

FOR COMMUNIST
UNITY IN THE
REVOLUTIONARY
CLASS STRUGGLE!

THE REVOLUTIONARY AGE

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEFENDING
THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS

ISSUED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY
(Majority Group)

WORKERS OF ALL
COUNTRIES
UNITE!

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CLOSE THE RANKS! UNITE THE PARTY!

California Red Flag Law Voided By Supreme Court; "Age" Case On

Other Anti-Red Laws Still Remain in State; Hays Appeals "Age" Case to Supreme Court

WASHINGTON, May 18 — The United States Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional the California Red Flag Law, under which the display of the Red Flag or any similar device was made illegal and punishable by long imprisonment. The decision came on the appeal of Yetta Stromberg, who was sentenced to a long term for displaying the Red Flag at a Pioneer Camp in California. Justice Hughes wrote the majority opinion and a dissenting opinion was submitted by three of the justices. At the same time, other sections of the California law which are being used against workers and against labor organizations were declared "void," thus leaving the door open to the California Legislature to put the law into different words and continue using it.

NEW YORK, May 18.—The banning of the REVOLUTIONARY AGE, official organ of the Communist Party (Majority Group), from the mails has been appealed to the Supreme Court by its attorney, Arthur Garfield Hays, of the American Civil Liberties Union. The appeal came as a result of the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals of New York upholding the decision of Judge Woolsey and of the Post Office Department. The REVOLUTIONARY AGE was barred on the ground that it was "seditious." Charles W. Tuttle, who later became the Republican candidate for Governor of New York State, was the Federal attorney who presented the case for the government.

Boost and Build the Weekly Age! Detroit Works Hard

One week of the drive and subs are coming in fast. New York is being pressed hard. Detroit is getting on the job. The Detroit district is now preparing the ground for new subscribers. The district organizer, Comrade Millen, is conducting splendid open-air meetings in front of City Hall. The "Revolutionary Age" is being sold in increasing numbers. Comrade Miller writes: "The last four issues were completely sold out, particularly the last issue which was sold in one night during my open air meeting in front of City Hall. Have the business

manager increase the order." From New Mexico and North Dakota we learn how anxious workers are to get the "Revolutionary Age." In the first week 416 points were scored in the drive. We urgently call upon all workers to subscribe. We need the support of every workingman and working woman and need it badly and in a hurry. Every booster of the "Revolutionary Age" must redouble his efforts. We must reach our goal ahead of time. Subscribe now.

"POLITICOS" DROP P. I. FREEDOM

Sumulong, Quezon Desert
Filipino Cause; Masses
To Go On Fighting

MANILA.—The complete change of front on the part of the native politicians to the Filipino independence movement, which has been a long time in developing, was climaxed on May 19 by the declaration of Senator Juan Sumulong, upon his return to Manila, to the effect that "immediate independence for the Philippines was impractical." At the same time Manuel Quezon, president of the Senate, announced in an interview in Washington that "the definition of the Philippine demands must be revised to eliminate the demand for independence."

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BIG OPEN AIR MEETS IN NEW YORK

Gitlow Speaks in Bronx, Francis
Addresses Boro Park Meet

Nearly 1,000 workers stood for an hour and a half at an open air meeting held under the auspices of the Communist Party (Majority Group) on May 21. The crowd listened attentively to the speaker, Ben Gitlow. The attempt of a number of Party and League members to disrupt the meeting by means of such cries as "How about the Daily Worker, Mr. Gitlow?" came to naught as the crowd, who knew Comrade Gitlow as an old working class leader, heard a working class speech and saw that they were at a working class meeting.

In his speech Comrade Gitlow pointed out how the crisis is sharpening and how the boss politicians are trying to underestimate the crisis and throw sand in the eyes of the workers. He pointed out that only by organization could the workers gain any real unemployment relief. A large number of copies of the Revolutionary Age were sold.

The largest open-air meeting ever held in the neighborhood took place on May 18 at the corner of 45th Street and 13th Avenue, Boro Park, Brooklyn, under the auspices of the Communist Party (Majority Group). Rothschild Francis spoke for over an hour on the Scottsboro case. The crowd, numbering over 300, was very sympathetic. Members of the Socialist Party, a Boy Scout, several trade unionists and others took part in the discussion.

An hour after the meeting was adjourned workers still remained on the corner discussing the subject. A number of copies of the Age were sold.

Appeal of the National Council of the Communist Party (Majority Group)

Two years have passed since the splitting of the Communist ranks by wholesale expulsions and by the adoption of a new sectarian line for the Communist Party of the United States. They have been two years tremendously favorable for the growth of the Communist Party. Two years of smashing attack upon working class standards. Two years of mass unemployment. Two years of sharp offensive of the bosses on Party, unions, living conditions. Two years of growing resistance of the workers. Every moment of those two years has shown the crying need of Communist unity, of unity in the working class, in the face of the brutal capitalist offensive. The longing for unity in the Communist ranks grows deeper and deeper. Ever wider sections of the movement and its sympathizers have come to realize that Communist unity is today a life-and-death necessity. The biggest problem before the whole Communist movement today is: HOW TO REESTABLISH COMMUNIST UNITY.

Unfortunately, the official leadership of the Communist International and our Party do not seem to be interested in reestablishing Communist unity. How else can we explain the fact that not one honest move towards unity has been initiated or even discussed by them during these two years? How else can we explain the complete silence of the XI Plenum, called after two years of crisis, on this burning question?

The only talk of "unity" in official ranks has been underhand, backstairs diplomacy, private negotiations with individuals, private promises of "unity-specialists" in the leadership, circulation of rumors and gossip with the purpose of gaining factional advantage, of stilling the burning desire for unity and weakening the pressure of criticism by means of petty maneuvers. Not a word, not a gesture, not an act, to hasten unity. Such dishonest and frivolous playing with the deep desire of the revolutionary workers for real Communist unity is a crime against the movement, a serious blow against the cause of real unity in the Communist ranks.

COMINTERN ORDERS NEW "UNITY" DRIVE
At this very moment the Party leadership is on the point of initiating a new fake "unity" drive, a new large scale campaign to disarm and frustrate the pressure for unification. This drive is being prepared and conducted UNDER THE DIRECT LEADERSHIP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL AND THE Y. C. I. These representatives have the following instructions:

1. The representative of the Communist International has "mandatory instructions" to liquidate the Communist Party (Majority Group) "at all costs."
2. The objective of the "unity" drive is to give the Party membership the feeling of finality about the struggle in the Party. Too many members of the Party, it is declared, do not feel that the Party bureaucracy has so far had the upper hand organizationally, yet do not feel that the "struggle is settled."
3. Toward this purpose, the following methods are to be used individually towards members of the Communist Opposition: (a) Maintain the propaganda that the Party has made a "change of line." (b) Declare "unofficially" that no statement of any kind will be required from Opposition comrades who rejoin the Party, that they can immediately "come back" without "any strings to it." (c) Appeal on the basis of old group prejudices to have the adherents of the Communist Opposition rejoin the Party as individuals in order to "help the old Majority recapture the Party."

More fake "new turns" more maneuvers with the life-and-death needs of the Party and the working class! More private negotiations! More offers to trade reinstatement for abandonment of Communist convictions! More backstairs negotiations with individuals to urge them to "save" their membership by abandoning the rights and supreme duties of membership—the right and duty to criticize what is wrong and to try to set it straight. A fresh crime against genuine unity and the basic interests of the Communist movement!

WHAT IS BEHIND THIS DRIVE

What is behind this new factional drive? Behind it is an irresponsible attempt to silence the growing demand for an end to the inner struggle which so weakens the resistance of the revolutionary movement to the capitalist offensive. Behind it is the un-Communist attempt to avoid drawing conclusions from the disastrous effects of two years of the new Party line in practice. Behind it is the effort to cover up the disastrous loss in membership in a period so favorable. Behind it is the effort to hide the practical collapse of the Party's trade union work, the fact that work in the reformist unions "has almost completely disappeared" (R.I. L.U. Resolution), the fact that the revolutionary unions have disappeared as trade union organizations, the fact that "the revolutionary unions and the T.U.U.L. have been declining in numbers and have lost considerable positions in the ranks of the working class during recent months" (R. I. L. U. Resolution).

Behind it is the effort to conceal the complete failure of the unemployment work of the Party at a time like this, the fact that after eighteen months of activity there are no functioning councils, the fact that there is "almost complete lack of contact between . . . the party members and the unemployed workers!!" (Hathaway in May COMMUNIST) the steady decline in the size of unemployment demonstrations while unemployment and mass misery are mounting. Behind it is the effort to cover up the disastrous destruction of the influence of the Party among the organi-

zations of foreign-born workers, the loss of the co-operatives, the practical liquidation of the Finnish Communist press, the destruction of the Finnish section, the destruction of the Jewish left wing movement, the crisis in the Lithuanian section, the sowing of dissension in the South Slavic, Slovak and Ukrainian workers organizations. And behind this fake "unity" offensive and shameful factional maneuver is a desperate effort to conceal the fact that political initiative in Communist policy has passed to the Communist Opposition on the main fields of work. The Communist Opposition has long ceased to limit itself to criticism of wrong theories and policies and has been obliged to take the initiative in outlining and executing correct policies in the face of the inability or refusal of the Party officialdom to correct their errors or learn the smallest thing from the facts of experience. The main care of the official leadership today is to defend their wrong line against the policies outlined and the practical Communist activities carried out by the Communist Opposition. Take the needle trades for example, where the Party leadership has been trailing forlornly, shouting slanders and abuse today at what it pretends to accept tomorrow. Factional face-saving has become more important than building the movement or correcting the line.

CAN DOUBLE DEALING LEAD TO UNITY?

In this new fraudulent "unity" drive, the Party leadership is instructed to intensify its policy of political double-dealing: publicly sharpen its vicious attacks on "Lovestonians" and privately whisper to "Lovestonians" that it is adopting a "new line"; publicly attack them as "counter-revolutionists" and privately promise them to make it "easy" for them to come back to the Party (without, of course, accomplishing their Communist purpose). While the public slander increases in intensity and venom, the private rumors will grow in volume: "See, we are adopting your policies. Why go on fighting? Denounce your policies—aren't we adopting them?"

Can such double-dealing ever lead to correct Communist policy? Can such deals behind the scenes ever lead to party democracy? Can such despicable, anti-Communist "unity" methods and maneuvers ever lead to Communist unity?

THE CAUSES OF THE CRISIS

What are the causes for the disunity and split in the Communist ranks? THE MAIN CAUSES ARE THE DISASTROUS WRONG TACTICAL LINE OF THE PAST TWO YEARS AND THE ATTEMPT OF THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF THE ECCI AND THE PARTY TO FORCE THIS WRONG LINE THROUGH WITHOUT DISCUSSION OR CONVICTION AND BY MEANS OF BUREAUCRATIC, ANTI-DEMOCRATIC INNER-PARTY METHODS. Expulsion, slander, terror against Party members, even attempts to break up discussion meetings by force, have been employed to prevent Communist discussion. Ideological terror, physical force, expulsions wholesale, the stifling of political life, the destruction of the elementary rights of the membership, the perversion of democratic centralization into bureaucratic centralization, the suppression of criticism, the making of a game out of self-criticism, raising maneuvers with "new turns" into a system—these are the causes of the crisis. And the representatives of the Communist International and Y. C. I. carry instructions to intensify these methods still further, in order to forestall any real move for Communist unity.

THE ROAD TO UNITY

Comrades! There is only one road to the unity of Communist forces which we all desire so deeply, and that road is THE REMOVAL OF THE BASIC CAUSES THAT HAVE LED TO THE SPLIT IN THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. No individual negotiations! No maneuvers! No clever tricks, can take its place!

We do not ask that our views on the questions under discussion be adopted by the Party as a condition for unity. We are confident that the Party membership will come to the realization of the correctness of these views as soon as free discussion is permitted. What we ask for is the opportunity for free Communist discussion within normal party channels, honest speaking and honest expression of opinion.

The first essential steps toward Communist unity are:

1. The unconditional readmission with full rights of all comrades expelled for disagreeing with the present ultra-left course of the Party leadership.
2. The initiation of a free and thorough discussion in the Party with a guarantee of freedom of expression for all viewpoints.
3. On the basis of this discussion the calling of a special Party Convention at which there shall be the fullest and freest representation of all viewpoints and which shall re-examine the recent course of the Party and shall decide its future policies.

These are the simplest demands of Party democracy. Only those who are blind to the critical situation of our movement or who are afraid of a free discussion can reject them. We are confident that the bulk of the Party membership will recognize the justice of these demands.

Comrades! The new "unity" drive raises the whole question more sharply than ever. The need of unity is great. The opportunity for Communist work is unparalleled. The offensive of capitalism grows sharper.

Especially now do we make this appeal to replenish and unite our forces when our Party and our whole movement is so hard pressed for lack of forces, when it is being attacked on all sides by the united ranks of reaction, by a united front of bosses, government and labor bureaucrats. In this situation we appeal for the unification of the Communist ranks, for a solid front in the face of the enemy!

Litvinoff Proposes No-Dumping Pact; Boss Diplomats Dismayed

Soviet Delegate Presents Economic Non-Aggression Proposal; Exposes War Aims of Imperialists Shows Peace Aims of Soviet Union

GENEVA.—A sensation was created on March 18 among the delegates of the twenty-seven capitalist countries at the European Union Commission of the League of Nations by the speech and declaration of Maxim Litvinoff, Soviet commissar of foreign affairs and representative of the U.S.S.R. The contrast was striking between the diplomatic maneuvers and tricky intrigues of the capitalist delegates, who were only trying to hide their schemes of aggression and to further their own imperialistic interests, on the one hand, and the clear and straightforward proposals of the

Soviet delegate, on the other. After an analysis of the fundamental economic and political antagonisms between the capitalist world and the Soviet Union, which do not, however, exclude possibilities of temporary economic cooperation, Comrade Litvinoff made two concrete proposals: (1) that the European nations should undertake a pledge of economic non-aggression, and (2) that they should undertake to prevent economic dumping by an agreement for the compulsory sale of goods on the national market at prices not exceeding those demanded abroad.

ZAMORA CRUSHES GENERAL STRIKE

Republican Regime Breaks Moroccan Strike; Masses for Ousting Clergy

MADRID.—A general strike which tied up all public transit and which was observed by all organized workers in Ceuta, Spanish Morocco, just across the Straits of Gibraltar from Spain, was suppressed by military force after the declaration of martial law on May 16 by Minister of War Azama of the "revolutionary" republican government. The general strike broke out against the miserably low wages and long working hours of the workers as well as against the conservative course of the Zamora government.

Litvinoff made a vigorous attack upon the economic policies of the capitalist countries. He refuted the dumping charges so frequently made against the U.S.S.R. by means of official figures as to amount of exports and prices. On the other hand, he proved the existence of dumping practices on the part of the capitalist powers of Europe, showing that Czechoslovakia, Poland and Germany sold sugar last year abroad at prices considerably below those on the home market. He cited examples of high wheat prices in Paris, Berlin and London to show the effects of capitalist monopoly and dumping. "It would be naive," he concluded, "to expect a capitalist state to assist in the construction of socialism in the Soviet Union or for the Soviets to further strengthening of the capitalist system. The question can only be one of economic agreements and dealings between capitalist countries and the Soviets, mutually advantageous, for which there is ample scope."

BARCELONA.—The most rigorous suppressive measures are being taken by the Catalan Generalitat under Francisco Macia to suppress all opposition to the new republican government, especially on the Catalan national question, according to official reports issued here on May 15. The measures, Col. Macia explained, are to be directed against the Communists (under which term are included all those who fight against the reactionary policy of the new government) as well as against all those who demand the right of separation of Catalonia from Spain.

The excitement brought in among the capitalist delegates by the Litvinoff proposals is the result of the realization on the part of the imperialist diplomats of the profound effect the Soviet proposals will have upon the masses of the people of the capitalist countries. The diplomats realize quite well that for the capitalist powers to accept the Litvinoff proposals is altogether out of the question—since they stand in direct opposition to their basic interests which are rooted in economic aggression. But the failure of the League of Nations to endorse the Litvinoff plan will prove to wider sections of the workers, peasants and lower middle class elements that the capitalist world is bent on war and only the Soviet Union really wants peace. Hence the quandary of the capitalist delegates.

BIG WHEAT MEET BREAKS UP

U. S. A. Insists All Lands Cut Wheat Acreage

LONDON.—The international conference to regulate wheat export for 1931-32 and to stabilize the prices has collapsed.

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The failure is due to the insistent demand of the U. S. A. to have all wheat exporting countries cut acreage sown. The Soviet Union vigorously resisted this maneuver of Wall Street which if successful, would have undermined the rapid progress of collectivization under the 5-Year Plan.

Another reason for the U. S. A. insisting on a cut in acreage is because the Federal Farm Board has a huge surplus on hand which it cannot dispose of at a profit in the severe agricultural and general economic crisis. The Soviet Union was prepared to cooperate to avoid conflicts but demanded that it be accorded the same position and rights in the world wheat markets as Czarist Russia had. The U. S. A. was the chief opponent of the Soviet proposals.

Official estimates for 1930 reveal over 100,000 deaths and 10,000,000 injuries from accidents—many times the number of Americans killed and wounded during the world war. The figures have been mounting steadily from year to year. The merciless speed up system is the chief factor in this reckless disregard for human life. Peace hath its victories as well as war!

