

Workers! This Is Not Our War!
It Is a War for Boss Profits!
Join Hands in Independent
Labor Action Against the War!

LABOR ACTION

We Say—
Conscript War Industries
Under Workers' Control!

SEPTEMBER 22, 1941

ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

THREE CENTS

ROOSEVELT ORDERS NAVY INTO ACTION!

Washington March Blasts Jim-Crow Brutality

Paraders March on Center
Of City in Demonstration
Against Capitol Lynch-Law

Will Protest Treatment of Negro Soldiers

CHICAGO—Aroused by the treatment accorded Negro troops in the South, fifty Negro and white workers met on Chicago's South Side last week and organized themselves as the Committee to Fight for Negro Freedom, to organize a protest meeting against the treatment of Negro soldiers in the U.S. Army.

The committee will hold a protest rally on Sunday, September 1, at 4 p.m. at Forum Hall, which will hear Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Service Employees of America (Red-Caps), Ulysses S. Keys, South Side attorney; Henry Pelham; Enoch P. Waters, city editor of the Chicago Defender; Fred Foster, secretary of the Washington Park Open Forum; Frances Guber, program director; James Weldon Johnson of the Youth Council, NAACP, and William Avery, secretary of the Waller Defense Fund.

The movement for this protest meeting originated in the Washington Park Open Forum, which sponsored the original gathering.

By PAUL NORTON

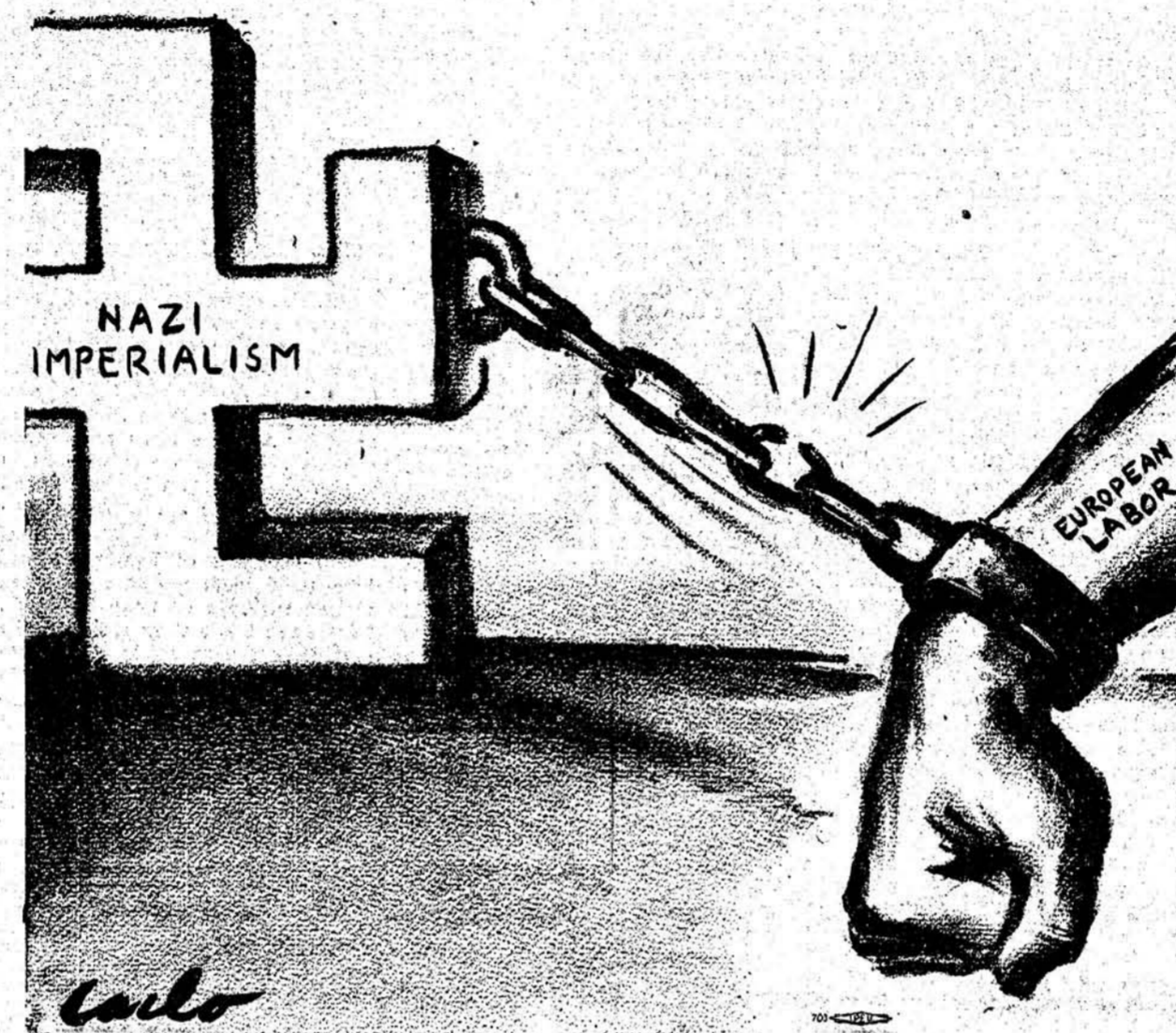
WASHINGTON, D. C.—More than 1,500 Negro and white working people struck a hard blow against Jim Crow in a mighty four-pronged march through the heart of Washington last Sunday, September 14, in protest against the anti-Negro police brutality of Roosevelt's own war-humming capital. Chanting "Old Jim Crow Must Go," "Down With Police Murders" and many other militant slogans, white and black marchers alike informed Washington that this was "only the beginning."

The march was organized under the auspices of the Citizens Committee Against Police Brutality, (717 Florida Avenue, N.W.), which consists of representatives of Negro organizations, political parties and private individuals.

True to their traditions, the Stalinists, who form an influential element in the committee through their control of important "front" names, attempted to sterilize the militant sentiments of the participants and force the movement into safe and sane pro-war, pro-Roosevelt channels. Characteristically, too, the really militant note of the demonstration was set by the Workers Party contingent of Washington, which, over the violent and almost forceful protests of the Stalinists, swept by carrying five placards reading: "The Fight Against Jim Crow Is the Fight for Socialism,"

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Nothing to Lose But Your Chains!



Acting Without the People's Consent, FDR Wades Deeper Into Battle of the Atlantic

Secretary of the Navy Knox this week revealed that as of September 16 the American Navy was ordered into action in the Atlantic shooting war.

At the same time, Acting Attorney General Biddle "eased" the neutrality law to allow for unrestricted shipping to vital war zones. In the new interpretation of the law, the United Kingdom and British Empire are redefined to include only England, Scotland, Wales, northern Ireland and five overseas possessions. All other British points and possessions, including Hong Kong and Suez, are excluded from the provisions of the act. American merchant vessels may thus sail, under their own flag, to virtually all sections of the British Empire at war.

We aren't deeply concerned with the juggling of laws which have meant little anyway. Up to now devices of all sorts have been used to get around the neutrality act, such as reregistration of American ships. The new interpretation will merely facilitate what has been done all along.

Nazis Fix Martial Law On Norway

By SUSAN GREEN

On September 10, at 5 a.m. Stockholm time, martial law went into effect in Oslo, Norway, and in adjoining districts. The Nazi commissioner for Norway had declared a state of "civilian emergency."

Thus, some 500,000 Norwegians were made virtual prisoners of the Nazis. Curfew was decreed for 7 p.m. Meetings on streets or in public places are banned. People are being compelled to give up their radios.

The Nazi decree of September 22, 1940, forbidding Norwegians to possess arms, has been invoked. Large quantities of arms are said to be still in the hands of the population and the authorities are warning that death or long terms of hard labor will be meted out to offenders.

Reports from Stockholm state that the streets of Oslo are being patrolled by the police in full field equipment, with steel helmets and tommy guns, that all the approaches to the city are guarded by heavy concentrations of German troops, and that no one can enter without special permit.

Since the declaration of a "civilian emergency" on the 10th, 27 Norwegians have been court-martialed, resulting in five death sentences and long terms at hard labor. About 2,000 arrests have been made. It is estimated that 300 leading trade unionists have been put behind bars, and replaced in the unions by trusted Quislingists. Not only labor leaders but everyone who is suspected of not approving of Quisling and who might become a center of resistance is being purged.

Among the civic organizations ordered dissolved are the Boy Scout and Girl Guide organizations, the Salvation Army and the Norwegian People's Help.

Trade union officials desiring to leave their posts have been forbidden to do so. Workers cannot leave their jobs and must pay their membership dues to the trade unions after these are taken over by the Quislingists. The workers have been informed, it is reported, that they will have to work overtime for every hour lost during air raids—and there will not be any wage increase.

The Norwegian events have had repercussions among the workers in all the northern countries. The Swedish Trade Union Congress, in session in Stockholm on September 11, paid tribute to the two Norwegian trade union leaders shot on September 10, and passed a resolution of solidarity with both the Norwegian and German workers, containing the following significant paragraph:

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Roosevelt has entered the war in the interests of banker and boss. Cumbersome laws will be ignored, repealed or reinterpreted, depending on which can be done without rousing the indignation of the people.

What we therefore want to ask is: Who authorized the Roosevelt-Knox decision on the Navy? Who authorized the ENTIRE POLICY OF WAR ENTRY—"non-shooting" and shooting? Certainly not the people, who continue to be against the imperialist war!

Roosevelt has acted without the consent of the people—nor even the consent of Congress. He made a military alliance with a belligerent. He sent troops to Iceland. He ordered an Atlantic patrol. HE HAS NOW ORDERED SHOOTING. Unable to risk a formal declaration of war because of mass opposition, he has nevertheless proceeded to effect his war program without a formal declaration. That will come in time. In the meantime, the shooting war is on!

Roosevelt's actions were unauthorized by the people. Every step he has taken toward war has been unauthorized. We therefore repeat our demand, and in repeating it again call upon the organized arm of labor, the trade unions, to take up the cry:

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST WAR!

SUBMIT THE ISSUE TO A POPULAR REFERENDUM!

Turn to page 2—The World at War—for an analysis of the latest moves in the World Imperialist War.

A Specter Is Haunting Europe— The Specter of Workers World

German imperialism, with cutthroat Hitler at its head, is facing the beginning of opposition in Europe. This has been evident for some weeks now in France. The most dramatic situation, however, developed in Norway last week when the trade unions took the first really bold step in planning for a general strike.

After months of persecution, suppression, terror, devastation and hunger, the workers in fascist-dominated Europe begin just a little, to raise their bowed heads, to take a small step toward breaking the fascist imperialist chains that bind them.

It is significant that the movement against the Hitler gangs in Norway began in the trade unions. We cannot tell just what political currents were active in these unions and among these workers. The point we wish to emphasize is that the movement had its BASE in the mass organizations of the workers—and this is as it should be! This is the real force that can destroy Hitler and Hitlerism; there is no other.

It is the workers of Europe that are expected to be the first to show resentment at fascist rule in any way other than through purely literary means. The liberals, the intellectuals and the professional "democrats" of all stripes will damn Hitler in fine prose from afar; but it is the working class, caught in Hitler's trap, which will really do the fighting and the suffering to destroy Hitler and his associated imperialist bandits.

FEAR THE ORGANIZED WORKERS

The German imperialists struck directly at the Norwegian trade unions. The fascists and their brother capitalists in other lands always proceeded in this manner. IT IS THE ORGANIZED WORKERS THEY FEAR. They fear most those who have nothing to lose but their chains. They fear most the great organized working class that has most to gain through the overthrow of fascism and imperialism. The workers do not yet think in these terms, but all the imperialists everywhere know that great tidal waves of working class revolt often begin in a very small way.

Therefore they strike at the workers' organizations and murder the leaders, as they did last week in Norway. They shot Viggo Hansteen, legal adviser to the Norwegian trade unions, and another leader of the workers named Rolf Vickstrom. They sentenced Ludvig Byland, vice-president of the Norwegian trade unions, to death but commuted his sentence to hard labor for life when they faced an explosion from the Scandinavian workers as far as Finland. We suppose the plans of the Gestapo are to murder Byland some dark night by shooting him in the back.

The Swedish Trade Union Congress expressed solidarity with the Norwegian workers and stated their regret "that all the ways are closed for a free communication with the German workers, and we refuse to believe that the prevailing violence which deprives others of their rightful interests can find support with the German worker."

CAUGHT BETWEEN THE TWO IMPERIALISMS

At present the opposition to the fascist imperialists by the workers of Europe is only a slight gesture toward freedom from the Nazi yoke: the beginning of a struggle for national independence, democratic rights, civil liberties and parliamentary government as they have known it before. It is probably correct to say that this is all that is in the minds of the masses of the workers today. They will struggle to get back that which Anglo-American workers are fighting to hold on to.

The continental European workers are ready to ally themselves with Anglo-American "democracy" for the defeat of Hitler. It is very probable that their renewed courage is connected with Hitler's involvement in Russia and the consequent necessity of withdrawing troops from western Europe for use in Finland and on the eastern front. The Anglo-American imperialists will, UP TO A POINT, foster and encourage revolts among workers under Hitler's domination. They will do so for purely military reasons. Their aim is to harass Hitler and force him to fight on every front simultaneously. This will speed the

victory of Anglo-American imperialism over German imperialism.

This means in effect that the European workers are caught between Anglo-American imperialism on one side and German imperialism on the other. The same is true, of course, of the workers in England and the United States. LABOR ACTION has discussed this aspect of the imperialist war many times in previous issues. This is the central problem before the workers of the world: which road shall the international working class take? It is safe to say that the workers of Europe are not unaware that the present war is an imperialist war and that the motives of Churchill and Roosevelt are not so pure as they pretend. Thousands of workers in Europe, along with thousands in England and the United States, know that more is involved in the struggle against Hitler than has been expressed in Anglo-American "war aims."

THE COMMAND MUST BE: "FORWARD!"

Right now, however, it is the opinion of the European workers and also of labor in the United States and Great Britain that the military defeat of Hitler is first on the order of the day for international labor. At present this is the opinion not only of the ranks in the trade unions but of the most advanced of the militants. This idea is what primarily animates the Norwegian trade unions in their opposition to Hitler.

This is understandable and should occasion no surprise. It is particularly understandable in connection with the continental European workers who have suffered for many months under the cruelest and most vicious of capitalist regimes in the entire period of capitalist exploitation. The concentration camp, the jail, the knout, forced labor, the confiscation of one's personal possessions and starvation, may break the spirit, distort the vision and mentally befuddle even the stoutest of militant workers.

This means that at present it is not to be expected that the European workers will be able to view the objective scene and

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An American Fascist Speaks His Anti-Semitism

Hitler-decorated Lindbergh made a speech last week in Des Moines, Iowa, before an "America First" meeting. In this speech the fascist Lindbergh made an open and direct attack on the Jews. Heretofore the "Colonel" has been a little obscure and cautious in his anti-Semitic utterances. But not making much headway up to now in keeping America out of war (even with the help of "socialist" Norman Thomas), Lindbergh's financial backers evidently instructed him to let go with both barrels. He said that "instead of agitating for war, the Jewish groups in this country should be opposing it in every possible way, for they will be among the first to feel its consequences."

We suppose that Lindbergh meant by this, as he has often said, that Germany will win the war and that after a Hitler victory the Jews, of course, would be marched off to a concentration camp. That's the very argument that the Jewish war-mongers are using to induce Jewish workers to support the imperialist war. Or is

Lindbergh promising the Jews that fate after he becomes a fascist big shot in the United States? Or is Lindbergh advising the Jews to oppose the war and thus place themselves in a position to receive favors from him after he "takes over"? Evidently this fascist "Colonel" has plans for the day when his "party" marches on Washington after Hitler has cleaned up in Europe.

THE PURPOSE OF HIS ANTI-SEMITISM

Their greatest danger to this country," said Lindbergh of the Jews, "lies in their large ownership and influence in our motion pictures, our press, our radio and our government." That is, according to the fascist "Colonel," the Jews are a danger to the U.S. because they have influence in the seats of propaganda and the government. Like Hitler, Lindbergh is certain and puts in his program that the Jews are a danger. He wants the press, the radio, motion pictures and the government turned back to the "Nordics"

that founded and developed these institutions.

We stop to discuss this fascist not merely because he is anti-Semitic. That is generally known. All the fascist leaders are anti-Semitic. They use this anti-Semitism as a cover for their anti-labor schemes and plans. That is what Hitler did, and that is what Lindbergh is doing. This is the fact that workers should pay attention to. Many workers are anti-Jewish for reasons they would find it difficult to explain if called upon. Lindbergh wants to inflame Gentile workers against Jewish workers for similar reasons that the bosses inflame white workers against Negro workers. Lindbergh doesn't mention Negroes today because he doesn't believe that they present any obstacle or difficulty. But he agrees with Hitler on the status that Negroes should have.

Also, workers should not be taken in by Lindbergh's anti-war talk. He represents the most reactionary, the most hide-bound, the worst section of the capitalist class. Of all the capitalists, the group

which this fascist "Colonel" represents contains the most irreconcilable of the labor-haters. They would probably prefer a Hitler victory to the continuation of the Roosevelt New Deal regime. They don't like the Roosevelt method of starving the workers gradually. They prefer the methods of another of their spokesmen, Herbert Hoover. They want the army to shoot down unemployed or employed men and women and gas the babies to death. They don't believe in making any concessions whatsoever to labor; not even the crumbs from the rich man's table.

The Roosevelt New Deal capitalists believe that one can "catch more flies with sugar than with vinegar." They are for "recognizing" the trade unions and then bidding for the collaboration of labor leaders to swing the workers behind any program the bosses and the government may have, such as the present imperialist war

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