal miners points out the road for ALL the workers. They must replace their pro-war, pro-boss leadership with a militant leadership elected from the rank and file. THEY MUST PUT THE UNION UNDER

sters and politicians.

The strike is also important because it is a beacon for thousands of others who are ready to follow the trail of the Hillman workers in ousting racketeers from their own Unions, mostly in the AFL.

The response of the CIO to the strike has been lethargic. A few dollars have been contributed and some small aid has been forthcoming on the picket line. But all camps of the CIO — the Hillman-Murray-Stalinite crowd, as well as the Lewis crowd — are too engrossed in their war - patriotism and plans for future unity with the AFL to really wage an effective fight against AFL racketeering.

The Hillman workers by their independent class action can become trail-blazers for a solid progressive movement within the labor movement that will oppose social-patriotism.

THEIR OWN CONTROL. They must make their officers and organizers responsible to their own needs, not those of the boss class.

There must be local autonomy, local control of funds, and no check off. This is the road through which real class conscious organization must develop.

Only when the workers do things for themselves, instead of having misleaders speak in their name, can they win these preliminary victories in the class struggle.

### GOONS ATTACK NATIONAL TEA PROGRESSIVES

Chicago, Sept. 23: Eight members of the the Progressive Grocery and Warehouse Workers Union (independent), distributing their "Union Builder" at the National Tea warehouse yesterday, were attacked by about 45 Teamster goons.

The goons waited till the truck drivers, members of local 705 of the Teamsters Brotherhood, and sympathetic to the Grocery union, had left.

One driver, who saw the slugging as he pulled out of the garage, stopped his truck and intervened.

#### "WHAT ANY DECENT WORKER WOULD DO"

This morning this same driver was fired from his job and suspended for two weeks from his local, pending a one-men trial.

When the business agent asked the driver, Mr. Busch, why he "intervened", he replied: "I did what any decent worker would do. I saw five thugs beating up one of my fellow workers."

The Chicago Teamster heads are closely tied up with States Attorney Courtney, whose special detectives conveniently manage never to be able to get enough "evidence" to put a stop to this slugging.