

# THE FIGHTING WORKER



**WORKERS OF THE WORLD  
UNITE!**

Organ of the Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S.

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## LETTER FROM SPAIN

The following paragraphs are extracts from the first report made to the Political Committee of the League by comrade Rosalio Negrete from Barcelona on November 23.

The Congress (of the International Bureau of Revolutionary Socialist Unity, held recently in Brussels) decided to call another congress shortly-tentatively in January—to be held in Barcelona. An attempt will be made there to form the "New Revolutionary International"....

### 40,000 In POUM

The POUM (Workers Party of Marxist Unification) has now grown to a membership of thirty to forty thousand.... The ideological level is very low. There is a one year's probation period for all raw workers; no probation for ex-Communist Party, ex-Socialist Party, etc., people. About ten thousand of the members are outside of Catalonia, mostly Madrid and Valencia....

...Greek comrades working on ships touching Soviet ports observed the opposition to Stalin, and the repression against it. Leading Communist Party and Red Army leaders of Odessa have been imprisoned. A large part of the Caucasus, organization is in opposition. The workers have been staging illegal demonstrations demanding aid for Spain. Le Temps of Paris (capitalist newspaper) reported a demonstration of a hundred thousand in Moscow at which Sokolnikov spoke against Stalin....

...edits the English edition of the POUM bulletin, Spanish Revolution, and the RPCers collaborate (representatives of the Revolutionary Policy Committee of the American Socialist Party, dissolved into the Norman Thomas outfit before the national convention at Cleveland last May). The British Independent Labor Party force is now tending to intervene more decisively in the bulletin....

(The opportunist character of the POUM emerges clearly from the report of our comrade who will send us periodic reports on the civil war and the struggle to build a Bolshevik party—Ed.)

## FUNDS FOR SPAIN

Help the workers in their civil War against the exploiters of Spain and against the imperialists by sending funds and clothing for the fighters for Communism against Fascism and Capitalism. Funds will be sent through our representative who is now in Barcelona.

**FOR A  
COMMUNIST  
FOURTH  
INTERNATIONAL**



## LEAGUE TO ATTEND BARCELONA CONFERENCE

The Brussels Congress of the London Bureau Centrists that produced the usual confusion on the political questions of the day have decided to call a conference in Barcelona in January. The call says, "The objectives of this conference is to examine the conditions and energetically to explore the possibilities of creating a really revolutionary international. The organization committee is composed of Gorkin of the P.O.U.M., Scwab of the S.A.P., and Brockway of the I.L.P." A more confused formula for a "new international" is difficult to find.

The Revolutionary Workers League of the United States will be represented at the Conference by its representative in Barcelona and by another Political Committee member who will leave for Europe. Our failure to attend the Brussels Congress was due to the arrest of our delegate by the French People Front Gov-

ernment.

The Trotskyite Centrist International, which just recently held the "Geneva" centrist conference decided to boycott, but through the pressure of its Holland and Belgian sections will attend.

The League takes the position that the Barcelona conference cannot organize a Committee for the Communist Fourth International upon the basis of the programs of these centrist groups and parties. That if an "international" is established it will be a centrist stumbling bloc for the class and the revolutionists.

In presenting a Marxian position the League will be able to help clarify, and above all consolidate our international tendency.

The FOURTH INTERNATIONAL will publish our documents and the proceedings of the conference.

## THE POUM AND THE GENERALIDAD The POUM is out of the Government

The crisis in the Catalonia government has resulted in the Generalidad kicking the POUM out of the government. The POUM blames the Socialist-Stalinist party of Organic Unity, while some capitalist papers say it is the work of Stalin because the POUM is friendly to Trotsky.

No matter what the surface reasons were the following points will throw light upon the situation.

The POUM supported and defended the government while one of its leaders, Nin, was in the Generalidad. Now the POUM is out. Yet the policy of the Government is fundamentally the same as before. What can the POUM leadership say to its members and the workers now? It was a capitulation to enter the bourgeoisie government. It was a disgrace that it was kicked out and did not walk out. Many of the members of the POUM were opposed to the leadership entering the Generalidad.

### ANGLO-FRENCH IMPERIALIST

The Catalonia Government is under the domination of the Anglo-French imperialists. Russia merely plays a secondary role

to this bloc through the League of Nations, the Franco-Soviet Pact, and the Neutrality Pact. Those who really decide are the Anglo-French Imperialists.

The "new" government represents a shift to the right. After the Syndicalists and the POUM sanctioned the liquidation of the workers DUAL POWER the exploiters government can dispense with the left group, the POUM. The Syndicalists who control large masses cannot be dispensed with so lightly. They are still needed, together with the Stalinist and Socialist, to hold in check the workers.

### POUM RANK AND FILE

In spite of the POUM leadership and its policy, the new position the party holds outside of the government will enable the POUM rank and file to organize for revolutionary action. This can be used by the Marxist toward the end of building a revolutionary Marxian Party in Spain to enable the workers to turn the tide in their favor.

**SUPPORT THE FIGHTING  
WORKER FUND**

## IMPERIALIST CONFLICTS IN ASIA

### EUROPEAN STRUGGLE PRELUDE TO WAR FOR ASIATIC MARKETS

The struggle in China developing out of the capture of the butcher Chiang Kai-shek by General Chang Hsueh-liang, is not a civil war of classes as the Spanish Civil war with the July outbreak, but is a "civil war" representing the IMPERIALIST CONFLICTS in Asia among the leading imperialist powers. The American-British-Japanese imperialists, with the other imperialist powers and the Soviet Union playing a subordinate role, are utilizing the present Chinese dispute to further their own ends.

### Boss Security Program a Fake

### Communism Only Solution

The social-security program of the American capitalists is now being put into practice, with hundreds of thousands of American workers registering for so-called benefits which are scheduled to begin in 1942.

**Social security is impossible under capitalism.**

**Social security is possible only under Communism.** Only a world Communist Society can eliminate unemployment, war, the whole catalogue of capitalist misery.

The provisions of the so-called social security bill make the workers foot the bill for the next six or seven years for a program that will never be achieved. Not only are they taxed a part of their weekly pay, but they will have to pay higher prices.

### A WAR MEASURE

The provisions of the bill exclude whole categories of workers and farmers from any "benefits." The stiff qualifications for receiving aid make the bill an effective strike-breaking weapon. Because the bill provides that workers must work a good portion of the year to receive the old age pensions, the bosses will use it to stop workers from striking or to force them back to work.

The "pensions" and "benefits" are very low. When one takes into account the small number of workers in industry who reach 65, the millions of unemployed, the millions who will be thrown out of industry by the continuous introduction of labor saving machinery, the fact that a new crisis is maturing which will add millions more to the ranks of the unemployed, and the fact that American imperialism is preparing for a world war in which millions will be blown to pieces—when one considers all this the utter hypocrisy of the "social-security" program of the American capitalists becomes apparent.

This program exposes the "liberal" Roosevelt. Hundreds of thousands are even now being thrown off relief and WPA. To placate these millions, to prevent militant action on their part, the Roosevelt regime gives them a series of promises for 1942.

### IMPOSSIBLE PROMISES

But between now and 1942 proletarian revolutions or the inevitable World War will take

(Continued on page two)

Although the surface antagonism in Asia is the Japanese invasion of China, and the Japanese-Soviet conflict; the fundamental, underlying antagonism upon which the two above aspects are determined is the United States-British conflict in Asia.

Upon the basis of the defeat of the second Chinese Revolution, through the Stalinist betrayal, the imperialist conflict in China succeeded the struggle of the proletariat and peasants against imperialism. But this in itself does not account for the Japanese victories in colonial expansion. The Japanese success in the rich Chinese markets that are the vital needs of American and British imperialism has been obtained at the expense of the struggle of American and British interests in Asia.

### JAPAN GAINS BY U.S.— G.B. FIGHT

If American-British interests had confronted Japan with a united front, Japan could not have gained these victories. The United States attempted to prevent Japanese expansion, but England through the League of Nations prevented concerted action and blocked the plans of the United States. Utilizing this friction Japan gained.

### DOLLAR DIPLOMACY

The Soviet Union has already denied connections with the rebel movement against the Generalissimo. On the other hand, as the United States revives Chinese financial and economic conditions through tying the Chinese currency to the Dollar, and supplying planes and aviators to Chiang's government, this American backing more and more enables the Chinese government to resist Japanese invasion. At the same time England and Japan also have their representatives in the Chinese government.

Without knowing the details of the present situation, partly due to the faulty and conflicting press reports, one thing is sure—that from the British-American-Japanese conflict in China, in which these generals are merely puppets, the workers and peasants and the Soviet Union have nothing to gain and are in great danger of further losses.

### WORKERS INTEREST

The struggle in Europe today between the Imperialists are precludes of the struggle of the European, Japanese and United States Imperialists in Asia. Their real objective is the Asiatic market, which includes the Soviet Union.

Only the basis of the independent class action, and the political and organizational independence of the Revolutionary Marxian organization can the proletariat turn the Imperialist Conflict into a CIVIL WAR OF CLASSES.

# DETROIT AUTO FIBER STRIKE

## The Sit Down Strikes

Sit-Down Strikes have become very popular in Europe and America, and are proclaimed by many as a new and fool-proof weapon. Unfortunately, they are neither fool-proof nor new. The sit-down strike is an old tactic in the trade union movement, but today it is warped, and is used against the workers by the class collaboration leadership.

Sit-Down Strikes, as such, under class collaboration leadership, are a most effective way to check the strike and dampen its military. Many of the recent sit-down strikes have been turned into pacifist affairs that wore out the workers' energies.

The Sit-Down TACTIC, as a subordinated phase of a strike POLICY, can be of great value for the workers. The framework of the sit-down tactic must be, 1—a class struggle policy; 2—a division of the workers on strike: some to remain inside the plant while others rest, to insure a 24 hour seizure of the plant to keep production down 100%; 3—while part of the strikers are inside the plant another group of the strikers must be used for militant picket work, to spread the strike to other plants, to other industries, and to politicize the strike outside the plant on a city wide scale.

The trade unionists with a class struggle policy must rescue this tactic from the agents of the capitalists in our ranks who are using the Sit-Down Strike to hold in check the workers' militancy.

### STUDY CLASS OUTLINE

An outline of Volume one of Marx, CAPITAL, consisting of ten lessons just published.

10 cents a copy, twelve copies for one dollar.

### FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

January issue  
CIVIL WAR  
AND  
IMPERIALIST CONFLICTS  
IN  
SPAIN  
ten cents a copy

### CHICAGO CLASSES

Democratic Centralism  
—Tom Stamm  
The Theoretical System of Marxism—Hugo Oehler  
Every Monday at 8 P. M.

### CHICAGO SUNDAY FORUM

Jan. 10 U. S. Imperialism Extends its Conquest in Latin American  
—Hugo Oehler  
Jan. 17 Imperialist Conflicts in Asia—Sid Okun  
Jan. 22 Friday Lenin Memorial. Civil War in Spain Hugo Oehler, Joe Fox, Phil Sold.  
3 mo. sub., to Fighting Worker and admission —25 cents.  
Jan. 24 Latest Developments in France—Joe Fox  
Jan. 31 A World Communist Program—Tom Stamm  
**WORKERS CENTER**  
2159 West Division St.

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### BOSS SECURITY

(Continued from page one)

place. Either the workers will overthrow capitalism and institute real security or the capitalist will institute military or fascist dictatorships in which ALL of the rights of the working class will be suppressed.

What the social-security fake really amount to, is a promise which no one ever intends to keep, but which serves the immediate purpose of confusing and thwarting the working class and prepare them for war.

The working class must rise up against the sham "security" bills of the fake "liberal" Roosevelt. They must demand unemployment, old age, maternity, and other insurance to be paid for by the bosses and their government, and administered by the workers. And they must use this struggle as a preparation for real security, for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a Workers Government in the United States.

### SECOND PLENUM OF THE YWL

The Second Plenum of the Young Workers League will be held in New York City starting Jan. 2, at the Workers Center, 27 East 14 Street. The most important political question to be taken up will be: Youth and the changing class relations in the U.S.

## STRIKERS WIN VICTORY

After striking several days, under the leadership of a militant shop committee the strikers of the Auto Fiber plant won partial demands which will be used as a step for further gains and union consolidation. The union which is part of the C.I.O., won recognition of the union, reinstatement of the discharged workers, a small wage increase.

As part of the Auto industry the strikers will make up part of the army in the coming struggle between the Auto industry and the workers. The preliminary skirmishes are tightening the ranks.

## TROTSKY EXILED TO MEXICO

Leon Trotsky, leader of the former Left Opposition, and at present leader of the majority faction of the International Communist Leagues that have liquidated their organizations into the parties of the Second International has been sent out of Norway by the Social-Democratic government through the pressure of Stalinism.

Trotsky will take up residence in Mexico. In Mexico, Trotsky's life will be in greater danger than ever before, and must be the concern of the working class organizations that stand for class war prisoners and exiles. This is the first concern of the Revolutionary Workers League of the United States.

At the same time we realize what an impetus Trotsky's residence in the Americas, as the outstanding centrist leader of the day, will have in organizing what the bankrupt Cannon-Muste-Shachtman office boys are incapable of doing. The reformist Socialist Party leaders are now using Trotsky as a left cover to revive this dying corpse.

## STRIKE CARRIED THROUGH IN SPITE OF C. I. O. LEADERS

On the morning of Dec. 17, 1936 the 1500 workers of the National Automotive Fibers Inc. on Hoover Street near the 8 Mile Rd in Detroit, Michigan went on strike for higher wages and better working conditions — a fact which furthers the development of the present drive to organize the auto industry.

### C.I.O. NEGLECT STRIKE

Neglected by the C.I.O. leaders of the United Automobile Workers' Union of America, several of whom opposed calling the strike after the factory committee had been fired December 16th, 1936 on the grounds that there are more strikes on its hands now than the Union can handle, the workers in the National Automotive Fibers Inc., found a ready and able champion in its own strike leaders.

### CLASS STRUGGLE LEADERS

It was these class conscious rebels who put seriousness, stability and effective leadership into the picket line that answered the bosses' ruthless precipitate move of firing the union's factory committee. That answer was an effective shut-down of the factory.

These workers have been stretched-out over shifts of even 13 hours, and for starvation wages. They have been speeded-up to tenth degree. For the most part they are mere boys and girls of high school age, whose first jobs were obtained in the slave-pen of National Automotive Fibers, Inc.

But what they lack in industrial and organizational experience, they make up for in their youthful enthusiasm and fiery spirit. They put the speed known to them in the factory into the picket line. As they mill around the factory gates in picket circles one notes a different and much faster rhythm in this new generation of industrial workers—one characteristic of this period of rapid change. The harshness of their conditions they translate into unmistakable conduct toward would-be scabs. In these picket circles harsh words are only occasional interruptions of dancing, singing and cheers of girls and boys in the crisp morning breezes, as they tie-up a mighty plant and win their fellows to their side.

And these picket circles are being kept going constantly, as continuously as did the conveyors in the plant, now silent as the grave.

### PRELUDE TO STRIKE WAVE

But these circles are only outposts of the great strike wave of which they are the prelude. The workers in the auto industry. The bosses are resisting are on the move for organization more firmly than before, through the evidence and support of the Manufacturers Association. The large Briggs plants may easily be involved at a very near date. The factories of Chrysler are feeling the effects of growing unionism. The chief weakness in the set-up of the workers is the class collaborationism of the C.I.O. leaders of the United Automobile Workers Union.

Now that the strike leadership with a class struggle policy has taken an important step, which makes it a factor in this significant situation, moves will be made and actions taken to put a stop to the pussy-footing talk and conduct of the collaborationists, by presenting to the workers the full meaning of the serious issues that confront them in organizing this powerful open-shop industry.

Unless the C.I.O. collaborationists can put the brakes on more effectively than they have been able to so far, the present strike wave in this auto center will develop into industrial warfare unprecedented from the standpoint of vital meaning to the whole working class. The Trade Union Fraction of the Revolutionary Workers' League of U. S., in the spirit of the new generation of industrial workers, demands full steam ahead with this mighty drive to organize the unorganized automobile workers.

—Sam Snyder.

### Notes from an Organizer

"The C.I.O. is carrying on negotiations at the present time, with the automobile barons and is preparing a giant sell-out. We had an opportunity to test our policy on the C.I.O. during the negotiations in our particular strike. They have all proven correct, and we believe that in our literature and meetings special emphasis must be laid on this coming betrayal of the workers by Lewis and Company. As the class struggle sharpens "left" figures take the place of the rights, such as Green and Hutchinson.

Due to wrong tactics and insufficient support by the C.I.O. set-up several strikes are on the verge of collapsing in Detroit. The role of the C.P. is especially outstanding for its acceptance and carrying out the rotten Lewis line. The S.P. is playing a subordinated role, through no less servile.

## CCC CAMPS FOR GIRLS

### WOMEN TO FIGHT IN NEXT WAR

With the opening of several new camps, the National Youth Administration is nearing its immediate goal of 50 "educational" girls' work-camps and an enrollment of 5,000. And Roosevelt's government has taken another step toward complete militarization of U. S. youth.

The camps are paler versions of the CCC set-up. Discipline is less open; uniforms have not been introduced yet. But essentially the lines are the same: as expressed by Dorothea de Schweinitz, national head of the work-camps: "...to reestablish the morale... and to teach them by practice and experience the responsibilities of

living in a democracy"; in other words, to establish respect for boss-class, drill-sargeant discipline. In one respect, they have gone beyond the CCCs. The girls sign up for \$5 a month and board, whereas the CCC wage is \$30 a month.

The boss class has always known that women can fight. If it hadn't, October 1917 and Spain 1936 would have taught it. But the bourgeoisie has been unwilling to use a tactic which would expose its fake respect for women. Today, it has to smash down its own pretenses, to prepare new strata of youth for death in the coming imperialist war.



## LENIN LEIBKNECHT LUXEMBOURG MEETINGS CIVIL WAR IN SPAIN

Latest reports from our rep., in Barcelona.

Friday Jan. 22	New York	Germania Hall 16th St., Third Ave. Stamm, Basky, Cowl.
Jan. 22	Chicago	Workers Center, 2159 West Division Oehler, Fox, Sold.
Jan. 22	Phila.	To be announced later. L. Roberts and Lorenz
Sunday Jan. 24	Pittsburgh	Center Cafe Hall, 1830 Center Ave. Stamm and Sifakas
Jan. 24	St. Louis	Crunden Library Aud., 14 St. Cas sAve. Streeter and G. Roberts
Jan. 24	Washington	Jerusalem Hall, 1607-11th St. SW. L. Roberts and Hollod
Jan. 24	Detroit	To be announced later. Garrett, Saul, Oehler
Jan. 24	Davenport	To be announced later Sid Okun
Jan. 24	Cleveland	To be announced later Oehler and Cowan
Monday Jan. 25	Columbus	Stamm.

The following cities will also have meetings. Time and place to be announced later: Newark, Allentown, Boston, Springfield, Youngstown and Frisco.

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