

# THE FIGHTING WORKER

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## Soviet's Power Stalls Nazi «Blitz»

### Stalin Burocracy's Nationalism Bar To Soviets' Victory

**June 6** — The Soviet-German war nears the end of a whole year of titanic conflict, with several myths shattered. The assumed similarity of the U.S.S.R. and Nazi Germany as "just two totalitarian powers"; the myth of Nazi invincibility; the myth of Stalin's "brilliant" leadership; and the bourgeois lie that Transition Economy is not a tremendous power. Despite the still dangerous position of the U. S. S. R., and the enormous handicap of the Stalinist false policies and burocracy, the fact remains that only the might of the Transition Economy of the Soviet Union has brought Hitler's "blitzkrieg" to at least a temporary halt, which has made the whole Fascist regime quiver to its roots.

The German imperialists' whole front from the Baltic down to the Crimea is stalled miles behind their front of last December. At

tremendous cost in men and material for both German and Soviet forces, Hitler is attempting to at least stalemate the northern and center, south-center (Kharkov area) fronts, while effecting a break thru into the Caucasus in the south. The recent bloody 3-week battle at Kharkov, with the Soviets slightly on the offensive, has forced Hitler to post-poner the "Spring offensive", to reorganize for a new attempt.

#### CAUCASUS IMPORTANT

The Caucasus at this time is more important for Hitler than the conquest of Leningrad and Moscow in the north. First, it has enormous oil resources, as in the Baku area in the East Caucasus, which are vital for Soviet army, navy and air forces, as well as for mechanized Soviet agriculture (tractors on the collective farms, etc.). Loss of this source of oil

would leave the U.S.S.R. with only the Ural area to fall back on as a last resort, which would reduce the whole Soviet defense to a near-guerrilla warfare level.

Second, conquest of the Caucasus would threaten and possibly lead to a break of the Soviet supply line from the United Nations, which passes thru the Near East (Persia). With the Caucasus in his hands, Hitler could by-pass Turkey on the north, and enter Persia, which is under joint Soviet-British control.

Third, it would be a long step toward his aim of effecting a juncture with Japan in India.

With these golden opportunities at arm's reach, Hitler nevertheless finds himself in the most difficult situation since 1933. The smashing of Soviet resistance is a question of decisive importance for his  
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#### EDITORIAL

## Waller Must Not Die!

The U. S. Supreme court has followed the Supreme Court of Virginia in rejecting the appeal of Odell Waller, young Negro sharecropper, for a new trial. Waller's attorneys entered the writs of certiorari, on the grounds that Waller was not tried by a jury of his peers, but by a jury selected from the list of poll tax payers. Neither court gave an opinion for their action.

There is no question that Waller's attorneys gave ample documentary proof, showing that Waller was tried for the self-defense shooting of his white landlord in a dispute over the division of crops, by a jury composed exclusively of poll tax payers. And,

furthermore, that it is the common practice in Virginia to select jurors only from those who have paid their poll tax.

#### SHARECROPPERS DISFRANCHISED

Waller is a sharecropper. He comes from an economic group that earns far less than \$600 a year per family. The Virginia law requires that all citizens coming of voting age, must pay a poll tax of \$1.50 before they can vote. This tax is cumulative for 3 years. The last election in Pittsylvania County (where Waller was tried) revealed that out of the 61,000 inhabitants, only 6,000 whites and 200 Negroes were eligible to vote. There were no sharecroppers on

the jury. The U. S. Supreme Court, the most "liberal" in the history of the country, has seen fit to ignore the above facts.

This can lead only to one conclusion: the U. S. Supreme Court has succumbed to the vicious arguments submitted in the Brief of the Attorney General of Virginia. In no way can the Brief of the Attorney General be construed as a legal argument. It urges the United States Supreme Court to deny the Appeal — because it would set a precedent for similar cases and would impair "national unity".

To quote from this thinly disguised document of class and race hatred: "It cannot be overlooked that propaganda of internal dissension and the activation

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## PACIFISTS WIN PAPER VICTORY AT SOCIALIST PARTY CONVENTION

The 23rd National Convention of the Socialist Party, held in Milwaukee over Memorial Day weekend, showed what a party of working-class internationalism is NOT.

Pacifism, religious and otherwise, battled with "socialist" "critical" supporters of the Second Imperialist War (Thomas, etc.). The result was a party stand so abstract in its pacifism and "socialism", that all wings of the party can interpret it as they see fit, in the name of "party democracy." On the one hand, (in the manner of a church convention held in another part of Milwaukee on the same day) the SP "does not give its blessings to this War". And on the other, they will "resist the imposition of fascism from within or without". Naturally, every class-conscious worker opposes fascism, but this point can only be a cover for **support** of the war, under the formula of "democracy against fascism."

### PRO-WAR VOTE

This is shown by the vote. While Thomas' resolution for critical support of the war got 50 votes, and Clement's pacifist opposition 52, the above got 105 against 15. Obviously, the pro-war elements understood the real meaning of the official party stand. It is a **verbal** concession to

the pacifists, which allows the pro-war forces to carry out **their** line, **in action**.

The change of the party leaders, Thomas, etc., from pacifist opposition to critical support of the war since December 7th found deep resentment among considerable numbers of the party, especially the youth. The convention reflected this by the fact that altho the party stand on the war was scheduled to be voted on by Sunday at 3 p. m., the fight delayed the vote until Monday. But the opposition was by no means revolutionary. It was composed of conscientious objectors, religious pacifists, middle-class college students, etc. Only 1 Negro was present, despite the existence of the SP as a "working-class" political tendency for many years, and the great discontent of the broad Negro masses against the war. A small handful represented the "real left", such as ex-members of other left groups (the now-defunct Socialist Union Party, etc.). One delegate, who had a resolution which paralleled the Cannon-Trotsky position, was forced by the SP "party democracy" to present it as a document separate from the party bulletin, and, in addition, was "democratically" excluded from the vital sessions of the convention.

The party line on the world situation was a left shadow of the position of the American imperialists. While Welles, Wallace & Co. are compelled to use anti-imperialist phrases to cover their imperialist actions, the SP stand at home and abroad combines phrases of pacifism and abstract internationalism with support of the warmongering and anti-revolutionary labor lieutenants of the capitalists.

They call for an independent international front against all oppressors. Does this mean the struggle for the world proletarian revolution? for a Marxist International? Their concrete action shows otherwise. They accepted with equal gladness greetings from the pro-Wall Street Argentine Socialist Party, the pro-imperialist Laborite New Zealand Ambassador to the U. S., AND the centrist opponent of the war, the British Independent Labor Party. An international conference of all American Socialist Parties is to be attempted, AFTER the war.

### S. P. "INTERNATIONALISM"

The CALL in its convention issue says, "British Labor Party Re-Affirms Its Socialist Faith", while it upholds the war, and supports Churchill and Cripps against the Indian masses. Of course, at the same time the Socialist Party is for Indian independence, and for Ghandi, Nehru & Co. While so-called "lefts" in the SP tell you the party is not connected with the Second International, since "after all" it has died out, they enthusiastically speak of good party relations with the British ILP. Thus the question of revolutionary internationalism, like opposition to imperialist victory or negotiated peace, is drowned out in vague phrases about a peace that is "neither capitulation to fascism.. nor... capitalist imperialism, but the victory of the common people of the world over both." They are to the right of the ILP.

Typical of the convention was the Labor Committee Report,

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## SOVIET UNION

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rear in Europe, as well as his line of march toward Asia. The sharp conflict among rival European capitalist nations, and the economic decay, which at first helped him conquer Europe at "blitzkrieg" speed, are now beginning to turn against him. The German demands on Europe's manpower and productive power, plus the Soviet resistance, sharpens mass unrest to a dangerous degree.

### HITLER'S TROUBLES

Among the capitalists, the Franco-Italian dispute, and the Bulgarian-Rumania-Hungary disputes

verge on open warfare. From one end of Europe to the other guerrilla warfare, sabotage, assassination of Fascist officials, continue to mount despite the sharpest repressive terror. Hitler's assumption of complete political, military and judicial power over the German masses shows the crisis has entered Germany itself (even tho in smaller form.)

The "democratic" imperialists, despite their overwhelming losses in the Far East, are beginning to talk confidently of "victory" and their post-war plans. Their air raids over Essen, Cologne, and other German, French and Dutch cities are talked of as a prelude

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## The Fighting Worker

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## Odell Waller Must Not Die!

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of latent prejudices are among the most powerful weapons available to enemies of the United States. They could ask nothing more than for this Court to countenance an attenuated theory of economic and racial persecution in a case **where no such issue is actually involved**, and to invite agitation of similar inflammatory controversies in hundreds of other cases throughout the nation." (Our emphasis).

Upon this outrageous piece of jingoism and appeal to ruling class fear, rests the entire argument of the Sovereign State of Virginia. And throughout the short seventeen page brief, facts to substantiate that Waller had a fair trial are scant and of a dubious nature. In short, Waller must die, not so much because he shot a man in self-defense or otherwise, but, because to give countenance to his appeal might set off a class war, and aid the oppressed of this nation.

### WALLER MUST NOT DIE!

This is an old trick. Under the pretext of "national unity" the landlords and capitalists are suppressing the rights of the Negro minority and the working class. The U. S. Supreme Court is not the least among the agencies used to aid in this type of suppression. Under "National Unity" strikes and picketing are to be outlawed and free speech denied. On June 19th, 1942, the life of Odell Waller may be snuffed out; few may miss him, but the blow to labor will be irreparable. For its own future

## Retail Clerks Convention

Consolidation of a strong bureaucracy was the keynote of the recent convention of the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees of America in Chicago, May 18th to 24th.

Born in 1937, out of internal strife within the AFL gangster dominated Retail Clerks International, the present International made great progress up until two years ago. But in the last two years organization has tapered off. Ten thousand members were added in Chicago, and only another 10,000 in the rest of the country — in a field of over 4 million unorganized workers.

Main reason for the lack of more sensational results is the class collaboration policy of Samuel Wolchok, the International President and his bureaucratic co-workers. Workers in Gimbel's, New York, for instance, are working for \$18 a week, in a store organized more than 5 years. New contracts in Chicago Department Stores are being signed for \$17.50 minimum pay and less. Even the gangster AFL rival gets better contracts in certain fields than this. Wolchok shuns the strike weapon like the plague. In the Gimbel's strike he openly took the side of the management. He praised Gimbel's to the sky after the strike was settled.

Up to the present convention a few shreds of inner-democracy existed within the International. But this was a result of Wolchok's former weakness. He became president of the International at a time when the Stalinites controlled a majority of the membership. His accession to power was just political blackmail during the fam-

freedom the labor movement can not permit the United States Supreme Court to set such a dangerous precedent. Out of the necessity of its own protection it must demand that the Supreme Court rehear the Appeal for a new trial. **WALLER MUST NOT DIE ON JUNE THE 19th!!**

ous "People's Front" days of the C. P.

His present purge and consolidation comes at another weak point in Stalinite politics, when to gain they must appear to be for "unity". Only now Wolchok has a **consolidated** machine. The CP controlled a block of 37,000 votes out of 95,000. In addition the credentials committee ruled other CP-controlled Locals out on the flimsiest of charges. Yet Wolchok refused to give the opposition (and equally corrupt) bloc a single vice-presidency out of the 8, or a single member on the whole executive board. He steamrolled them completely.

With such machine control Wolchok is now in a position to tighten all the loopholes. Joint Boards are to be set up in many areas that will swallow up the locals and their treasuries. The Joint Boards will have life and death power over each local. The International already has a good hold on most new Locals through its signing check-off agreements where the check off goes back to the International, not the Local. Wolchok is thus able to control the finances, and hence the autonomy, of most Unions.

The Stalinite "opposition" to Wolchok was a farce. Its only point of criticism was the calling of a strike in a small Chicago store. **It attacked the International for failing to abide by the no-strike policy of the CIO.**

### FOR A CLASS STRUGGLE POLICY!

Four million workers in the white collar field remain to be organized into this International. But with the namby-pamby policy of the present leadership, little will be done — despite the election of "Executive Vice Presidents" to spread the campaign. After the war, with mass unemployment, this organization will be even worse hit. While the rank and file of this International is still not steeled through any struggles, nevertheless the only salvation of their Union lies in rank and file Shop Steward militant movements to fight the machine of Wolchok Cooney, Kyne, Levy, Schulter and Company.

# Soviet Economy Shows Power

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to the opening of a "Western Front" for which Stalinism has so long clamored. Unable themselves to deal Hitler decisive blows, they recognize that the U.S.S.R. has worn him down to a possible near-breaking point.

## U.S.S.R. IN DANGER

The position of the Soviet Union, nevertheless, is still very dangerous. The Baltic countries which Hitler allowed Stalin to take under the 1939 Pact (not to mention the Polish Ukraine, etc.), as Stalin's price for keeping quiet while Hitler conquered Europe, is still in German hands. And more important, the bulk of the Soviet Ukraine, with its rich industrial and agricultural resources, is still under Hitler after 6 months **offensive** warfare, at untold cost of Soviet workers lives. **This, after years of Stalinist "leadership", purges, and loudmouthed boasting about not allowing "an inch" of Soviet territory to fall into imperialist hands!**

While the danger of a Japanese attack in Siberia approaches, and Hitler holds a vital part of the U. S. S. R., and threatens to cut off the S. U. from the outside world at Murmansk and in the Caucasus — Stalin can think of nothing better than to call on the imperialists to intensify their slaughter in Europe! The bureaucracy is reducing the first Workers State to utter dependence on such aid as the "democratic" imperialists see fit to give.

## WORLD'S WORKERS THE ONLY REAL ALLY

Most dangerous of all, is the so-called friendship of the "democratic" imperialists. They have allowed the S. U. to wear down itself as well as German imperialism. Preparing now to use Stalinism's aid against the coming proletarian revolutions in Europe and Asia, they also work to undermine the Soviet Union with their "technical advisers," etc. It is no accident that important capitalist figures (Morgan men etc.) and "respectable" labor bureaucrats, such as Murray, Woll & Co.,

swarm all over the Russian War Relief set-up. The gulf between world capitalism, "democratic" as well as Fascist, and the first Workers State, is far more real than the fake phrases of friendship of the Davies, Cripps, & Co. Sooner or later the break will come as surely as did the end of the Hitler-Stalin Pact.

Under Stalinist control, the Soviet Union can still wage mighty battles, against the German and other imperialists. The front lines can change back and forth, for the time being. But in the long run, **under Stalinism**, with its nationalism and bureaucracy, **survive**

## S. P. CONVENTION

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which whitewashes (by silence) their trade union work in Detroit. They have supported the Reuther brothers in the United Automobile Workers, in tying the workers to the war machine. This, apparently, is the "development of organized workers with a program aiming toward political action based upon Socialist objectives." The only concrete proposal is the reorganization of a Labor Committee, Labor Secretary, etc.

The Socialist Party in the midst of the Second Imperialist War is a mere shadow of the SP of the first World War. Then, it had a militant left wing, which later became the Communist Party. Even such lefts who did not join the Third International, such as Debs, were vigorous fighters against the imperialist war.

As late as 1935, the SP showed enough life to sport a seemingly radical Declaration of Principles, and various left wing groups (the Revolutionary Policy Committee, etc.).

## NEED NEW MARXIST PARTY

Today, the Socialist Party is a reformist political ghost, capable only of helping bourgeois liberals sabotage the defense of class war prisoners, as in the Waller case, and otherwise sweep the floor of bourgeois democracy and the labor lieutenants of capitalism.

al, and even more, **victory, is impossible.**

Fundamentally, the heroic resistance of the Soviet masses thus far, is due neither to Russian "patriotism" (as the imperialists claim), or to "brilliant Stalinist leadership" (as the Stalinists claim). It arises out of the conquests of the October Revolution. Of all the peoples of Europe since the first World War, only the Soviet masses have had a material improvement of their conditions of life, and have been given a perspective of a better future on the basis of further development of the prevailing economy. Despite Russian backwardness, isolation from large scale foreign aid (credits, etc.), and the untold ravages of Stalinist bureaucracy, Transition Economy has shown its superiority to decaying capitalist economy in time of war as well as "peace" (the 19-29-33 economic crisis). Its power arises from its freedom from the stranglehold of the capitalist profit needs, monopoly control, private property. Even with the criminal mismanagement of the bureaucracy of which we will most likely hear later, the productive power of Transition Economy far exceeds anything the anarchic capitalist economy could do, on the basis of Russian backwardness.

But this strength has its limits. Spain proved that the greatest strength of the working-class can be dissipated under false leadership. To bring victory, we need an end to Stalinism, its nationalism and bureaucracy, and instead, the revival of Lenin's internationalism, and workers democracy. Not a "western front" to help the imperialist war, but a fight to extend the October Revolution to Europe and the world. Not the program of "Socialism in one country" (which threatens to become socialism in NO country, but the world proletarian revolution. If the heroic struggle of the Soviet masses is not to be in vain, there must be built, NOW, a New Communist Party in the Soviet Union, and a New, Communist (4th) International.