

The Fighting Worker

Official Organ of The Revolutionary Workers League, U. S.

Workers of
The World
Unite!

Vol. 9—No. 12, Whole No. 126

DECEMBER, 1944

Price 5 Cents

"A BAS PIERLOT!"

From 15 to 18 thousand industrial workers, men and women paraded the main streets of Brussels while the police stood by quietly and looked on — arms ready but unused. Allied troops were deployed from the slaughter of imperialist war to stand by for slaughter of revolutionary workers — if necessary, and it may yet be necessary.

These were not workers parading for the newsreel to welcome the allied "liberators." They carried flowers of a different sort — banners flying high demanding the removal of Pierlot (a bas Pierlot) the Belgian Prime Minister. They demanded that the allies, as well as their native capitalists cease collaborating with the fascist collaborators. They demanded that the collaborators be jailed. They sang the "INTERNATIONAL" — and they marched armed. Revolvers protruded with no pretense of concealment from most pockets. Some groups carried rifles. And there were a few machine-guns, mounted and ready for action. The AP dispatches were very clear on the subject — if these armed workers were molested in any way Civil War would be going on in full swing in Belgium!

The slogans inscribed and shouted made it very plain that these workers were just as clear-sighted in recognizing the role of the allies as they were in recognizing the role of the fascist imperialists. They wanted none of them. The Belgian fascists were quite openly NOT personae-non-grata to the allied "liberators." They were collaborated with just as ardently by the allies as they were by the nazis. If the workers of Brussels had at any time believed the underground radio propaganda of Great Britain and the United States that this was a "Peoples War," that it was even an anti-fascist war, they were disillusioned hot on the heels of their "liberation" and they learned quickly the need for independent class action.

The allied command, however, has a formula for such action. It was prepared long in advance of the "opening of the 2nd front" and one of its basic points is to use armed force against revolutionary uprisings only as a last resort. To hide their real purpose as long as possible under the fine words with which they have buried the imperialist war aims. First come the attempts at bribery — with prestige and positions for the leadership that will take its orders from the allies (they can always be elected out of office later). Then there is direct bribery — money, escape, but that doesn't hold any guarantees. And as a next to the last resort there are always the obedient Stalinists, eager and willing to serve for free, glad to donate their experience and services for the glorious cause of Stalinist bureaucracy and allied capitalism. This method which has its own possible dangers to the imperialist apple-cart is nevertheless one of the most effective so far used. And it was this method which was finally used in Belgium.

But the Stalinists tried to sell out to an embittered industrial proletariat. Their appeals and cajoling to call off the demonstration were in vain. The workers marched, armed, and sang the "International!" They showed their colors and flew the crimson banner of revolutionary internationalism. But Stalinism is used to about-faces. With brazen effrontery they used their well capitalist-oiled machine to place themselves at the head of this torrent of surging workers. They will use every trick in their deck to safely sterilize the anti-capitalist orientation of the masses in order to lead them back safely to the slaughter-house of allied imperialism.

As we go to press not one additional line has appeared in the capitalist dailies on the outcome of this demonstration, but one thing is certain! The Stalinists may help dam the flood of revolution for a short while, but once the bounds are burst, they too, will be swept along with the rest of the debris.

ONLY PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION CAN DEFEAT FASCISM! ARISE, YE PRISONERS OF STARVATION! ARISE, YE WRETCHED OF THE EARTH!

FDR DROPS CAMPAIGN MASK

After looking over two sets of almost identical programs, John Voter figured it made little difference who continued to rule him out of house and home — and so he kept the old administration in office.

But the process of laying-it-on the American working stiff will now gain real momentum. In case you weren't looking please note that your withholding tax shoots up a buck or two each week. Possibility is that your social security tax will be upped. There is a good chance that the infamous Woodward conscription-of-civilians bill will now have a better chance of passage. And above all government by decree will tighten up rather than otherwise. Regimentation is here to stay — so long as the working class doesn't fight back.

The elections brought out a number of important facts, which the FIGHTING WORKER has been emphasizing for months:

1—The strength of the CIO Political Action Committee indicates that there is a "polarization" in American class relations. Workers are demanding something to the left of the New

Deal. The PAC is a first step in the direction of a Labor Party—it hopes to scoop up that left sentiment and keep it in safe capitalist channels.

2—Roosevelt won by the smallest majority in popular votes since Wilson. Without the war crisis and without the aid of the labor fakery, particularly PAC, he would have been defeated.

3—The whole tenor of the elections was a shift to the right. The democrats dumped Wallace for a machine man, Truman. Dewey campaigned on an "anti-Communist" platform.

4—The New Deal was supported in this election not only by its standing capitalism groups, but also by J. P. Morgan and Company through the New York Times, Walter Lippman and a dozen other Morgan-controlled sources — thus nailing the eternal lie that Roosevelt is hated by the capitalists.

5—The elections showed extreme confusion on the part of the working class but in the absence of a clear perspective on how to fight back they permitted themselves to be bludgeoned into supporting Roosevelt again. This "honeymoon" is just

CHINA

It is not often that predictions made in the FIGHTING WORKER are verified as promptly as those made two months ago regarding the relations between American imperialism and Chiang Kai Shek. It appears now that the disintegration of Allied "unity" which we then anticipated has already proceeded so rapidly as to involve the entire East Asia military and political strategy of imperialism.

On the political plane, the spectacular recall of Stilwell, immediately followed by the resignation of Ambassador Gauss, has left the bourgeois commentators agog. It is most touching to observe these gentlemen, who for long years have been preaching the brotherliness of Chiang, now madly vying with one another in denouncing his lack of democracy. That Chiang would rather defeat the Chinese masses than gain victory over Japan is no news to the working class. But the sudden admissions by the boss class press teach us two things: one, they admit having lied for years — therefore, the worker should know he can never trust the boss press. Two: this is not a war for the "four freedoms," "democracy" or anything of the sort. It is just another imperialist war for the redivision of the world. So far as China is concerned, the struggle is over who shall rule — American or British imperialism or a temporary coalition, or Japanese imperialism.

MANEUVERS AND EXCUSES

Meanwhile, at last reports, Chiang's maneuvers between the powers are abetted by the death of Wang Chin Wei, Nipponese puppet at Nanking. Since Wang was the bearer of Sun Yat Sen's mantle, his demise gives Chiang a little more prestige in negotiations.

On the military plane, the fall of Luichow guarantees the rapid junction of the two main Japanese forces from the north and the southeast. This is the most serious blow in years at the Chinese resistance movement. It forces the American air bases back westward for hundreds of miles, thus providing Chi-

(Continued on Page 4)

about over, however. The rift between the workingman and Roosevelt will make itself felt in the forthcoming lowered standard of living which will be fought by increased and longer strikes in the coming year.

6—The elections again showed that

(Continued on Page 2)

AIR CONFAB

"Preview of World War III." It is impossible to think of a more appropriate name for the International Air Conference in Chicago during the latter part of October and the first half of November — "preview of World War III."

With the "guiding" hand of American Imperialism compressed into a hard fist, 52 nations (so-called "united" nations) assembled at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago and proceeded to prove to all and sundry that so long as capitalism exists there can be no unity, no amity, no real agreement.

The Conference started with one of the "Big Four" refusing to attend — the Soviet Union. The official reason for the refusal was that Spain, Portugal and Switzerland had been invited and that Stalin wouldn't have anything to do with these nations since they refuse to recognize the Soviet Union.

Obviously the excuse is pretty fluffy — and full of holes. Other nations from the western hemisphere, equally dictatorial, equally unwilling to recognize the Soviet Union, were present. But the Stalinist protest ran only to these three nations. If this disagreement were an isolated case, the Soviet representations might be accepted by some naive people. But it isn't an isolated case at all.

DISUNITY RAMPANT

All is not well between the three "allies." It didn't go very well at the monetary conference. It went worse at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, where even the "allies" themselves were forced to admit they only achieved 90% agreement (it should read 0% — if you distort the lies of power politics). Now at the air conference — the most important economic conference possible — the schisms are a mile high and couple of oceans wide.

Three points of view clashed with astounding vigor. The New Zealand-Australian delegation wanted an International corporation (ownership) to run the airlines (very much like the plan to have an International bank running money matters. Parenthetically it is significant that while the imperialists agreed to this latter plan — as a means of keeping full control of an area where the little fellows have long ago been frozen out, they refuse the same thing in a field which is ripe for competition). Britain proposed a plan which called for rigid International control — allocation of running routes, trade, planes, etc. by an International body. The United States favored "free competition" — freedom in other words, for the superior American industry to push all other competitors out of the market. Canada proposed a formula somewhere in between the British and American points of view, no doubt in the hopes of an eventual patch work and meaning-

less compromise.

BRITAIN VS. WALL ST.

Most interesting is the continued Wall Street masquerade as a "lover of freedom and free competition." The London News Chronicle reported from the conference that "staggering figures about U. S. capacity to dominate the air routes have come out of America. A good many of the (British) air experts at Chicago... have had a rather sharp knock since they arrived." The plan of the U.S. to permit "free competition" is thus similar to all its demands for an "open door" in those fields where it lacks control, but where its economic might is sufficient to force everyone else onto the sidelines; and its demands for a "closed door" in those fields where its dominance is already supreme.

For instance America is for an "open door" in the aviation industry, but for a "closed door" in banking; it is for an "open door" in India and elsewhere, but for a "closed door" in the Western Hemisphere. The talk of "freedom" is used only as a camouflage for the most ambitious imperialist designs in all history — the determined attempt by the United States to completely dominate the economy and life of the whole world.

The basic ever sharpening struggle between Britain and the U. S. cropped up again at this conference and was far from polite. Both powers recognize the enormous importance of air routes after the war. The progress of imperialism, from now on, will be measured not in terms of water trade or rail trade, as in the past — but in terms of AIR trade. Within a decade air transport will undoubtedly replace all other forms as the major means of transportation. Technological progress in this field has been phenomenal. The fight for air bases and privileges will now become the most important economic point of contention between the imperialists.

THE WAR CONTINUES

The fact that two such "friends" (!) as America and Great Britain are unable to agree on how to divide this field in advance is an indication that the WAR CONTINUES. War is the continuation of politics by other means. The politics of air transport already shows the jockeying for position, the antagonisms, the vicious hostility between the two major powers which MUST LEAD TO THE NEXT MILITARY STRUGGLE.

Even the imperialists are convinced that real united action is impossible. In blunt words the representative of Brazil (a U. S. stooge) answered the New Zealand plan for an international corporation: "The world isn't ready for such sweeping proposals now." And Mr. Berle, head of the U. S. delegation, stated it more sweetly but with the same content: "we must tread the slower path of walking together as nations;" "Inability to make this dream come true is not due to any lack of sympathy with these nations, far off, in a trouble sea. Yet may we speed the day when it will be possible"

(Continued on Page 2)

6 Trotskyites Freed

The Revolutionary Workers League greets the six Trotskyite comrades and leaders of Teamster Local 544 in Minneapolis, Shoenfeld, Russel, Kuehn, DeBoer, Hamel and Palmquist, who were recently released from prison. These comrades were tossed into jail almost a year ago as a result of a frame-up by the New Deal government on charges of "sedition."

These comrades are living testament to the regimentation and persecution of anti-war militants under our so-called "democracy." They went to jail because Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Tobin were anxious that there be no one in the trade unions with even a shade of anti-war sentiment.

Twelve other Trotskyite comrades are still in jail. While the R.W.L. does not agree with these workers politically, we have given and will continue to give these victims of capitalist persecution our fullest support.

Continue the campaign! Demand the release of these class-conscious workers!

WORDS THAT CAME TRUE

The FIGHTING WORKER Wrote History in Advance

Vol. 1, No. 10, Whole No. 11, Oct. 1936, P. 2. F. W.

Prediction: "The coming struggle — (of the revolutionary workers against the counter-revolutionary fascists) — in France will decide the fate of Europe. — If Fascism wins, it will dominate Europe."

CONFIRMATION: Lacking confidence in the ability of their fascist reserve to smash the power of the workers, the French capitalists checked the class struggle before it reached the point of a civil war. They checked it by opening their borders to the military machine of German fascism which, in 1940, took over the problem of subduing the French workers. This deal gave Fascism domination of the European continent.

Vol. 1, No. 12, Whole No. 13, Nov. 1936, P. 1, F. W.

Prediction: "Defeat of the workers in Spain will not solve the problems of Spanish society, but will aggravate them."

CONFIRMATION: Famine, unemployment and sporadic revolutionary upheavals continue in Spain today in a more aggravated form than before the revolution.

Vol. 1, No. 13, Whole No. 14, Nov. 1936, P. 2. F. W.

Prediction: "The landslide for Roosevelt by no means implies that the Republican Party will fold up. The defeat is the basis for tightening up and eliminating dead wood. They will return in coming elections with a better fighting machine."

CONFIRMATION: The Republican Party didn't fold up. It did eliminate dead wood and planted liberals in their place (Willkie, etc.) These tightening up moves made it a better fighting machine in the two elections that have followed, as the election returns proved.

Vol. 1, No. 13, Whole No. 14, Nov. 1936, P. 2, F. W.

Prediction: "The Union Party and its hodge-podge make-up will disintegrate. Some will move to the right and others will go to the Labor Party."

CONFIRMATION: The Union Party did disintegrate partially at first, more quickly later. Some elements did move in the direction of a Labor Party (followers of the aged liberal, Townsend); others did move right (Gerald K. Smith and Co. who later organized the anti-Semitic America First Party.)

Vol. 1, No. 13, Whole No. 14, Nov. 1936, P. 2. F. W.

Prediction: "The Labor Party will now be brought into greater service as the necessary reserve to hold in check the workers who are moving out of the two-party system."

CONFIRMATION: "The American Labor Party has expanded its demoralizing grip over new hundreds of thousands of leftward moving workers. In the recent presidential election of 1944, the Democrats carried the state of New York only because these labor fakers lured the workers' votes into the capitalist ballot box with the honey of their party (working class) name.

Comment: In addition, predictions found in early issues are frequently repeated in later ones. The prediction of the inevitability of a new imperialist redivision of the world's markets is made, without a single exception, in every issue up to the actual outbreak of the imperialist war.

FDR DROPS CAMPAIGN MASK

(Continued from Page 1)

the "democracy" stuff was just bunk. No workers' party could possibly match the money spent by either capitalist party, with their hundreds

of big papers and radio stations behind them, and the shameful corruption of the big city and state machines. The choice was between a tweedledum and a tweedledee. And Tweedledum was elected.

AIR CONFAB

(Continued from Page 1)

ble to consider international accords."

Such hypocrisy! WHY is it impossible for nations to cooperate today? Mr. Berle refuses to say.

As the war reaches a military conclusion against Germany the more basic reasons for the war come out into the open. Up to now only the Marxists have been telling the world that this is a robbers' war, which will

be followed by a robbers' armistice. But even the most childish followers of the capitalist system are beginning to see the war in its true colors with each passing day — and are beginning to see the clear cut contours of the next imperialist carnage. Providing, of course, that we workers are clumsy enough to permit capitalism to exist.

Wars are inevitable under capitalism. Only the Proletarian Revolution can end the Wars!

HISTORY OF THE U. A. W.

(In 3 Parts — Conclusion)

Martin, however, had made so many enemies that peace could never be restored while he remained President. There were fist-fights, delegations of protest to Martin's office by dozens of rank-and-file committees, sluggings in the dark, international officers barricaded in their offices against mobs, goons imported from out of town, caucuses by hundreds from both sides, local meetings adjourned illegally by pro-Martin officers and reconvened by the rank and file; it would take a large book to tell the whole story.

FORD'S GOLD FOR MARTIN

Finally, in January, 1939, Martin was caught red-handed in a deal with the Ford Motor Co. Ford had been paying \$40,000 a month to union officials and organizers to keep his plants unorganized. Harry Bennett, Ford's chief-noon-in-charge-of-personnel, realized that Martin was on the way out and about to lose his usefulness. Believing that exposure of Martin would help to keep Ford workers unorganized, he arranged a meeting between Martin and John Gillespie (Bennett's assistant), then arranged to have them caught in the act by newspaper men.

Caught red-handed, Martin went completely nuts and suspended 15 of the 24 Executive Board members. The suspended members suspended Martin. R. J. Thomas, who had sat on the fence with both feet in the Martin camp till he saw who was going to win, was elected temporary president. The suspended board members moved out of the gilt-edge, mahogany-upholstered Griswold Building into a second-class hotel "to save the members money." Also because the rent was due and the treasury impounded by court order. (By the way, what ever became of that 90,000 bucks, or aren't we supposed to know?)

The issues in the dispute (well, some of them, anyway) were taken to the rank-and-file; and, since Homer had been caught and the officers hadn't he was shown to be wrong. Intelligent militants held their noses and went along with the majority, they couldn't go with Martin. A goodly number of local officers and International organizers couldn't decide which side was right until they were shown with cold, hard cash. Martin didn't have any cash, the other side had plenty from John L. Lewis.

Martin went back to the AF of L but he did not have much company. He attempted to hold a convention in Detroit in March, 1939, but it was a magnificent flop, so Homer went to work as an office boy for Ford — where he belonged.

THE CLEVELAND CONVENTION

The same month the Cleveland convention of the UAW-CIO was held, by delegates officially representing (Continued on Page 4)

WORKERS OF THE WORLD

BRITAIN SNOOPS TO CONQUER

The British ministry of information sent a letter to employees of industrial concerns seeking volunteers who would report periodically on rumors, the state of morale and what workers are saying about national and domestic affairs. This snooping method has long been used by the capitalists and by their governments, the fascists did not have to invent it. But this time something went wrong, the news about the snooping campaign leaked out. Information Minister Brendan Bracken had to cover up in a hurry. But he did not repudiate the principle of factory spies, he did not deny that he was using them. He found a formula intended to quiet down public opinion while giving him complete lee-way: The letter "never should have been written and has been withdrawn."

RIOTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

In an attempt to substitute race hatred for class struggle, a race riot was incited in Capetown between Europeans and South African natives. The police, under British orders, claim that it began when a native was knocked down accidentally. Natives stoned vehicles and the Europeans attacked the office of a native newspaper. The police charged the rioters with tear gas; many of them had to be hospitalized.

TERRORISM IN PALESTINE

News of unrest in Palestine has trickled through the extremely tight censorship surrounding that country. A Jewish organization, called "Israel's Freedom Fighters," convinced that Jews must force concessions from the British at rifle point, are engaged in acts of individual terror; while the Arabs look on without intervening. The British police deported 250 "suspects" out of Palestine to an unknown destination. News of most of the goings-on has been censored by the British. But after the murder in Cairo of Walter E. Guinness, British minister of state, by two members of this group, some of the facts became known.

It is true that only force will do away with the British domination of Palestine as well as any other colony, but it must be mass action, not terrorism. Only world socialism will solve the problem of the Jews along with those of all oppressed minorities.

GERMANY AND U. S. SHARE COAL

A German coal mine at the front line, situated partly in American conquered territory, partly in territory held by the Germans, is being shared by the Germans and Americans. The tunnel has been sealed off and while the fighting goes on all around the mine, civilian miners of both sides are digging coal.

Coal is very important for the continuation of the war, and one of the most important branches of industry. And while militarily it should be fairly easy for either army to put the entire mine out of production, this would definitely be against the capitalists' "ethics of war."

GUATEMALA — AGAIN ALMOST A REVOLUTION

Another palace revolution has taken place in Guatemala. A few months ago we said in this column (after the July revolt which ousted the dictator Ubico) that despite their heroism the workers of Guatemala had gained nothing. Here is the development of the government after the July insurrection: General Federico Ponce got himself elected temporary President by promising free elections. The fetters of the press were loosened, and workers, through union activity, began winning living wages. But after the first timid steps of liberalism, exacted by the workers' show of force, Ponce cracked down. He had hundreds of workers and members of the intelligentsia jailed. He began a reign of terror and then proceeded to hold the presidential elections, — jailing people who manifested favor for his opponent. Again the workers and students revolted, — smashed his dictatorship. But again they stopped short, leaving the power to three other men.

Nothing has changed. The same exploiting ruling class, which pays the workers of Guatemala starvation wages, stays in power under the direct control of American imperialism. The U. S. A. wasted no time recognizing the new regime.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bulletin of the Provisional International Contact Commission

DECEMBER ISSUE

Military Principles and Capitalist Decay

Roots of Bureaucracy

International Notes

Subscription \$1.00 a year 10c per copy

Order from Demos Press

708 North Clark St., Chicago, Illinois, U.S.

COMMUNISM OR FASCISM — There Is No Other Choice

Allied capitalism has had to go to great lengths to cloak its greed for more markets as a holy crusade for righteousness. It has had to conceal its true war aims so that death would be more palatable for the "free" youth of this generation. It has had to shout "stop thief" at the European fascists in order to blind its own workingclass to the fascist methods which are being daily utilized and legalized on the home front. It has blatantly proclaimed this as a "war against fascism"; a war for the "four freedoms"; for the "Atlantic Charter"; for "democracy and liberation" — all of which sounds very sincere and noble! But in reality another hoax, completely false in fact and untrue in purpose!

It was Hitler, who in "Mein Kampf" stated that if a lie must be told it should be made so big that it would be believed in the face of incontrovertible facts. Undoubtedly Hitler has made frequent use of this master psychological trick to maintain deception within Germany, (many German prisoners of war have expressed surprise that the USA is not being run by the elite of the SS Guards). But Hitler is not alone in his use of this method. The lie of the so-called democratic capitalist ruling class that THEY are waging a war AGAINST fascism has not yet been equalled

in any part of the earth.

Let us review a few of the facts:

For 23 years Italian fascism received warm praise and admiration and aid from Churchill in person, from the Cliveden set, from the British Empire on a more formal basis. Warren Atherton long time National Commander of the super-patriotic American Legion, as well as most of the present \$1.00 a year men who are running the Washington scene were among Il Duce's fervent friends. Commercial and diplomatic relations officially continued with the U. S. government (whether Republicans or Democrats held sway). During the Ethiopian "campaign" official eyes were conveniently blinded by the desert sands and fascism marched on, well oiled by the present "enemies."

German nazism came into power thru the utilization of all forces available from the same groups. The Banks of England and the U. S. contributed heavily to firmly establish not only the man Hitler, but the system he perfected — Nazism. Diplomatic recognition, constant commerce, and ready concessions — Czechoslovakia, the Polish corridor, Austria, etc. etc. ad nauseam were the way the mighty al-

lies expressed their "hatred of nazism."

Spanish Falangists were considered "gentlemen and scholars," Spanish fascism was assisted into power by open and furtive trade while the Loyalists were given the "brush off" from every good "democracy" (with the exception of the Soviet Union). Today Churchill praises Franco while trying to come to some more lucrative trade treaties with Spain. U. S. oil, gas, war material, and consumer goods are being shipped to Spain constantly. Franco sent a letter of congratulations to President Roosevelt on his present re-election to office and it was not turned away in horror at the White House.

Japan with its military dictatorship was considered "good customers," trade negotiations, diplomatic honors, shipping of ten million tons of scrap steel and iron and continued despite the open bombardment of Chinese cities.

And until September 1939 the house of world capitalism managed to get along without any "quarrel" considered sufficiently important for the "Have it all Powers" to participate in. So what if there was fascism, and nazism, and militarism? Those were not fighting words, then or now!

(Continued on Page 3)

THE FIGHTING WORKER

REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE, U. S.
(Affiliated to the Provisional International Contact
Commission for a New Communist (4th) International)

Subscription \$1.00 per year

Published monthly by
DEMOS PRESS
708 N. Clark Street, Chicago, Ill.

PLEASE NOTE. There is no connection between Demos Press and the Social Science Institute located at the same address.

Programmatic Highlights

- 1—Against the imperialist war — a war for plunder, profit, markets and spheres of influence.
- 2—For the Proletarian Revolution which alone will end imperialist war and defeat fascism.
- 3—For a new Fourth (Communist) International. For a new Revolutionary Marxian Party in the United States.
- 4—Against a Labor Party and all other forms of Popular Frontism.
- 5—For independent working class action on the political and economic fields. For strike action now — including the sitdown strike — to gain better wages and working conditions. No faith in reformists and Labor fakers.
- 6—For full equality for the Negroes, Mexicans, Chinese, Japanese and all other oppressed minorities in the United States. Against Jim Crowism and Anti-Semitism.
- 7—For Workers Defense Squads in the Unions and elsewhere to defend the working class from the Fascist inroads of capitalism.
- 8—For full and unconditional independence for the Philippines, Virgin Islands, Porto Rico and all other territories of the United States, including those islands and areas now occupied by American military forces. For the right of self-determination for all colonies.
- 9—For the defense of the Soviet Union against World Imperialism and Stalinism. Extend the October Revolution. For a political revolution in Russia to reestablish Workers Democracy and continue toward Socialism.
- 10—For a Workers Council Government in the United States and all over the world.

Stalin's Speech

On the 27th anniversary of the Russian Revolution and in the midst of the second world wide imperialist war Stalin delivered a speech on the state of the nation and the October Revolution.

The speech is composed of many words, but says nothing; absolutely nothing about the real or hidden conditions of this war. In fact it is a speech of "power politics" ignoring the vital interests of the Soviet masses and the workers and peasants of the world.

Nothing is said about the October Revolution. No lessons are drawn regarding the first imperialist war and its conversion into a civil war against imperialism by the workers and peasants.

Nothing is said about the character of the present war. It is an imperialist war, fought by the Axis vs. the United Nations for a redivision of the earth and its wealth, for exploitation by the winning group. It has elements of revolutionary war to the extent that the Soviet Union (not Stalinism) is involved and to the extent that the revolutionary element fight on two fronts, against the fascists and against the attempt of the advancing United Nations to disarm the people. But Stalin had nothing to say on this either.

The text of the speech revolved around the problem of defeating Germany, not German imperialism, and not Fascism, but Germany. This is certainly not the aim of the workers and peasants. Their aim is to defeat FASCISM in Germany and throughout the world. Fascism and reaction must be crushed. These two different formulas are two different roads. One means restoration of bourgeois democracy (if possible) and the other is the road to Workers' councils.

Stalin praised the Second Front of the Allies. Not one word is expressed to reveal the timing of the second front as primarily a weapon against the social revolution, and only secondarily as a weapon against Italy and Germany.

Stalin didn't even hint that the Anglo-American imperialists are disarming and crushing the guerrillas who did the real job in driving the Axis out of their own countries. In Italy, in France, in Greece, and in other countries the revolutionary struggle between the right of the people to have arms and the arming of special state bands of the exploiters is the life and death struggle within the country. Stalin's silence is Stalin's approval of these imperialist acts. Only where his Stalinist party, within a country, is at stake does he make back-stage maneuvers to keep the arms for the masses.

Within the Soviet border countries Stalin ignored the problem of what kind of economy will be established. In spite of Stalinism the economic weight of the Soviet economy has positive effects in eastern Europe. But this is not enough. In the end the struggle will be determined by the KIND of policy the leading forces carry out.

COMMUNISM OR FASCISM

(Continued from Page 2)

When the workingclass raised its fist and made demands for better conditions, for reforms, for social changes, the fascist nations and the democratic nations co-operated in putting down all such displays and attempts. The fascist and militarist nations, because they were weaker, had to resort to brass knuckles (military force) to keep their workers contented, (!) but the bigger, richer, stronger "democratic" nations could still keep up the pretense of leniency and use force only when other means failed. But because the "democracies" are not at present using the open fascist METHOD OF RULE in no way signifies that they don't realize its value; and whenever it becomes expedient they will have no hesitancy about maintaining their class rule no matter what form that rule must take. If it is needed to keep the profit system going even the most liberal bourgeoisie will institute every repression and horror that fascism has spewed up.

The capitalist class has no axe to grind against the fascist method of class rule; some fascist and semi-fascist countries and military dictatorships are among its best friends, they are even classified as "allies." The war is being fought because one group of countries (most of which were just COINCIDENTALLY fascist) realized that they had more strength as a united bloc to gain their demands than if they attempted to so individually.

The earth was no longer large enough to permit powerful modern productive nations to ALL MAKE SUFFICIENT PROFIT. So Hitler cried for "lebensraum" and got central Europe; and Mussolini demanded "colonies" and took Ethiopia; and Japan whistled "Asia for the Asiatics" and marched into China. The United States bellowed for "free trade" and forced its financial tentacles into everyone else's pie. Great Britain sat shakily on its tremendous empire and glibly offered everyone part of someone else's territory if only hers were left untouched — but the empire holds most of the prizes of war. And despite Churchill's assertion that he "did not become Prime Minister to liquidate the British Empire" it was being chipped off by "friend" and "foe" alike, by the "democracies" as well as by the "fascists."

No question so ethical as the FORM OF CAPITALIST CLASS RULE ever bothered the bourgeoisie; the only problem, plain and simple was — and still is — from whom will we get the most. And precisely the same problem confronts the workingclass. It is only the workingclass (and some sections of the middle-class and minority groups) who oppose the fascist system because they realize that under fascism they get the worst exploitation.

The capitalist class proved time and again that it will at all times unite with its "enemy" to see that the workingclass doesn't "go too far."

In every country where the workingclass has organized itself (whether as underground resistance groups, guerrillas or partisans or sniping parties) in order to fight the fascist "enemy" the main worry of the native bourgeoisie has been that they might get out of hand. In Yugoslavia; Denmark;

Italy; France; Spain; the Philippine Islands; in all these countries the capitalists first collaborate WITH the fascists, before and after "invasion" and then collaborate WITH the allies after "liberation." But they do not at any time actively fight against fascism! They do (unless they have top control) actively fight against the workingclass groups who manage to arm themselves to battle against fascism. Their first plea to the "liberators" is that they disarm the guerrillas. Greece is a typical example:

When the Nazis invaded Greece the bourgeoisie did not get shot, nor did they starve — they got along fine together. They offered not resistance but banquets. The right of profiteering is an internationally recognized class ethic! But the workers thought differently — never too fond of their native bosses they liked even less the astronomical inflation, the death, starvation and misery which the nazi rule carried in its wake. They organized and fought back UNOFFICIALLY — and to fight fascism it was clear they also had to fight their own native capitalists. These groups, the real "liberators" of Greece cleared the path for the allied forces. The allied officers and representatives are now being winned and dined by the good capitalist Greek hosts. They, too, recognize the international ethic, they pay sympathetic heed to the plea of Greek capitalism that the guerrilla forces are a "menace to society." They will do as the Greeks bid them — they will force the disarming of the guerrillas.

First the Allies try cajoling with fine words, then bribery of the top leadership with fine positions. If these don't work they issue "decrees" commanding disarmament — and eventually they do as Eisenhower stated he is about to do — they march the Allied troops against the Greek Guerrillas!

Is it not clear that if workers see fit to fight their own capitalist class in their fervor against the nazi invaders they may also come to recognize the necessity of expelling the imperialists who carry the democratic banner on their bayonets? After all, didn't the Greek sailors revolt just a few short months ago, and wasn't it necessary for the allies to put down that revolt with naval guns! Events in Greece have reached revolutionary proportions, fighting taking place between the working class, particularly ELAS (at present under Stalinist control) and an alliance of Papandreu, his counter-revolutionary mountain brigade, and British imperialism.

Undoubtedly Stalinism will attempt to channelize these events into bourgeois channels. But the fate of the Greek revolution will depend first of all on the ability of the Greek masses to organize a revolutionary Marxian party, and secondly — equally as important — on the ability of the revolution to spread beyond the Greek borders. To really overthrow fascism one must simultaneously overthrow the heap of antiquated garbage in which it breeds — the capitalist system of production for profit.

The issue remains the same for the "postwar" period as it was in the "pre-war" period — Communism or Fascism. There is no other choice. The workingclass knows which to choose!

Defend S. U. with New October Revolution

The memory of man is sometimes very short. A few years ago everyone said that Hitler would never dissolve his "partnership" with Stalin. The Revolutionary Workers League, at the time pointed to the basic antagonism between the two social orders, in Germany and in the Soviet Union. We said that despite Stalinism war between these two states must come.

At that time the American and British bourgeois press cursed the Soviet Union from here to Kingdom Come. Today, however, few people believe that the Allies will eventually attack the Soviet Union.

But why should that be so incredible? Didn't the Allies PERMIT Hitler to build the strongest army in the world, precisely in order to attack the Soviet Union? In 1934 or 1936 or even 1938, the French and British armies could have snuffed out the Wehrmacht with almost no effort at all, particularly in the earlier years. Yet they chose to "appease" the Nazi regime. Why? Because Hitler was promising them he was going to lead THEIR crusade against the Workers' State. And the Allies gave Germany Czechoslovakia, Austria, and other bits of territory as a bribe to march toward the East — "Drang nach Osten."

Not once has Stalin even hinted that he would support the social revolution in any of these countries. On the contrary, in these countries now occupied by the Anglo-American imperialists the revolution is being crushed. Not fascism, but the social revolution.

The only thing Stalin said for the countless millions of oppressed in Asia is the fact that Japan was an aggressor nation. Not an aggressor against the workers and peasants of China and Asia. No, an aggressor nation against United States at Pearl Harbor. Such brazen treatment of the peoples of the Orient! This is even worse than how Green, Murray or Lewis handle the problem. Even Willkie does better.

The Stalinists may defend their "leader" claiming that he is stalling for time: He is waiting his turn! But they are not fooling the imperialists. They are only fooling and lying to the working class and peasants. They are disarming in advance the only effective allies, the real allies of the Soviet Union, of a socialist economy — the proletariat.

The signs of an eventual attack against the Soviet Union by their "allies" are multiplying every day. Russia withdraws from the air conference. There is no unity at Dumbarton Oaks or the monetary conference. Friction over the Polish Government-in-exile continues. DeGaulle in France and Papandreu in Greece are cracking down on the Stalinists — quite evidently with British and American consent. Former Ambassador Bullitt writes an article for Life calling for war against the Soviet Union. Bullitt is a close friend of Roosevelt's and recently had his support for Mayoralty in Philadelphia. The Soviet government refuses to permit the Allied "relief and rehabilitation" organization into Russian occupied territory. American correspondents are kept out of that territory, too.

The Stalinist policy of "playing off one imperialist power against another" is thus leading to a final debacle. The Franco-Soviet pact of 1935 was supposed to place an iron wall around Germany, thus protecting the Soviet Union from attack. Hitler, however, attacked anyway. The Stalin-Hitler pact was the next step in "dividing the imperialist world." But it too failed. The Wehrmacht penetrated all the way to Stalingrad. The Soviet Union may have gained a small respite by the pact, but what it lost was worth a thousand times as much. On the eve of the war the French masses were on the verge of Revolution. The big apparatus of the Third International — if it had adhered to an INTERNATIONALIST line — would undoubtedly have been able to develop that movement into a general Revolutionary conflagration. Such a turn of events would have stayed the hand of ALL imperialism, would have postponed the war.

Now Stalinism has a pact with the Anglo-American imperialists — just as worthless, and just as shoddy as the previous Soviet pacts with imperialist powers. All signs, and all theoretical considerations, point to another INVASION OF THE SOVIET UNION.

There are two classes in modern society — the Capitalist class and the Working class. The gulf between them is unbridgeable. The nationalist policy of Stalinism will destroy the Soviet Union; it has already undermined it almost beyond recognition. Only a pact with the world proletariat to spread the October Revolution, to fight WORLD capitalism, can really save the first Workers Republic.

CHINA

(Continued from Page 1)

ang with a new excuse for preparing the negotiated peace.

Most serious factor in the situation is the growing resentment of the Chinese masses, now fighting through the seventh year of the war. Nowhere is the misery of the masses so clearly reflected as in the inflation which has gripped China. A picul of rice (about 150 lb.) now costs \$3,000, as against a former price of \$6. Children, on the other hand, are being sold for \$8 per pound (boys) and \$5 per pound (girls). No better commentary on impoverishment can be written.

NEGOTIATED PEACE

A negotiated peace between the KuoMinTang and Japanese imperialism would have even more significance than the above picture shows. It would represent a new anti-Soviet bloc in action, and a growing threat to the Soviet Union from the East. Moreover, Chiang's virtual secession from the imperialist war would mean increased pressure from the Allies for Soviet support in the war against Japan. The Chinese "Communist" forces, now rejected by Chiang and courted by the Allied powers, would possibly split wide open under such circumstances. The only positive part of the picture is the fact that the masses will acquire a far sharper consciousness of their position.

Under these conditions the need for a revolutionary party in China becomes imperative. Without it, nothing can be accomplished. With it, guidance is furnished for the largest revolutionary force in the world, the hundreds of millions of peasants under the leadership of the Chinese working class in the struggle for the overthrow of world imperialism and the seizure of power by the masses.

**WE DEPEND
ON
CONTRIBUTION
FROM WORKERS
FOR
PUBLICATION
AND
DISTRIBUTION
OF
THIS PAPER**

The 2nd Imperialist War FROM BOSS WAR TO WORKERS WAR

ANALYSIS OF 5 YEARS OF THE IMPERIALIST WAR

(Continued from November Issue of The Fighting Worker)

The doubts of the proletariat after four and a half years of bloodshed are rising to an unquenchable crescendo. Here and there they have already led to COUNTER MEASURES. The doubts have been crystallized; they have formed into action — on both sides of the warring fronts.

The record of such counter-actions is immense. It started not today, but at the very outset of the war. It continues to grow as the mask of imperialism is torn from the lying faces of the liars of the Wilhelmstrasse, the City, Wall Street, Tokyo and all the other capitals of the world.

WORKERS ORGANIZE

The war had hardly begun when the effects of these proletarian doubts began to be felt. The reactionary Beck government in Poland fled at the first thrust of the German armies. But the workers of Warsaw organized their own defense against Fascism, and for three weeks the heroic proletariat of the beleaguered city, under their own leadership, held out against the Nazi battalions. A few months later the French working class, likewise imbued with doubts and distrust of their bourgeois state, took a negative course of action which threw the front wide open. Hundreds of thousands of French workers who knew the anti-democratic character of the Daladier and Reynaud governments at first hand, who had witnessed the loss of one workers' right after another during their bonapartist regimes, refused to be cannon fodder for French imperialism. They deserted by the thousands; and those that remained at the front fought with only half a heart or not at all. There can be no doubt of the fact that the French military defeat was partly the result of the action (or rather lack of action) of the French working class. The Nazis undoubtedly had military superiority, but no nation the size of France can be defeated in ten days time unless it does not have the support of the populace. Unfortunately the French proletariat was unable to take advantage of the surrender of its own capitalist class and strike out for state power. Some twenty-three years earlier the Russian working class was able to accomplish this, was able to establish a working class state following the defeat of the Russian armies. The reasons for the failure of the French proletariat still remain to be uncovered, but the fact that the proletariat took COUNTER MEASURES against their class enemy, the French bourgeoisie, is indubitable.

STRIKE ACTION

In August 1942 a violent revolutionary upheaval broke out in India. Millions of British Indians participated; strikes and murders of minor bourgeois officials became pronounced. In July 1943 the working class of Italy rose up in the most heroic battle against Fascism of our times. They rooted out Mussolini (only, unfortunately, to have him restored at the point of a German bayonet a few months later) and started a clean sweep of Italian capitalism. That struggle, hidden by censorship (both Axis and Allied) still goes on. Its latest manifestation was on May Day 1944, when the workers of Northern Italy forced the German imperialists to declare the day a holiday, rather than face the threatened general strike. A few weeks earlier the Italian workers, six million strong according to some estimates, went out on strike for better bread rations and a number of political demands.

Some months later in Nazi occupied Denmark a general strike broke out, and fighting between German and Danish working class forces reached a high pitch in eight Danish cities. Only a short time ago — as this is written — the Greek Navy at Alexandria mutinied against the Greek government-in-exile. The Chicago Daily News foreign correspondent who was on the spot, Mowrer, writing to his paper a few weeks after the mutiny was supposed to have been put down, informed his readers that the struggle was still going on. Even in the little "republic" of El Salvador a general strike forced the twelve year dictatorship of Martinez out of existence.

But these actions do not by any means exhaust the thousand and one methods by which the proletariat shows that it does not believe the lies of the imperialist masters. The strike wave in Britain has been mounting for months, each month higher than the last. In March 1944 the

British had to impose 5 year prison penalties for strike "agitators", in an attempt to break the ever-recurring coal strikes. Despite all the pleas of national unity in the United States, strikes have continued and grown more fierce and determined in character. Demands by the War Labor Board to end strikes are increasingly being disregarded — even by the foreman's union in Detroit. But aside and apart from such organized strikes there are in all countries the thousands and thousands of quickies, departmental shutdowns and slowdown strikes.

"ENEMY" TOO FACES STRIKES

Such things are happening not only in the Allied countries but in Germany, Japan and central Europe as well. Allied Labor News reports strikes of over 100,000 workers in Japan in 1941. Our sister organization in Germany, the Red Front of Greater Germany, sent us a few years ago copies of a small printed leaflet circulated by left wing unionists in Germany, calling for strikes and mass action. At the time a serious strike wave was occurring in central Austria. The censorship naturally keeps such things hidden not only from the German public, but, unless communication with the underground is good, from the foreign public as well. The Singapore dockworkers refused to work for low British wages even while the Japanese were attacking, and the open struggles of the Burmese and Malayan masses against British rule was a primary cause for the loss of those colonies in 1942. Mutinies, "going over the hill" and other such actions have occurred on innumerable occasions, in all probability. As in the last war such things become known only after the war is over, and even then a good part of the data is never brought to light.

One thing stands out like a sore thumb from all this: the masses do not really believe the lies of their masters about "the fight against Fascism" (or on the other side, the "fight against the Bolsheviks"). They have seen too many real Fascists tied up with the so-called "fight against Fascism"; and above all they have seen too many actions that bear a striking similarity to Fascist actions, to believe the poppycock about this being a crusade against Hitlerism.

WORKERS ACTION FIGHTS FASCISM

As yet, except in isolated spots, the proletariat does not recognize that the ONLY blows being struck against Fascism are not the military campaigns of Montgomery and Eisenhower, or MacArthur and Mountbatten, but the general strikes of the Italian working class, the strikes in the British Clydeside, the American coal miners' strikes, the struggles of the Greek sailors, and other independent actions of the working class.

These actions of the working class all over the world are important; they are the only method of fighting capitalism and its imperialist wars. But even more important in the long run are the doubts, the confusions, the lack of faith, that are being born in the minds of millions, hundreds of millions, of oppressed and exploited. Doubts are the prelude to action; and the disillusions are mounting. Before the year is out those doubts will reach the maturity of firm mass action, strikes, revolutions — and not only in Europe but all over the world.

The military campaigns of the imperialists are waged with one eye focused on the "enemy" and the other eye focused on the proletariat. The "second" front has been delayed and timed to coincide with the inevitable uprisings in Europe. The imperialists, ALL imperialists, on both sides of the front, are ready to use FORCE against any section of the oppressed which dares to throw off its shackles. They will give all sorts of excuses (as the Allies did in Italy) for not putting "freedom" into effect now. They will tell us about having first to "beat Hitler," or having first to reconstruct the economy, or other such stuff. But they will be talking us only the usual LIES, the same lies we heard in the first war. While the world capitalists will be attempting to smash the only force that can really bring peace, the only class in society that is really interested in fighting Fascism, the proletariat.

Can any one doubt that? It is necessary only to trace the history of the present social system, capitalism, and to understand the laws of its productive process to make the fundamental prediction of this brief article that . . . ONLY PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION CAN END IMPERIALIST WAR.

HISTORY OF THE U. A. W.

(Continued from Page 2)

sending 371,213 members, 90,000 of whom paid dues. (Official figures from Ed. Levinsons comic "Rise of the Auto Workers"). That convention was a honey. The delegates represented the militants who paid dues and had a vote. They took the Constitution apart and made it over. They refused to adjourn for 11 days while they took care of the business for which they were elected. All attempts to "refer to the incoming executive board" were shouted down — rudely. While there was much opposition to Thomas and the rest of the officers it was unorganized so they were re-elected.

VICTORIES AND SELLOUTS

The same year General Motors, Briggs and Chrysler had another try at breaking the union by provoking strikes and refusing to settle for several weeks. Each of these strikes was won on the picket line by the workers, and given away at the conference table by the "leaders." That is a plan, not an accident. The captains of industry and their labor

lieutenants know they can wear down the militancy of the workers by such tactics. The workers come to realize they can not win strikes under such "leaders." That is WHAT the "leaders" want, for every strike victory increases the class-consciousness and self-confidence of the workers in their own power, and makes them harder to deliver to the bosses after they are sold down the river.

In 1939 and 40, the UAW, becoming daily more "respectable," won several hundred Labor Board elections in competition with AF of L and Company unions, which is very little to brag about. It does show that the American worker realizes that even a union with a bum leadership is better than none.

THE FORD CAMPAIGN

By early 1940 the campaign to organize Ford smelled worse than Willie Hearst, and the union members in other plants were beginning to talk. Not nice talk, either, Frankenstein was the figurehead in charge of the organizing drive in 1937-8-9.

Thousands of Ford workers signed up in that period. Their applications were supposedly kept secret by Zygmund Dobryznski, Frankenstein's assistant. Strangely enough Ford learned the name of every man who joined. Ford foremen had heart-to-heart talks with them. You know, thousands with new their applications, several hundred were fired and a few dozen beaten up. (Some of the same guys are now fighting Hitler, don't ask me why, with so much unfinished business at home). Dobryznski got caught and went out with Homer. Frankenstein didn't quite get caught, but the drive was put in charge of R. T. Leonard in 1940. By that time the Ford workers were somewhat suspicious of the UAW leaders.

To complicate matters Ford employs a large percentage of Negroes. Most of them are church members who had been hired on the recommendation of their pastor. Ford owns every Negro pastor in Detroit except the ones owned by Gen. Motors and Chrysler. Yes, the Negroes

were hard to organize.

Hundreds of paid organizers, and thousands of volunteers, spent all of 1940 restoring enough confidence in the union to sign up a majority. However, once signed up, the workers demanded results, and in April 1941 a strike developed in spite of all the efforts of the "leaders" to head it off. The Ford workers, ably assisted by many thousands from other Detroit plants, staged a fine militant strike for 10 days before they were herded back to work by union and management. The workers got a few cents raise; the leaders got recognition, the check-off, and the task of keeping the workers on the job in spite of unlimited company provocation.

STRIKE BREAKERS

In the fall of 1940 John L. Lewis staged a dramatic walk-out from the CIO. But not forever, he has a job to do. He throws a few pebbles at Wall St. and its government, and builds up a reputation for militancy among the workers. When they are thoroughly disgusted with Murray,

Thomas and Co., he will try to return to lead them — up another blind alley.

With American capitalism preparing to take us into the war the aircraft industry on the west coast was booming and Frankenstein was appointed to organize it. He was the first to show the open strike-breaking role of the International when he applauded Roosevelt's use of troops to break the strike at North American Aviation in 1941.

Since then the role of the International, as agents of the capitalists and their government, in hand-cuffing the workers to the war machine is too well known and remembered to need detailing here.

AUTOR WORKERS KEEP SCORE

This is the end of a short history of the UAW. It is not the end of the auto workers. The International sits on the lid repeatedly misleading, lying, betraying, threatening, and punishing the workers. But underneath an explosion is brewing that will blow them into the garbage-can of history.

ONLY PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION CAN DEFEAT FASCISM!