

THE FIGHTING WORKER

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Neutrality Law Scrapped

In Washington this week will be enacted the final scene of that great hypocrisy known as the Neutrality Act. Thus the men of genius, whose brain child will go down in history as another hoax foisted upon a misled humanity, will assume their undertakers' roles.

From its very inception, the Neutrality Act had nothing in common with either neutrality or peace.

U. S. Imperialism used the Act to increase and consolidate its hold on the world market on the one hand, and on the other to stifle any attempt at freedom by the oppressed. In every corner of the earth the dollar angels played their rotten game. In China, Africa, Spain, South America, and in the present war, the course of events show this trend.

Notwithstanding the statements, past, present or future, by Roosevelt, et al, the Act has been used by the U. S. in its drive for war. No subterfuge was too indecent. Foreign registry of ships,

(Continued on page 2)

Soviet Masses Will Fight On

Hitler and Von Wiegand, the Virginio Gayda of the fascistic Mr. Hearst, consider that the Soviet Union is already crushed. They see arising in its place a new colony under German im-

perialist domination with junior partnership privileges for Japan.

It is also rumored that Anglo American interests are grooming Kerensky as "their" man, to be a counterweight to Axis plans after the subjection of the Soviet Union.

The imperialists are optimistic. But their plans and counter-plans are still far from being achieved.

The Soviet Union and the world working class are now paying bitterly for the reactionary Stalinist policy which over a period of years has grievously undermined Soviet economy and the Red Army, destroyed the workers initiative and their councils, purged and killed the revolutionary elements and the trained military leadership.

Unless the Siberian troops who are being rushed to Moscow's defense are better equipped and, especially, better led, Moscow and other key points will probably fall.

With the siege of Leningrad and Moscow, the most important industrial areas, supplies to the Red Army are seriously weakened. But even these major setbacks for the Russian masses do not spell victory for Germany.

The Soviet forces still have the Caucasus and Ural areas from where defensive action can be carried on.

The guerilla forces, the vast areas involved, the Red Army reserves, and the workers who will continue the struggle even after their cities are occupied, present heavy problems for Hitler.

There is another alternative to consider, apart from the Hitler Gauleiter and the Roosevelt-Churchill stooge. This is the ris-

(Continued on page 3)

"Good Neighbor"

As long as the dictators of the South American "republics" "co-operate" with Wall Street they can remain in office. But let one of them conflict with U.S. Imperialism and he won't last as long as a snowball in hell.

Such was the lesson of ex-president Arias of Panama, who became a pro-fascist and brutal dictator (what was he before?), when he refused to agree to the arming of U.S. ships under the Panama flag.

Overnight, Arias found himself deposed and exiled to Nicaragua.

The Good Neighbor policy is now carried on under a new flunkey.

Waller Death Sentence Upheld

Richmond, Virginia: The State Court of Appeals of Virginia on October 13th upheld the death sentence of Odell Waller, 24 year old Negro sharecropper.

Waller was convicted of murder by a lily-white Virginia planter jury for self-defense shooting of his white landlord in a dispute when the latter refused to surrender Waller's share of the crop.

It was disclosed at the examination that for several years all juries have been composed exclusively of poll-tax payers. Wal-

ler was not tried by a jury of his peers. But the Court of Appeals held that there is no **statute** which bars non-poll tax payers from jury service. The Court also could not see the argument of the defense that the sharecropper is not the economic equal of the landlord.

Neither were all the charges and proofs of prejudice in the trial taken into account. The only way these Bourbons would recognize prejudice would be if Waller were lynched in court — and then

(Continued on page 3)

HILLMAN STRIKERS REORGANIZE

Chicago, October 24, 1941. — Strikers of the 7 Hillman grocery markets, largest independent chain in this city, unable to continue their strike, are attempting to gain a favorable Labor Board decision on their various complaint cases.

The Hillman workers gained national prominence in June for ousting the Capone-Nitti gangster, Max Caldwell, from the leadership of their Union. Caldwell is charged with having stolen \$910,000 from their treasury. Subsequent to this move the Hillman company, which hired the gangster to keep wage conditions low, brought in a new gang of fakes: the AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers.

The strike, called September 13th, was a last desperate attempt to stop the Company from signing closed shop agreements with new Caldwells, behind the back of the employees.

The Company signed a contract with the AFL leaders granting a small wage increase (already negotiated by Local 329) and retroactive pay. These back pay checks loomed big to hundreds of badly exploited clerks. Together with 500 or 600 scabs supplied by the State Street Council and the AFL, the company was able to operate.

INADEQUATE SUPPORT

Yet the CIO leadership failed completely to rally to this crucial strike. The strikers were almost completely isolated, while 11 AFL Unions, the Company, the Grocery Association, and the State Street Council spent thousands in radio advertising, hiring scabs, sluggers, etc.

Nevertheless, the strike meeting of October 21st was one of the most enthusiastic for any defeated strike in a long time. The militant leadership of the Union intends to continue its work, to push its Labor Board cases and, if any help is forthcoming from the CIO top leadership, to organize the unorganized and disorganized grocery industry.

Smash the Conspiracy Frame up

The Minneapolis "seditious conspiracy" case, involving 28 workers, members of the Motor Transport and Allied Workers Union Local 544-CIO, and leading members of the Socialist Workers Party (Cannon Trotskyists) is now up for trial.

The charges are nothing but a smokescreen to cover the Roosevelt-Wall Street Government's plan to smash any opposition to war-time regimentation, capitalist profiteering, and imperialist military adventures abroad.

The decision by Federal Judge Sears on September 30 to deport Harry Bridges is a part of this same plan. **It makes no difference that Bridges supports the Roosevelt war policies, while the Trotskyites oppose them. The government is determined to crack down on any and every attempt to give militant leadership to the labor movement.**

The Minneapolis truck drivers union left the AFL to join the CIO, when Tobin tried to install a stooge leadership in control. Tobin, head of the Teamsters Interna-

tional, appealed to Roosevelt for help. The reply came with a blast against union raiding (shades of International Harvester, Ford, etc.), and an FBI raid of the SWP offices in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The bosses hope to use the trial as a weapon to arouse middle class "public opinion" in support of legislative attacks on the labor movement, and for a war-time military dictatorship.

STALINISTS GROVEL BEFORE REACTION

The Stalinists, despite Browder's continued imprisonment, and the new threat to deport their friend Harry Bridges, support the prosecution. Their only complaint is that the Trotskyists are not charged with being Fascist agents. They hope to appease the reaction that comes with imperialist war by grovelling before it, and by screaming "fifth column" against elements to their left, just as the Social - Democrats did against them during the period of the Hitler-Stalin Pact.

Unfortunately, despite the excellent possibilities for organizing a united front defense campaign, the Trotskyists have set up instead a "Civil Rights Defense Committee" as a main line of struggle. Such committees of prominent individuals, writers, liberals, etc., can be useful to help obtain publicity, financial and legal aid in a labor defense case, but at best can only play a secondary, auxiliary role.

The burning need is for a broad united front mass movement of workers organizations, unions, political and fraternal organizations, etc.

For a united front defense campaign based on workers organizations!

For the unconditional acquittal of the 28 workers!

For a powerful labor defense movement against growing reaction!

NEUTRALITY LAW

(Continued from page 1)
"limitations" of war zones, even assistance to the fascist arm of capitalism, as in Spain, are but a few of the methods used.

Now, when the hoax has outlived its usefulness, incidents are created, its funeral dirge is sung, and another scrap of paper is thrown into the wastebasket.

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Waller Death Sentence Upheld

(Continued from page 1)

it would be a moot question.

Waller dared to stand up and talk back to his landlord. He **dared to fight back**. That is his crime. For that crime, and for that example set to the millions of Negro and white farm workers and croppers, Waller must die. So say the white landlords and their courts.

The Richmond Waller Defense Committee is taking the case to the Supreme Court. The Committee, through its attorney, Thomas H. Stone, points out that as a matter of **fact**, not legal technicalities, both the grand and petit juries were actually composed of poll tax jurors exclusively.

FOR UNITED MASS DEFENSE

But the case cannot be fought on its legal aspects only. The only real defense of Waller is the mass pressure of the working class. The whole issue of the poll

tax and the appalling conditions of the share-croppers demand the widest possible publicity and struggle.

The Workers Defense League, which at first refused to enter the case, later did so on a dual basis. This socialist controlled group secured the support of several prominent liberals, tried to limit the defense to a purely legalistic basis, and flirted with Virginius Dabney, editor of the Richmond Times Dispatch, and his proposals for a "compromise" sell-out.

The support of liberals and collection of finances, and the most capable legal defense possible, is imperative. But these must be made a part of a broader defense, involving the labor movement, social and fraternal groups, Negro organizations and the like. It is to be hoped that the urgency of the situation will bring about a coordination of defense efforts along these lines.

Japan Prepares Siberia Attack

The hour to strike has arrived, but harried by the expensive "Chinese incident", beset by internal difficulties of a staggering nature, and worried about the plans of the United States, Japanese Imperialism still stands in confused indecision.

The new military government, it is true, is far more consolidated in its pro-German leanings than the previous cabinet. Very likely it will be pushed — both by German imperialism and by its own internal chaos — into a venture into Siberia. But unlike Germany, Japan must strike with caution.

JAPANESE PARADOX

The Nipponese position is a paradox. She sits astride the most lucrative continent for the imper-

ialists, as the only imperialist nation on that continent. Yet she cannot take decisive action to control the area, as — for instance — the United States has done on the Western Hemisphere, or Germany in Europe.

The reason is not hard to find. Japan is a small area with poor natural resources. Its industrial machine is a strange mixture. Highly developed factories (the textile mills, for instance, are far and away the most modern in the world, and its merchant marine ship for ship is equal to any other, exist together with the most backward small production in the world. Without sufficient oil, coal, iron and a dozen other natural resources, Japan's position amongst the imperialists is an unenviable one.

SOVIET UNION

(Continued from page 1)

ing of the Soviet masses to dispose of the Stalin bureaucracy and other imperialist agents and to re-establish genuine soviets and workers democracy. Such a political revolution will smash Anglo-American and German imperialist dreams alike.

The soviet masses having regained power, would be able to really defend the Soviet Union by **revolutionary working class action** within the Soviet Union, and on an international scale on the basis of extension of the October Revolution.

The soviet workers' most important and powerful allies are the workers of the world.

Long Live the October Revolution!

Defend the Soviet Union against world imperialism and its Stalinist and other agents!

For world working class action against the tri-pronged imperialist attack on the Soviet Union!

American and British Imperialism are feeding China enough supplies and credits to keep the Japanese military machine engaged in a stalemate and undermine home morale. Japan must either drive into Siberia (and possibly into the wealthy oil fields in the South) to gain much needed raw materials and save face, or she confronts revolt at home.

WAR OR REVOLUTION

But to drive forward is not so easy. The United States and Britain stand ready with their Navies and bombers to make a shambles of the Japanese mainland. Therein lies the dilemma.

It is a crime punishable with long prison terms in Japan to even THINK about Communism.

But social and economic forces are making a mockery of this law. A social revolution in Japan would pull the pivotal stone from under the whole imperialist fabric in the Far East.

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NATIONAL TEA FIGHT SHOWS NEED FOR WORKERS DEFENSE SQUADS

Chicago:— For the first time in many years the big AFL Teamster apparatus in Chicago was seriously challenged in a Labor Board election a few weeks ago.

Four hundred workers of the National Tea warehouse, who refused to be railroaded into the Teamsters Union and subsequently organized an independent Union, won the right to a Labor Board election.

The Teamster machine in Chicago rests on 65,000 members. It is the most powerful bureaucracy in the whole AFL. Allied with States Attorney Courtney's political machine in this city it is a law unto itself. Yet here for the first time a group of workers, sparked by only one or two capable leaders, challenged this set-up.

\$27,000 TO BREAK UNION

The Teamster leadership naturally fought against the right of the workers to an election. The National Tea Company, cooperating with these goons, fired 13 of the leaders of the Independent Union. When the Labor Board overruled the protests of the Teamsters and ordered an election anyway, the big machine swung into action.

In an eight day blitzkrieg campaign the Teamsters spent \$27,000 to smash the Independent group. Between 75 and 100 two hundred pound sluggers were stationed in front of the plant each day. Leaflets were put out by the Teamsters accusing the Union and its lawyer, Francis Heisler, of being dominated by "Trotskyites".

Eight workers giving out the bulletins of the Independent Union were badly mauled. And Teamster goons went around to the homes of National Tea workers threatening to wreck them and maim the children.

On the day before the election all this terrorism finally had its effect. Five of the Independent leaders went over to the goon dominated union, on the promise they would be re-instated with

back pay and the terror against them ended. The election the next day was won by the Teamsters 332 to 214.

LESSONS OF THE STRIKE

The National Tea warehouse fight has some significant lessons for workers everywhere. It proved, first of all, that HONEST, militant, workers can challenge an apparatus a thousand times as strong, providing they operate on a correct program.

Secondly, it re-emphasized more strongly than ever the crying need of the working class for workers defense squads to guard against both the goons and the police. Police "protection" was so efficient in this fight that while one thug was being pulled in he turned around and slugged a sec-

ond worker. And the Judge was so "impartial" that he dismissed all cases against the Teamster gangsters.

The third lesson was the need of a shop steward and factory committee movement in Chicago. Both the AFL and the CIO bureaucrats were oblivious to the problems of the National Tea workers. The AFL refused to charter them and the CIO gave promise of aid but came through with nothing. Only workers from the plants can sympathize and aid the struggles of fellow-workers elsewhere. Only stewards and militants direct from the factories will organize the defense squads and Councils necessary to carry on effective action against the united front of political machines, bosses and labor fakers.

Stalinists Ban Anti-Religious Publications

The anti-Roosevelt capitalist elements in the United States have seized upon the religious issue against Russia as their new trump card. They have placed the New Dealers on the defensive as trying to reconcile one of the key ideological conflicts of two opposing social systems.

But Roosevelt's pressure for "religious freedom" for the Greek Orthodox Church in Russia is a weapon to obtain political and social bases for "fifth column activities" in the soviet system, for establishing contacts with capitalist minded elements there, for undermining the Soviet Union from within.

The Stalinites, as was to be expected, have been quite ready to make the concession (they had cast out the Marxist position on religion in the days of the People's Front policy).

STALINITES SUSPEND ANTI-RELIGIOUS ORGANS

Indicative of their willingness to go further, in return for the promise of aid, is the discontinuance of

the anti-religious publications in the Soviet Union.

Scientific Marxists clearly state that "religion is the opium of the people". For centuries religion has been used by the ruling classes as a weapon to hold in check the exploited masses.

The Marxists will do all in their power by force of education to stamp out this "dark age" carry-over in man's mental make-up. The revolutionary party stands pledged to do all possible to develop a scientific approach as against the religious approach for mankind.

The Workers State, under workers rule, will do likewise, allowing the right of worship as long as the church stays out of politics and is not used for purposes that are detrimental to the workers councils and the workers interests.

DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION AGAINST WORLD CAPITALISM AND ITS STALINIST AND OTHER AGENTS