

The Fighting Worker

Workers of
The World
Unite!

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Bosses Call Workers Rights "TREASON"

Brig. General Bradshaw called it treason when thousands of Seattle workers left the "Flying Fortress" plants to attend a union mass meeting during working hours, in order to protest the more than six months stalling of the War Labor Board on wage rates.

The Aluminum Company in Cleveland also called it treason, and fired 44 out of 50 furnace tenders who finally tried to force adjustment of their grievances by not reporting to work, and going on a "sit-down."

The same charge was leveled at 1200 copper processing workers at the Long Island City Phelps Dodge Refining Company. The one day unauthorized strike ended when the War Labor Board agreed to take up their grievances.

It is treason for the workers to demand settlement of grievances.

It is treason to demand living wage rates.

It is treason to strike or stop work in any way—even though that is the only means left to get action.

That is what the bosses call "TREASON."

But what do they call PATRIOTISM?

Profiteering Is Patriotic

The Anaconda Wire and Cable Co. of Indiana (controlled by the Rockefeller dynasty through the Anaconda Copper Company), made some extra millions in profit by conspiring to secretly pass defective and useless wire for the armed forces. In fact, Russia complained that practically 50% of this wire was defective!

"Wholesale irregularities" were reported in the 40 million dollar naval supply depot project at Mechanicsburg, Pa. But it reached into the higher-ups — and "the curtain was dropped."

Senator Truman's Investigating Committee reported on Feb. 4th that a shortage of 4 to 10 million tons of steel is expected this year. Why? Because the Big Steel monopoly prevented expansion of steel production in order to increase their profits and keep control after the war.

The same happened in auto, in aluminum, in copper, in oil.

Are these companies tried for treason? Not on your life! The reports and investigations are "filed away." "Business incentive must not be disturbed."

One "patriotic" company after another has been revealed as

maintaining its patent agreements with German and other corporations. Alcoa, Standard Oil, General Electric, etc. (all of whom have their representatives, patriotically enough, on ranking government boards), had to be confronted with court action before they would suspend their patent pools with German, Italian and Japanese concerns.

It was not "treason" at all; it was "business necessity" to maintain these patent agreements and international cartels—even though they restricted U. S. production, even though they were at war, even though workers are fighting and killing workers on both sides of the battle lines.

Know Your Class Interest

To them it is PAYTRITISM to limit wages to a 15% increase—and to fight like hell against

any limitation on profits.

The capitalist class knows its own best interests and will stop at nothing to defend and increase those profits, war or no war.

The capitalist class is making all the profit and unloading all the burdens of its own capitalist war on the working class. That is patriotism.

If the working class resists—THAT is treason. Treason to who? To the capitalist class.

The working class must assert its own standards. Treason to the capitalist class is one thing. Treason to the working class is another thing.

It is Treason not to fight for a living wage. It is treason to give up the right to strike. It is treason to support the capitalist class. Treason to whom? To the working class.

Restore The Right To Strike!

Under the guise of all out war effort to fight fascism the bosses moved in to take away most of the hard won rights of the working class.

Behind the leadership of that smiling "friend" of labor, President Roosevelt, and with the able assistance of the Murray's, Green's and Lewis's, a carefully worked out plan was put into operation to hamstring the working class and make them pay the huge, ever increasing cost of the war. The most important right thus taken away was the right to strike.

At the time our "leaders" so glibly pledged their membership in the unions to a no strike policy for the duration THE FIGHTING WORKER pointed out that there was no substitute for the strike weapon. We made it clear that the bosses lust for profits together with the increase in the cost of living which always accompanies an imperialist war would tend to push the living standards lower and lower. The only way

to counteract this tendency, we said, was for the working class to strike back and strike back hard against ALL attempts to lower the standard of living.

All of our predictions, we are sorry to say, have been borne out (Cont. on page 2 Col. 2)

"Workers of the World"

Eye Witness Report

From an eyewitness (just returned from a year in Scotland, England and U.S.S.R.) we have received the following reports.

ENGLAND — CLASS STRUGGLE SHARPENING

People of Great Britain are becoming more and more war weary, despite all reports of the press to the contrary. Such an avalanche of super patriotic propaganda as has overwhelmed the people of the United States would be laughed off with tongue in cheek in Great Britain. The best attitude the British ruling class has succeeded in stimulating is one of regarding the war as a necessary evil.

It is unfortunate that many workers show their disillusionment to the so-called war aims by hastening to the pubs (taverns) after their shift in a munition plant or shipyard. However, their recent positive actions have become widespread.

The Stalinist shop stewards are being ejected from unions in huge numbers by the rank and file workers who regard their antics with scorn. For instance, in a recent strike at Leeds, the girls who struck that munitions plant be-

cause some blacklegs had been re-employed won their strike. At the union meeting following the victory the shop steward who was a Stalinist called for "increased production (now that they had won their strike), to show their true desire toward winning the war." The girls and women rejected this proposal in no uncertain terms and the discussion was resumed along the lines of presenting demands for increased pay, etc. Such actions are taking place daily in Great Britain.

Despite the appeals of the press and Parliament coal production has lagged and no amount of cajoling or threats can boost it. The small raise in pay granted recently was to no avail. The miners are so disgusted and exhausted with their conditions that they were still taking time off ("absenteeism") and sabotaging the production. Their union was still holding out for higher wages and better conditions.

(Cont. on page 2 Col. 1)

C. P. Breaks Strikes In India Too!

The N.Y. Daily Worker, Feb. 21, carries a typical whining dispatch by a certain Joshi, the secretary of the Communist Party of India. Joshi simply can't understand why the British masters don't appreciate his services. He complains:

"The policy of the United Provinces government is inexplicable. For instance, the Party held the working class in the big industrial center of Cawnpore from going out on strike after August 9 (the beginning of civil disobedience) and yet all nine leading Party and trade union workers were jailed."

"With Party help, the street-cleaners strike was settled." (Just a minor sell-out.)

"Even while the raids (Japanese) were going on the Party worked to unify the transport workers and keep the trams running."

To prevent the spontaneous textile strikes, Stalinists are working to get minimum food needs for the workers.

Its really too bad the British don't appreciate you boys. For services like those you deserve a great big medal direct from His Majesty the King. You might explain to him you need it to wear over your rear ends, to help absorb that mighty kick the Indian workers and peasants are storing up for renegades and traitors who stand in the way of their struggle for freedom.

Red Army Revolutionary Force Despite Stalinism

As we go to press the Red Army offensive seems to be catching its breath, preparatory to either another strong push or stabilizing its line. The drive has already resulted in the recapture of most of the territory lost since 1941, and in spots even something additional.

But it is quite evident, from even a casual glance at the map, that the Red Army is a long long way from its goal, at least 500 miles away from pushing into Germany proper.

The Soviet struggle is a gallant one, but without aid from its "allies" this major MILITARY victory is not possible, although a real victory can come, without allied aid, through social revolution in Europe.

ALLIED AID PURPOSELY KEPT TO A MINIMUM

Isn't it strange that the United States and Britain, who are doing

virtually no fighting at all, have given so little aid to the Soviet Union, which has at least 50 times as many forces involved as its "allies"? The United States produced close to 6,000 planes in December, Britain 3,000. Yet the total planes sent to Russia ALL YEAR is less than 5,000. The same is true of tanks and other munitions. In another column in the FIGHTING WORKER we report how Britain is hi-jacking food and ammunition sent by the U. S. for Russia. England is receiving ten times the amount of lend-lease aid being sent to Russia, even though she isn't doing one-tenth the fighting.

If America and Britain had sent Russia just a half year's manufacture of planes, some 30,000 to 45,000 planes, isn't it obvious that the German armies would today be close to annihilation? Even without this aid the Red Armies, bulwarked by their revolutionary ideals, have made enormous pro-

gress in its counter-attack. How much more destructive would the Red Blitz be if it really got some aid?

But the "Allies" are holding back, and holding back deliberately. The Red Army (despite the "brilliant" theses of Shachtman and liberal friends) is the most powerful force for social revolution on the European continent. The Axis is delivering a FRONTAL attack against this force, but the Allies by a FLANK attack of no aid, of giving only "token" aid, are forcing Russia into exhaustion and paving the way for a final death blow against the Workers State.

STALIN PLAYS SECOND FIDDLE FOR IMPERIALISM WHILE REVOLTS SIMMER

The so-called "peace-feelers" of Italy fit in very well with this picture. Virginio Gayda, authoritative mouthpiece for Mussolini, broadcasts to the world that the

main enemy is the Soviet Union and that the Allies and the Axis should unite before it is too late to demolish the Workers State. A few days later this theme is again repeated.

Italy, greatly weakened by the war and the defeats in Africa, is already falling back to the theme that ALL the imperialist powers will fall back to when they become exhausted — "concentrate on the counter-revolution against Russia and against the growing revolt in Europe." As yet the United States does not have to take this course. It is following an infinitely wiser road—first to weaken the Soviet Union from within, particularly since Stalin is so amenable to playing second fiddle in the imperialist orchestra and has disavowed in advance any future proletarian revolution in Europe.

The American Imperialists understand only too well that they can ALWAYS fall back on an alliance with Italy and Germany

against the Soviet Union. But in absence of any revolutions in Europe and in the absence of any powerful organized revolutionary Marxian Party anywhere fighting world capitalism, that time has not yet arrived. Wall St. can still spend some idle moments trying to reorganize world capitalism to serve the American dollars, before the blow of social revolution descends.

The most treacherous role in this heinous plot belong to "comrade" Stalin. The poppycock that this is a "progressive" war, simply because Uncle Sam and John Bull give lip service to "helping" the Soviet Union—at a good price—and the social-patriotism practiced by Stalinism (together with social-democracy, of course) in defense of Wall Street and the City—all this has set back the proletarian revolution no little. But despite these factors revolutionary signs are multiplying.

English and Scottish Workers Resist The War

(Cont. from page 1)

The railroad workers were recently granted an increase of a few pence a day which they termed an enormous insult. A strike to gain their original demands was imminent. The weapon the government had been able to wield—that of conscripting militant workers into the army, has lost its sting, for skilled workers are now at a premium.

Harry Pollitt, the British counterpart to Earl Browder has been running a terrific campaign throughout Great Britain for the Communist Party, the Second Front, and Russian War Relief. Blazing posters publicize his personal appearances on expensive lithographs. Despite this, Pollitt and the Communist Party has been rejected by the great majority of the British workers who have followed their tactics with disgust. The I.L.P. organ writes of "Harry Pollitt strutting in the reflected glory of the Red Army."

There the class struggle is daily growing sharper. Such sops as the Beveridge Plan are recognized for what they are and have failed to excite the enthusiasm the British ruling class hoped for. Workers are full aware that any such bribe will be paid for through increased exploitation of the British people, India, and other colonies. On the Glasgow Green, Scotland, and in Hyde Park, London, anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist speakers draw large crowds daily, and their literature is distributed openly. Our own comrades, needless to say, are openly active, doing their job.

SCOTLAND—WANTS FREEDOM TOO

On the walls of buildings in Scotland, one can see painted the slogan "How about freeing Scotland first!" and open display of posters calling for "Workers of the World, resist the Imperialist War!" Scottish Nationalism is on the increase. Several months ago, the candidate for the presidency of the Scottish Nationalist Party was a well-known conscientious objector. Under heavy pressure of Parliament his candidacy was forced to be withdrawn. The list of C. O.'s in Great Britain is tremendous. Even the I. L. P. headquarters proudly lists the growing list of names of local C. O.'s. Special organizations give them legal defense, etc. A fellow "on the run" as they call it, finds no trouble in securing food and shelter and needed papers in any working class district.

U.S.S.R.—BOMBINGS, BREAD, BUREAUCRATS AND HIGH MORALE

Recently, an American ship's cargo in a Scottish port was disembowelled and placed on the dock so that the food in the cargo could be removed and late model Tanks replaced with those of ancient vintage. This was expropriated by the British Government, in spite of the manifest which clearly stated that the cargo was destined for the U.S.S.R., and paid for in advance. The protests of the Russian consul's office were to no avail. The British must have their Spam! The Empire must be kept for the King!

The convoy to Russia was able to deliver part of their cargoes in the face of fierce attacks by Nazi U-Boats and torpedo bombers which took their toll. The British merchant seamen's Union has been able to force the Admiralty to adopt better measures for the rescue of torpedoed seamen. The lives of hundreds of seamen, Bri-

tish and American, are owed to these new methods now used by the British escort vessels.

In the northern Russian ports, the scarcity of food and clothing is due, of course, in great measure, to the war. The Red Army soldier, and the Red Fleet Sailor, receive the best food and clothing obtainable, after the commissars, and the managers. The Bureaucrats are able because of the amount of rubles at their disposal, to purchase their needs in the free market "arena," at the huge inflated prices. For instance, a pair of leather boots sold for 2000 rubles, and a kilogram of black bread for 150 rubles. The Russian workers who earned 100 rubles a week had to live mainly on their rationed diet of bread and cabbage and little else. The Intourist Hotel, open only to Red Army officers and foreigners, was able to feature various meats, soups, caviar, vodka, etc.

It was not hard to see the progressive developments, such as the free modern hospitalization and numerous free dental clinics. The local orchestra was of a fine calibre, and was housed in a large, modern auditorium. Concerts and plays were given regularly although air-raids were frequent.

Children's textbooks teach English as the most important foreign language. They are taught of "the oppression of workers in capitalist countries," of "the racial and color discrimination," and elementary Marxism. "Stalin is continuing the work of Lenin," etc. A popular recording is a "Cantata for Stalin."

The war pressure, has forced Russian labor to work long hours and to live on subsistence rations. Any protest, even indirect was punished by a sentence to a work camp. While one could not hear a Russian worker expound on the virtues for the regime, it was difficult to find one to speak frankly against it. A terror of being informed upon had to be overcome before you could break the ice.

The morale of the Red soldier and sailor is certainly higher than that of the British or American. The ideals the Red soldier believes he is fighting for are infinitely easier to fight for than those of "for England and Empire," or all the 'teen points for abstract freedom, or all the oceanic charters that Roosevelt and Churchill can pull out of their bag.

Strike-Workers Only Effective Weapon

(Cont. from page 1)

almost to the letter. A substitute for the strike was proposed, mediation thru the War Labor Board. A formula for settling wage disputes was adopted, the Little Steel formula. All this was greeted by the labor fakers, government officials and newspapers alike as "democracy in action". They are right. It is bourgeois democracy in action—in the interests of the boss class.

Working Class Must Strike To Live

What has happened since the adoption of these "democratic" principles? The cost of maintaining even a subsistence living has gone so high that the average worker making out his budget gasps at the inadequacy of his wages to cover expenses. War bond "savings" are another drain

Hooligans Ousted, Tracklayers Take Local

Chicago.—After 24 long years, the rank and file of the Tracklayers Union Local 1009, AFL, in Chicago, finally ousted their racketeer leadership. After a few weeks of fencing with the International Hod Carriers, parent Union of the Local, for control of their own affairs the men finally organized themselves last month as an independent Union, the Railway Construction and Maintenance Workers Union.

The story of these 1300 oppressed workers, mostly foreign-born Croats, Poles and Italians, is similar to many other rotten Union situations. Their Local had been dominated for 24 years by Samuel P. Luzzo, a man who had never worked for the Chicago Surface Lines as a tracklayer a day in his life—although he has been giving the Surface Lines yeoman's aid in keeping the workers underpaid for more than a score of years.

In that period there had never been a single Union election, never a single accounting of over one million dollars taken in by the organization, never a vote on contract or anything else.

For the past five years one worker, Angelo DeIulis has been opposing the leadership singlehandedly. Finally this year, however, he was joined by two strong militants, Jack Veich and John Januszko.

5 Days Of Action Outstrip 5 Years Of Legalism

With the aid of a few progressives who knew the score and Francis Heisler, prominent labor attorney, these workers were able to accomplish in FIVE DAYS what DeIulis and the Civil Liberties Union had been unable to do in five years. A petition was circularized declaring Luzzo and his clique out of the leadership and out of the Union. Six hundred and forty-eight workers signed the petition the first day. A mass meeting of 650 followed this act by giving full endorsement to the actions of their Temporary Reorganization Committee.

But the International Union still refused to recognize these rank and file employees. The Chicago Surface Lines, naturally, hoped that D'Andrea and Fosco of the International could get things in hand so that the Company could go on paying 68c an hour wages to workers doing \$1.12 an hour work.

(Cont. on page 4, Col. 3)

UAW Officers Keep Buick Sit-Down a "Secret", Workers Pass The News, Receive Approval

Melrose Park, Ill.—For the first time since its doors opened a little more than a year ago, the Buick plant in Melrose Park, Illinois, was the scene of some militant action on Thursday, February 18th when the night shift workers on the Assembly line went on a two hour sit-down strike.

The men revolted against the Napoleonic complex of their Superintendent and the piling up of grievances and adjustment of wage classifications. It had become virtually impossible to get anything settled. The Company neither recognizes the departmental stewards nor deals with the Local officers. Its only relations are with a handful of shop committeemen—for a plant of some 15,000 odd workers.

It is significant that the leadership of the United Auto Workers CIO, in this plant, kept the whole strike a "secret." But when the word got around, through the grapevine, the strike was greeted with enormous popular approval—all the men quickly recognized that they had been suffering from the same ills.

Fingerprinting Not Enough

G. M. Now Photographs Strikers

The General Motors Company, owners of the plant, used a new technique against the strikers by having them photographed individually. Undoubtedly the Government and GM, with the benighted and secret blessing of the labor skates in the UAW-CIO leadership, will use these photographs as a basis for weeding out the militants—unless the men join hands again to fight this tyranny.

A new wave of militancy is beginning to kindle amongst the shop stewards, particularly on the night shift, who are embarrassing the Local leadership no end by their requests and recommendations.

No Strikes—No Wages

Recently a notice appeared on the bulletin board signed by the Union leadership cautioning workers against strikes. It read in part: "No strikes, no slowdowns." A tight-lipped but wise worker rounded out the sign with the addition of a few additional words: "No wages, no conditions."

What phrase could describe the efforts of our labor fakers in this period better than those four words?

Company Tricks Fall Flat Workers Remain United

Chicago.—Despite the treacherous role of the AFL and CIO labor bureaucracy, traces of the 1936-37 militant spirit of labor still trickle through.

At the Central Pattern and Foundry Co. plant a few weeks ago a spontaneous strike of some 350 workers threw the Company and the Chicago Police Department into a perplexing quandry.

The President of the Local Union, Bennie Banks, is a militant Negro who has been elected President of a Union which is overwhelmingly white in composition. The Union has had to contend with not only the opposition of the Company, which resents the present rank and file militant leadership, but the parent Union, the International Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, a Stalinist controlled outfit.

Even though there has been no Union shop provision, in the old contract all new employees have joined the Union. A few weeks ago, however, the Company hired 41 girls to augment its staff. Most of the girls immediately joined the Union, but management realized that here was a chance to drive a wedge between the employees.

A brusque, loud-mouther foreman named John Stamat went

truer is that now! The situation has become so desperate, the cries of anger and fury by the working class so loud, that the Murray's and Green's are forced to run to Washington and ask with bended knee for a new formula.

No amount of begging by kowtowing labor bureaucrats, no amount of boss controlled WLB's, no amount of fake formulas can help the working class. There is no substitute for the right to strike. It is the only language the bosses understand. It is the language the working class speaks most authoritatively.

around to the girls and told each one individually that they "don't have to join the Union." Banks countered this propaganda by posting a notice on the bulletin board exposing this move and inviting the women workers to join with their male brothers. Stamat, infuriated by this action, tore the notice off the bulletin board and ran after Banks calling him a "dirty black....." and other vile terms.

The upshot of the whole matter was that Lt. Barnes of the Chicago labor detail was called in to arrest Banks. But that's where the worker's solidarity really manifested itself.

Banks Release Forced By Workers' Action

Immediately and spontaneously every single employee dropped his work. The plant owner tried to calm the storm by holding a meeting and telling the workers that it was only a personal squabble, but some little fellow in the rear of the crowd yelled out: "Oh, yeah, then why isn't Stamat in jail, too?"

That ended Mr. Rufflepants and 300 men and women swarmed into their headquarters and refused to return to work, despite the pleas of the police. Finally, in desperation, after a few hours had elapsed, Lt. Barnes was forced to release Banks and plead with him to get the men back to work. Molten metal was ready to be poured with no one to pour it, fires were banked, etc.

Banks returned from jail and dwelt with the lessons of the struggle, pointing out that labor had no one to depend on but itself, pointing out the rotten role of the police and the labor fakers who have given up the right to strike. Finally he asked them to return and prepare for further action if the Company refuses to reinstate him and to grant the wage demands that have been asked for in the present contractual negotiations.

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Editorials

The World Airways

The use of aviation and its military transportation reveals to all nations its potential post-war importance. He who dominates the world air-ways will dominate the world. To do this one must be a leading nation, a victorious nation in the present war. Such a nation must be a first rate air power. Only five nations have even a chance in such a post war race—United States, Great Britain, Germany, Japan and the Soviet Union. And among these nations the defeated will be excluded.

Anglo-American Antagonism

Therefore, the bitter controversy between England and the United States that has cropped out on the surface of their "harmonious" action against the Axis reveals struggles to come. Within American Imperialism there is also a bitter controversy as to how to best handle the situation.

Senator M. E. Tydings (D. Md.) proposes that the United States request air bases as partial payment for the billions in lend-lease. Minority Leader McNary (R. Ore.) agrees with Tydings.

Rep. Clare Boothe Luce (R. Conn.) was accused of advocating a "narrow imperialist policy of grab" in advocating more action to gain air bases now all over the world. Senators point out that Lend-Lease money is building air fields all over the world, and they want to know who will use these airways after the war.

Fight for Air Domination Determined Today

The Navy Secretary, Knox has advocated and is trying to work out a plan to gain air bases from England for part of its Lend-Lease. President Roosevelt saw to it that Dakar will remain under American influence. After the war it is possible some intra-American Commission will be established, with Brazil in a key position to watch over Dakar, for America's interests. Roosevelt has been doing quite well for American imperialism in grabbing suitable Islands for air and naval bases. But this is just a start.

Oil and Air Problems

In the first world war the struggle for oil was one of the key problems. Today the struggle for domination of the air, which includes airways is far more important. This does not mean that the struggle for oil in the present war is unimportant. Until Japan took the South Pacific Island this was a key problem for her. It still remains a key problem for Germany and Italy. But for the United States, England and the Soviet Union, the air problem holds the spot-light. A nation must first solve its oil problem to advance substantially in its air problem.

72 Years Of Working Class Struggle

March 18, 1871—for the first time in history the working class rose up and established a Working Class Government. The bourgeois regime of Thiers, working with the German conqueror (very much as Petain and Laval are doing today) against the proletariat, were driven out of the city and the workers themselves set up the glorious Paris Commune.

March 18, 1871—how well to remember the date and its lessons today. Remember that the bourgeoisie is INTERNATIONAL in its hatred of the proletariat, that it will unite with its deadliest "enemy" of yesterday to smash the working class rising to gain "bread and peace." How reminiscent of the world intervention in 1918-21 against the Soviet Union, and how prophetic of the coming unity of world imperialism—both the Axis and the Allies—against the coming World Revolution and the Red Army!

March 18, 1871—that was the first attempt of the working class to seize state power. March 18, 1871 had its great heroes: Delescluze and Varlin, Blanqui, with his slogans "arm the proletariat, disarm the bourgeoisie," and "for the dictatorship of the proletariat," and others. But on March 18, 1871 the proletariat was new and green, it made many mistakes. It failed for 8 days to set up a government of any kind; if failed to expropriate the banks; it remained on the defensive, instead of taking the offensive; it remained too mild in its treatment of its bourgeois captives, while theirs slaughtered revolu-

tionaries by the hundreds; it had no centralized program or structure.

THE REVOLUTION BEGUN IN PARIS MUST BE COMPLETED

But March 18, 1871 was only the BEGINNING. It was followed by the great Russian Revolution of 1905, the epochal October Revolution of 1917, by the Revolutions in Germany, Bulgaria, Finland, Austria, China, England, Spain, by 1918, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1925-27, 1926, 1930-33, 1934, 1936-38.

And it will be followed tomorrow by Social Revolutions in every continent and every country.

March 18, 1871 is a symbol of the democracy and greatness of the working class; and equally a symbol of the tyranny, brutal murder and vengefulness of the capitalists who two months later drowned the great Commune in a river of blood that would have made Timer the Lame green with envy.

Let March 18 remind the weak of heart and narrow-visioned that the alternatives in this Second World Imperialist war are today just the same as in 1871. The Imperialist "enemies" of today, will be united within two or three years against the world working class. The same imperialists who shelter fascists like Peyrouin and Nogues will tomorrow unloose a pitiful fury against the only class that can bring liberation to mankind, the proletariat.

Either... or. Either a permanent capitalist offensive of blood and tyranny (of which Hitler is only a capitalist sample) against the oppressed... Or, a conscious defense by the proletariat, a defense that can be vouchsafed only through Proletarian Revolution.

Trotskyite Groups Will Barter Revolutionary Marxism for A "Genuine" "Independent" Labor Party

The present wave of reactionary legislation being introduced in Congress has brought forth again on the part of the two American Trotsky groups a vehement demand for an "Independent" Labor Party.

Had there been a Labor Party, according to the Cannon Trotsky paper of February 13, labor today would not be on the defensive. The Schachtmanites are not quite so careless. According to their paper two days later, they claim that even though an "Independent Labor Party would not cure all the ills that beset labor"... "Now is the time to form a Labor Party." "Independent Labor Party candidates elected to Congress would give out with the real McCoy. (We are speaking of a genuine Independent Labor Party which has no connections with the boss class.)"

In the first place Labor's present defeats are due to a great extent to the treachery of its leadership, to the social-patriotic support of the war by Murray, Lewis, Green, Thomas, Browder and their ilk. The victory of the right wing capitalists in the last election is due partially to the fact that the bureaucrats have given up the right to strike; and Labor has been hogtied to purely parliamentary action, to bourgeois bills in a bourgeois Congress, to secret deals with a bourgeois President, etc.

To think that these same Murrays and Greens, if they were at the head of an "Independent" Labor Party would suddenly endorse a working class program of strikes and demonstrations, and oppose parliamentarism, is ridiculous day dreaming.

In the second place Schachtman's silly hope of building a Labor Party "which has no connection with the boss class" is romantic and foolish dribble, nothing more. As if John L. Lewis does not have a thousand strong ties and connections with the Wall Street masters whom he serves; or Murray or Green. These gentry have served Capitalism long and openly, consciously and firmly throughout their whole history as misleaders of labor.

That they would pursue another role in a Labor Party is just a schoolboy's dream.

LABOR PARTIES—HISTORICAL BELL-WETHER TO LABOR'S DEFEAT

We are aware, of course, of the master counter-answer that the Schachtman and Cannon groups always give to this sound Marxian reasoning: "But the masses must go through a Labor Party to learn for themselves that a Labor Party can not solve their basic problems." This very erudite remark is saved of course, not for the front pages of their papers, but for the side corners at their social gatherings. It is very reminiscent of the Stalinist whisperings of the Fourth Period, when every former Third Period Stalinist went around quietly whispering how "we don't have faith in Leon Blum and Franklin Roosevelt but we are using them for OUR ends although we can not make that public."

Can these be sincere revolutionists who call on the masses to put their head in the lion's mouth to suffer still another—and, if you please, more crushing—defeat at the hands of their social-patriotic leaders? Labor Parties and their replicas have led the working class to defeat in too many struggles since 1917 for any Marxist to even consider building new Labor Parties.

The way to fight the reactionary labor legislation is not through a Labor Party, but through independent working class action and the building of a new MARXIAN Party of Revolution.

Gandhi Fasts And Wall St. Eyes Profit Feast

February 27, 1943—It appears that Mahatma Gandhi will survive his present three week fast. It is hard to know just how much affect the fast had within India—just how many strikes it precipitated, how much mass sabotage and disobedience exists, etc.

But whether Gandhi lives or not, what has been accomplished by his act? Even the political neophyte must be ready to admit that this "passive resistance," practiced by Gandhi throughout the years, is absolutely barren of results. India continues to be oppressed with the same iron hand as it has throughout the whole period.

Our liberal babblers have found an issue in Gandhi's fast. They are requesting that the United States Government "intervene" to secure Gandhi's release. And this they call "fighting against Imperialism"! Gandhi's self-imposed hunger is used as an excuse—even by the liberal's—for American penetration into the crown of the British Empire. And of course, Mr. Cordell Hull didn't need all this prompting. He has been using the uprising in India for his own—Wall Street—ends, for some time! no doubt in the near future it will bring great results; and great... profits.

But despite Mr. Gandhi's fanaticism, he must not be taken seriously as a representative of the oppressed. Mr. Gandhi is a friend and agent of the native Indian bourgeoisie, of the Birlas and their ilk. He favors "PASSIVE resistance," because ACTIVE resistance would not only sweep the house clean of British, American and Japanese imperialism, but of the native bourgeoisie itself. PASSIVE resistance is just that happy medium that will bring the Indian capitalists a greater sphere of profits and room for investments.

The British overlords do not permit Indian capital in most of the lucrative Indian industries. Indian capital thus has become just a pariah, a shylock in the countryside and a mere small share in other industries. Mr. Nehru, Gandhi's side kick has already "seen the light." He knows that the United States can well afford to give a greater share of play to the native bourgeoisie, even though it takes the lion's share for itself. Mr. Gandhi, while he has minor differences with Mr. Nehru, is working in the same direction.

PASSIVE RESISTANCE EQUALS PASSIVE AQUESCENCE

But the underprivileged masses mean as much to Gandhi as they do to American and Japanese Imperialism. The masses must be utilized as a football to bring pressure against Britain; but beyond that Gandhi is absolutely convinced they must be kept in check—hence: "PASSIVE resistance."

It is an eye-opener to note that neither Gandhi nor any other native bourgeois agent has taken a single step to set up a counter-government, a bourgeois Constituent Assembly, to that of Britain. Up until only a few months ago the National Congress participated in the British dictatorship.

In August when the masses took matters in their own hands Mr. Gandhi cautioned against violence.

The present fast merely has as its aim the recapture of lost support for the Gandhists and to tie the masses again to an aimless "passive resistance" that can aid only the native bourgeoisie.

The American bourgeois press is not very hostile to Gandhi. Most of it, in fact, is in favor of some concessions by Britain. Mr. Gandhi must be perfectly safe if he can thus gain some blessings from Wall Street's press.

But that very fact must be a warning to the Indian workers and peasants that the road to liberation in India does not run through the Gandhi porch in Poona, but runs through independent working class action, expressed in Soviets and Armed Guards with a perspective of continuing the Revolution into its Proletarian Phase.

DO THE 4 FREEDOM APPLY AT HOME?

As we go to press we have news of the banning from the mails of "The Militant." Whatever pretext the ruling class used this is another expression of their crack down on all labor's rights.

Workers must vigorously protest this discriminatory action by mail, meetings and demonstrations.

If the working class organizations don't close their ranks and stand solidly together one by one they will be chopped down. Defend the workers' right to Freedom of the Press!

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The February-March issue of the International News, Theoretical Organ of The International Contact Commission contains articles on:

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Revolt Is The Right Of The Slave

A Soldier Learns The Realities Of Life

Editor's note: The following is a letter sent by one soldier to his younger brother, also in the army, in answer to questions asked and with problems raised dealing mainly with a plea to explain why we have wars when there is plenty of everything for everyone.

Dear Soldier,

Well, brother, we're in the army and I think we should learn a few things. First, I point out to you the reality of a "class struggle" which is heightened and graphically illustrated for you in the army. The army merely reflects the fact of that struggle in the entire world of capitalist society. There is the small minority—the ruling class—opposed to the vast majority—the class who does the work.

The System As It Is Today

Under the capitalist system, you will remember from your experience in civilian life, the owners of land, of property, of the tools and means of production—these owners must make profit, in order to stay in business. Their chief expense is labor—laborers are the greatest threat to their almighty profit. (There is an old chestnut that says that business likes labor's wages to be high because then the laborer can buy more. But it isn't true; the owners still have to get the lions' share so they add on any raise in wages to the price of the article they're selling). Thus you see, in the very core of every day living the interests of these two groups, the minority who own the means of production and the majority who work for them—their interests are irrevocably opposed.

Hence, from this system there develops two significant classes—referred to as the bourgeoisie (pronounced boorjwazee, from the French) and the proletariat. Even the farmers are coming more and more into these classifications as greater numbers of them lose their farms and they have to work on the great farms owned by a few men—work as field laborers or as poverty ridden "share-croppers."

There are so many different kinds of people around you that you may wonder at this division into classes. But after you think for a while you will realize that these two classes include the dominant number of all the people the significant ones in the movement of society. The small business man of the so-called middle class, is being wiped out daily by the big monopolists.

THE STATE

It is obvious which of these classes is the ruling one now, and you know from which class comes the true masters of your army. But how does the minority maintain its rule you ask? By means of the laws, the government, the state. The state is set to keep this system functioning, is it not? It is common knowledge that the people's vote means almost not a damn thing. The bourgeois press propaganda would tell you it is the "people's fault" for not voting intelligently, but when you look more closely into the mechanism of capitalist democracy you see in the details of suffrage (residential qualifications, age, citizenship requirements, poll taxes), in the technique of representative institutions, in the actual obstacles to the right of assembly (public buildings are not for "beggars") in the capitalist ownership of the press, in the

bourgeois control of the text-books and the school curriculum which educates the future voter—on all sides you see restrictions after restrictions of democracy. There is only a democracy for the small ruling class who dictates to the majority of us. Marx aptly says that in a republican democracy the people every few years choose which member of the ruling class is going to oppress them.

It is not so apparent in a capitalist democracy as it is under capitalism's fascism, that the government, the state, is in the hands of a few people. But in this time of stress the truth is indeed more evident, isn't it soldier?

Also, this rule by the owning class makes us not "independent" wage earners, but wage slaves—dependent on the rulers for the right to live. The fact that a very tiny percentage of us may become members of the owning class (someday) and visa-versa does not deny the reality that the workers under this system are slaves under the whip of the state.

ARMY AND POLICE INSTRUMENTS OF OPPRESSION

Historically speaking, the state with its officialdom (bureaucracy), standing army and police force has been the instrument used to oppress the majority of the people during three periods of slavery: chattel slavery, feudal slavery and wage slavery. In each period the forms of the state have been different—just as at the present time the forms of the state governments are different in various nations, (France, England, U. S. A., Germany, Italy, in South America, etc.) but, though their forms have been various the functions of all these states up till now, their actual contents have been the same; they have kept the majority of the people working while a small minority wallow in the products of that work.

Each of the historical periods mentioned above develops naturally from the period before it. Our present world eruptions betray the decay of the wage slave system, and from it a new system will arise. Here the state, as always an organ of force and oppression, for the first time will be used by the majority to suppress the minority (who want to be whole hog). This true democracy is only possible under socialism—for the competitive capitalist system presupposes that somebody has the right to be whole hog (if he is ruthless enough).

They told us in school that we live in a democracy, in a republic of, for, and by the people! They have lied to us; for you and I and millions all over the earth are slaughtering one another, against our own present wills and always contrary to our collective interests. "Democracy" under the capitalist system of production is the dictatorship of the minority (capitalists), over the masses who produce, by means of the state.

ARMY OF WORKERS CAN BRING ABOUT A CHANGE

Yes, we will help to bring this change you deserve brother, but how, you want to know? You have seen how woefully few people's representatives we have been able to elect in this so corrupt system of capitalist profit motive! You have seen how in a state controlled by a thousand strings, attached to the capitalists interests these representatives are helpless

to act for the people's needs.

Yes, we will help to bring a change, soldier, but again, how? The capitalists and their state must be thrown out of their position in power. For this to be successful, the greatest part of the army must be on the side of the people when they rise in angry revolt against the awful load soon to be heaped even higher on their backs. We will have to fight private armies mustered by capital, strengthened by capital's police,—militia, and by a small reactionary section of the army that will fight for the state. And later we will have to fight to guard the people's, the worker's new economic system: production not for the private profit of an individual but for the collective use of everybody. (For don't we have and don't we know how to run the machines that can produce enough for everybody?)

It will not be necessary for you to shout these words from the barrack-tops, brother soldier. For you and all who read them have already lived this truth. Capitalist society can only offer you more and more suffering, you must use against the "enforcer" of that suffering—the capitalist controlled state—the state that drafted you and sent you across the water to a bloody carnage after promising "never to send another American boy to foreign wars again"; the state that taxes you to eat, sleep and cover your body, the same state that plowed under good food while some of our folks went hungry (to keep prices up, remember!) the state whose militia and police maltreat and murder workers on strike—this state would have you die to acquire a new commercial world empire—this state you must smash, if necessary using the weapons it has put into your hands.

Then you must guard the new society we the workers will build, based on the only thing we know how to do—produce goods that people may live!

Your Brother soldier,
B.

Rank and File Run Own Local

(Cont. from page 2)

"Too Many Cooks" Cause Confusion and Isolation

The Civil Liberties Union, a small group of "Union Democrats," and the Stalinists created considerable confusion in the ranks of the men. Ira Latimer of the Civil Liberties Union counselled the men to capitulate completely to the International. The Stalinists and the "Democrats" advised going into the CIO and thus isolating the men from the 10,000 other workers in the field—conductors, maintenance workers, motormen, etc.

Fortunately the advice of neither of these sides was accepted and the men decided for the time being to go independent. It would be a pity if after all this excellent fight the International could come back and bust up the unity of the tracklayers. The logical step calls for further attempts to get autonomous control of their Union WITHIN THE AFL, and for extensive propaganda amongst the carmen who suffer from similar regimes.

Sheet Metal Workers Take Matters In Own Hands

Dear Comrade Editor,

I have been a reader of your paper for the past year. In that time you people have made many really remarkable predictions about the future of the trade union movement: About the unity of the AFL and CIO not settling anything, the effect of the war on the union policies of the labor fakers, how they would give up the most valuable weapon workers have, the right to strike.

This has been made very clear to me by the actions of the bureaucratic business agent of the union to which I belong—the one to which I have to belong—since we have the closed shop and the check-off in the plant where I work, Maremont Automotive Products, with plants in Chicago and Cicero.

This union is the Sheetmetal Workers Union, A F of L, Local 115.

When I went to work for this company a contract had already been signed covering the Spring division as to wages and covering the whole company as to seniority, shop stewards, grievance set-up, etc. The wage evaluation is one of the lowest for any similar type of plant. The minimum starting rate is 50c per hour with provisions for an increase every three months up to 60c in 9 months, which would remain the minimum until a new contract is signed. This in a plant doing war work, at a time when the cost of living is the highest in many years, in a plant where the working conditions are very poor, and the work very hard.

The minimum rate of the Armor plate division was 60c and wage arbitration was coming up soon after. No meetings were held to discuss the coming wage arbitrations, and none to discuss the high-handed and discriminatory attitude of the company and its superintendents and foremen. If it had been left up to the business agent none would have been held. Finally, the boys in the plant, fed up both with the attitude of the company and the bureaucratic indifference of the business agent, decided to take matters in their own hands. We held a series of shift meetings, elected our shop stewards, elected our executive committee, and worked out a wage schedule to present to the company.

It was because of this preliminary action of the men and their solidarity, that we were able to fight for and win an agreement which, while it was not all we wanted, was still so superior to the one signed for the spring division as to be almost entirely different contracts. We got this in spite of the rapid turnover of personnel, highhanded methods of the company, the threat of strike removed to a large extent by the

The fight of the tracklayers, while not as sensational, is nevertheless reminiscent of the struggle 20 months ago against Max Caldwell, Capone hoodlum who took over the Grocery Local of 12,000 members and was finally ousted by militant rank and file action in June 1941.

The Tracklayers have a good chance of winning their struggle if they stick to rank and file control of their Union and drop both the legalistic methods and the sectarian proposals of their other "friends."

Today's Youth Looks Backward and Forward

The orphans of yesterday's depression are now the cannon-fodder of today's imperialist war. Yesterday the capitalist class was content to starve the youth of all nations in order to keep prices up and maintain their high profits. Today it must go further. For profits to live and increase, youth must be maimed or die.

During the depression approximately 5 million youth were unemployed and of those who were employed 50% were working at jobs in which they had no interest, for which they had no talent, but misfit or no any kind of work was grabbed in order that they might survive.

Not only were "the future citizens of our country" denied the right to work but 97% could not afford more than a grammar school education. As late as 1940 an F.B.I. report states that 108,857 criminals for the year were under 21 years of age. Capitalism had nothing to offer the youth of yesterday but ignorance, unemployment, malnutrition and crime. Capitalism has nothing to offer the youth of today but imperialist war. That is the only "solution" the profit system understands. To millions of youth who have been denied the most meager needs of life the battlefield of death waits hungrily to finish them off. Those who escape that ever empty maw can look forward to extended enslavement to a factory machine, another commodity, to be bought and sold as his skills are needed or to be forgotten on the dust heap when they are not useful to the profit moguls.

There can be no solution to the problems of youth under capitalist society. The road for youth is the continuance of the class struggle against all exploiters in all countries. CAPITALISM IN DECAY CANNOT PROVIDE PEACE OR PLENTY FOR YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT.

policy of the AFL and CIO leaders of no strikes during the war, and above all in spite of the stab in the back policy of the business agent, Fox, who shows the greatest militancy in words when the membership is around, but behind the scenes was dealing with the company. There is hardly a member of the shop who trusts him.

The starting rate is 63c per hour and we are asking for a 15c increase. The evaluation for the other jobs is much higher than in the spring division. Because of the more frequent meetings of the executive committee and the membership and the unanimous vote for the settling of certain grievances and the establishing of certain procedures, the work of the shop stewards has more teeth to it.

The men recognize that the fight has only begun. As long as the most important parts of the union are in Fox's hands, such as the union funds, we cannot really have a strong union. Above all we have to win back the right to strike. Without it both of our hands are tied behind our backs and we can only kick with our feet.

Best wishes for the continued existence of your paper. Its need is greater than ever. Enclosed is \$5.00 to renew my sub and contribution.

S. H. Cicero