

# The Fighting Worker

Workers of  
The World  
Unite!

Official Organ of The Revolutionary Workers League, U. S.

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## Lewis Sells Out Again Miners Get Pay Cut!

For the fourth time in one year, a war year, 530,000 mine workers were forced to strike. On November 1st, (when the period of extension of the contract agreed to by the miners last July expired) the miners downed tools with the traditional cry of "no contract, no work."

Altho weakened by the three previous walkouts and the lengthy dragging out of the negotiations, the miners showed every determination to make a last ditch fight to better their conditions.

Despite every promise by the government to control and bring down prices, little or no effort was made in that direction. Prices, already sky high, have continued to rise, while wages, locked in the steel cell of the "BIG STEAL FORMULA," remained constant.

Backed by such militancy and determination, what did Lewis and his boys, the misleaders of the mine workers, do? Hemming and hawing, stalling and compromising, finally terrified by the continued determination of the miners, they perpetrated, with the able assistance of the government, one of the most infamous sell outs in a long history of stinking sell-outs.

### NEW CONTRACTS CUTS HOURLY BASE PAY

Stripped of all the legal hokus pocus the agreement under which the miners were bamboozled into going back to work amounts to this:

1—Under the old contract they worked a 7½ hour over all day, 7 hours productive work and ½ hour for lunch, for which they received \$7.00 with no pay for travel time.

2—Under the new contract they work a 9 hour over all day, which broken down means 8 hours production work, plus 45 minutes travel time, plus 15 minutes lunch time for which they are to receive \$8.50.

3—If the base day were still 7 hours, then under even the old contract the extra \$1.50 would be for the 8th hour at time and a half, which means that they get precisely nothing for the 45 minutes travel time, but a guarantee of an 8 hour day, which they would

have had in any case because of the urgent need for coal.

4—But, since the \$1.50 is supposed to include both the extra hour of productive work AND the 45 minutes travel time, than the basic hourly rate of \$1.00 per hour has been strangled.

5—Concretely, the miners got an extra hour of work per day, for which they sacrificed 15 minutes of their lunch time, and no pay for travel time. Furthermore, a basis has been established by this formula of Ickes and Lewis for further inroads on the basic hourly rate, not only for the miners but in all industries. IT IS THE BASIC HOURLY RATE WHICH IS THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE IN ANY WAGE DISPUTE.

### LABOR MUST UNITE OR BE LICKED

It is by just such trickery and conniving that the labor fakers and government agents as agencies of the bosses smash at the living standard of the working class and keep profits at such tremendous peaks.

If the miners had been led by a class conscious militant leadership, able to see thru these planned faked "concessions" no such treachery could have occurred. What they need, what all organized and the still unorganized workers need, is a militant left wing shop steward movement built on a program to serve the INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS. Such a program would include such basic and elementary rights as: the right to strike; a lowered hourly base day; a wage scale in conformity with and ahead of the rising cost of living; continuous organization of the unorganized; no discrimination against Negroes, women, or any minority group; the unity of the entire organized labor movement in the interests of the workers; and rank and file control of the unions thru elected shop stewards from the plants.

Towards this end militants are urged to organize into progressive groups composed of workers of all unions, AFL, CIO, Railroad Brotherhood, Independents, and unorganized.

## Flame of Revolt Spreading!

November 12, 1943—The "Specter of Revolution" continues to haunt the imperialists.

A London report of November 11th tells of fighting between German troops and Nazi Elite Guards in a small French city near Toulouse. The soldiers, it seems, arrested and executed their officers when they were told they would be shipped to the Russian front. Over 500 Guards and soldiers were killed and hundreds wounded.

In Lebanon and Syria the masses rose up against the "Democratic" arrests by Charles DeGaulle and his so-called Government of "Liberation," on the same day, the whole newly elected parliament of the Lebanese and the Premier, President and Cabinet were all arrested for the unpardonable crime of taking the talk about "independence" seriously. The thing was so smelly that even British Conservatives in Parliament protested against these acts.

Throughout the Balkans the struggle between rival factions of Slavs and Greeks continues. The Bourgeois press attempts to picture these struggles as silly little affairs based on the Lord-only-knows-what. The truth, however, is that the constant question of land to the land-hungry peasant plays a major role in these battles along with the question of wages and working conditions for the proletariat. Here and there reports simmer through that Partisan bands have seized the land of a certain locality and divided it. How far these actions are supported by the Partisan leader, Tito, is not known. But that the masses are taking things into their own hands becomes increasingly clear; and the ultra-reactionary forces in Greece and Yugoslavia are fighting this "anarchy" (i.e. Revolutionary manifestations) with much more fury than they fight the Nazis. In fact, on occasion, they even unite with the Nazis against the workers and peasants.

### IMPERIALISM OFFERS NOTHING TO MASSES

The Revolutionary trend can not be halted. The Imperialists refuse to solve and can not solve a

single problem of the oppressed masses. Take the Lebanese situation, for instance. The British and American capitalists are the fathers of the present capitalist government in Algiers. Are the masses any better off under the benevolence of DeGaulle and Giraud? Very definitely not. The Alger masses are increasingly hostile to forced conscription and a continued deterioration of the standards of living. Instead of liberating the French colonies, Roosevelt and Churchill have worked overtime to see to it that they be placed under a regime of "law and order"—imperialist exploitation of the colonies. Instead of assuring freedom and independence to Lebanon and Syria, the Allies have permitted French capital to continue a regime of terror in this section of the world.

Syria and Lebanon take their place now with India, where the match of Revolution took flame over a year ago. Inevitably this spirit of revolt will seep through to the whole miserably oppressed Arab population, to the millions of Chinese workers and peasants who are living under 5,000% inflation (increases of prices by 50 times), famine and bombings.

### WORKERS MAIN ENEMY IS AT HOME

The story of mutinies in the German army may or may not be true. Mutinies occur in all armies. Being AWOL is a very common practice. And on occasion this spirit of revolt takes a positive, instead of a negative form. If true the incident in France again confirms the Marxist teachings that "defeats facilitate Revolution."

The big question mark in Europe as the Revolutionary Conflagration begins to burn in deep earnest is: what will the Allied soldiers do? Will they shoot Revolutionary workers trying to liberate themselves from the same ills as the working masses at home, or will they sympathize and fraternize? To a large extent their reactions will be determined by the events back home—the difficulties, and struggles in the mines, mills, factories and on the land at home. We feel confident

that the Allied youth will learn from life itself—are in fact learning every day—that the cause of the oppressed is INTERNATIONAL, not national; that their interests lie not against but with the downtrodden of other nations; and that the real enemy, the real danger to progress and humanity is the capitalist class of all nations.

## "Peace" Scare Starts War-Money Scramble

A "Peace Scare" gripped the N. Y. Stock Exchange early in November, and wiped out more than 2 billion dollars in quoted stock valuations.

The members of the WPB are leaving en-masse to get their firms ready for approaching "peace." Wilson of General Electric; Batcheller of Allegheny-Ludlum Steel; Murphy of Campbell Soup; have already resigned and others are expected to follow suit as soon as their aims are accomplished.

Has the recent anger of the members of the WPB over the appointment of Billionaire Bernard M. Baruch as director of plans for converting the multi-billion dollar war machine into "peace" production got anything to do with these rapid resignations?

### PAYMENT FOR CANCELLED CONTRACTS

As far back as August of this year, the War Production Board had received announcement from the War Department that "present contracts will be completed unless unforeseen circumstances—such as a sudden termination of hostilities—make a different course advisable." The announcement said no cancellation of existing contracts is contemplated... but, if contracts are canceled either partially or in full, the War Department will "provide prompt reimbursement to the contractor for any loss which he might face as a result"... "General Corbin stated that it is the policy of the War Department to act energetically in making prompt settlement of claims arising out of deferments, deliveries and cancellations of contracts."

The Baruch job will entail the revision or termination of more than 8,000 contracts let by the Army and Navy involving several billions of dollars and puts in his power the disposal of the \$300,000,000,000.00 which has been appropriated for war programs and of which only \$128,000,000,000.00 has actually been expended for finished materials and products.

This is a big plum, ripe and luscious, and it dangles temptingly before the eyes of the members of the WPB who want to grab as big a bite as possible for their already war-swollen-profit-gorging firms. Atty Biddle came to their rescue by testifying to government agencies (on Nov. 10) that in his opinion the agencies should terminate their own war contracts and also advocated the lending of public funds "on liberal terms" to business enterprises for reconversion to peace time production.

(Cont. on page 2 Col. 2)

## Stalin Capitulates To Allied Imperialism!

### A Study of the Moscow Pact

November 8, 1943—If you take all the declaration, hints, innuendos, and statements of the Moscow Conference and put them together one thing stands out. Allied Imperialism has gained from Stalin an implementation of the Twenty Year Pact of two years ago.

The Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union was already pledged to the maintenance of the status-quo in Europe for the next score years. Now the actual machinery for carrying out this counter-revolutionary purpose has been set up. The London Advisory Committee and the other sub-committees will have as their major purpose the maintenance of "law and order" throughout the war-torn countries of Europe and elsewhere.

Two years ago, when the pressure of Social Revolution was not yet so acute, the Imperialists were satisfied with a mere declaration

by Stalin that he intends to preserve the rotten and decadent capitalist status-quo of Europe. Now, however, the Revolution is becoming a stark reality. It is now necessary for Allied Imperialism to get more concrete help than just promises. That is their great triumph from the Moscow Conference: that the prestige of the October Revolution (which Stalinism has so disgracefully warped) will now be used in an attempt to thwart any further Bolshevik Revolutions. The Stalinist fakers will sit and consult daily with the Anglo-American counter-revolutionists and will become the sparkplug and face of the anti-revolutionary propaganda and actions.

### EXPOSE FEAR OF REVOLUTION

This shameful capitulation by Stalinism can not be excused in

any way, shape or form. It is an utter betrayal of working class principle and interests. It is doubly so because this is the most favorable moment of the war as far as the defense of the Soviet Union is concerned: the Red Army is not only marching forward victoriously on all fronts, but what is even more important the Revolution in Italy is threatening to spread rapidly to other borders. For a Revolutionary defense of the Soviet Union that situation is ideal. But for Stalinism the proletarian Revolution is a threat to its parasitic existence. Revolution anywhere in Europe will help totter the moribund Stalinist regime and threaten it with a political Revolution in Russia to restore Workers Democracy.

What did Stalinism get for all its favors?

There are as yet no definite state-

ments on this score. But let us assume that Stalin romped off with all the things he asked for. What would he have?

Let us assume that the Allies secretly promised a military Second Front in France. Let us assume, too, that they promised Stalin a free hand in the three Baltic countries, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, a free hand in Bessarabia, a portion of Poland, and small parts of Finland. What does such a concession mean? Any person with an iota of Marxism, or even just plain common sense, can see that whatever is PROMISED to Stalin is just an empty gesture.

Consider the imperialists position: The Red Army is on the verge of marching into Poland, Rumania and the Baltic States. Could the Allies stop the Soviet (Cont. on page 4 Col. 4)

(We published below the leading editorial of the first bulletin of the Clyde Workers Committee in Glasgow, Scotland. The organization of a militant Shop Steward group in the British Isles with substantial mass support and with a healthy left-wing program is a most promising sign that the Island Empire is marching inexorably toward the Proletarian Revolution. The fact that the leaders of the Clyde Workers, one of the most important industrial sections in all Britain, are being viciously attacked in the super-patriotic Stalinist Daily Worker and in the organs of the official Trade Union Congress, is an indication that the masses are ready for the program of this group.)

## Strike Out For Their Rights British Shop Stewards

### WHAT IS THE CLYDE WORKERS COMMITTEE?

"The Clyde Workers' Committee was formed on May 15, 1943. The coming together of the most advanced militant workers on the Clydeside meant a significant step forward for the working class. For the first time the basis has been laid for a strong movement with which to counteract the vicious assaults which the employing class are levelling against the workers. In taking over the fight of the Clyde Workers' Committee of the last war, we pay all due respects to them, recognizing the contribution which they made to the workers movement. What is vital to us: is to learn and understand the syndicalist errors which were made. In this manner we shall equip ourselves more efficiently for the huge tasks of the future.

Realizing the need for a nation-wide link up with other parts of the country, a conference was convened on June 5th and 6th, 1943. This meeting was attended by delegates from Glasgow, London, Barrow, the Midland, Yorkshire, and Newcastle-on-Tyne. From this successful conference arose the National Council of Co-ordinated Militant Activity. Heartened by the fact that an organization was being built to defend the gains of the Trade Union Movement, response from other parts of Great Britain has been coming in. Shop stewards in Belfast, Wales, some more areas in Scotland and England desire to have particulars about us. The movement embraces all trades and contact has been established with the Lanarkshire miners.

Throughout the process of World War No. 2 the reactionary capitalist class have been all out to copy the Fascist methods of Dr. Ley, in dealing with the British workers. The essential Works Order, which is lauded by the Trade Union leaders and the Communist Party sets out to regiment the working class. Under its legislation the workers have lost the right to strike. Arbitration Courts are the means for settling friction over wage issues, etc. IN ALL CASES WHERE A DISPUTE ON WAGES HAS GONE TO THE NATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL THE WORKERS' CLAIM HAS BEEN TOSSED OUT. It is true that if the rank and file had accepted the full terms of the E.W.O. great blows would have been inflicted on the Trade Union movement. It is a lie to say that any improvements have been gained by the organized workers under the E.W.O.! In actual fact it was to prevent the workers from gains that forced the Government to impose such a draconic law. The terms of the Essential Works Order do not allow a worker to change his job; so preventing him seeking better rates and conditions elsewhere. The whole host of other restrictions which this Act implies is totally against the workers' interests. The E.W.O. is a product of monopoly capitalism and must be smashed by the combined efforts of the working class.

The Clydeside workers are on the move. In engineering factories and shipyards open struggles are taking place mostly on wage issues. Provocative efforts by the bosses to reduce piece-work earnings are the cause of many strikes. Attempted victimisation of shop stewards and militant workers are quite common. High taxation and low earnings with the soaring cost of living deepens the conflicts. At the present moment 1,000 shipwrights in—yard have been forced to adopt strike action to try and raise their meagre wage. By fighting for a system of payments by results they hope to obtain a living wage. Riveters, Welders, Electricians, Boilermakers and other trades are seeking wage increases.

Great friction exists in the Beardmore combine. The lack of war contracts is likely to throw thousands out of work. In one R.O.F. under their control the management is attempting to introduce commercial work in the form of sub-contracts. By such a subterfuge it is hoped to change the status of the R.O.F. with the view of going over to private enterprise. ONLY A STRONG LEADERSHIP IN THE SHOP STEWARDS' COMMITTEE HAS FRUSTRATED SUCH A PRACTICE.

The transference of labor is causing untold hardship. In many cases it means a sharp drop in earnings and being moved to overcrowded lodgings hundreds of miles from home. Our policy on transfers is: We demand the right that all transfers be put under the control of the Shop Stewards' Committee. No transfers to show a financial loss to the workers. If a higher rate exists in the new district this rate is to prevail. Trade Union control of all hotel accommodations to house transferred workers.

Already the Clyde Workers Committee has produced a leaflet on transfers expressing our solidarity with the Beardmore workers and giving guidance to this struggle.

If this type of work which this combine does has reached its peak why is the labor not retained and used to make similar weapons for the Soviet Union and China? The hypocrisy of the capitalist class knows no bounds. Help for Russia is for them a political question. Moore Brabazon stated their aims clearly before being elevated to the House of Lords, that is, to bleed both Russia and Germany.

The National Council of Co-ordinated Militant Activity is the third attempt by the workers to set up a genuine rank and file leadership inside the workshop. The previous shop stewards movement known as the Engineering and Allied Trades Shop Stewards' Council has betrayed the working class and now acts as a black-legging force. Since the entry of Russia into the war this Stalinist-controlled organization has undergone a change in policy from opposition to the war to a violent support which outdoes rabid Toryism. Not content with holding back the class struggle, breaking strikes, selling out hard won trade union rights and privileges, this body attacks militant workers.

(Continued on page 3)

## Socialist Party Finds "Road Ahead" Blocked

Mr. Norman Thomas of the Socialist Party cut a sorry and puerile political picture at the Chicago Midland Hotel, Nov. 12, where he presented his analysis of the 'Road Ahead' for the working class. Despite the old Socialist's oratory and his calculated acting on the platform, the content of his speech was the same old timid politics of the Second International.

Speaking of the possibility of a revolution he said: The future is gloomy... the sections of the Socialist International lie broken and scattered in the fascist countries and disoriented in the allied countries.

While disagreeing with the Imperialism of Churchill and Roosevelt even tho it were called by a 'sweeter name—peace by police,' etc., he offered in its place a vague abstract form of democracy, which would be more humane. Mr. Thomas warned against the adoption of a Labor Party in the United States, but urged that the Canadian Commonwealth Co-operative Federation be studied to see how it could be applied to the United States.

In essence the speech by Mr. Thomas was an admission of the impotency of his party and its inability to lead the working class out of the chaos of capitalism and war to a new brave world. The Socialist Party has long been dead and now is wearily making its way to its grave.

At the Thomas meeting representatives of the RWL were prevented from passing out sample copies of the Fighting Worker in the Hotel lobby. The Chicago S.P. organizer, too cowardly to stop it himself, hastily informed the hotel manager, who apologetically insisted he was stopping the distribution at the request of the S.P.

This is a classic act of the 2nd International.

## Peace Scare

(Continued from page 1)

To the war makers, and their stooges, "peace" is indeed a "scare" and vital preparations must be worked out that will protect the sanctity of "contracts," "business," "free enterprise," "reasonable profits" and "assurance of reimbursement in case of the sudden end of the war."

### BOSSSES "PEACE" IS NOT WORKERS PEACE

What assurance of reimbursement is there for the already dead, the wounded, the bereaved, the homeless of England and Europe, the starving peoples of India; what assurance of income is there for the working class of any Country including "our own" U.S.A.?

The "peace" of the capitalists, (when their own quarrel for markets is settled) is not "peace" for the workers. The class struggle goes on. The never-ending war between the workingclass on the one hand, with their demands for increased pay, better homes, lower hours, or maybe, just a job—and the insistence on the other hand, of the bosses, to keep their profits high, wages low, increase the working hours, and if convenient to shut down their plants which do not produce a profit—this war will go on and on until the working class takes power with a Workers Council Govern't and runs the machines for use instead of for profit, or the home ruling class instigates open fascism to keep the revolt of the masses down for a little while longer.

## CAPITAL LETTERS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—So that's where they went! Researchers who might have occasion to study back files of the CP's sheet the "Daily Worker's" in the Nation's Capital (though speaking for ourselves we don't see why) and taking the logical course of looking first in the Congressional Library, have been astonished and disconcerted to be directed to the offices of the Dies Committee. It appears that the complete and voluminous files have been moved there from the Library, and that each day's issue is promptly forwarded to the Committee's office on its receipt at the Library. There the files are thoroughly thumbed and ardently studied. We have not yet learned whether any applicant for a look-see at the back issues is first finger-printed, but we'd be willing to guess that our old friend Martin isn't overlooking any such bet as that.

Friends and well-wishers of our Indian brothers in their battle for freedom from the British heel (or heels?) waited breathlessly in the auditorium of the National Press Association on the night of October 25 to hear Upton Close, Anup Singh, and others representing the National Committee for Indian Freedom express such profound sentiments as: 1. That Upton Close is a swell guy, who got onto a national radio hookup without the use of hokum; 2. That the Indian question is a burning one which must be solved; 3. That Russia is not at war with Japan; 4. That the United States of America is a gr-r-r-rand gl-l-l-orious country, and that India is looking to America as the saviour of mankind; and 5. That "something" must be done about India. Not one of the speakers even suggested immediate freedom for India (though to give the devil his due it may have been assumed that the audience would not have been present had they not shared this sentiment) and no one, of course, even hinted (or, doubtless, even thought of) the only real solution of the Indian question—a Workers' Council government, set up by the workers and peasants themselves.

Our old friend Martin Dies, between perusals of the "Daily Worker" is finding time to conduct a book-burning campaign and witch hunt at the heretofore relatively unshackled University of Texas. Three economics professors have recently been ousted at his behest—backed by the oil interests and the local political machine—apparently for no reason other than the fact that they taught economics. The American Association of University Professors has taken up the cudgels, and the fight is on.

The fear that Negro children might be given the equality of education guaranteed (?) them by the Constitution, appears responsible for killing the \$300,000,000 aid-to-education bill. Sen. William Langer introduced an amendment requiring that the races participate equally, proportionately to numbers, in the benefits of the act, and the entire bill was promptly killed by the southern Senators.

The 48-hour work week becomes mandatory in 31 areas of "acute labor shortage" on November 15, by order of Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt.

Despite pressure from Unions and other interested groups, it

now looks as if the determined fight of eight states to keep ninety per cent of their citizens from voting (and incidentally, from serving on juries and various other rights of citizenship) via the poll tax route, might be successful. The bill, which passed the House at the last session of Congress, is being held up in the Van Nuys committee of the Senate, and hearings thereon have been steadily dragged out and regularly postponed. Just one more link in the ever-growing chain of evidence that the poor, the exploited, the workers, in the South as elsewhere, will be forever denied their fundamental rights until they take their government into their own hands. We might here parenthetically remind our readers that even where the poll tax does not exist, the vote can be denied to those whose vote is not desired by the powers that be, by way of the iniquitous so-called "educational qualification."

Vitamin D preparations (codliver oil, haliver oil and other concentrates) necessary to nearly everyone in Northern climates and practically mandatory for the normal, healthy growth of young children denied their full quota of sunshine, are being systematically denied to the children of the poor (who obviously stand in greatest need of them) by a food and drug trust, as told by Assistant Attorney Wendell Berge to a Senate Investigating Committee. We venture to predict that whatever may be reported by the Committee in question, the vitamins will continue to be denied to all but those who can pay the fancy prices. What is robust health for the children of the workers, if obtaining it interferes one iota with the profit of the exploiters?

Gallinger Hospital, long a football of politics and a bone of contention in the District, is again under investigation. This one differs from previous ones only in that a few more sordid details of insanitation, neglect, abuse of patients, premature discharge of seriously ill patients, graft and corruption, have been turned up—and that one of the victims happened to be a nurse at the hospital, released too soon from treatment, with fatal results. Such is the reputation of Gallinger that only the most desperate, or those removed there in an unconscious state take "advantage" of its facilities. There is, of course, no recourse to aggrieved patients in a court of law, because of the established principle that the "king"—or the District of Columbia—can do no wrong, and cannot be sued without its consent. In this community of the doubly oppressed there is not even recourse at the ballot-box. Nor will there be any redress so long as the workers continue to submit to this, as to other forms of oppression and exploitation.

Resolutions have been introduced into Congress for the relief of the Government charwomen who were "overpaid" and subsequently required to reimburse the Government for such "overpayment." The resolution would relieve them from repayment, and would leave them just back where they were before they received the "Indian-giver" raise of 13 cents an hour. We leave it to our readers to decide whether 78 cents an hour for the most disagreeable type of work that can well be imagined, is being "overpaid."

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## Food and Counter-Revolution

Food is not as innocent a commodity as many people seem to think. In the hands of the imperialist powers, in fact, it becomes as damaging an instrument against the working class as a hand grenade or mortar. Food is used to buy off and to dampen Revolutionary ferment and if that doesn't work the withholding of food is used to starve out revolutionary fervor.

The establishment, therefore, of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is not a philanthropic measure, motivated by love of mankind. Quite the contrary: it is a weapon for continuing the exploitation of oppressed humanity.

Mr. Roosevelt in greeting the newly-formed committee of 44 nations makes all this most clear:

"When victory comes," he said, "there can certainly be no secure peace until there is a return of law and order in the oppressed countries.... This means that the more quickly and effectually we apply measures of relief and rehabilitation the more quickly will our own boys overseas be able to come home."

The so-called "relief" therefore is to be a measure to KEEP LAW AND ORDER. Those two words, "law and order," invariably mean only one thing—keeping reactionary capitalism at the helm. The gratuities of food given to starving peoples in Europe will be used to buy them away from Revolution and shackle them to... law and order (reaction and Fascism).

The FIGHTING WORKER has frequently made such a charge. Here, however, we have the charge confirmed 100% by the leader of the United Nations himself. There is no sentiment or human instinct in the capitalist system. Even charity to millions of hungry and starving people has only the business motive of saving capitalism. As soon as the threat to the system is no longer present, (as, for instance, in the latter days of the American depression) then they stop feeding the hungry, and let them die, as they are dying in India!

The working class of the United States must and will demand that Food for the Hungry shall not be used in such a callous manner. The shipments of necessities to the starving people of Europe, Africa, and Asia should be placed directly under the control of Workers Committees. American workers should see to it that they and only they have full charge of the loading and shipping of the supplies and that only democratically elected committees from the mines and factories and fields of the starving country handle the distribution of the food.

Only in that manner will the food be used in an equitable manner.

## Runaround For Railroad Workers

As we go to press the railroad brotherhoods are taking a strike vote. Given a merry runaround since last February by practically every government agency in and out of Washington and a few which were set up at the spur of the moment, their patience has finally exhausted, a patience which has been stretched out for over 9 months.

The brotherhoods originally asked for a blanket increase of 20 cents an hour, not so terrific when one considers that wages on the railroads, particularly for non-operating workers, runs down to 47 cents an hour and less.

A special emergency board appointed by the president

# Fake Promises of "Independence"

American Imperialism is ever so generous about granting "independence" to Colonial countries belonging to other Capitalist powers. Now, for instance, the State Department is willing to grant "independence" to the Philippine Islands. Which is very touching—because the Philippines are now overrun by Japanese Imperialism, and at least the land of Mitsui and Mitsubishi is smart enough to grant the Islanders nominal "independence" while ruling through puppets; very much as Wall Street rules Cuba and most of Latin America.

American Imperialism, like the other imperialist powers, is an "Indian giver." It is willing to give "independence" to those parts of the world which she does not possess, but we have yet to hear the "good neighbor" Yankee Imperialist shrieking for the liberation of the Nationalist leaders of Porto Rico (an American colony), who are in the Atlanta penitentiary because they committed the unpardonable "crime" of yelling for "independence"... from the United States. We have no doubt that Uncle Sam is most willing and anxious that Britain's India be given her "independence," since such a move would quickly bring the "jewel of the British Empire" into the American orbit.

But what about "independence" for Porto Rico, "independence" for the Virgin Isles, "independence" for Latin America? What about "independence" for the conquered colonies of French Imperialism in North Africa?

### INDEPENDENCE IMPOSSIBLE UNDER PROFIT SYSTEM

Under Capitalism the whole question of Independence of colonial and small nations is really a farce. Would anyone dare say, for instance, that Cuba or Brazil or Mexico is any the less under the heels of Wall Street than Porto Rico, simply because they have nominal "independence"? Japanese Imperialism is already showing (unlike the British, but very much like the American policy) that imperialist rule can and does take place without DIRECT control of the colonies. It is far cheaper

and more efficient to instal puppet "independent" governments than to assume the responsibility of policing large areas of the Earth with an imperialist army. As a consequence Japan is granting "independence" to Burma, "independence" to the Chinese government of Wang-Chin-Wei in Nanking, "independence" to a Philippine puppet, and so forth.

In the days of Finance Capitalism there can be no Independent colonial powers. The Almighty dollar, or yen, or lira, or mark, or pound, of franc, inevitably enslaves the people of the earth whether they have nominal "independence" or not. How that slavery is maintained is only incidental. The old British method of DIRECT police control (as in India) is now rapidly becoming passé, because it is too expensive and too volatile from a social point of view. But the Japanese (and to a lesser extent the Germans) have learned very rapidly how to utilize the NEW, INDIRECT methods of Imperialism which have been used so successfully by the United States for a score of years.

The people of the Earth must be given a real opportunity to decide their own fate. The Revolutionary Marxists will continue to demand Unconditional Independence not only for Colonies like India, Africa, and Porto Rico, which are directly policed by British or American Imperialism, but also for puppet ruled nations like Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, the Philippines, China (both section of it), in fact, everywhere. The workers in the Imperialist countries will demand that "their" Imperialist withdraw completely from the oppressed nations and permit them to decide their own fate. The workers and poor peasantry in the Home Country and in Colonies themselves will never cease pointing out, however, that Independence—real Independence—is no longer possible under the system of Capitalist slavery and war; real Independence in the backward section of the Earth, can be gained only through a Proletarian Revolution aided by the proletariat in the Home countries.

## F.B.I. Continues Campaign of Intimidation

"Freedom of the Press" and "Freedom of speech" is only nominal in the United States today. For instance the Trotskyites have had their mailing privileges revoked and so they must send their literature around the country at much greater expense than previously—which necessarily limits their activity. The R.W.L. has had this condition imposed upon it almost from the

beginning.

In addition, quietly but efficiently, a big scare is being created all over the country against the radical press. Subscribers to the various Revolutionary papers, including our own FIGHTING WORKER, are visited by FBI agents and being made to feel that they are committing a crime by reading Revolutionary literature.

These publications and the organizations which publish them are still LEGAL!

There is absolutely no reason whatsoever for these "friendly visits," except to intimidate. Lists of radicals and radical sympathizers were compiled years ago by an unpublicized WPA project from the files of the Red Squads. Information on these people is readily available in all sort of government files: social security application, U. S. employment services, etc. Why, for instance, must a Trotsky sympathizer or an RWL sympathizer be visited by the FBI to be asked the inane question of whether he does or does not know James Cannon or Hugo Oehler when Oehler himself has voluntarily visited the FBI and Cannon was for days on a government witness stand only 18 months ago?

Behind the scenes there is a calm, methodical attempt to "scare" printers, sympathizers and friends of the Revolutionary press. There are no arrests, no charges. But people who have anything to do with the workers press are being made to feel like criminals in many instances.

Are the American capitalists preparing for the "peace" by building up toward new and bigger Palmer raids in this country? Will we witness again the shameful arrest of thousands of militant workers during or immediately after the war, because they believed in real Democracy (Workers Democracy) not in demagoguery? Will the present "polite" methods of the FBI soon be converted into the strong-arm tactics of the European counter-parts?

Obviously the present government activity is only preliminary. But if the workers are to defend themselves from future Palmer raids, they must understand what is going on, expose it, and prepare for defense.

"compromised" on an 8 cent increase. This was promptly rejected by Stabilization Director, Fred M. Vinson. The Little Steel Formula, you know.

So the President, with remarkable patience, appointed a new emergency board to review the case. They have come thru with a brain storm, a work so brilliant that it immediately gets the unqualified approval of Vinson. This one calls for from 4 - 10 cents an hour increase for some of the lowest paid workers in the country.

### STRIKE FOR YOUR DEMANDS AND GET THEM

Undoubtedly, both the operating and the non-operating brotherhoods will reject these proposals.

Either the railroad owners come thru with a substantial wage increase or the railroad workers will strike.

Unless—unless the maneuvering with and the reliance on the congressional group which is trying to pass a resolution which will force the approval of the 8 cent increase by the leadership of the unions succeeds in choking the real needs of the railroad brotherhoods. The 8 cent increase is far below what originally was asked for and way below what these terrifically underpaid workers should and could get.

Railroad workers! Beware of your misleaders. Remember the betrayals of the past. Don't let the bosses put one over on you!

Remember how the cost of living has gone up since your wages were frozen. If need be, use your most powerful weapon—STRIKE! And be damned to the Railroad Tycoons who make certain that they get their profit—over the undernourished bodies of you and your families.

## British Workers Face New Struggles

In the Trade Unions the C.P. does the same dirty game and have become good allies of the Trade Union bureaucrats. Through such efforts in the A.E.U. they got three leading Clydeside Conveners and shop stewards, Grey, Menzies, and Dogherty, removed from holding any Union positions for one year because they had exposed the C.P. for breaking a strike. Due to great pressure from the branches the National Executive was forced to reverse the decision.

The organ of big business in Glasgow, the "Glasgow Herald," gives great prominence to meetings and decisions of the Stalinist Shop Steward's Movement and readily publicises their "go back to work" slogan. This movement must be widely exposed.

There is no doubt that the British working class is about to enter a new period of gigantic struggles both in the industrial and political fields. The secondary role of Britain to America and the loss of valuable markets and spheres of investments must in turn be the call for the capitalist class to ruthlessly drive down the

living standards of the working class. This is a method they use to cheapen goods for competitive purposes. Monopoly capitalism is preparing its plans. At a time like this when there should be a strongly organized and clear-headed leadership to understand these elementary facts and prepare the working class forces, we find instead our labor and Trade Union leaders hog tied to the bosses in the capitalist Coalition Government. Not only that but it is evident that a McDonald and Thomas plot is being cooked amongst sections of the upper circles in the Labour Movement. Unless such a position is changed the working class will be faced with bitter defeats. It is the duty of every sincere militant worker to campaign with us in demanding that as a first step, the Trade Union leaders break immediately with the treacherous Government of "blood, toil, and sweat." Demand the withdrawal of the Trade Union representatives from all State posts. Our movement must be completely free and independent of the capitalist State."

(Continued from page 2)

### International News

Theoretical Organ of the  
**Provisional International  
 Contact Commission**

**OCTOBER ISSUE: Labor Party,  
 Rampart of Dying Capitalism.  
 Germany, Key to European Re-  
 volution.**

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# Is This a "People's War?"

Mr. Amery, Britain's Secretary for India, has placed the cause of the present famine sweeping India on the profiteering of Indian merchants and the inefficient Indian provincial officials. This type of filthy propaganda, that is worthy of the Nazi minister of misinformation, is cover for the ruthless exploitation of the colony by British imperialism. The biggest profiteers in India are the British and their stooges, and all the provincial officials are under the control of the central British government. No matter how much Mr. Amery wiggles and turns the cause of the famine leads directly to the door of blood sucking British imperialism.

No true explanation of the famine can be made separate and apart from the imperialist war, a war that India had no say in. To carry out their war aims the British have laid a heavy hand on all the resources and the wealth of India. Since the war British exports to India have all but ceased while India's exports to Britain have increased. Everything going out and nothing coming in. Internally, the railroads of India have been taken over entirely for war "shipments" and can't be used for such "trivial" purposes as transporting food to the stricken zones. Most of the famine victims are dispossessed peasants who have been taxed out of their huts, by the British government, to pay off the ever increasing "Indian debt."

## INDIA PAYS HER "DEBTS" TO SHYLOCK!

This "debt" increased from 870,000,000 pounds in 1933 to 935,330,000 pounds in 1941, and is still going up! It is payment due for "benefits" such as railroads that don't carry food for Indians, irrigation ditches that irrigate the land that isn't owned by the masses, and an army and arrogant bureaucracy that helps oppress the native population. Briefly these are the main causes and background of the Indian famine.

The bloated starved bodies in India are the mute and irrefutable evidence that this is not a war for any of the four freedoms, but a continuation of the same old imperialist struggle. Though Mr. Churchill's words may have changed since 1930 his attitude to India is the same,—"Sooner or later we will have to crush Gandhi and the Indian National Congress and all it stands for."

The world working class must see, in India, the nature of this war, and unite to put an end to this extension of war—deaths by hunger and misery—To put an end to the war which is used to crush them still further... to put an end to this system which is based on the "rights" of a minority (the boss class of financiers and capitalists) to fill their coffers with the gold and produce taken from the masses of the people, who are left unable to afford a coffin for their dead.

# 'White Paper' On Japan

## The Pot Calls The Kettle Black

The "White Paper" issued last month by the State Department is the report of ten years of the inside moves and diplomatic relations between the U. S. and Japan. It is a record of lies and double dealings on both sides, so crass and open that it rivals even Hitler's "Mein Kampf."

Propaganda is a key weapon in modern warfare. Movies and war posters have made familiar to all of us the horrible caricature that is supposed to be the face of the Japanese worker—bulging goggle eyes, oversize glasses, ape-like teeth bared to give the impression of a rapist, murderer and barbarian.

Probably after the war we will get to see some Japanese posters of the inhuman monstrosity that the American worker is supposed to be.

### FANCY WRAPPINGS FOR HARSH TERMS

But propaganda is not restricted to such crude devices. It strikes at the minds and thoughts of men, warps their understanding, unhinges their thinking, until they are ready to swallow such lies as "Asia for the Asiatics," "lebensraum," the "Four Freedoms" and a "pint of milk."

Outside of the U. S., away from its propaganda, it is easy to see and is generally realized that the U.S. is fighting for imperialist reasons, not for democracy for all, but for world dominance. Even at home there is the memory of the last war and a doubt in the minds of many workers whether this war is not also a war for markets and control of Asia and Europe. That is the real reason for the apathy and lack of full support of the war that troubles our imperialist masters so much. But the din of propaganda confuses the masses and prevents this realization from reaching fruition.

That is the purpose of the White Paper. In it "our" negotiators and diplomats have dressed up their imperialist aims with noble motives and humanitarian words. So have the Japanese for that matter. In some respects they did an even better job of lying.

### MIGHT IS RIGHT

Behind all the words, proposals and counter-proposals, however, it is pretty clear what each side wanted.

Japan had two main aims:

1. Build an empire in Asia, gain control of China and Indo-China and spread out.

2. Make all the concessions possible to the U.S. to avoid war, EXCEPT give up its main goal of a Japanese empire.

The U.S. imperialist aims were exactly the opposite:

1. Prevent a Japanese empire in Asia and open the way to build an American empire instead.

2. Make all the concessions possible to Japan to avoid war, EXCEPT to give up this main goal.

Everything else was words, lies and double dealing. The U.S. being the stronger, was more open and blunt in its language, took less effort to hide its arrogance and grasping nature. The Japanese ambassador, Admiral Nomura, and the Special Ambassador Kuru pointed out repeatedly that the U.S. was not giving them a chance, that the situation might get "beyond control," that Japan felt it was "faced with the alternative of surrendering to the U.S. or fighting," that U.S. economic measures were "strangling Japan." To these protests Secretary Hull

# MOSCOW PACT

(Continued from page 1)

Union from taking these spots NOW? They could not. Is there any purpose in "opposing" it therefore? The Allies know quite well that the present agreements are only temporary. They prefer to dispose first of their INNER-imperialist rivalries (with Germany and Japan, and with each other) before they come into a head-on collision with the Social Revolution and the Workers State. Isn't it better therefore to bleed Russia a little more, make all sorts of PAPER promises, and gain something infinitely more important: not PAPER, but ACTUAL help to smash the Proletarian Revolution?

Take the question of a "Second Front." The Revolutionary Workers League has been pointing out for two years now that on the part of the Allies the Second front is a political matter above everything else. There has been no invasion in force of the continent as yet because the Allies were satisfied that the Social Revolution was not yet imminent throughout Europe. Evidently the Allied General Staff and political Staff is now agreed that the danger of Revolution is now real. The "concession" to Stalinist Russia is therefore no concession at all. For two years they refused a second military front. Now they absolutely need it. And the Second Front will be a blow not just against German Imperialism, but above all it will be a blow against the European Social Revolution. Will that help or hinder the Soviet Union? Every revolutionist knows the answer. If it achieves its full purpose the Second Front of the Anglo-American imperialists will be the death knell of the Soviet Union and Stalinism as well; at least that is its undoubted aim.

### HANGMAN FOR ALLIED CAPITALISM

In return for these nebulous concessions, Stalinism has already given up real concessions:

1—Stalin now recognizes the platform of "unconditional surrender." That means he yields to the Allied formula for suppression of the German Revolution (see the October F.W.) That means that the so-called German committee in Moscow is reduced to an impotent tail to the German Committees being organized in Wall Street and The City.

2—Stalin gives full support to the Badoglio regime in Italy and to the counter-revolutionary sweep of the Allied armies. What a shocking blow it must be to the

replied that rather than go beyond a certain point the U.S. would "stand and take the consequences."

### TWO OF A KIND

The Japanese proposed a special meeting between their Prime Minister and Roosevelt, at any time Roosevelt might suggest. When Roosevelt said Hawaii was too far, and proposed Juneau, Alaska, they accepted this place. But Roosevelt was not interested in a meeting and stalled it off with the excuse that a preliminary agreement was necessary first.

Does this mean that the U.S. was "worse" than Japan? Not at all. Both are imperialist robbers. It means simply that a compromise was impossible. Both sides realized it. Both sides were building up their propaganda cases to line up the masses at home for the coming clash. The U.S. imperialists considered their case was sufficiently built up, were ready in their arrogance to shift from the conference room to the battle field, and were seeking to force the Japanese imperialists to strike the first open blow. The U.S. succeeded!

That is the story of the "White Paper."

Italian Revolutionists after 20 years of Fascism to have the "leader" of the land of the Revolution endorse the Fascist butcher, Badoglio!

3—The inclusion of "Yugoslavia and Greece" in the Mediterranean Commission can only mean that Stalin recognizes the reactionary Greek and Yugoslav government-in-exile and that it will put pressure on the Partisans in both countries to subordinate themselves more thoroughly to the needs of Imperialism.

4—By its enthusiastic support of the Moscow Pact Stalinism deals a painful blow to the underground movement in France, Norway, Denmark and elsewhere. If these movements had any illusions before this about what the "Four Freedoms" were going to mean inside Europe, and if they had any hope that Stalinism would force the "Democracies" to take a more "liberal" view, this hope is now dissipated. The "Democracy" of the Allies is the "Democracy" of the butcher of Adis Ababa, Badoglio, of the semi-Fascist Darlan, of the Monarchist Giraud, etc.

The Allies have truly won a great victory against their "ally," the Soviet Union. They have succeeded in disarming the Soviet Union (from a political point of view) at a time when Russian strength is at its peak. They have succeeded in lulling their FUTURE military enemy into a new sleep and have gained for themselves the time to prepare for that coming struggle against the Workers State and the Extension of the October Revolution.

### DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION

All the rest of the material in the pacts is sheer rubbish. The threat to prosecute the German Fascist murderers is mere eye-wash. If it were sincere it would start with the prosecution of the Italian Fascist, Badoglio (who murdered thousands in Ethiopia with a fury that would give Himmler a nice run for his money). The talk about "Democracy" is pure demagoguery. Nowhere have the Allies made a single step toward establishing even Bourgeois Democracy, let alone real Democracy. On the contrary all the steps have been in the other direction.

The reversal of the Munich Pact and withdrawal of recognition for the German invasion of Austria is a bit of imperialist justification for the future gobbling up of Austria into the Allied sphere of influence (with America and Britain fighting over its flesh just as they will fight for every imperialist tidbit all over the world). To say the least this is hypocrisy. Old man Chamberlain gave Hitler Austria to keep the paperhanger of Austria marching toward the East, instead of to the West. Now the British are taking back the little prize because all the rules of the game were not followed: the German Army decided to march in both directions rather than just one.

As we pointed out in the last issue of the FIGHTING WORKER the Moscow Conference was a Conference of enemies (hidden under the mask of an Alliance). That enmity will break out in further spots as time goes on. But he who reads in between the lines can see its stark hand even in the recent deliberations of Moscow.

The only Defense of the Soviet Union, the only assurance of Peace and Bread, can be a struggle against the Secret Diplomacy of the Moscow Conference and the Imperialist War from which it stems. The answer to Imperialist War is still REVOLUTION. There is no other answer.

# Freedom of Conscience Is No Excuse In U. S.

Conscientious Objectors, recently on furlough in Chicago, are of the opinion that the army or prison are immeasurably better places to be than the C.O. camps. From the treatment they receive their opinion is that the government is deliberately trying to break down their morale and force them to capitulate and either join the army or go to jail.

They claim they are forced to work 54 hours a week in all kinds of weather—for nine cents a day and a lump of sugar! Many of the COers suffer from lack of proper clothing for the type of outside work they have to do. The Government doesn't issue clothing to them because technically a C.O. is considered a civilian.

Many of the camp officials act like petty dictators, insulting and humiliating the COers at every turn. One C.O. who resented the manner in which an official spoke to another camp member, (who is obviously a mental case and should long ago have been removed from the camp) was "disciplined" for his opinion by having his furlough cut in half.

At first the community where the camp was located was hostile to the C.O.ers, but when the Selective Service Commission entered into negotiations with the local farmers to hire these COers to pick their crops for 20 to 30% lower than the prevailing wage scales, they soon warmed up to the idea of the proximity of the camps. To prevent themselves from being utilized as scabs the camp went out on strike.

Accredited scientists are forced to work, along with other Conscientious Objectors, as attendants at a State Insane Asylum for the munificent pay of \$2.50 a month, where they must carry out all the filthiest and hardest work available.

The inmates of a camp in Penn-

sylvania and Connecticut have been on strike against being scabs; against the discrimination practiced against Negroes; against the censorship of their mail; and the denying them of the few privileges which the law allows them. Some of the more militant Coers have been confined to their cells since August as punishment for their protests. Others have been on a hunger strike as the only means left to them to express their dissatisfaction with the tyranny imposed on them by the exponents of the "four freedoms."

From these stories it is easy to see that freedom to disagree in the United States is really a misnomer. Those who dare to disagree, even in the mild form which the Conscientious Objectors take, are faced with persecution and misrepresentation.

## PAMPHLETS YOU SHOULD READ

- Revolution to Reaction—a History of the 3rd Int'l .. .10
- Answer to the Renegades ..10
- Dialectical Materialism critique of Eastman .. .10
- John Dewey—a Marxian Critique .. .10
- Why Communism .. .05
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