

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Formerly
**'YOUTH for
SOCIALISM'**

**END
THE
COALITION**

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AUGUST, 1941

ONE PENNY

AN APPEAL TO COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS

How to Defend the Soviet Union How to Defeat Hitler

Harry Pollitt has issued a political letter to all Communist Party Branches on behalf of the secretariat, which has resulted in a veritable crisis within the Party ranks.* The militant rank and file has been shaken by the unparalleled capitulation to the Churchill government, despite the attempts to justify this by pointing to the "change in the entire world situation."

For the past eighteen months the Communist Party has been correctly characterising the real aims of British imperialism in this war that it was an absolute lie that the British ruling class was fighting for anything else but imperialist plunder. Churchill and the ruling class, they said were seeking, not to destroy fascism, but to impose a hundred times worse regime than that of Versailles upon the backs of the German people. They pointed out that the Labour leaders, in their support of the Government, were betraying the British people into the hands of monopoly capitalism. That it was fear of the impositions of Churchill which drove the German people to accept the monstrous Nazi tyranny. Especially did they castigate in correct terms the role of Churchill.

CHURCHILL'S CRIMES

"INSIGNIFICANT"

Mussolini and expressed his preference for Nazism to Bolshevism.

All this, and more, the C.P. leaders

Strike Action on Merseyside SHOP STEWARD VICTIMISED

The stoppage of work on the Vacuum Company's oil site at Merseyside, has given rise to a position which will undoubtedly produce evidence of chaotic mismanagement as concrete as the case of the "7 Trade Unionists" recently tried at the Old Bailey.

The sub-contracting firm of Maddock Brothers, who are in charge of the main electrical installations on the site, have, from the very commencement of the job, endeavoured to smash the slightest sign of Trade Union Militancy. The foreman's own words to the shop steward were: "I'll have no Trade Union troubles on this job. I've got to make this job go, and I am going to make it go if I've got to raise Hell to do it. I don't care a damn if I sack the whole bloody lot and get a new gang in, I'll do it."

Disput after dispute has arisen and hardly a week has passed without the shop steward being compelled to interview the management on some question or other. The climax came this week when the firm decided to give two militants 3 days notice of dismissal. The reason given was that the men "were not suited to the firm's requirements." Such an unsatisfactory explanation was not suited to the men's requirements and the shop

BRITISH OFFICERS FRATERNISE WITH FASCISTS

The news which has leaked out from a parliamentary question by Geoffrey Mander on July 29th, that Italian officers are being allowed freely to attend banquets and other functions in Cairo provides food for thought for the workers.

These officers perpetrated brutalities on the workers and peasants of Italy and barbarous cruelties on the Abyssinian masses. Yet we find amicable relations established between them and our own officer caste in Egypt. Perhaps it is because they have both learned equally well the art of repressing the colonial peoples, and find in this a basis for fraternisation.

That this is not an isolated case is shown by the events in Syria. There, too, we find the Generals and officers of the British army fraternising at banquets and social gatherings with the hirelings of Vichy. This scum had betrayed the French nation into the hands of Hitler: the British themselves had announced that these officers and generals were fighting as agents of Hitler. Yet this was no reason for the British Generals to have anything but the friendliest relations with these fascist agents.

On the other hand the real attitude of this corrupt upper caste to the working class was shown by their order forbidding the Press to photograph British Generals shaking hands with the members of the Russian military mission.

The contrast is striking. They could not allow themselves to be soiled by public or have the mentality of the ruling class.

captainship. That it was real of the monstrous Nazi tyranny. Especially did they castigate in correct terms the role of Churchill.

CHURCHILL'S CRIMES "INSIGNIFICANT"

Churchill is the man who has consistently pursued a policy against the interests of the workers and is the most cunning representative of the British ruling class. What is Churchill's record? He used the army against the miners at Tonypany in 1910. He organised and financed, to the extent of £100,000,000 of the British workers' money, the White Guard scum in order to make war on the infant workers republic, destroying (in Pollitt's words) "the flower of the Soviet people, drenching with their blood and bodies every inch of Soviet soil" and through the ruin which he brought on the Russian people resulting in famine, millions of lives were lost. All this, in order to impose on Russia a regime as ruthless as Hitler's. Churchill was the man who broke the British General Strike of 1926. He openly supported Franco and

* A copy of this letter will be forwarded on application to the Editor of the "Socialist Appeal."

PRODUCTION CHAOS— Workers' Control Only Solution

The recent debate, on production, took place in the House of Commons on July 9-10th. Can anyone seriously hope for a radical improvement in the disastrous trend of the "total war effort" as a result of these debates in the House of Commons?

Serious allegations against government policy and control, by M.P.'s received but scant attention from the government spokesmen. In the debate on production, the government's reply to critics confined itself mainly to a glowing account of the personal qualifications of Lord Beaverbrook. The *Economist* characterises the debate as "another failure"!

The situation, indeed, calls for a revolutionary change in administration and control. Mr. Churchill, well aware that most of his critics know this, accuses them of "irresponsible quarreling". For this statement he in turn is sharply rebuked by the *Economist* which, however, confines itself in the main to denouncing his "exasperated" reply.

Mr. Churchill has good reason to be exasperated. Attacks centred upon the government of which he is the head, are directed from as widely diverse sources as the "Times" to the "Daily Herald" and from Tory M.P.'s to Mr. Gallacher, all complaining of "mistakes" and "defects" in "government policy".

At the time of writing Mr. Churchill is preparing a statement calculated to dispel the growing consternation of the masses at this display of ineffectual parliamentary wrangling that has been going on for the past twelve months.

Mussolini and expressed his preference for Nazism to Bolshevism.

All this, and more, the C.P. leaders would have us believe has been transformed. *And why? Because Hitler is doing exactly what Anglo-American finance planned for him—making war on the Soviet Union!*

Churchill's record and the real aims of the ruling class we are told to forget. In Pollitt's words:

"In the light of what is happening in the Soviet Union today and can happen in Britain tomorrow, what does it matter what Gallacher said about Attlee or what the "Daily Worker" said about the "Times", or that 12 Communists were in prison in 1926, while Churchill was editing the "British Gazette. These are insignificant things of past history that have no place in the titanic events of the present time..."

"Insignificant things!" The militant

(continued on back page)

CAPITAL RULES NATIONAL POLICY

The bald fact is that parliamentary democracy is being exposed as an illusory facade intended to cover the iron grip of the banks, monopolies and big business generally upon national policy. Thus the numerous reshuffles among the personnel on the various control and co-ordinating committees and the growing number of these committees has not altered by one iota the drift towards greater control by the reactionary dictatorship of high finance.

(continued on next page)

the management on some question or other. The climax came this week when the firm decided to give two militants 3 days notice of dismissal. The reason given was that the men "were not suited to the firm's requirements." Such an unsatisfactory explanation was not suited to the men's requirements and the shop steward was mandated to press the management for a clearer explanation.

For two days negotiations continued without success. The last time the shop steward saw the management on the question, he was told that the management reserved the right to sack any man when they liked, how they liked, and where they liked, without any explanation. As though to prove their assumed

On the other hand the real attitude of this corrupt upper caste to the working class was shown by their order forbidding the Press to photograph British Generals shaking hands with the members of the Russian military mission.

The contrast is striking. They could not allow themselves to be soiled by public contact with representatives of a workers' state. But they immediately found common bonds of solidarity with the fascist butchers belonging to the "enemy".

THE OLD SCHOOL TIE AGAIN.

In the army itself this caste attempts to assure that all officers are members of,

or have the mentality of the ruling class. John Gordon, in the *Sunday Express* of July 27th says: "... our fossilised brass-hats whose minds haven't yet caught up with the tank, the parachute or the dive-bomber, and who still think that the greatness of a man depends on the school to which he went, the clubs to which he belongs or the games he plays.

I am told that when you go up for admission to an Officers' Training Corps now they sometimes even ask you what your politics are..."

It is significant that in the Home Guard too, complete control has been taken over by this reactionary caste. Out of the entire list of officers in the Home Guard only 19 are plain Mr. and we can be sure that not one is an ordinary worker. Doddering old nobodys whose ideas of warfare are still based on the Somme and the Boer War. The only reason why they have been given these positions is because of their ties with the "best people"—exclusive county society, and not military merit.

We see the inefficient and downright stupid army caste attempting to keep complete control in their own hands. The intelligent workers, who know more about tanks, aeroplanes, etc., than the products of the public schools, and who are imbued with an unyielding hatred of fascism and all that it means, are suppressed, and kept in the ranks. At the same time the Old School Tie inefficients, without the least knowledge of modern industry are in control of the army with the result that terrible and unnecessary sacrifices have to be made. The Generals and officers of the ruling class regard the men as so much human cattle to be used as cannon-fodder in the defence of the interests of the ruling class. This represents a terrible danger to the working class.

John Gordon correctly remarks "Generals of all nations—ours included—are like Freemasons. They tend to hang together. Their minds move in the same track. They speak the same language and they can usually comfortably make a deal with each other."

This is perfectly true. We must be warned by the lesson of France. The General staff and officers who were promising "a war to the death against fascism" preferred to sell out to Hitler rather than place the working class in a

(Continued from back page)

Leon Trotsky Memorial Meeting

(1st ANNIVERSARY)

Holborn Hall Thursday August 21st.

DOORS OPEN AT 7 P.M.

Hear Trotsky's Recorded Speech, in English, on the Fourth International

Speakers: A. ROY (India) E. GRANT G. HEALY

Chair: SID BIDWELL ASST. SEC. LON. DC. N.U.R.

Also at: Bristol Road School, Birmingham, on August 24, at 6 p.m.

Held under the auspices of
WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE, FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

rights they forthwith sacked the shop steward without giving any reason.

At a meeting of the men it was decided that unless a satisfactory explanation was given for the sacking of the shop steward the rest of the men would require their cards and money at 5.30 p.m. that day. The explanation given, was that the shop steward was guilty of incompetence. Some of the evidence cited, was work done by the shop steward as long as eight and ten weeks previously. Since the completion of this particular job, 3 men had been stopped owing to shortage of material. The shop steward was not one of those three.

The explanation was not acceptable to the meeting with the result that all the rest of the Electricians terminated their employment with the firm. The E.T.U. officials promised to ask the men to return to work if the firm would re-instate the shop steward until such time as an official enquiry was completed. The firm refused to do this under any consideration, one of the partners saying: "that if he had had his way the shop steward would have been sacked long ago.

A deadlock has been declared, and the firm is solely responsible for holding up work of vital national importance.

H. B.

Zulus Promised Arms—But Not At Home

Cape Town, Monday.

Mr. Denys Reitz, Minister for Native Affairs, said at Durban that South Africa was foolish in not allowing natives to be armed for service in the North, but not, naturally, in the Union. Recruiting among the natives was going very badly. That was understandable.

"You cannot expect a fine fighting race like the Zulus to join the defence forces when they see other native troops armed while they are not," he said. "Parliament does not, of course, allow natives to be armed but if the natives were promised arms on reaching the front recruiting would be brisk.

Daily Telegraph, Aug. 5.

FINNISH "DEMOCRATS" N.U.R. CONFERENCE

Finland has severed diplomatic relations with Britain. It is significant that the initiative came from the Finnish ruling class. Why did the National Government not take this step when for weeks Finland had been waging war against the Soviet Union as a vassal of Hitler? If their alliance were a genuine alliance then they should have severed relations with the pro-fascist Mannerheim regime long ago. It demonstrates that even now our ruling class is quite prepared to continue friendly relations with active enemies of the Workers' State. In the eyes of our ruling class, the Soviet Union is a *special type of ally*; an ally whose enemies may be their friends, an ally who may even be stabbed in the back without breaking the rules of capitalist diplomacy.

What has happened to the "glorious Finnish Democracy" in the defence of which Citrine and other Transport House bosses were almost demanding war against the Soviet Union only a year ago. Almost overnight these idols of our Labour Leaders, these "valiant fighters for independence" became transformed into cringing, crawling agents of Hitler. With eager steps, they marched to wear the badge of Nazi slavery.

Now, of course, we shall hear a howl of holy indignation from Citrine and his kind. "Mannerheim has turned traitor", we shall be told. But Mannerheim has committed no treachery. The Finnish rulers like the ruling class of other small nations are not interested in national freedom. They fight only to preserve their power and privilege by serving one or the other set of imperialist gangsters. Yesterday, they looked to Chamberlain and Roosevelt for protection, to-day, they have sold out to Hitler.

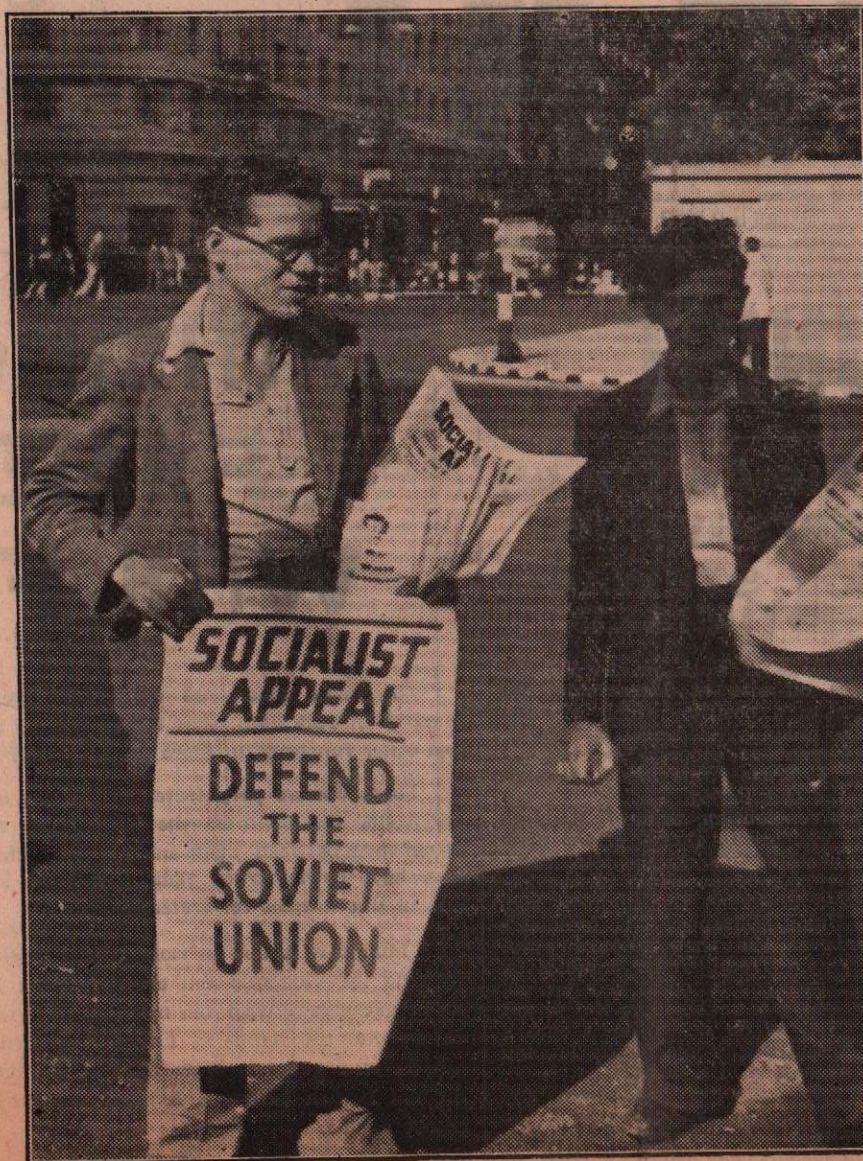
The real traitors are Citrine and the bureaucrats of the Labour movement. The support which they gave to butcher Mannerheim and his class enabled them to pose as champions of Finnish freedom and strengthened their power over the Finnish masses. That is how Mannerheim succeeded so easily in making Finland a colony of Hitler.

It is significant that the Finnish Labour leaders who supported the struggle against the Soviet Union in the name of the "fight for democracy" against Bolshevik dictatorship are now co-operating eagerly with the barbarian dictatorship of Hitler. They are quite willing to co-operate with Hitler, although this means as in the case of Rumania and Hungary that Finland will become a colony of Germany. They capitulated completely to the Finnish capitalists in making Finland a base for Hitler.

Not only this, but on the basis of the support given by the British Labour leaders to the Finnish capitalists in the previous conflict with Russia they have asked the British Labour movement to sanction their alignment with Hitler against the Soviet Union. They base this

SELL OUT TO HITLER

AT THEIR POST



APPEAL ARMY IN ACTION

The "Socialist Appeal" is a great success. Even our bitterest critics have copies as well as a substantial quantity of other literature. This month they are

Fire Watching Order Opposed

The proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen (1941) were concluded on July 19th.

Of the many important decisions recorded in the name of the vast majority of rail-workers, the greatest prominence has been given to the uncompromising stand taken on the question of the operation of Morrison's infamous piece of legislation known as the Fire Watching (Business Premises) Order No. 69.

The delegates, by rejecting a motion which expressed opposition but failed to give a clear lead, carried the following amendment, thus revealing their desire to give some expression to the real feeling of the rail workers and the working-class throughout the country. The decision moved by Bill Ballantine (Vice President of the I.L.P.) was as follows:—

"This Conference strongly deprecates the action of the Minister of Home Security in making the Fire Watching Order without in the first place consulting with the representatives of organised labour.

"We consider it is the duty of the owners of industry to accept the responsibility of fire-watching and we are opposed to the compulsory nature of the regulations.

"We note with satisfaction the efforts of the T.U.C. and pledge ourselves to support their efforts to obtain the withdrawal of the Order."

Although this decision shows where the railwaymen stand, it is certainly not couched in the strongest terms which are freely used by the rank and file members of the N.U.R. when describing this measure. The nature of the Order and the label of its designer receives the close attention of the rail-workers in the mess-room. Despite the decision of the N.U.R. A.G.M. and the terms of the Order which provide the joint arrangements between the railway companies and the trade unions, the railway management is at this moment going ahead with a gigantic "try on".

They are preparing to roster the workers without the co-operation of local representatives. As I write I learn of the threat at one important centre of stoppage if a roster is posted. The general mood is that the list should be ignored.

The Conference failed to take an un-

compromising stand against the Essential Works Order by making the stipulation that a £3 per minimum wage should first of all be secured before the Union offers its co-operation. This is a dismal situation and behoves all militant members of the N.U.R. to secure the rejection of this insulting decision. This means that for £3 plus war wage the N.U.R. is committed to the acceptance of the Order. The decision when fully realised will be strongly opposed by all railwaymen who will thus be prevented from selling their labour for more than £3 per week. It will be viewed with added disgust since Union representatives received 29/- per day when on Union work.

A conference decision worthy of mention was that taken on the co-ordination of transport as a method of preventing waste and inefficiency in the industry. It called workers for representation on the management. Here can be called to mind the lip service which has been paid by railway company directors favouring nationalisation of the industry and of transport in general. It is easy to see that "co-ordination" of the railway company director's advocacy is a vastly different scheme from that visualised by the workers. Nothing short of workers' control locally and nationally and the complete elimination of the profit makers from the transport industry will provide competence and efficiency and ensure for the railway workers the higher standard of life for which they have struggled for years.

Unlike most other large Trade Unions, and the N.U.R.'s strength is in the neighbourhood of 380,000, the Stalinist Party has no strong organised faction. The left-wing is badly in need of organisation. Now that the Communist Party is supporting the government it will be incapable of even a pretence to rally the militant rail workers who know that short of workers' control greater efficiency in the manipulation of the British railway system is a dream. Furthermore they will definitely oppose any attempts to lengthen their hours of labour arising from the needs of both British imperialism and the necessities of its marriage of convenience with Stalin.

S. Bidwell (Railway worker).

PRODUCTION CHAOS— Workers' Control Only Solution

(continued from page 1)

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native that would do away with the faults of the present arrangement.

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support given by the British Labour leaders to the Finnish capitalists in the previous conflict with Russia they have asked the British Labour movement to sanction their alignment with Hitler against the Soviet Union. They base this request on the grounds that the present conflict is a continuation of the Russo-Finnish war.

The British Labour leaders have been compelled to maintain an embarrassed silence on this question. To come out openly against the Finnish traitors would expose the hollowness of their own previous support of Mannerheim, Tanner & Co. On the other hand, despite the treachery of the Finnish ruling class the Labour leaders did not demand of the Government that they break off diplomatic relations with these agents of Hitler.

In the light of present events, the reactionary character of Stalin's Finnish policy is revealed in all its nakedness. To secure strategic positions Stalin sacrificed the sympathy and support of the Finnish working class. Instead of openly explaining to the Finnish people the real reasons which dictated the invasion of Finland, the contemptible lies, the obvious falsehoods by which Stalin tried to justify it served only to drive the Finnish masses into the arms of the Mannerheim-Tanner regime. The sudden abandonment of the invasion and the agreement with Mannerheim served further to demoralise and disorient them. By weakening the Finnish working-class and strengthening Finnish capitalism, Stalin's policy paved the way for Finland's entry into the war. Even now, the Stalinist bureaucracy dare not make a socialist appeal to the Finnish workers. Despite the past crimes of the Stalin regime, an appeal to the revolutionary traditions of the October revolution, an appeal to unite with the Red Army for a socialist struggle against Hitlerism and for the Socialist United States of Europe could not fail to rouse mighty responses from among the Finnish masses who have no enthusiasm for a war in the interest of Hitler.

The Labour leaders say they are waging the war to secure the independence of small nations. But by pandering to the corrupt and venal kings and landlords, generals and capitalists of the small nations of Europe they serve only to further the reactionary aims of the British ruling class. The new Europe contemplated by our ruling class will be no freer than the New Order of Hitler. Only the working class by taking power into its own hands and in alliance with oppressed masses of Europe can wage a war which would secure the freedom of small nations by establishing the Socialist United States of Europe.

APPEAL ARMY IN ACTION

The "Socialist Appeal" is a great success. Even our bitterest critics have been forced to admit that the organised Trotskyist movement has attempted to face up to the demands of the present situation in a manner fitting the best traditions of revolutionary internationalism.

Since the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, our agents and contacts have simply worked the clock round to ensure that our propaganda reached the ears of the greatest possible number of advanced workers and Communist Party militants. Night and day they have been on the streets, attending rallies, meetings and demonstrations whilst in the factories and workshops the workers in overalls eagerly discussed our programme for industry and helped in their spare time to canvass the paper amongst well known trade unionists in their area.

What is most encouraging is the wonderful reception which our special Soviet Union number has had from the Communist Party rank and file. At the "London Greets Moscow" meeting and Pollitt's "change the party line" rallies, despite some slight hostility from a bunch of Churchillites and pro-war big-wigs our comrades completely sold out. Many of the Communist Party members who purchased our paper have in the past roundly abused the Trotskyists as "agents of fascism" etc., but now the party line of support for Churchill "just won't wash". At the "Peoples Convention" emergency rally a student comrade travelled all the way from Surrey because he heard that Trotskyist literature was always on sale at Convention meetings.

In the trade union branches and at the factory gates our comrades have tirelessly pushed the "Appeal". From Glasgow comes the news that two girl comrades have established a regular pitch outside one of the largest engineering works on the Clyde, whilst our agent writes us to say that in one week in between working hours he has induced three newsagents to sell our paper. This splendid lead must be followed up by comrades in other areas. Not to be outdone by the West of Scotland, Edinburgh have really "pulled up their socks" and the result has been an increase in circulation which is exactly double the amount normally sold. Good work Edinburgh. Keep it up.

Last month's laurels go to the East End London comrades, two of whom have sold the magnificent total of 800

copies as well as a substantial quantity of other literature. This month they are confidently hoping to sell a thousand between them and invite all comers to challenge them. South London are hot on their heels, and it looks as if it will be a neck and neck contest. The North West London comrades also smashed home a fine total, mostly sold in the important factories and workshops in their area.

From the Merseyside the home of the great dockers movement we have received the following letter. "Sellers of *Socialist Appeal* were called fascists and fifth columnists at a meeting held by the Daily Worker Defence League, in Liverpool on July 11th. When one comrade attempted to sell literature prior to the meeting, he was violently abused by the *Daily Worker* agent. In spite of this attack many copies of the "Appeal" were sold and no notice was taken of Mr. Churchill's friends.

Again at an open air meeting held in Birkenhead on July 20th, where the Communist Party were giving their full support for the war, calling upon the workers to "Go To It", a leading CPer in this area levelled accusations against the comrades who were selling *Socialist Appeal* calling them fifth columnists and asserting that they were Nazi agents in the pay of Hitler. This in spite of the fact that our comrades were distributing leaflets which were calling for the ban on the *Daily Worker* to be lifted, and the leading article in our publication called for the Defence of the Soviet Union. The crowd, however, did not share his views, since immediately after this tirade of abuse the sales of our paper increased."

From Midlands towns come encouraging reports concerning the favourable reactions of local militants to the "Appeal." From Birmingham we learn with enthusiasm about the preparations which are being made for the Leon Trotsky memorial meeting which is being held on Sunday, August 24th at the Bristol Road Schools. The comrades intend to make a special drive to popularise the "Appeal" at this meeting.

Last but not by any means least is the grand achievements of our Leeds comrades, who have nearly trebled their literature order and will not rest until Leeds really becomes an "Appeal" town. Good work comrades.

All the ills consequent upon the dictatorial control of private interests and the profit motive; the drawing together of the great business combines and trusts, the concentration of government contracts in the hands of these concerns at the expense of their smaller rivals, the abandonment of factory plant not under combine control to the exigencies of a cornered market. The waste of materials, time and labour in unnecessary transport, has been illustrated by unfinished commodities being transported from England to Scotland, while factories are available near at hand are not utilised because they have no connection with the firm engaged on the contract. In fact, the allocation of contracts is determined by which private interests fulfil their orders not in the interests of the great "speed up" and "increased production" but in the interests of greater profits. This fact, **the rule of profits operating under full government sanction** is the root cause of the growing flood of criticism.

The "Daily Herald", hanging on to the coat tails of the employer's government mocks the intelligence of its readers when it attempts to create a bright future and a radical improvement in the situation by the addition of yet more of these paper bodies. The fact remain that no amount of exhortation for a production Minister—the latest squeal—will remove the deficiencies of the present administration.

The "Economist" (July 19th) writes: "This is not the only occasion the government has failed in debate. A fortnight ago, on propaganda and information, the critics were left in unscathed possession of the field. This week, in the House of Lords, neither Lord Woolton nor the Duke of Norfolk had any effective answer to give to the complaints of their noble colleagues about milk and eggs"—and so it goes on. In every sphere it is the same. Criticism is made of transport policy, shipping policy, food, coal and armaments production policy—all open to heavy attacks, and all completely undefended.

NAZI LABOUR FRONT THE PRICE FOR GREATER OUTPUT?

But nevertheless, there has been an increase in output. Yes. And this increase will grow. But it will be under the iron totalitarian control of the ruling class through their controlling interests in the basic industries, a control by the banks, the trusts and the monopoly combines.

They will increase production at the expense of the small business man, at the expense of the workers standards of living, at the expense of sacrificing the workers' rights and privileges to the moloch of war, whilst they, the real power in the land, will sit back and feed upon the misery of the country. Only in this way are they capable of organising a "total war effort" in which situation the workers organisations would become a servile replica of the Nazi Labour Front.

The ruling class are incapable of organising "democracy" for war. This has been shown by Churchill's "exasperation", the Government's inability to give any answer to its critics and the parliamentary critics failure to supply an alter-

native that would do away with the faults of the present arrangement.

The plans of the ruling class are obvious. They intend to transform "democracy" into the more open dictatorial rule of finance capital. Of course this will do nothing to ease the chaos and waste and the consequent criticism will continue in ever greater proportion. In view of this the "Economist" warns Churchill against winning another verbal duel in the House of Commons which would alter nothing. Their remedy is simple. They want to see the critics gagged; the workers under a British version of the Nazi Labour Front and control exercised by a strongly centralised dictatorial state machine with absolute powers.

This is the ideal State of the employers. But it would be hell for the workers. They will find that in the course of the "fight against Hitlerism" their own ruling class will have instituted a replica of Nazidom at home. Is this what they are fighting for?

AN ALTERNATIVE

There is an alternative, though you would not think so from reading the articles and speeches of the so-called "labour" and "trade union" bureaucrats. They are too concerned with keeping their well paid and comfortable jobs and with cringing before the pro-employer government to worry about the position of the workers.

The alternative is simple. It will assure the continuance of that "democracy" which the labour bosses are so casually abandoning in the name of the "fight Hitler" campaign. It will be a safeguard against a repetition of the French betrayal and would release that tremendous wave of revolutionary enthusiasm and hidden talent that the present arrangement could never arouse and which is essential if fascism either from abroad or at home is to be defeated.

That alternative is workers' control of industry. Already the organisational forms of this control is in existence. The factory committees and the Shop Stewards Movement has proved that the waste and inefficiency of the bosses can be dealt with only by the direct action of the producers themselves.

Savage attacks by the bosses have failed to remove this growing threat to their disruptive rule. Control by the Works Committees, linked up into Area committees and through them on a National scale would transform overnight the apathy, waste and muddle that is rampant in the war industries. This control, as against the present control of the financial magnates, civil servants and incompetent stock exchange gamblers, capable only of increasing profits, would transform the present anti-working class imperialist war into a genuine war against fascism. Under such a control an appeal to the downtrodden masses of Europe, coming from the workers of Britain freed from the rule of capitalism, would effect a response that would sweep the Hitlerites and potential Hitlerites from power and prepare the way for a real lasting peace under the United Socialist States of Europe.

G. Pead.

EDITORIAL.

LEON TROTSKY

A year ago Trotsky was struck down by a hired assassin. When the news came through it was scarcely credible. The mind refused to accept it. It could not be true at a time when the whole situation of the world proletariat cried out for the Marxian analysis and guidance with which four decades of proletarian experience had armed Trotsky. In every continent and every country the workers were being sent out or being trained to slaughter each other in a vast expanding imperialist war. The conditions of the mass of humanity throughout the planet were being pressed lower and lower by the terrible weight of decaying imperialisms. The Soviet Union, to whose defence so many of his writings were devoted was being threatened by a Germany which had conquered the greater part of Europe. With greater and greater clarity events were demonstrating that the only way out of the morass into which capitalism had dragged humanity was the way which Trotsky had consistently pointed out—the way of international socialism. But, fighting to dim and distort the lesson of events were not only the blaring propaganda machines of the capitalists, but also their auxiliaries the labour leaders, together with the great falsifying machine of the Kremlin. At this moment Stalin succeeded in murdering Trotsky.

The blow was a terrible one. There were no more of his penetrating analyses of world events. No more of his clear directions on every major question in every part of the world. The most powerful Marxian pen of the age had been shattered together with Trotsky's brain.

A year has passed since that time and the tremendous events of that year have put to the test a great many of humanity's beliefs, assertions, customs and creeds. Not least they have put to the test and proved true Trotsky's oft-repeated words that correct ideas have a vital force of their own. Despite the fact that only a tiny handful of comrades in each continent are voicing them, and despite the fact that Trotsky himself is dead, his ideas not only live and are proved correct by history, but they are spreading and growing.

Against them the police power of states, both totalitarian and "democratic," is thrown, but without avail Stalin, in the interests of the bureaucracy, and Hitler, in the interests of fascist reaction, comfort themselves with the belief that the physical extermination of those who express the ideas of revolutionary internationalism will also exterminate the ideas. Roosevelt believes that imprisonment and terrorisation will have the same effect. Franco continues with his executions and tortures, but finds that, Phoenix-like, the revolution rises again out of its own ashes. And meanwhile imperialism feeds the masses less and less on bread and more and more on predatory wars and a grey future of misery. And the idea of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky that the only alternative is world socialism grows and spreads.

BUILDING WORKERS BETRAYED

C.P. Leaders Acquiesce to Essential Works Order

STALINISTS SELL OUT THE BUILDING WORKERS

Mr. Bevin has decided to apply the Essential Works Order, complete with Piece Work Clause, to the building trade. He will not easily get away with it. The building workers and their unions have always made a determined stand against payment by results.

Sensing the feeling of the rank and file members, Mr. Frank Wolstencroft has resigned the Presidency of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives "rather than take part in administering a scheme which cut right across our General Rules." The E.C. of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, of which Wolstencroft is General Secretary, has instructed its members *not to accept piece work*.

The only agitation paper for the Building workers is the Stalinist sponsored and controlled monthly, the NEW BUILDERS LEADER. When the Essential Works Order was first announced it came out in no uncertain terms against it, and called a London Conference for July 13 to vote on a resolution of opposition which was circulated to trade union branches.

On arriving at the Conference the delegates were informed that owing to Germany's attack on Russia, and the "new situation" which had thus arisen, the Conference was postponed.

The postponed Conference was held in Holborn Hall on July 27 and the delegates were confronted with a new resolution, ostensibly to fit in with the "new" situation. This Conference ranks as the most miserable affair in the history of N.B.L. efforts. That is not to say the proceedings were not lively. They were.

The proceedings commenced by Bro. Ryan moving the E.B. resolution which, after stating the general Communist Party line on the new situation, **accepted the Essential Works Order and Piece Work**; went on to demand that those clauses in the order which penalises the workers should be removed; and on the question of piece work it stated the following: "The introduction of piecework, if not subject to complete trade union control, will add to the general confusion, create discord among the workers thereby obstructing the great effort needed. In this desperate situation facing the British

He dealt with the miserable reforms which constitute the "demands" of the resolution, and urged that our whole strength be mobilised in the struggle for those "revolutionary" demands. They were "big demands" he tried to convince us. We were all agreed on the fundamental issues, he went on, opposition to Fascism and the defence of the U.S.S.R., but there was a keen division of opinion on the Essential Works Order. That the building workers were opposing it, he attributed in part to the fact that "we can't get out of our building trade mentality." Engineers, miners, millworkers, dockers were "accepting it"—we must do likewise!

A very significant amendment, parts of which we quote, submitted by the Willesden Second Branch of the A.S.W. was moved by Bro. Atkinson which read as follows:

This Conference of building trade workers recognises the fact that the freedom of the peoples can only be achieved in a socialist society; that fascism, at home and abroad, can be defeated and the Soviet Union defended only by the working class of the capitalist countries ("allied", "neutral" and "enemy") taking power into their own hands.

The responsibility for low output does not rest on the shoulders of the workers in the industry but with those who own and control it and who put profits before the needs of the people.

The Essential Works Order penalises the workers and restricts the possibilities of the mobilisation of the industry in the interests of a genuine struggle against Fascism and for the defence of the Soviet Union. The Essential Works Order, if allowed to be imposed, can only result in covering up the scandalous position in the industry and hamper production.

In this desperate situation facing the British people today we recognise that Fascism from abroad cannot be fought by introducing fascist-like control by the capitalist class and their reactionary government over the workers at home. We therefore demand:

1. The immediate withdrawal of the Essential Works Order.
2. That the state immediately take over the building industry, without compensating the owners, and place it under workers' control. Only under workers' control can corruption, waste, inefficiency and discontent be eliminated and a national plan be evolved to operate the industry in the interests of the broad masses of the people.
3. Before the Essential Works Order is operated by the building trade workers, a ballot vote of the entire union membership be taken.

LIVERPOOL ELECTRICIANS RESIST ATTACKS

The electrical workers in the North West Dock Yards are becoming more militant. Demands are constantly being put forward for better conditions, questions are being taken up with the Shop Stewards and Union officials. And where the men have put forward a united demand, it has been proved that the bosses must give way. Below are reports of recent incidents in which the workers have been the victors.

A Shop Steward in a certain shipping firm called an emergency meeting of the men of his job, as a fellow worker had been ordered off the job by an aggressive charge hand, for no apparent reason. Despite the managements' threat to call in the police, the meeting continued. The men declared that unless the victimised worker was reinstated, they would all leave the job. The outcome was that the man was immediately reinstated.

In another instance, six men who were working for the dock-board, did not receive their pay packets when they clocked off on Friday evening. One of the men enquired of the time-keeper where he would receive his money. The time-keeper refused to give any information, became very aggressive, and called in a policeman, when the worker in his turn refused to leave the time-keeper's office until he had been told where he would be paid. Without cause the policeman struck the workers, and six other workers declared their willingness to testify against the policeman. The Shop Stewards Committee of the E.T.U. decided to apply for legal aid, and send an account to the National Council of Civil Liberties. It now remains to be seen how the boss-class will defend themselves, doubtless they will bring in trumped up charges against the worker.

Because they were afraid of the growing militancy of the workers on the job, nine men were sacked by an electrical firm. Contrary to the stipulation in the Essential Works Order, the men did not receive official notice from the Shipyard Controller. They therefore paid a visit to the Controller, and upon returning to work, were handed their official notices of dismissal. The boss-class can move swiftly enough when it is to their own advantage.

The apprentices in the E.T.U., particularly those working in Cammell Lairds Yard and Sunderland Forge are becoming very conscious of their position, and are making great efforts to organise themselves into a Youth Committee. In this they have the backing of the Union and Shop Stewards Movement. A mass meeting of apprentices is to be called shortly, at which they will put forward their demands.

M. O.

revolution rises again out of its own ashes. And meanwhile imperialism feeds the masses less and less on bread and more and more on predatory wars and a grey future of misery. And the idea of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky that the only alternative is world socialism grows and spreads.

In America the Socialist Workers' Party is flourishing as never before, and has beaten the combined votes of the Stalinists and Centrists in a state election. In Belgium the Trotskyists have led the miners in strike action against their Nazi overseers. Italian prisoners of war have sung the "Internationale." In Britain the very appearance of the Socialist Appeal and the way in which its sales are soaring month by month testify to the growing interest of the workers in international socialism. "Trotsky is dead, but his ideas live on!" A year ago these might have seemed mere words. Today they are translated into the growth of parties, the sale of papers, the leading of the workers in action. Tomorrow, we can say with certainty, they will be translated further into the struggle of the workers for power and the smashing of the entire system of imperialism with its wars and oppression.

From the age of 19 Trotsky fought for international socialism. Everything else in life was subservient to that. And for this idea he was jailed and exiled by the Czar. For continuing to voice and work for the same idea he was exiled and finally killed by Stalin. During the second and more bitter exile he had to fight not only world imperialism, but also the betrayers of the revolution, which, together with Lenin, he had led. The entire history of the revolution was re-written to suit the needs of a usurping bureaucracy. Trotsky's role in it was falsified and besmeared; Stalin's was falsified and idealised out of all recognition. The workers' state which Lenin and Trotsky had seen as the first step of the world workers towards the complete conquest of the planet was being transformed into a bureaucratic caricature of Lenin's ideal with the caste of usurpers intent only on preserving the status quo.

Armed only with his ideas and his pen, Trotsky fought Stalin's "Socialism in One Country," hammering home continually the Marxian truth that the gains of October could only be defended by the extension over Europe, and ultimately over the world, of the rule of the workers.

And now, a year after Trotsky's death, the masses of the Soviet Union are fighting desperately against Hitler's invasion, and Stalin does not—dare not—use the only weapon which can defend the workers' state, a revolutionary, internationalist appeal to the masses of Germany and all Europe to take power, destroy Hitler and join with the workers and peasants of the Soviet Union in building the Socialist United States of Europe.

That was Trotsky's way. Not reliance on the Churchills and Roosevelts, but reliance on the mighty revolutionary and creative power of the world proletariat. And it is the way which, as one blood-drenched, hopeless month of imperialism gives way to another, will be proved the only way to a future of real civilisation, genuine peace and assured plenty.

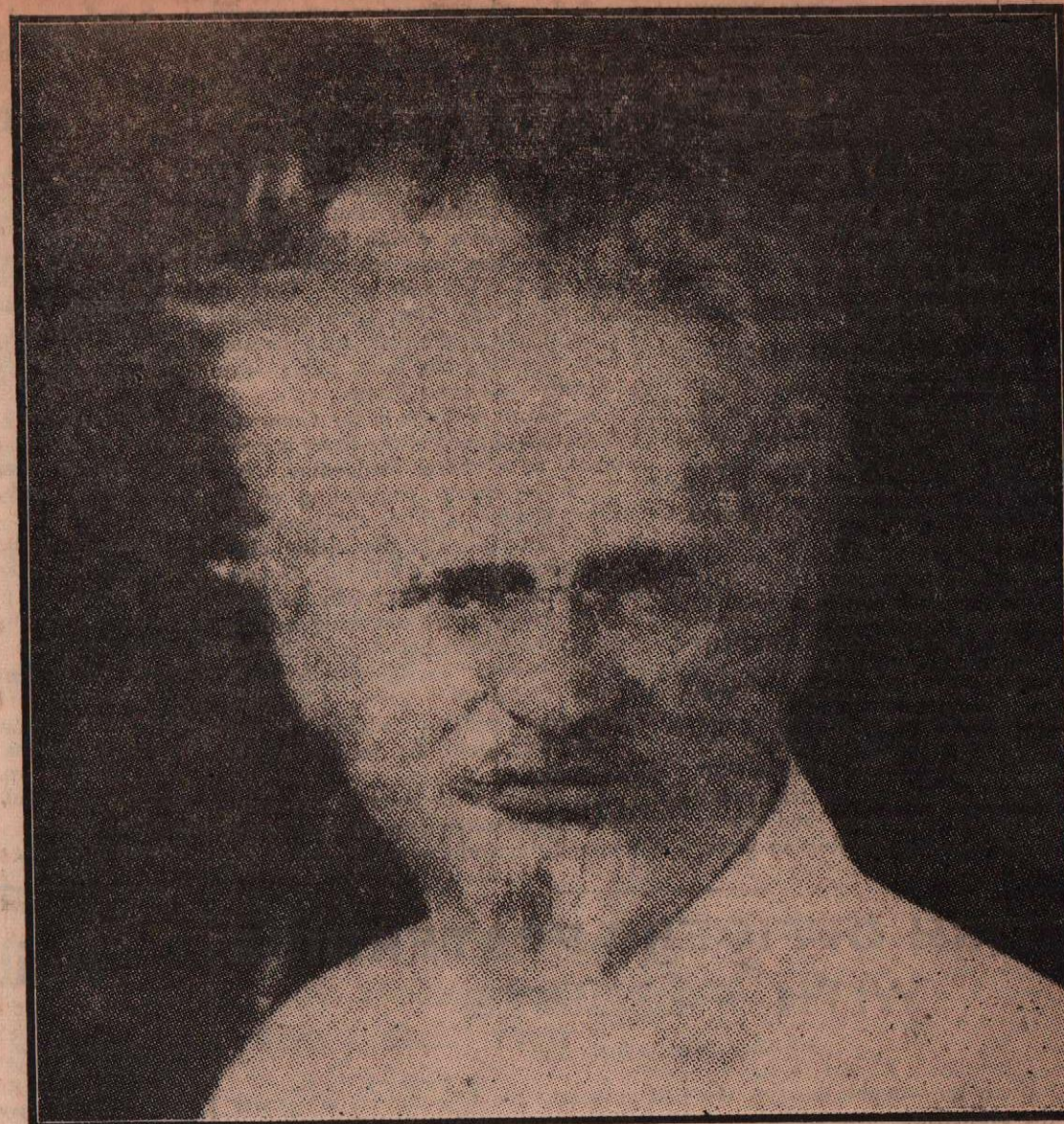
"Trotsky is dead, but his ideas live on!" Today we know that correct ideas cannot be killed. The urgent needs of the whole of humanity assure that the ideas of Trotsky not only live, but grow. The instrument to achieve this great aim can only be a revolutionary party to lead and guide the oppressed—to the creation of this indispensable instrument Trotsky devoted his life. In his own words:—"With it we are all—without it we are nothing!" His monument will not be one of stone and mortar: It will be built of the very fabric of civilisation itself, a new civilisation, a real civilisation—World Socialism.

create discord among the workers, thereby obstructing the great effort needed. In this desperate situation facing the British

operating members, a ballot vote of the entire union membership be taken. mand.

M. O.

"GO FORWARD"



people today we recognise that increased production on the part of the Building Industry is vital for victory over fascism. To this end we demand:

- (a) A national plan for building production and control.
- (b) Ending the cost plus profit contract system.
- (c) Steps taken to end the waste, inefficiency and mismanagement by removal of those proved responsible.
- (d) Removal of the penalising clauses against the workers in the Essential Works Order.
- (e) Complete trade union control of all bonus jobs. All bonus to be on the collective basis shared equally, no individual arrangements, rates to be negotiated on a national or district scale. No victimisation.

After demanding support for the Churchill Government, Bro. Ryan got around to the Essential Works Order.

This last clause was moved as an addendum by Bro. McGee, West End Branch of the A.S.W.

In speaking to the resolution Bro. Atkinson castigated the resolution in general as a complete betrayal of the struggle of the building workers and a capitulation to the reactionary Churchill government. In face of the magnificent stand being made by the building workers, he and his branch considered the resolution criminal. As a member of the A.S.W., he pointed out, if we were not to give our full support to the E.C. and indeed push them forward when they did make a stand, we would never be able to hold up our heads again. We would be giving the leadership a weapon with which to beat us. They would probably sell out anyway, but if they had to back down because the rank and file had rattled on them, they would retire into their offices sighing with relief, saying: "Thank God for that."

In dealing with the demands in the resolution, which was described as demagoguery and deceit, Bro. Atkinson said that the implication in the resolution was that it was not the building trade bosses as such, who were to blame for the chaos in industry, but only a few individuals "in authority" who put profits before the needs of the people. He asked the Editorial Board to name these mysterious individuals on the one hand, and on the other hand to name those "good" capitalists who put the "needs of the people" before profits. It was reactionary through and through. It was humbug to talk of removing a few clauses which "penalised the workers". As a member of the A.S.W. he preferred to see the whole E.C. behind bars rather than they should accept piece work. But if we made a stand, we could defeat Piecework and the Essen-

(continued on page 4)

Appeal to Communist Party Members

The Only Road for the British Workers

workers cannot think that. "By their deeds shall ye know them", is the only guide for us. If the workers allow themselves to be lulled by the Pollitts and Gallachers, Churchill and the ruling class will assuredly cut our throats.

And when the workers, realising that it is fatal to place their trust in the ruling class, begin to doubt and to question, Pollitt says this is no time for "speculation".

"Speculation on how long this co-operation will last, how soon before a switch is made, are fatal at the present time. They represent defeatism in its worst possible form lack of faith in our own class, our party and the sound instincts of the people, or the mighty service now being rendered to world humanity by the Soviet Union."

Yes, it is necessary to have confidence and faith in the working class and such faith will never be misplaced. But Lenin has explained that the first rule of revolutionary politics is, and it is a simple rule: *Tell the truth to the working class.* By lies and deception by reliance on Churchill, by pretending that the ruling class is interested in the defence of the Soviet Union and the struggle against fascism, Pollitt and the Communist Party leadership demonstrate their contempt and lack of faith in the working class.

It was but yesterday that their French brothers were demanding that the French working class (because of the Franco-Soviet Pact) give support to Daladier. The result was that Daladier suppressed the Communist Party and prepared the way for the betrayal of France into the hands of Hitler.

WHAT THE NEW POLICY MEANS FOR MILITANTS

As in France, we see that already the Communist Party has completely capitulated to the ruling class in Britain. The withdrawal of the candidate at Greenock where they stood a good chance of winning the seat was a measure of this. What is more leading party members are now becoming instrumental in the imposition of such anti-working class legislation as the Essential Works Order in all sections of industry—the same Essential Works Order which J. R. Campbell entitled "The Scaffolding of Servitude".

ers! This shameful policy discredits the very idea of Communism among the broad masses of the workers.

The employers are responsible for chaos, mismanagement, inefficiency, mud-die and corruption in industry, in the interests of the mad lust for profits. The big combines are making hundreds of millions of pounds at the expense of the misery of the toilers. This war is terribly profitable for the capitalists. But there is no need to point this out to the members of the Communist Party. Every worker knows from his own experience in the factory that this is so. The Communist Party leaders have emphasised this in the past. And it is this very corrupt gang that the Communist Party is today shielding this financial oligarchy which has plundered the British and colonial peoples. Can they suddenly come forward as saviours from the menace of fascism and defenders of the Soviet Union?

But to Pollitt and the leaders of the Communist Party this is "speculation" while "the flower of the Soviet people are drenching with their blood and bodies every inch of Soviet soil to protect and defend it against the bloody fascist marauders."

Comrades, that is precisely why we must fight for a correct political line! To support Churchill and the ruling class is to stab the Russian workers in the back. Has there ever been a time in history when the basic needs of the workers were served by supporting the bosses? Never! Marx and Lenin taught the workers to understand that the laws of the class struggle are as inexorable as the law of gravity.

The ruling class has not given up the class struggle. On the contrary, they are waging it with more ferocity and determination than ever. Ask the tens of thousands of Indians in the prisons and concentration camps of India. Ask the millions of Africans in South Africa living under racial laws which put Hitler to shame. Ask the Abyssinians who are now under the freshly harnessed yoke of British Imperialism whether the ruling class are fighting fascism or for imperialism subjugation and plunder. Pollitt tells us not to "speculate" on past his-

struggle against fascist barbarism is at stake. To rely on Churchill is to make certain the destruction of the Soviet Union and the victory of Hitlerism or British Fascism. To support Churchill means to act as strikebreakers for the bosses and help to impose a reactionary regime in Britain. Does this mean to say that we are indifferent to the defence of the Soviet Union and the fight against fascism? Of course not! But only the working class is genuinely interested and capable of achieving this. The conquest of power by the British working class is the sole solution. "But," the Communist Party will say, "the workers are not ready to take this step." This is true. All the more reason to prove to the masses that they cannot rely upon Churchill to accomplish what they alone can do. This simple truth of Marxism is, of course, not enough. But it must be made the basis of the appeal to the working class.

When the Communist Party was conducting a campaign for a "Peoples Peace" we criticised it and explained that the working class was not interested in peace except through the destruction of Hitler and that this instinct of the masses was correct. But that it was necessary to explain to the toilers that the ruling class was not interested in the struggle against fascism. With the engulfment of the Soviet Union in the war, this position far from being changed is now intensified.

The clique of monopoly capitalists which rules Britain has returned to the policy for which they organised and armed Hitler. Because German imperialism is so strong, they have been compelled to pursue a waiting policy and even allow a trickle of aid to go through to the Soviet Union in order to prolong the war of mutual exhaustion. But even in the last war Anglo-French capitalism while "allied" to Russian Czarism, bled Russia white in man-power and economically and attempted to transform Russia

ly without any reservations, without harping on the disagreements of the past . . ." the Communist Party leadership is betraying the Russian, British and international working class.

It imperialism survives the bloody catastrophe into which it has plunged mankind, it will mean that fascism and barbarism will engulf the entire world. Whichever emerged triumphant amidst the chaos and ruins, whether German-Italian imperialism or Anglo-American, it would immediately turn on devastated Russia and attempt to reintroduce capitalism and fascist barbarism there too. The interests of the workers of all lands are the same. Either a fascist Europe and Britain and the destruction of the Soviet state, or a socialist Europe and Britain united with a Socialist Russia. Those are the only two alternatives posed by history.

Pollitt has defined the "positive" policy of the Communist Party as follows:

"What is the essence of this policy? That we fight for full co-operation with the Soviet Union through a pact of alliance with the Soviet Union on the basis of mutual aid. That we expose the friends of fascism and clear them out of all Government posts. That we fight to organise the maximum production for victory, the ending of waste and disorganisation, the ensuring of equal distribution of food supplies, and adequate A.R.P. protection. In this way we are strengthening the prerequisites for victory and defending the daily interests of the people. That we work to achieve the mobilisation of the entire people for victory through the fullest democratic activity and initiative. This and nothing else is the policy of the Party . . ."

Pollitt and the leadership of the Communist Party know full well that such a programme of demands cannot be achieved without a struggle against the Churchill Government and the ruling class. To pretend otherwise is to deceive and betray the working class. The Com-

The programme we present is a fighting programme to mobilise the masses for the struggle against fascism whether of the German or the British variety and for the defence of the Soviet Union:—

OUR "CONCRETE" DEMANDS

An end to the coalition with the bosses. Labour and Trade Union leaders must break with the capitalist Government and wage a campaign for power on the following programme:

1. Immediate despatch of arms and material to the Soviet Union under the control of the Trade Unions and factory committees.
2. Nationalisation of the land, mines, banks, transport and all big industry without compensation.
3. Confiscation of all war profits—all company books to be open for trade union inspection.
4. Workers' control of production to end chaos and mismanagement in industry to be exercised through workers committees.
5. Equal distribution of food, clothes, etc. under control of committees elected by housewives, small shopkeepers and factory workers.
6. Sliding scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum.
7. Repeal of the Essential Works Order and all other anti-working class and strike-breaking laws.
8. Clear out the reactionary pro-fascist officer caste in the Army and Home Guard. Election of officers by the soldiers.
9. Establishment of military academies by the Trade Unions at the expense of the state for the training of worker officers.
10. Arming of the workers under control of committees of workers elected in factories, unions and in the streets against the danger of invasion or Petainism.
11. Freedom for Ireland, India and the Colonies.
12. A Socialist appeal to the workers of Germany and Europe on the basis of this programme in Britain to join the Socialist struggle against Hitler for the Socialist United States of Europe.

Comrades of the Communist Party, the fight to defend the Soviet Union, the fight to defeat fascism, can only be waged by conducting a struggle for workers' power. If these are your aims, then join with the revolutionary socialists banded round the *Socialist Appeal*. They alone in Britain stand for the programme of the October revolution, the programme of Marx and Lenin.

● READ

Worker's International News

What is more leading party members are now becoming instrumental in the imposition of such anti-working class legislation as the Essential Works Order in all sections of industry—the same Essential Works Order which J. R. Campbell entitled "The Scaffolding of Servitude".

Pollitt once said that the Labour Leaders were betraying the working class by supporting the Churchill Government, and demanded that they break the coalition with the Tories and end the "political truce." Today the Communist Party leadership perpetrates an even greater betrayal than the Labour leaders of the British and Russian workers, of international Socialism, by support for Churchill.

Already we see what these phrases mean in hard reality. Says Pollitt: "Communists setting the example in the factories and all the decisive productive undertakings will win the Party influence and respect." What does this mean? It means that the Communist Party militants must act as the bosses' agents in imposing speed up and all the other impositions on the shoulders of the workers. The leadership is forcing the flower of the working class, the leading Communist Party factory militants to place themselves in a ridiculous and untenable position. Those who only yesterday were playing a leading part in the struggle to defend the rights and interests of the workers, now turn round and support the reactionary legislation of the employers—and this in the name of assisting the Russian work-

living under imperial laws which put Hitler to shame. Ask the Abyssinians who are now under the freshly harnessed yoke of British Imperialism whether the ruling class are fighting fascism or for imperialism subjugation and plunder. Pollitt tells us not to "speculate" on past history. But is this past history or present reality—foreshadowing the future?

If Churchill has made a pact with the Soviet Union, he has done so only to serve the ends of the finance capitalist clique which controls Britain. Does the entry of the Soviet Union into the war change the aims and methods of the ruling class? Of course not! They, as Pollitt, and Palme Dutt have explained time and again in the past, are interested in one thing and one thing alone—Profits, Profits—and more Profits.

The militant members of the Communist Party may think that the Party is using Churchill as a tactical manoeuvre. But the Party leaders are demanding of the members absolute and unconditional support for Churchill and the ruling class. "In supporting the Churchill Government, we do it wholeheartedly without any reservations." By confusing and bewildering the working class, it is Churchill who is "using" the Communist Party not the Communist Party, Churchill. The Communist Party leadership is putting the Party into the service of the ruling class.

Pollitt asks the members to lay aside criticism because the fate of the Soviet Union and the world working class in the

● READ

Worker's International News

Monthly

Twopence

into an Anglo-French colony. Today it is clear that Anglo-American capitalists regard the attack of Hitler as a gift of Providence to simultaneously bleed their mighty German rival and at the same time obtain an advantageous position for the throttling of the workers state.

Pollitt exhorts "If the Soviet Union failed to defeat Hitler's attack it would only happen through lack of concrete support from such countries as Britain." Which Britain? If Pollitt means the support of British capitalism then the Soviet Union is doomed. British imperialism would only give sufficient supplies to Russia to exhaust Germany and when Hitler had been sufficiently weakened it would not be long before they arrived at an agreement. That is the reason why now more than ever, it is necessary to patiently explain to the working class what are the real motives of Churchill and the ruling class, and what to expect in the future. By "supporting the Churchill Government . . . wholehearted-

munist Party leaders attacked the Labour Party for pretending to support a similar policy, while co-operating with the ruling class, which made the carrying out of such a policy impossible.

Therefore, if Pollitt were sincere he would of necessity, explain that in order to carry out these aims it is necessary to wage a struggle against the Churchill Government and the ruling class.

Comrades, the situation is serious. Never has the working class of the entire world been in a position of such danger. Never in any period were illusions less permissible. Only the independent mobilisation of the working class in Britain and the other countries can save the situation. The rank and file members of the Communist Party desire the destruction of fascism and the victory of the Soviet Union. But they must not allow themselves to be placed in the position where the key to the situation lies in the hands of Churchill and the ruling class. This would spell disaster.

BRITISH OFFICERS FRATERNISE WITH FASCISTS

(continued from page 1)

position where they might threaten the rule of the capitalists.

THE FRENCH LESSON

Pétain, Gamelin, Weygand quite easily threw aside the cloak of "democracy" and found a common language with Hitler. The clique of Generals and Admirals of the Old School Tie demonstrate by all their deeds that they are no different. If the Red Army showed any signs of completely destroying the power of the Prussian military machine, they would make an agreement with Hitler within 24 hours. The first threat from the British workers to their power and privileges and they would be yelling to Hitler for help. Even victory with this class and the officers who represent it in control would not mean the destruction of fascism. On the contrary, they would try to destroy any movement of the masses

in the fascist countries and restore power to their counterparts—the German and Italian Generals and officers.

We do not want officers in control of us who, tomorrow, if it suits their interests can come to an agreement with Hitler or turn fascist. We want officers elected by the men, who they know really represent their interests, and will never betray them to fascism.

The Trade Union militants, and shop stewards, intelligent and self-sacrificing fighters for the class from whom they spring are the type of workers who must become officers.

Clear out the reactionary pro-fascist officer caste in the army and Home Guard. For the election of officers by the soldiers.

For the setting up of military academies by the trade unions, financed by the Government, for the training of workers to become officers.

Building Workers Betrayed

(Continued from page 3)

tial Works Order. To capitulate, throw overboard the class struggle, he concluded, would have the opposite effect to that claimed by the sponsors of the resolution. Production would not be increased but curtailed. The defence of the U.S.S.R.; the fight against fascism is the task of the workers themselves and could not be left in the hands of the ruling class.

The resolution was seconded by Bro. McCleery, President of the Willesden Second Branch of the A.S.W., who was restricted to five minutes by the chairman. In a forceful speech he demanded the intensification of the class struggle. Why should we be afraid of strike waves in war time, he asked, if they were necessary to achieve our ends? He had never knuckled down to the bosses in his life and he knew that it would not be the wish of the Soviet workers and soldiers that we should abandon the struggle now. The only way in which the Soviet union could be defended was by the workers taking power.

The discussion was lively in character and several new points were brought out. A delegate from Barking A.U.B.T.W. was of the opinion that the order could not be operated in the industry; it could cause only more dissatisfaction and greater

chaos. He referred to fire-watching as a similar example. Bro. McGee of the A.S.W. moved the addendum calling for the ballot vote which was accepted by the mover and seconder of the amendment. In opposing this, one of the delegates said that we accept the order because it is a fact! In an impassioned speech Bro. Hutchinson of the A.S.W. pointed out that the National Government had been a "fact" for six years, but the sponsors of the resolution hadn't asked us to accept it on those grounds. Just the contrary, up to a few days ago they had called for a "Peoples Government."

As was inevitable the craft issues entered into the debate, particularly as it was the A.S.W. members who were the strongest opponents of the Order. The most shameful speech in this connection came from Bro. Frank Jackson, Secretary of the N.B.L. Editorial Board. He sneered at the "revolutionary A.S.W." and their E.C. and General Secretary, and proceeded to castigate the A.S.W. as the most reactionary force in the building trade, without differentiating between the leadership and the rank and file.

The voting was recorded as follows: For the Amendment 11, Against 57. For the

If these are your aims, then join with the revolutionary socialists banded round the *Socialist Appeal*. They alone in Britain stand for the programme of the October revolution, the programme of Marx and Lenin.

TRY GUILTY EMPLOYERS

Daily Herald Headline:

"DEAD MEN ON PAY SHEET, SAYS K.C."

"Names of dead and fictitious men are alleged to have been included on pay sheets of a government contract job in South Wales."—"Herald" July 22, 1941

"Three employes charged with conspiracy"—These men will no doubt suffer the penalties for their crime. But we hear of no penalties for employers who have not only been reaping profits but have wasted millions of hours of labour power by engaging as many men as possible, even when they were not fully required in order to reap their ten per cent profit on the wages paid out. How about a public trial of employers? There are plenty of instances even to-day!

Resolution 57, against 13. The total number of delegates present at this important conference was 74. That was how the building workers answered the Stalinist betrayal. They stayed away. Never has there been such a poor attendance at Conferences called by the NEW BUILDERS LEADER.

The carrying of the resolution means little. The majority of those who voted were not representing their branches but were the voice of a C.P. faction organised by Ryan. It is by no means the end of the fight.

The building workers will realise how they are being deceived both by the reactionary Labour and trade union officials and now the Communist Party in imposing the Essential Works Order on them. Full support must be rallied, and will be rallied, for the demands laid down in the amendment:

**WITHDRAWAL OF THE ESSENTIAL WORKS ORDER.
WORKERS CONTROL OF INDUSTRY,
A BALLOT VOTE OF THE BUILDING TRADE WORKERS BEFORE THE ORDER IS OPERATED.**

These are the slogans around which the building workers will struggle during the coming period.

Building Trade Workers.