

ANTI-NAZI REVOLTS SPREAD IN EUROPE!

The Masses Are Fighting for Liberation--Not to Preserve The Dying Capitalist System

By HENRY JUDD

Incident after incident, event after event continue to pile up in the people's revolt against the Nazis in the conquered and occupied countries of Europe. Der Fuehrer is sitting on the hottest and most explosive seat in his life!

The German imperialists have abandoned all pretense. Talk of "collaboration," "new order," "peace without the Anglo-Saxons and English plutocrats," etc., has given way to the muted drums of the courts martial and the thud of the firing squad's rifles.

For it is now clear that the masses of Europe will not submit quietly and peacefully to dictatorial rule.

In France the popular demonstrations in Paris and the occupied cities of the north continue. Thousands of hostages are rounded up, but this only adds fuel to the anti-Nazi flames.

In Norway the entire country exists under a state of rule by military decree and curfews ordered by martial law. Ten thousand workers with their families have been removed from Oslo and its suburbs and sent to other jobs in more remote parts of the country. The anti-Nazi agitation in the factories continues.

In Yugoslavia the actions of pasants and saboteurs have resulted in 50 executions in the past week. Peasant and city guerilla bands roam the country and force the Nazis to send in thousands of troops in an effort to curb them. Italy has been forced to occupy a section of this cut-up country in order to quell uprisings of nationalist Serbs.

Large sections of former Czechoslovakia--the latest area to rebel against the Nazi masters--have likewise been placed under military occupation and the firing squads are actively at work. Fifty-eight Czechs were executed in one day by Nazi firing squads.

In Italy, a semi-occupied country, bread lines have appeared in the industrial cities and bread has been rationed for the first time since the last war. Disturbances in the northern workers' cities of Milan and Turin are reported. Articles of clothing, hats, shoes, etc., are about to be subjected to rationing.

In the other occupied territories of Greece, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Poland and the newly conquered lands of Soviet Russia similar details and actions are reported from numerous sources.

WHY THE REVOLTS?
These movements and actions are based upon intense hatred and opposition to the imperialistic activities of the German plunderers. Because the war will continue and there will be a winter campaign in Russia and Africa, the Nazis have increased their thievery and robbery. They are draining the occupied territories of their foods, their winter garments and accessories (furs, heavy coats, skis, snowshoes, etc.)--any object that will help them continue their campaigns of conquest. Above all, the problem of food and heat for the winter weather have become especially acute. Every worker and peasant in occupied Europe faces a bitter winter struggle for survival against hunger and cold.

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Mass Rally Protests Jim-Crow in Army Demands War Department Publish Reports on Abuse of Negroes

By PAUL PICQUET

CHICAGO, Sept. 22--At a mass meeting held here yesterday over 400 people demonstrated their protest against the intolerable abuses suffered by Negro troops in the South in recent weeks. The meeting was sponsored by the newly formed Committee to Fight for Negro Freedom.

The mass meeting was preceded by a march from Washington Park Forum through the streets to Forum Hall, on 43rd Street, where the meeting was held. Marchers carried placards reading: "I Didn't Raise My Boy to Be a Jim-Crowed Soldier," "If You Want Us to Fight for Democracy You'll Have to Give Us Some First" and other similar slogans.

Ford Instrument Contract a Lesson For Workers in Other UE Shops

Members of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers who are employed in machine shops have something to learn from the contract just won by the Ford Instrument Workers. Local 425, the Ford Instrument Local, asked for a 25 cent general increase and won 15 cents, 12 cents and 10 cents for various classifications. These demands were won after three weeks of negotiations, during which a strike vote was taken.

If the Ford workers could win 15, 12 and 10 without resorting to strike action or to the National Mediation Board, it is reasonable to assume that such shops as Bliss, International Projector and Mergenthaler can win similar increases.

It is surprising, therefore, to learn that these three shops are asking for a 10 cent increase. In doing so they are carrying out the recommendation of Local 475, of which they are members. Local 475 adopted the procedure last year of recommending a standard contract to its affiliated shops.

The leadership of Local 475 is known among UE members as being subject to the influence of the Communist Party line. During the contract negotiations at Ford Instrument the Communist Party distributed a Daily Worker statement advising the UE members to use "discretion" and "restraint" in considering strike action.

Everybody in the Ford Instrument plant knows, however, that if the workers hadn't demonstrated their fighting spirit by taking a strike vote they wouldn't have won the contract which they did secure one week later.

The Ford Instrument workers felt that since the prices for food and other necessities had gone up as high as 30 per cent, a 10 cent increase would actually be a loss.

Resolutions adopted with spontaneous acclamation called for the War Department to open to the public the "secret" reports of Jim-Crow abuses in the Southern army camps which it claims to have, and demanded the immediate prosecution of the army officers and military police responsible. The meeting also demanded that the Fair Employment Practice Committee immediately broaden its scope to include investigations and action on Jim-Crow in the armed forces.

The meeting also made a ringing plea to organizations and groups of individuals all over the country to hold similar protest meetings and carry out actions designed to bring public pressure to bear on Jim-Crow and those responsible for it.

Ulysses S. Keys, Chicago Negro attorney, Henry Pelham, Frances Gober, of the NAACP Youth Council, and William Avery, secretary of the Waller Defense Committee, were among the speakers who addressed the meeting.

Officials of the Committee to Fight for Negro Freedom expressed themselves as highly satisfied with this

meeting, which was the first step in a campaign to eliminate Jim-Crow practices. They pointed out that the meeting was a rank and file enterprise from beginning to end. Business men and big shots in general failed to respond to requests for aid. The finances for the protest rally were raised through the pennies, nickels and dimes contributed by workers in the streets to squads of young workers, Negro and white, who toured the streets for several nights before the meeting, armed with sandwich signs and collection cans.

Workers in the neighborhood and from the Washington Park Forum responded to the call of the committee and flooded the headquarters for the meeting, distributing leaflets, painting signs for advertising, etc.

The committee announced it plans to meet every Monday night to perfect plans for action at the Good Shepherd Community Center, 5120 S. Park. The public is invited.

Strike Threat, Brings Victory in Ford Instrument

Company Stops Stalling on Contract Negotiations After Workers Display Fighting Spirit--Wage Increases, Concessions Won

By an overwhelming strike vote, the workers of the Ford Instrument Co. (Local 425, UERMWA) forced substantial concessions from the company bosses, particularly wage increases, in a new contract just signed.

The Ford Instrument Co., a subsidiary of the Sperry Gyroscopic Co., stalled negotiations on the new contract until the men, aroused by the situation, took their strike vote.

Sperry took in almost \$8,000,000 in profits in 1940 after tax deductions, etc., and almost \$5,000,000 in the first half of 1941. These facts were known to the men when they threatened strike action to enforce their demands.

The men were particularly aroused over the learner situation. Inasmuch as the company produces on a mass production basis, the operations are so divided that much of the work, formerly handled by semi-skilled workers, is now handled by learners. After a brief period they become so adept at their one specialized task they are able to turn out the work at top speed. These learners were previously hired at 45 or 50 cents an hour.

The company and even some old machinists tried to justify the low wages of these learners by saying that these learners had little skill, that they were learning a trade. But that isn't the case at all. The learner, unlike the apprentice of former years, sticks to his one job and eventually become exceptionally skilled at this one operation. By the time

Some More Profit Figures . . .

In recent issues of LABOR ACTION we have been citing profit figures by way of showing how the imperialist war pays off in good hard dollars to the boss class. Most of those we have listed up to now have been in the big war industries, auto, steel, etc. But how about profits in the industries less directly connected with war production, but nevertheless reaping the benefits of dollar-sign "pay-triotism"? We list a few examples which appeared in the Sunday New York Times, financial section, for September 28. Remember that the figures given are AFTER tax deductions and DESPITE higher tax rates.

2nd Qtr. 1941	1st Qtr. 1941	2nd Qtr. 1940	1st Qtr. 1940
\$24,621,473	Eight Electrical Manufacturing \$19,914,069	\$23,306,146	\$10,290,540
6,761,190	Twelve Appliances	3,897,505	3,711,330
5,833,044	Twelve Office Equipment	5,419,673	6,304,194
1,123,003	Three Brick and Clay	822,170	510,337
1,602,872	Four Cement	1,262,328	648,770
7,438,818	Twelve Building Materials	6,030,618	2,614,173
371,950	Three Furniture	126,926	151,383
289,908	Two Upholstery	113,982	50,336
1,554,272	Five Hardware	962,995	893,605
4,289,763	Nine Heating and Plumbing	2,905,516	1,051,818
2,384,245	Six Home Equipment	1,522,610	1,757,685
56,270,538	Seventy-six Companies	46,370,478	37,044,171

Earnings of companies in the foregoing groups for six-month periods compare as follows:

1st Half 1941	2nd Half 1940	1st Half 1940
\$45,235,713	Thirteen Electrical Manufacturing \$45,231,795	\$42,860,347
12,793,365	Twelve Appliances 10,571,164	7,668,835
15,852,798	Thirteen Office Equipment 12,155,398	11,864,430
2,355,914	Three Brick and Clay 2,410,391	1,332,507
2,775,203	Four Cement 2,638,064	1,911,098
12,295,953	Twelve Building Materials 13,725,534	8,644,791
1,964,918	Four Furniture 2,622,763	1,333,850
5,880,070	Five Floor Coverings 7,192,629	4,205,089
3,328,327	Five Hardware 2,716,349	1,856,600
614,063	Two Upholstery 987,445	164,318
8,260,354	Eight Paint and Varnish 6,467,367	6,113,235
8,250,354	Twelve Heating and Plumbing 13,159,661	4,145,236
4,115,130	Six Home Equipment 6,668,915	3,280,304
123,722,614	Ninety-nine Companies 126,547,536	95,380,640

All the foregoing reports are for calendar quarters and semesters or the closest corresponding fiscal periods.

Ford Instrument Men Won:

WAGE INCREASES
Fifteen cents per hour: Most first and second class machine tool operators, toolmakers, etc.
Twelve cents per hour: Other machine tool operators such as drill press and punch press; riggers, winders, carpenters, maintenance.
Ten cents per hour: All others not included in above. Also assembly helpers. Helpers receive 5 cents every 3 months, up to 85 cents. Thereafter grievance committee procedure and arbitration provided for raising to second class status.
Ten cents to twenty-five cents for learners: Automatic increases as follows: after 4 months, 5 cents; after the next 4 months, 5 cents; after next 3 months, 5 cents; after next 3 months, 5 cents; then 5 cent increases every 3 months until second class rates are reached.
Every learner shall have his wage rate raised to the minimum starting rate (60 cents) plus adjustment according to time already served in company as though above terms were in effect at the time he was hired (determining the 10 cent to 25 cent increases).

MINIMUM STARTING RATES
General minimum: 60 cents per hour. (For both men and women.)
Toolmakers, etc. (formerly in group 1): First class, \$1.10; second class 85c.
Machine tool operators, etc. (formerly in group 2): First class \$1.00; second class 85c.
Millwrights, maintenance, etc.: First class 90 cents; second class 75 cents.
Drill and punch press operators, etc.: First class 85 cents; second class 75 cents. After six months

from starting time all second class men in above categories receive a 5 cent raise.

WAGES AND PRICES
If the cost of living rises, the union may reopen the question of wage rates, for upward revision, upon 30 days' notice.

SICK LEAVE
Five days' sick leave with pay.

NIGHT WORK BONUS
Partial extension of night shift bonus to porters: 5 per cent for second shift, 10 per cent of the third shift. (All other workers already receive 10 per cent and 15 per cent bonus.)

VACATION
Two weeks vacation with pay, old contract.)

HOLIDAYS
Nine paid holidays.

SENIORITY
Strengthening of seniority provisions. Top seniority for officers and department stewards.

JURY DUTY
Company to pay men called for time lost on jury duty.

DRAFTEES
All men called to army to get severance pay as follows: For 6 to 12 months in plant, 2 weeks pay; for 1 to 2 years in plant; 3 weeks pay; for over 2 years in plant, 4 weeks pay.

CLOSED SHOP
The union (Local 425, UERMWA) shall have jurisdiction over and this contract shall apply to all plants of the company. Every new man hired must immediately receive a union working card.

Conscript the War Industries Under Workers' Control!

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