

# THE FIGHTING WORKER

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## Wall Street Cracks Down On Isolationists

### HEAT ON FOR AFL-CIO UNITY

Now that "our line's been changed again" by the Stalinists, the social - patriots of all stripes are consolidating in an iron ring designed to hem in all strikes and the class struggle.

As the AFL prepares for its national convention in Seattle, William Green has reiterated his opposition to strikes during the present war crisis and is sharp in his condemnation of those AFL Unions that engaged in jurisdictional strikes in the last few months.

Within the CIO this development is not quite so advanced. But the CIO State convention in Illinois, held in Springfield, September 19, 20 and 21, gives an inkling of what is to come.

#### CIO MEET GIVES PREVIEW

Seven hundred delegates at the convention gave approval to the Roosevelt War Policy. The only difference voiced with this social-patriotic resolution was the attempt of the Stalinites to put the name of the Soviet Union in the section advocating aid to the "democracies".

What will be the next step after this? Obviously — no strikes in the war industries. The Daily Worker has already carried a series of articles advocating class-peace and no strikes during the "crisis". This line is quite in evidence at the Stalinite controlled CIO Council meeting in Chicago where the major topic of conversation is support of the USO drive and rah-rah Roosevelt.

Within the CIO, at long last, differences are being resolved around social-patriotism. Within

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### NATIONAL UNITY WILL REGIMENT LABOR

The drive of the Roosevelt - Willkie - Wall Street war mongers to consolidate the nation behind their "all-out" efforts against the Axis has made considerable headway in the last few weeks.

The isolationists are rapidly losing ground. The bulk of the American ruling class forces are finally being forced into line behind the program of "national unity" for the imperialist war.

Many instances show the trend. The American Legion convention steamrollered through the administration line at the Milwaukee affair. Former isolationists like Senators Capper of Kansas, Dirksen of Illinois, Gillette of Iowa have swung behind the Administration foreign policy. The National President of the Young Republicans also joins the Morgan-Rockefeller war bloc.

#### LAWYERS, BANKERS FOR WAR

The Bar Association convention in Indianapolis blocked anti-administration resolutions and came out in support of the war policy of "defense". The Bankers' meeting in Chicago this week takes the same position.

Many former isolationists are using the reactionary anti-Semitic speech of Lindbergh as an excuse to join the band wagon of the war crowd. If this excuse had not happened along, they would find some other argument.

The consolidation of the capitalist class forces is making itself felt in the labor movement. The great bulk of the union leaders

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## Near East Pot Boils

The recent developments in the war area of the Near East are new warning signals to the working class of the world.

The pressure put upon Turkey by German imperialism and the counter-pressure of British imperialism and Stalinism create the objective conditions for a social explosion that will blow up existing class relations thruout Turkey, Arabia, Egypt, and that will inevitably extend to India, especially in view of the British-Stalinist maneuvering in Iran.

#### TURKEY A FOOTBALL

Turkey is plainly being used as a football by the various forces. It is of the utmost importance to the Nazis to control the Dardanelles and the Hellespont, since this is a key to the struggle both for the Mediterranean and the drive thru the Black Sea against the Soviets.

Needless to state, both the British imperialists and the Stalinists are doing all in their power to prevent such a development. The British cannot permit such a new thrust at their control of the Suez and the Mediterranean — which incidentally is a jumping off place for a new drive on Syria, Iraq, Iran, etc. The Stalinists cannot afford this blow to their great oil bases. Hence the immediate problem for both sides is the "influencing", i. e., occupation of Turkey.

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## JAPAN STALLS FOR TIME

There is talk in the air that the American imperialists' difficulties in the Asiatic area are to be settled by negotiations. That the present talks between the United States and Japanese governments are slowly but surely ironing out the differences to the satisfaction of all but Tokyo.

But this is just so much talk. Only a defeat of Germany very shortly, or the outbreak of social revolutions, can bring about a condition in the Far East that will allow for a "peaceful" settlement.

The destruction of men and materials has been too great, and the stakes are too high, for "appeasement" in the Orient. It is a show-down fight among the leading imperialists for the domination of the earth. Japan, in her advantageous geographic position, is going to take full advantage of these conflicts among her opponents.

At present, Japan is "negotiating" with the United States in an effort to stall for time to see how the wind blows in the gigantic struggle in the Soviet Union.

If Germany continues with her present successes, Japan is ready overnight to launch the invasion of Siberia. If the German war machine bogs down, however, and the Anglo-American imperialists swing into action against Hitler, Japan will continue to talk, providing it does not cost her too much materially.

### CHINA A PAWN

Roosevelt is not "appeasing" Japan. In reality, the Wall Street imperialists are trying to isolate her from the Axis. They hope to take the lion's share in Asia, leaving to Japan some gains at the expense of French imperialism and China.

America wants a wide open door in China. As far as Roosevelt is concerned, the "four freedoms" in China can go to the devil if he gets what he wants.

No matter which exploiter comes out on top in the dickering and struggle for the Asiatic loot, it will be to the detriment of the

# Bosses Unite for War

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and officials, aptly called the "labor lieutenants of capital", are pounding away at the working class.

### STALINISTS AGAINST STRIKES

The Stalinist ney turn to open social patriotism is already doing its damage in the workers' ranks. The Stalinists call for speeding up the workers in the war industries, and oppose strikes for better wages and conditions on the excuse of the need of "defense against fascism".

The financial and economic weight of the leading imperialists, with the billions at their disposal through their boys in Washington, and the pressure possible under the "unlimited national emergency" (priorities, price controls, etc.), enables them to buy out most of the opposition and to shut up the rest.

## THE WORKERS BE DAMNED!

Knudsen of the O.P.M. says that the workers must be ready to sacrifice more this winter in behalf of "National Defense." **Longer hours and poorer living near.**" says Knudsen.

Henderson, the man Dies painted as a "Red", tells us that we must refrain from asking for any more pay raises.

While speed-up and hours increase, while prices of the necessities of life jump sky high, we are told to be satisfied with our present low wages and to be prepared for more misery this winter.

**All because of the bosses' imperialist war.**

We have nothing to lose and everything to gain by fighting this national unity. In its place fight for less hours, more wages and the democratic rights of the workers.

Down with the imperialist war!  
For working class unity against the exploiters!

masses of the doubly exploited darker races. The workers and peasants of Asia have but one answer. They can not take sides with any of the exploiters. They must kick out all the imperialists and establish their own Workers' and Peasants' Governments.

The isolationists do not oppose imperialist war, they only oppose this particular war at this particular time. And as the FIGHTING WORKER continually stressed, the isolationists will turn into the worst war jingoes when it suits their interests.

With a greater measure of "national unity" among the capitalists being achieved, the stage is set for the fuller regimentation of labor. The labor movement can expect a general tightening up against its rights and hard won gains of free speech, free press, the right to strike, etc.

### FOR WORKING CLASS UNITY AGAINST NATIONAL UNITY

The labor movement faces a fight for its life as an independent working class force. To wage that fight effectively requires a clear understanding that the central issue is the struggle against the imperialist war. The totalitarian controls and the war time (and post-war, too) regimentation that the imperialist war lords desire arise out of the war itself.

The fight against war means the fight against capitalism, which is the cause of war. The isolationists are as reactionary as the interventionists. Both must be fought by the working class.

## CLASSES

Marxism and Science

Instructor — Harold Robbins

Trade Union Tactics and

Strategy —

Instructor — Sid Okun

Theoretical System of Marxism

Instructor to be announced

Dialectical Materialism

Instructor — Hugo Oehler

Write Martin Reese for information.

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## NEAR EAST RIVALRIES

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To British imperialism the Turkish problem spells an even greater ultimate threat. The loss of Turkey would weaken Britain's stronghold in Iran and leave a partially open door toward India. Moreover, the Stalinists are not disposed to give Britain an entirely free hand in these dealings.

After all, Stalinism recognizes Britain as an ultimate enemy, despite the series of capitulations by Stalinism against the interests of the working class. British-Soviet influences in Iran have already had several minor clashes. And these will inevitably grow sharper as Britain seeks to use Iran for the consolidation of its colonial empire. The colonial empire and the Soviet Union cannot be amicable neighbors, despite the protestations of Stalin.

### STALINISTS WILL CRUSH INDIAN REVOLUTION

The ultimate crisis in this whole picture involves the masses of India. The millions of oppressed Indians are being told to fight for the Roosevelt - Churchill eight point program of world democracy.

The Stalinists encourage this imperialist deception. Thus they are paving the road for a new and even greater sell-out of the colonial masses than they effected in China in 1925-27. They are virtually promising that they will aid Britain in suppressing the maturing Indian revolution, because the Indian revolution would divert Britain's forces from the struggle against fascism.

The problems of the workers in

## Workers Correspondence

### CHICAGO MAIL ORDER HOUSE

Chicago, Ill.

Oct. 2, 1941

Comrade Editor:

"Here today, gone tomorrow" might well be the epitaph to the three weeks job I recently held at the Chicago Mail Order House.

When I was interviewed I was told the job pays \$17.00 per week plus a "bonus" of \$2.00 or \$3.00 per week. I went to work in the warehouse — standing 8 hours on a stone floor. The boxes of merchandise come in so thick and fast that with the limited space and help there is literally no place to stand. Goods are continually being carted in and out. The place is a virtual bedlam.

When the warehouse workers talk to each other to break the monotony a Simon Legree or a straw boss or Mr. Williams, the big boss, looks needles or makes sarcastic remarks.

Occasionally Mr. Williams gives the men a pep talk when he feels that not enough work is being done. But mainly he depends on the "bonus" system to speed up the men. No worker, however, seems to know what bonus he should get or on what basis it is being figured. What with the bonus speed-up and overtime pay the average pay runs around \$22 a week.

Slowly the Mail Order workers are becoming union conscious. Learning that only a union based on struggle for better conditions, higher wages, elimination of speed-up can help them.

Comradely yours,

this conflict are complicated. To capitulate to the needs of Stalinism is not of aid to the workers' state. On the contrary, it plays into the hands of the enemies of the Soviet Union, both the fascists and the Anglo-American "democratic" capitalists. The workers must stand on their own feet in order to win over the colonial masses of the Near East for support of the growing revolutionary

### SOLDIERS DEMAND MORE PAY

Camp Grant, Ill.

Sept. 29, 1941.

Dear comrade editor,

It has been several weeks since I've had an opportunity to write, as we've been up to our ears in drill and fatigue work. But I thought you'd like a little news on what the doughboys are thinking. So here goes.

All the talk about more pay for the draftee seems to be so much eye-wash. As you know, I'm one of the lucky few who gets \$21 a month from my company for the first year. Practically all the others get nothing besides army pay. And you know most of us are watching the way prices are going up. It affects us just as much as the civvie. The things we buy at the canteen cost us more than before, but pay has not increased accordingly. So everybody is hollering for more pay! If only we had a militant soldiers' organization — what we could do.

Our OHIO club is getting pretty big now — you know — Over the Hill in October. While there are lots of boys who are only letting off steam — there appear to be plenty who mean business. Never in history was there such a phoney as our "one year" service. I suppose just before our 18 month period is up, they'll introduce a new bill, extending our time indefinitely. Boy — talk about wage-slavery. We slave and don't even get wages!

I see where the millionaire playboys are being sent to defense management training courses "open to everybody." Who but the wealthy have the opportunity to take ten weeks off the job for study and "betterment"? And our democratic army system — how democratic is it to limit the officers to the college boys and West Pointers? All this talk about equal opportunity is just the old boloney to us.

Well, you'll hear from me again pretty soon, if I keep out of the guard-house.

## For Rank and File Control of the Trade Unions!

# Throw the Hoods Out!

## LABOR BOARD ELECTION FOR NATIONAL TEA WORKERS

Mr. Victor Olander, sec'y-treasurer of the Illinois Federation of Labor, has suddenly discovered that there are certain unions dominated by thugs! He cries out in horror against this thorn in the side of organized labor and calls for a determined struggle against gangsterism in the unions.

This is almost funny. It is the same Olander who maintained a very discreet silence while the Hillman workers, organized in an AFL union, carried on a fight for months against the Caldwell gangsters, finally kicking them out and joining the CIO. Where was he then? Where was his aid? He was nowhere to be seen.

Yes, organized labor must throw the hoods out. But to rely upon the AFL or CIO bureaucracy or the capitalist courts to do it, is to wait until doomsday on the one hand, and to invite destruction of their union on the other. Only the organized, militant fight of the rank and file can oust these gangsters and build a strong, democratic union in its' place, as the Hillman workers showed.

### HOW ABOUT THE CHECK-OFF?

Olander's statement is a case of the pot calling the kettle black.

The worst form of gangsterism in both the AFL and the CIO is ignored by Olander. Bureaucratic control of the unions, the check-off system of collecting dues, initiations and assessments, class collaboration with the bosses to the extent of signing three year contracts with miserly increases in wages, is the worst form of gangsterism and must be rooted out of the labor movement.

### LABOR'S FIGHT

Workers everywhere must organize progressive groups in AFL and CIO unions on a class struggle program, to fight for democracy in the unions and for higher wages to meet the rising cost of living. This must be done now before the entrance of American imperialism into the war removes from us our most elementary democratic rights, the right to strike, the right of assemblage, etc. That moment must find us strong enough to withstand the attempts of the capitalist class and their agents, the AFL and CIO bureaucrats to throttle us.

On to a National Progressive Group in the AFL, CIO, and other unions.

THROW THE HOODS OUT!!!

# AFL - CIO Unity

(Continued from page 1)

the AFL the war question has become so engulfing that jurisdictional matters and other disputes with the CIO are now of minor matter. Only some unforeseen eventuality will now block unity of the two bureaucracies in the near future.

### WORKING CLASS UNITY VS. NATIONAL UNITY

**Such unity will in reality divide the workers in the trade Unions.**

The will of the overwhelming majority of the proletariat against the war will be censored while the self-appointed leadership blares

forth "labor's" support of the war.

The struggle for bread is more and more being resolved into a struggle between rank and file workers on one hand — and everyone else on the other. To fight for a wage increase "endangers national defense".

**The answer? Democratically elected shop stewards and factory committees!** As time goes on these organs will become far more important than the trade unions as such. The real struggles of the workers for bread and for freedom will come from here, not from the pie-card artists in the front offices of the Unions.

**September 29** — As the National Tea warehouse workers in Chicago prepare for their Labor Board election this Friday to determine whether Dan Tobin's Teamster goons or independent Local No. 1 shall represent them in collective bargaining, strange things are going on.

Sixty goons congregate each day near the warehouse, buy women workers coffee in the morning and terrorize men attempting to take union bulletins from the members of rank and file controlled Local 1.

### EIGHT WORKERS SLUGGED

Eight leaflet distributors have already been beaten by these beef squads, but the distribution of leaflets in front of the plant continues.

The Teamsters are putting out a bulletin called the "Truth Builder", which in reality should be known as the "Red Baiter". Sharpest attack in this mud sheet is being levelled at Francis Heisler, capable labor attorney, and five of the leading workers as "reds" and "Trotskyites".

The Teamsters, facing new losses in Detroit, Lansing, Minneapolis and elsewhere, are desperately trying to hold on in Chicago where they have their strongest base.

### ALL AGAINST WORKERS

The 660 National Tea warehouse workers may become, together with the grocery clerks and warehousemen of Hillman's (now out on strike) a rallying point for many thousands of honest workers sick of the Goudie-Courtney goon squads.

This danger has solidified the various companies, the whole AFL and the city machinery behind the Teamsters.

But Local 1 has countered these moves by mobilizing workers in the plant for leaflet distribution and defense.