

THE FIGHTING WORKER



**WORKERS OF THE WORLD
UNITE!**

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

Vol. 3 - No. 4

Whole No. 25

Chicago June 1, 1938

Price: 1 Cent

Roosevelt primes For War

The struggle and victory of the Administration for its pump priming scheme to "get the U.S. out of the depression" reflects the struggle within the camp of the American bourgeoisie. To read some of the Morgan-Hearst-Knox-Landon press, one would think that Roosevelt was just a scissor bill stuck into the president's chair and burning a hole in the pocket of the U. S. government.

In the past, it is true, "prosperity" succeeded depression on the basis of business endeavor, of industrial expansion. But Roosevelt as the representative of the more far sighted section of the bourgeoisie, has begun to realize that the old gray mare ain't what she used to be. Capitalism is in decay.

The administration has no recourse but a "shot in the arm" for business by government spending, subsidies and credit inflation.

Roosevelt also understands full well the value of the billions he will distribute in relation to putting his men and his policies across in the coming elections.

PRIMING FOR WAR

The billions in subsidies to the big corporations, railroads and banks, and the three billion for WPA, PWA, etc., are expected to stimulate industry, and in the meantime under cover of relief prepare and organize the nation for the coming war.

The huge spending program on top of an already unbalanced budget raises the question of where to get the money.

The "compromise" on the tax bill means that the bourgeoisie are content to leave patriotism and sacrifice to the toilers and the unemployed, who will pay the huge bill through indirect taxes and wage and relief cuts.

SUBSIDIES TO BOSSES

To finance the spending the Government is releasing one and a half billions in "sterilized" gold. At the same time bank reserve requirements are reduced. These two factors will create an enormous excess of bank reserves, which it is hoped will stimulate business borrowing. But while there may be, as a result of such subsidies and war production, a momentary revival followed by another descent, a return to the economic growth and prosperity of the past is no longer possible for capitalism.

The financial manipulations will have the effect of cheapening gold on the foreign market against the other imperialists. It will aid the US in counteracting French devaluation. The exploiters have more than one way to skin the cat.

INFLATION

For the masses in the US Roosevelt's program means a new rise in prices, an indirect cut in wages and buying power, a further reduction in the standard of living. It is a war program of subsidies to the bosses and cuts to the ex-



**CAPITALISM BREEDS WAR
— SMASH CAPITALISM!**

«Fight, Dont Starve»

Workers Reply to Cleveland Relief Crisis

...
About one thousand workers demonstrated and took over the city council chamber and sitdown strikers intend to occupy the chamber until relief is granted. This climaxed a deliberate attempt of the boss class to cut relief in Cleveland and Chicago, which will be followed up in other cities, in order that more money can be used for war preparations.

exploited and oppressed. To fight off this latest attack workers must organize on the basis of a struggle against the bosses' hunger system and its imperialist war, for the establishment of a Workers' Council Government.

AGAINST IMPERIALIST

WAR, FOR CLASS WAR

C. B. Cowan, head of the Association of Unemployed on direct and work relief, said, "If legal means cannot be found to get food, then the time comes when extra legal means must be taken."

Cleveland, Ohio - The relief problem in Cleveland is reaching a new high. Out of a population of 931,000, some 22,000 are on direct relief and 63,000 on work relief, with an additional 100,000 unemployed with no source of income whatever.

The city administration is "broke," and the very "entertaining" game of "passing the buck" between Republican Mayor Burton and Democratic Governor Davey is on in full swing.

ASS'N OF UNEMPLOYED

In this crisis the Association of Unemployed on Direct and Work Relief has come to the fore in a

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Chicago Workers Fight Relief Hunger

Following up the lead of Cleveland, Chicago relief stations closed May 17th and 100,000 families are allowed to starve. In the meantime Mayor Kelly and Governor Horner pass the buck while the national administration promises a few canned goods if things get out of hand.

A DELIBERATE SCHEME

The closing of relief stations in Cleveland, Chicago and other cities and the announced 15% wage cut of the rail workers, together with a general attack on the workers rights is a deliberate attempt of the boss class and their state to cut down the standard of living of the working class. Even in rich United States the rulers can no longer feed their slaves.

BILLIONS FOR WAR

Yet these same exploiters have

Japan's Military Victories No Real Gain

The success of the Japanese in cutting the Lunghai railway and in obtaining a base in southern China means little in the face of the fierce resistance of the Chinese masses and their growing guerilla warfare which makes impossible the economic exploitation of the large areas under Japanese "military" control. The spread of this guerilla warfare throughout Japanese-held portions of China shows the mass support against Japan. Guerilla bands operating up to the very outskirts of Shaingai and Peking are keeping the Japanese confined to the cities and towns.

CRISIS GROWS IN JAPAN

The situation in Japan is growing worse. The extended struggle is straining all the resources of Japanese economy and this forces them to give concessions to other imperialists for support. If China is "conquered" the Japanese financial reserves are not sufficient to exploit China. Only the Pound and the Dollar are in a position to reorganize war-torn China and continue the exploitation. Capital from the Anglo-America forces is therefore vital for Japan. Capitalists in England and the United States are helping prolong the conflict, which in the end will objectively place Japan in a position where she will be forced to terms with these white imperialist robbers. In this struggle the Dollar has more advantages than the pound.

"DEMOCRATIC" IMPERIALIST NO AID TO CHINA

Wellington Koo, Chinese delegate to Geneva, charges

(Continued on page 3)

billions for war preparations. Relief must be cut, wages reduced, speed-up increased, to prepare for the bosses war drive for markets for exploitation.

FIGHT FOR BREAD

Throughout the city of Chicago picket lines have already been formed before the relief stations.

The Revolutionary Workers League has called a demonstration at New Berry Square, Walton and Clarke, to organize the workers for a struggle for victory.

POVERTY AMID PLENTY

Factories are idle, millions are unemployed, not even miserable relief can be allotted. This reveals the decay of American Capitalism.

The workers must demand nationalization of industries and workers control of production. They must demand that the warehouses be opened up to the starving. The solution of these problems can be obtained by smashing the exploiters state and in place establishing a Workers Council Government.

For Immediate

**Opening of Relief
Stations.**

**Picket the Chicago
Relief Stations**

**Full Payment
of Rent.**

**Medical Aid with
no Red Tape.**

**For Workers
Control of
Production**

Help The Spanish Workers

News from Spain reveal that the Fascist push toward Catalonia has placed the revolutionists in a most precarious position. The bourgeois loyalists and their Stalinist supporters are attempting to place the proletarian revolutionists in a trap. Funds are urgently needed for Comrade Negrette and others whom he is working with.

Send contributions to help the Spanish Workers

LAND OF THE FREE

MULES AND MEN

General Pershing's horse retired to comfortable pasture... House of Representatives considers same care for all faithful beasts of burden... Official figures show that over 1/4 of the total rural population of the USA is on relief; over 1-3 of these are improperly housed, fed and clothed...

Small town relief administrator, Isom, admits forcing checks for over \$6,000 relief money. Local relief clients were treated to a new form of justice and turned away without even their subsistence allotment... The six thousand is to come out of their hides...

SOMETHING NEW IN EDUCATION

Civil Liberties investigation proves that National Association of Manufacturers spent several millions of dollars for an "educational" fund. Education begins with propaganda in the schools, newspapers, libraries, radio, etc., on how to break strikes, and ends with practical administration: spies, stooges, tear gas and bombs.

New Jersey rules all public school children must be fingerprinted... Those who can afford to attend private schools are exempted...

FREE AS THE BIRDS

Some of the workers of the Sacramento mine area dared to go on strike. Result — 275 men, women and children have been exiled from their homes by the company stooges...

Cleveland Mayor must expect workers to hibernate during the month of May; there will be no relief checks for that month, and the next check will contain a 10% cut... Flint Michigan orders 12,000 unemployed families out of the county; the politicians are willing to furnish transportation out. Then what?...

NY Senator Coneland believes Congress needs definite proof of the need for relief expenditures. Come on down our alley, Senator! What status for the unemployed of America? Washington proposes fingerprinting them; Ohio has them submit to "lie detector" tests; Federal comptroller rules they may NOT run for any public office, nor may they campaign for their own candidates...

"LEGAL" KIDNAPING

She called it love: her influential family called it "insanity." had police kidnap the white bride from her negro bridegroom, and are attempting to railroad her to an insane asylum...

THIEVES FALL OUT

In the heat of the primary fights in Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania, we suddenly learn of accusations that Chicago Judge Jarecki permitted phoney balloting and election stealing for 16 years; Ohio Governor Davey has a "gentle" little method of shaking down businessmen and other people for campaign contributions; and the whole Pennsylvania political apparatus is rotten full of politicians whom you can buy off a dime a dozen for any legislation you want, not excluding the honorable Governor Earle, who has some very embarrassing "loans" to explain...

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

A LA ROOSEVELT

In the recent WPA strike at the Alton Dam project some 200 miles north of St. Louis, the government hired strikebreakers and two workers were killed and several injured by thugs sworn in as "deputy" sheriffs. Also, 20 workers were fired from WPA for wearing the union button of the Project Workers Union which the CIO is trying to organize...

Marxism and the Working Class

THE HISTORY OF SOCIETY

Shear capitalism of all its fables and lies, and one thing stands out clear as crystal. Society is divided sharply and irreconcilably into two decisive classes, those who produce everything, the working class, and those who reap the profits although they expend no toil, the capitalist class. Between the two there is a knife-like dividing line. A gain in wages for the working class means a loss in profit for the capitalists, and vice versa. Sometimes, hidden, sometimes open, the struggle between the two classes continues ceaselessly and will continue until the working class succeeds in the overthrow of this most greedy of all historical classes, the bourgeoisie.

The history of "civilization" is the history of the struggle of classes. From the chattel slave of Rome, two thousand years ago, to the wage slave of America today there has constantly existed the struggle of oppressors and oppressed. The patrician of Rome, the feudal noble of France and Britain, the modern capitalist, each at certain stages in their development play a progressive role in history. But in the years of their decline and decay they are halted on progress, plunge the masses and oppressed under them into untold miseries and wars, until eventually they are destroyed at the hands of newer classes, progressive classes that introduce new methods of plowing the earth, new methods of exploiting nature (triant machines, mass production, eventually socialized and planned production.)

CAPITALISM IN DECAY

Capitalism has laid the base for a new society in which want shall not exist. It is the first society that has even approached such wonderful achievements. But capitalism itself can never accomplish this task: its greed for profits forces it — in the face of new and better machines, inventions, advancement of scientific learning, etc. — to an economics of scarcity, of plowing under, of war, of destroying instead of building wealth.

DIALECTIC MATERIALISM

But the old and rotting system can not be replaced by mere wishes, by humanitarian gestures. The working class and its vanguard must scientifically investigate its role and place: it must use the most advanced scientific theory of knowledge as its tool for a thorough investigation that will point the way to the replacement of the capitalist system with a higher system of production. This scientific method of investigation discovered by Marx and Engels is Dialectical Materialism, and its application to history and society called Historical Materialism.

CLASS STRUGGLE

Like the struggle of any other oppressed class in history, the working class to gain its objectives, must fight every act of oppression, must prepare itself by these smaller struggles for the revolutionary struggles to come. The "immediate" demands of the working class, the dollar or two more demanded in wages, the hour or two demanded in reduction of hours, have a very vital bearing on the "ultimate" demands — for the complete abolition of the profit system and WORKERS control of Production. We must learn how to coordinate the immediate and ultimate

demands.

No gains made by the working class without a principled class position and class struggle tactics are worth the effort. The bills of a bourgeois liberal in Congress, the "fair" mediation of a bourgeois "friend of labor" in a strike situation, any faith put in governmental agencies, are just so much dope tablets to lull the workers to sleep. Concessions gained are only the result of working class pressure, the threat or execution of militant action. When the threat of such action is gone, the very "friends of labor" are the first to withdraw those concessions. Do such assertions need proof? Then study the history of such famous "liberals" as LaGuardia, or "friends of labor" like Governor Murphy.

Even gains made by class struggle tactics — democratic demands such as freedom of speech, economic demands such as wages — are not of any permanent nature under capitalism. Marxists recognize that the vast power of the capitalist state and the capitalist system steals back in one form or another what it momentarily concedes under pressure. Wage increases are fritted away by inflation, lay-offs, new machines, and a dozen other methods. Democratic rights won are merely disregarded; they are not worth the paper written on with the capitalist class still in power.

THE PARTY

All of this is the historic role of the working class. All the objective conditions are favorable to the liberation once and for all of all the oppressed — its allies (middle class, farmers, colonial masses), and the working class—from the yoke of capitalism. But without proper leadership, a vanguard Party — a COMMUNIST PARTY — to give shape to the demands of the working class, lead it through its struggle in the trade unions (against both capitalist, and capitalist agent), and guide it through its political battles with capitalism — without such a Party the working class will not succeed.

It is the objective conditions of capitalist anarchy that creates the revolutionary situation. It is the revolutionary Marxian Party and the class in action, however, that transforms the revolution into a SUCCESSFUL revolution.

Since the victorious October Revolution the history of Europe in the present period is a tragic history of one revolutionary defeat after another, one favorable situation after another bungled because the working class, without revolutionary Marxist leadership, was misled and hogtied by its reformist and centrist leaderships — the Socialists and Stalinists in Germany 1933, Socialists in Austria 1934, the People's Front in Spain and France, and so on.

By clever and devious manouvers the working class has been taught by its misleaders to put faith in bourgeois parties — such as the Labor Parties in England, in Minnesota, in N. Y. and other places — parties which are in reality capitalist pills with sugar coating, working class in form, in membership, capitalist in INTERESTS. Against pitfalls such as these, against the misleaders in the ranks of labor, and against the giant apparatus of capitalism itself, the Communist Party (not the present Stalinist Party which is itself one of the misleaders) is indispensable.

From the Pamphlet Why Communism ?

Demonstrate May 30 Against U.S. War Plans

"Demonstrate May 30 Against US War Plans" is the central slogan of the energetic campaign organized by the Young Workers League in opposition to the Memorial Day jingoism of the US bosses.

Work is already under way to carry out the campaign plans laid down by the third Plenum of the League, held May 7-8 in Chicago.

A call for a united front May 30th demonstration against imperialist war has been issued to various youth organizations. Posters, stickers and a special issue of the YOUNG WORKER have been issued, and can be obtained from the National Office, 2159 W. Division St., Chicago.

Meetings and demonstrations against imperialist war, for the class war, are planned for every city in which the League has forces.

Win Streeter Case; Fighting Worker Sale Continues

The attempt to prohibit the sale of the FIGHTING WORKER in the Chicago Loop by the arrest and conviction of comrade Bill Streeter for selling the paper during an unemployed demonstration last March was defeated by the speedy action of the League and other workers who realized the importance of the case.

JUDGE REVERSES DECISION

The RWL moved to appeal the case and obtained Streeter's release from Bridewell Prison on \$200 bail. Pressure was brought to bear on Judge Holland, who sentenced Streeter by a number of trade unionists. Holland is running for re-election as a "labor" candidate and was sensitive to both the protests of these workers and the clear cut case against the state prepared by Attorney Heisler of the Workers Defense League. In addition, our legal case was strengthened by the ruling of the Supreme Court on the Georgia case, upholding the legality of distributing circulars. Holland granted a request for a new trial and dismissed the case.

The League thanks the comrades and trade unionists for their quick and generous response, which made possible the carrying through of this fight against the attempt to suppress a working class paper.

Canadian Govt. Confiscates R.W.L. Literature

The Canadian Government has confiscated printed material of the Revolutionary Workers League of the United States. This was part of the material to be used on Comrade Okun's trip to Toronto, Canada, where he was sent to attend the convention of League for Revolutionary Workers Party as our observer.

The confiscation did not prevent us from carrying on our activity. The League will take steps to fight this vicious anti-labor action of the Ontario mail authorities. Comrade Okun carried on work in Buffalo and will speak in Cleveland on his return trip.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

JUNE ISSUE
NEW DOCUMENTS OF THE
LEFT WING POU
CONVENTION OF THE L.R.W.P.
Dialectical Materialism —

Belgium Calls On Spaak

The Belgium capitalist, one of the Anglo-French puppets, has called in Spaak, "left" wing socialist (who the Trotskyites were going to win over by their French turn) to form a new government. The main purpose of the new government is to carry through a devalued currency to conform to the new set-up in France, and to carry through this delicate operation with the least amount of working class opposition possible. Whenever and wherever the exploiters fear workers opposition to their measures they always call in "working" class leaders to execute these measures.

The workers of France and Belgium must organize on an independent class basis and struggle against these war preparations.

Japan's Military Victories No Real Gain

(Continued from page 1)

France and England with sabotaging munition sales and delivery to China while at the same time British forces are negotiating a private agreement with Japan (against United States) in regard to Chinese customs. The "democratic" imperialist "aid" to China clearly shows that they are only concerned with their own profits.

NATIONAL BOURGEOISE CANNOT SUCCESSFULLY FIGHT JAPAN

In this conflict, as in the Spanish war, the "democratic" imperialists "helping" the Chinese Nationalists are using the Soviet Union again to pull the chestnuts out of the fire. The Chinese Government does not want and cannot wage a war of national liberation against Japanese aggression, because it is a tool of other imperialists. The only "solution" of the Chinese exploiters is to sell out the Chinese masses to the imperialist countries that will give them the highest bid in holding in check the people for imperialist robbery. That is the role of Chang Kai Shek.

THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS

Chinese "statesmen", however, realize the revolutionary character of the masses with arms in hands in their struggle to drive out the invaders, and have obtained the aid of Stalinism to hold them in check, and subordinate them to the imperialist rivalry.

The only alternative to the Japanese victory, or exploitation of the Chinese under a compromise of the Japanese and white imperialist exploiters is the struggle against Japanese aggression on **AN INDEPENDENT CLASS LINE**. If the base for that does not exist today, then revolutionists do not support the "next best" but devote every ounce of their energy to the creation of a party, a leadership capable of directing the Chinese masses into these channels.

Not the support of the Chinese Government (which is a imperialist puppet government) but an independent struggle of marching separate and striking together against Japanese imperialist, with the aim of driving out ALL EXPLOITERS. Toward this end the Japanese masses can play a decisive role. The economic break down in Japan, which is rapidly

Troskyites Support Labor Party

Clear sign of the growing disintegration in the Trotskyite camp is the forced consolidation of the Chicago branches into one, and the steady loss of members throughout the country.

Faced with the deepening ferment in the ranks the Socialist Workers Party leadership is trying hard to "patch up" its differences.

STRUGGLE OVER LABOR PARTY

Up till now the Trotskyites, although stating abstractly in one breath the fact that the Labor Party movement is a third bourgeois party that will corral workers for the next world war, still in action favored withdrawing their candidates from elections in favor of Labor Party candidates, so long as these were not also Democrats or Republicans (witness Minnesota). And in their next breath they stated - they would support a "revolutionary labor party" based on the trade unions! Shachtman and Burnham still want to remain on this centrist position adopted at their convention last December. Cannon, claiming Trotsky's support, is moving more rapidly. He wants to come out openly for the Labor Party.

For the moment, Cannon has "retreated," but he will prevail in the end. He knows that the convention position carried into life means his position. It is nothing new for Cannon to "retreat" in order to prepare the membership for the next blow. He did this in the former Workers Party, when fighting against the resistance of

the left wing (now the Revolutionary Workers League) to enter the Socialist Party. But the left wing was a Marxist force on an independent class line. The centrist line of Shachtman and Burnham leaves them no basis to stand on against Cannon with whom they have differences only in tempo and speed. No matter whether Cannon and Shachtman settle their differences now or not, the next leap of the Trotskyites will be liquidation into the Labor Party movement. The RWL made this analysis in the "Fourth International" last January and February, in analyzing the Trotskyite convention material. Already Cannon is confirming that analysis.

SUPPORT FRANCE IN WAR

The false position of the Trotskyites on this question fits in neatly with their war position. It helps shift that position still further to the right.

In testimony before the Dewey commission, Trotsky when asked what he would do in France if she fought on the same side as Russia in the next war, stated: "I would remain in opposition to the government and develop systematically this opposition. In Germany I would do anything I could to sabotage the war machinery. They ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS."

What Trotsky is saying is that in countries allied to the Soviet Union, even imperialist countries, he will not work for revolutionary defeatism and civil war; he will in fact give them material support ("and remain in opposition"). What has this in common with Lenin's position, with the interests of the class?

Trotsky continues: "In the Soviet Union I would try to be a good soldier, win the sympathy of the soldiers and fight well. Then at a

good moment, WHEN VICTORY IS ASSURED, I would say: 'Now we must finish with the bureaucracy.'" The bureaucracy will be working against the interests of the soldiers and workers. It will be crushing the revolutionary thrusts of the masses. It will be a tremendous obstacle to victory. But Trotsky pledges to be a good soldier, and carry out its orders.

SUPPORT MEXICAN GOVERNMENT

In the Mexican Oil Expropriations the Trotskyites have revised Lenin's position on the colonial question and come out in support of the Mexican Government. They fail to explain that Cardenas is a puppet of a group of American imperialists and a pawn in the Anglo-American Oil war, in which America is gaining over British interests. This "left" support of the Mexican Capitalist follows the line of the left support to the Peoples Front State and the Chiang Kai-Shek government.

BUILD LEFT WING

In Russia Trotsky's war position means capitulation in advance to Stalinism; in France capitulation to French imperialism; and in the US through the Labor Party, the rejection of revolutionary defeatism, and position on Mexico, capitulation to American Imperialism.

Revolutionary minded workers in the Trotskyite ranks have the task of uniting their forces on a clear line of revolutionary Marxism, of counterposing that line to the treachery and opportunism of Shachtman and Burnham as well as Cannon and Trotsky, and of carrying through a bold intransigent struggle to break with this swamp of centrism and join forces with the Revolutionary Workers League to build the new marxist party and 4th communist international.

Daladier Rules by Decree

The Peoples Front which paved the way for the Daladier Bonapartist Government helped pave the way for further devalued franc which is causing rapid increases in the cost of living. In one blow the French capitalist are able to wipe out the economic gains under the previous strikes. By this financial manipulation, placing the burden on the masses, the new National Union Government is able to prepare more rapidly for war with greater armaments. The vote of confidence given Daladier by the "workers" parties, the Stalinist and Socialist continues the long line of betrayals.

R.W.L. May Day A Success

"Against the Roosevelt War Plan," "Turn the Imperialist War into a Civil War," "Organize the Unorganized," "Against the Bosses Hunger System - for Workers Control of Production" - these were some of the slogans and banners hundreds of workers saw at the demonstrations of the League on May Day.

In Cleveland, five hundred workers gathered on the Public Square in response to posters and announcements, waiting for the meeting to start: Four hundred assembled at the Newberry Square in Chicago; NY held a united front demonstration at Madison Sq. of the Revolutionary Workers League, Young Workers League, League for a Revolutionary Workers Party, Industrial Union Party, Marxist Workers League and Revolutionary Marxist League. Besides these demonstrations, the RWL organized indoor meetings in Detroit, Columbus, Washington and Springfield, Chicago and New York.

By its activity and boldness, the League stole the march nationally as the only force to carry on the traditions of May Day and to raise the banner of the class struggle in the streets.

"FORWARD WITH ROOSEVELT"

The Stalinist demonstrations turned out even worse than expected. Such placards as "Forward with Roosevelt's Recovery Program," "For Collective Security," plus a few eye-openers like the "Communist" Party band in the Chicago march proudly playing the Star Spangled Banner and the Stalinist youth bedecked with red, white and blue sailor caps with the stars and stripes fittingly characterized their parade as a rallying of the workers behind the war drive of American Imperialism, a mockery of May Day. The Trotskyites did nothing - neither marched with the Stalinists nor held their own demonstration, and in Chicago did not even distribute leaflets. They held indoor meetings in the evening.

THE FIGHTING WORKER

Published on the First of every month by the Fighting Worker Publishing Co. Rates: \$1.00 per year; 50c per six months.

Special six months subscription rate of 50 cents each in blocs of four or more.

Special three months subscription rate of 25 cents in blocs of four or more.

Vol. 3 - No. 4
Whole No. 25
2159 W. Division Street
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OUR POSITION ON

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- 1 - THE FASCISTS
- 2 - THE PEOPLES FRONT.

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approaching, will give impetus to the Chinese masses for liberation. Toward this end the revolutionists throughout the world must direct their energy.

Power Politics Replaces "Collective Security"

Power politics has replaced 'Collective Security' because the growing strength of primarily German Imperialism has upset the relation of forces of the former victors and vanquished. The return to power politics through the 'realistic' approach of England and the Anglo-Italian treaty and the attempted Four Power agreement only signify a step closer to imperialist war.

'Collective Security', which in reality meant the domination of the victorious Anglo-French bloc over the German bloc in the last war through the L. of N. has slowly been dislodged from its position of supremacy. This was due to proletarian upheavals and the unprecedented world wide decay of capitalism. This has enabled Germany, Italy, and Japan to strike out for colonies.

AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR, FOR CLASS WAR

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POSTPAID

ORGANIZE THE UNORGANIZED

Michigan C.I.O. St. Louis Workers Convention Organize

Auto was dominant at the first Michigan state convention of the CIO, held April 24-25 in Lansing, and called as part of the preparation for the coming national CIO convention to form a new labor center. An immediate objective of the convention was to organize support for Governor Murphy, New Deal supporter.

CLIQUE STRUGGLES

The problems of the convention of organizing the unorganized were completely engulfed in the factional struggles and maneuvers. The internal United Auto Union struggle on several occasions reached a violent pitch, including a momentary "walkout" of 200 Martin supporters when the convention refused to seat 26 appointed Martin delegates. At the same time the convention was the scene of a struggle for control between Martin (UAW) and the top CIO leadership (Brophy).

The "Progressive" (!) caucus of Martin-Lovestone, Frankenstein, and open reactionaries who had been solidifying themselves against Lewis with Hillman and Dubinsky for Roosevelt's AFL-CIO unity aims, had a minority in the convention. The Stalinist-Socialist so-called "Unity" caucus, tailendea in action by the Proletarian Party and the Trotskyites, had a majority.

The convention threw to the surface all the undercover clique fights. Frankenstein, to advance his own ambitions, broke with Martin. The Stalinists, confronted with Martin's threat of split and seeing the action of Frankenstein, capitulated, seizing the occasion of a demagogic speech by Frankenstein for "unity" and "peace" to doublecross their own Unity caucus and go over to Frankenstein.

WAR ISSUE LOOMS

Between the Stalinists and the Socialists there has been a growing antagonism on the war question - open social patriotism vs. pacifism. But the Stalinist maneuver was largely calculated on maintaining a united union force for the coming elections in Michigan, and to prepare the way for dislodging Martin and Lovestone. One of the many prices paid for this new amity was the election to the state board of L. Hauser, plug-breaker for Martin.

The groups are united on the class collaboration practices and policies of the CIO officialdom. The struggle for control and the war question, which has risen to one of the most important issues in the UAW, divide them.

FOR REAL UNITY.

From time to time during the convention the rough voice of the masses uneducated in parliamentary technicalities could be heard above the din of these fights. But without leadership, the militancy and courage and proud rejection of bureaucracy on the part of many worker delegates remained unchanneled.

The rift in the "Unity" caucus not only opens the door for a general recrystallization in this group, but will create new contradictions in Martin's camp. The developments open up new possibilities for a real progressive group with a clear line of class struggle and for aggressive militant and democratic policies. The central axis of such a group must be the slogan of workers' control of production. Against the "unity" organized by Dubinsky, etc., for the Roosevelt war machine, it will call for real unity on a class struggle basis of the employed and unemployed of the CIO, AFL and independents.

St. Louis - On the outskirts of this city lies the city sanatorium where 6,000 working class victims of capitalist "security", the insane, are housed. In reality this place is but a prison for the wretched victims of poverty, disease, and starvation, so that their presence at large may not offend the eyes and ears of the exploiters.

Under the benevolent reign of the "New Deal" 300 employees of this inferno of insanity work endless hours for a wage little better than a dollar a day.

Recently these men organized into a union with an AFL charter. They asked for a reduction in the inhumanly long working hours. They wanted an 8 hour day. The reply of the administration, which appropriates millions for a river plaza which will aid no one except the real estate agents (of which "our" mayor is one of the largest and stands to make a cool million off this appropriation) - their reply was the usual "we have no money."

WORKERS MILITANT

Thirteen Union members were summarily discharged by Joseph Garst, "Director of Public Welfare" and 215 of the workers walked out and arranged themselves in a picket line around a building nearly a mile in length and a quarter mile in width. The few scabs who stayed in have suffered strange accidents when they have had the hardihood to venture forth at night. The workers are very militant and as yet there is not the slightest note of surrender even though the authorities claim that all strikers have been replaced by finks. The same "rumor" was falsely spread around in the Alton Lake PWA strike; it was a fake, just as this rumor probably is.

Of course one cannot trust the fakers of the St. Louis labor movement any more than elsewhere. They are capable of the most shameful and most brazen sell-outs. Knowing them as we do one would be surprised if they did not do in this case the same as elsewhere. If they are unable to do their dirty work for the bosses it will be only because of the militancy and watchfulness of the workers.

New Chicago Class

TRADE UNION STRATEGY AND TACTICS

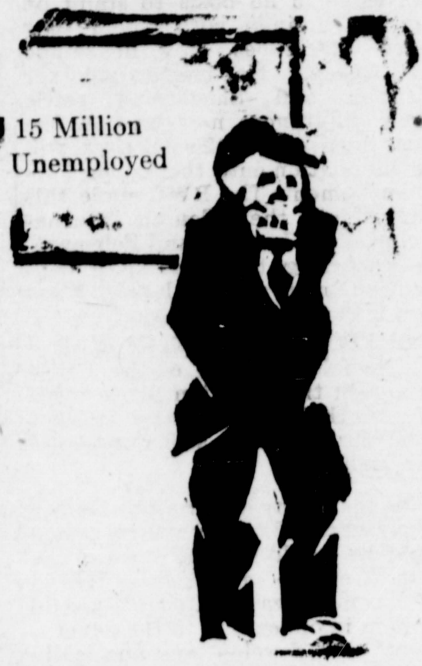
-Hugo Oehler

MAY 16 TO JUNE 30
Every Monday 8:30 to 10 P.M.
Workers Center
2159 W. Division St.

Columbus Strike

Columbus, Ohio.- The open-shoppers of Columbus received a severe threat from the strike of six hundred car and busmen for a closed shop, wage increases and better conditions. Transport is one of largest industries here.

A deep hole was eaten into the Easter holiday profits of the company, controlled by the National Bank, by its refusal to come to terms with the strikers. At the last minute the union officialdom accepted a "settlement" in which the men got the right to count their change in the mornings on the company's time, but which



Cleveland unemployed sit-down

(Continued from page 1)

militant fight for the unemployed. For the last two weeks a picket line has been organized on the Public Square carrying such slogans as "Bread, not Bullets," "Davey-Burton, Stop this Stalling - We want our relief orders NOW," "Fight - Don't Starve," etc. Open air meetings are held every evening that the weather permits.

At the City Council meeting May 9 the council voted to transfer \$70,000 to finance relief needs for the next week, although the most conservative estimate had placed \$370,000 as the minimum for the period! A resolution was passed as a feeler, setting aside May 27-28 in one ward for a public tag day for relief!

"BE ORDERLY"

As this council meeting adjourned, the relief clients, PWA workers and sympathizers present called for a sit-down in the council chambers. The Stalinist leaders of the Workers Alliance immediately called an open meeting asking the workers to "be orderly," let things take their "legal" and "just" course. If the workers insisted let them go home peacefully and sit down quietly in their neighborhood stations! Confused and discouraged by this cold water from this "leadership," the workers finally drifted away, frustrated. This has been the whole policy of the Stalinist dominated Workers Alliance - to expend into thin air the strength of the workers they organize.

PUSH CAMPAIGN

The Association of Unemployed is issuing several thousand leaflets calling for local and state wide action. It is pressing for picket-

granted none of the major demands.

STUDENTS AID STRIKE

One of the most heartening features of the strike was the support and aid from the students at the Ohio State University. One student, a notorious negro baiter, was discovered and kicked out early in the strike as a stool-pigeon of the company.

Members of the Revolutionary Workers League and Young Workers League took an active part as militants on the picket line, doing all they could to solidify the ranks, raise the fighting spirit and class consciousness of the men, and lay a strong basis for the coming struggles.

Railroad Workers Face Pay Cut

War upon the bread baskets of 925,000 railroad workers has been declared by the Association of American Railroads. The carriers' publicity corps are telling the country about the "too high" wages of the employees, and demanding a 15% cut, although the great majority of the railroad workers are already miserably underpaid.

The railroads are only the first step. If they succeed here, the bosses will spread the cuts to other transport industries, and to every industry.

The carriers' business is "sick." One third of the roads are in re-

ceivership; others are kept alive only by RFC government pumping. Income must be increased - out of the workers' hides. But the failure of the roads is not the fault of the workers. Let the bosses who can afford it take the cut!

WAR

Roosevelt is building the world's largest war machine - for war for more markets, more colonies, more profits. Part of his plan is the regimentation of industry and labor, especially transportation. Hog-tying them with the boards and commissions of the Railway Labor Act was one step. The proposed cut is another.

Under the pressure of the workers, the Railway Labor Executive Association, representing the loosely organized brotherhoods and AFL unions has stated that the men cannot take the cut. But statements are cheap. To actually resist the cut, let alone win an increase, careful planning, preparation, and the most determined struggle will be necessary. The craft separation of the workers and the policies of their leaderships stand in the way of such an effective struggle.

INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS

The men must organize a militant and aggressive campaign on a class struggle basis against the cuts, and extend this struggle to every sphere of the activity of the unions. The sympathy and support of every worker in the United States must be enlisted.

Democratically elected industrial councils of the 21 railroad unions in every railroad center and nationally will serve to weld the hundreds of thousands of railroad men into an unbeatable whole.

The reactionary proposals of some of the rail magnates to cut down on trucking cannot solve the situation, and will be used to create friction and division in the ranks of the transport workers. To such reactionary plans, and to assure labor solidarity and extend the fighting strength of the unions, the answer must be a transport workers industrial council of railroad, trucking and shipping workers!

WORKERS' CONTROL

The desperate plight of the roads has led to proposals for the government to run the roads for the bosses, for government ownership. But this would be a blow against the workers. The only solution in the workers' interests is the nationalization of the roads under workers' control of the industry. The Consumers' Power workers in Michigan who took over and ran the plants during their recent strike showed they could do a far better job than the capitalists who "own" the plants.

The railroads merely reflect the failure of private ownership as a whole. Not only the roads, but the entire profit system is "sick." Tomorrow it will be coal, the next day the building trades, etc. Capitalism, since the war especially, has been less and less able to meet the needs of the nation. Capitalism is in decay. It is an outmoded social system that stands in the way of progress. The final answer to the problems of the railroad workers and of the working class as a whole must be the nationalization of all industry with workers control under a Workers Council government.

The Main Enemy Is At Home

League Activity Moves Forward

The tour for the FIGHTING WORKER to the east coast by comrade Okun, and the trips to Columbus and Springfield, helped prepare for the success and activity of the League on May Day.

CLEVELAND

Three new members have joined the League in Cleveland as a result of the May Day activity and the work done in the unemployed field, with as many others expected to join shortly.

Cleveland writes in they are holding a class on Dialectical Materialism, and are starting another on Marxism for PWA workers especially.

CLASSES

In connection with the trade union, WPA and unemployed activity of its members, Chicago is organizing a special class on trade union tactics, announced elsewhere in this issue.

MISSOURI-KANSAS

Successful hall meetings were held in Kansas City, Kansas and St. Louis, Missouri and a house meeting in Kansas City, Missouri and Springfield, Illinois, by comrade Oehler speaking on the question of Imperialist War and the working class. The R.W.L. groups in Kansas City and St. Louis have increased their activity and plan a further increase in the coming months.

BERTMAN TOUR

Comrade Jules Bertman is making a tour into the upper peninsula in Michigan where four meetings have been arranged by sympathizers of the League in this area.