

# REVOLT

Vol. I, No. 13

Published by Demos Press for the Central Committee of the  
Revolutionary Workers League, U. S., Box 141 Alfred Station,  
Detroit, Michigan

Dec. 10, 1938

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## LESSONS OF THE FRENCH GENERAL STRIKE

As we close this issue, the rumblings of the greatest strike struggle in France since June, 1936 are slowly dying away. Beginning the week of November 21, hundreds of thousands of French workers participated in strikes against the Daladier decree extending the 40 hour week. The climax was reached Wednesday, November 30 when the workers, defying the very military, and threats of fines, imprisonments and dismissals came out on the streets in a general strike.

The French workers fought bravely. They set an example for the workers of the world. But they were powerless. Their movement had no direction. Daladier was able to smash the strike brutally. Two years of Popular Frontism had bled the French workers white, had confused in them the real issue between Fascism and Communism. Today Daladier is continuing the bleeding process begun--to prepare the French proletariat for war and fascism.

Like Daladier, and learning from him, the American capitalists are preparing to bleed the workers of this country white. They wish to make them docile appendages to the greatest military machine in the history of the United States. They engulf and confuse the workers in labor parties, in electoral campaigns for capitalist politicians. They employ WPA workers in the armament program, and make them government employees so that legally they cannot strike. With the collaboration of the labor bureaucracies they speed up production in the factories. They violate their own labor relations laws to fire workers who strike. On December 2, 300 employees of the Nash-Kelvinator plant in Kenosha, Wis. were reported fired for beginning an "unauthorized" strike.

French and American workers! Compare your experiences with the Popular Front, with the Labor Party, with the Socialist and Stalinist parties, with the John L. Lewises and the Leon Jouhauux. Learn from one another! Against the tactics employed internationally by all capitalists, unite in your own international action. Build your own world party for the overthrow of the system that breeds war and fascism. Workers of all countries, unite!

# U.S. FORGES WAR BLOC AT LIMA

TOILERS OF THE AMERICAS ARE DOOMED WITHOUT INTERNATIONAL RESISTANCE

The Eighth Pan-American Conference will be held in Lima, Peru on December 9th. Two days after the United States delegation was announced by the State Department, President Roosevelt in a press conference on November 15th indicated his intention of arming the United States to defend the entire western hemisphere against "foreign aggression". The United States delegation will attempt to get the Conference to agree to this policy.

On October 27th the State Department made public a note sent to Japan on October 6th. This note, worded in vigorous diplomatic language, sharply pointed out that "equality of opportunity or the open door has virtually ceased to exist in Manchuria..." and protested against the establishment of this policy in "areas which have come under Japanese military exclusion..." The New Deal administration is for the open door in the Far East and the closed door in this hemisphere.

On the surface this looks like a contradiction. The explanation is really very simple. The great market of the Far East is being gobbled up by Japanese capitalism. But in the North and South American continents the United States is top dog economically.

Under the Roosevelt administration, the United States capitalists intend to hold on to that advantageous position, even if they have to build planes and fleets enough to defend the entire coasts of North and South America. That is the real meaning of the speeches of Roosevelt and Hull, and all the other spokesmen for the great investments "we" have there.

To show the world that the people of the United States are united in their attitude toward it, Roosevelt appointed as delegates to the Lima Conference, Secretary of State Hull of the Democratic Party, Republican Party leader, Alfred M. Landon, the daughter of C.I.O. chief, John L. Lewis and head of the A.F. of L. electrical workers union, Dan Tracy. The administration counts on the support of the Communist Party, the leaders of the CIO and A.F. of L. to whoop it up in the unions for continental defense.

As the danger of another world war looms, U.S. imperialist strategy becomes clearer. The American imperialists would prefer to remain "neutral" and reap victory through the decisive edge of its overpowering economic superiority. But they know from the experience of the last war that this is impossible.

They will therefore strive to stand apart during the first stages of the war and enter it at a favorable moment on that side which offers them the best advantage. For that strategy they need to secure for their trade the Latin American market. War in Europe or Asia would close these markets to U.S. trade and threaten billions of dollars of investments with great if not total loss. Should the Latin American market also

be lost, United States imperialism would collapse. Working class revolution would flare up in this country.

But there are other reasons of great importance why the United States imperialists must secure the western hemisphere to itself. The inexorable crisis of Italian and German economies spurs them on by day and by night to develop new markets - at the expense of the British Empire and of the American imperialist eagle. Hence the great diplomatic, political, and economic activity of Italian and German capitalisms in Latin America in recent years. On November 1st, the Associated Press reported that Bernard Baruch had urged that the United States speak out against foreign "ideological invasion" of South America "in the only language that the aggressor can understand, that of force of strength."

#### ENGLAND MENACES YANKEE DOMINATION

The second consideration which U.S. imperialism must take into account is the great menace of England. Japan devours the Far East. Germany and Italy threaten British supremacy in the Mediterranean and the Near East. Germany has become the dominant power in Southeastern Europe. British interests in Latin America have therefore become vital to the English ruling class. For many years Latin America has been the arena of struggle for domination between the American toreador and the British bull. In 1928 this struggle broke out into a war between Paraguay and Bolivia in which British interests (Royal Dutch Shell) were defended by Paraguay and American (Standard Oil) by Bolivia. Anne O'Hare McCormick, New York Times correspondent, close to the State Department's ear, declared in an article on November 13th that "there is no longer talk in Washington of a 'parallel line' with Great Britain. At this moment both governments are going their separate ways".

There is one other consideration. The Munich deal suggests the possibility of a British-German bloc working in Latin America against U.S. capital. It is to preserve this market for American super-profits that Hull, Landon, Kathryn Lewis, and Dan Tracy are going to Lima.

They will make many speeches. They will advocate democracy and attack dictatorships. Delegates from other countries will, too. Of particular interest will be the speeches of John L. Lewis's daughter, and of Dan Tracy. Because in Peru the trade unions are illegal and revolutionary workers are executed.

The tune for the speeches of the labor delegates was written last September when two important congresses were held in Mexico City. They set the stage for Roosevelt's bold pronouncement about taking over the armed defense of the western hemisphere. The Latin American Labor Congress which closed on September 8th formed the Confederation of Latin American Workers. Consisting among other unions of the United States CIO and the Mexico CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) industrial unions, it sought to broaden the basis of class collaboration with United States imperialism. The A.F. of L. Pan-American Labor Federation with its craft form was too narrow.

The entire Congress was dominated by a pro-Yankee sentiment. The Confederation's Constitution listed among its purposes the "struggle against all imperialisms to achieve the independence of the Latin American countries", yet neither the Congress nor the Constitution mentioned anything

about the specific struggle against U.S. imperialism. The labor bureaucrats, John L. Lewis of the CIO and the Stalinist, Lombardo Toledano of the Mexican CTM, made it very clear that they supported Roosevelt's policy. Said Mr. Lewis: "In recent years on the North American continent two great statesmen have appeared. They have extended a helping hand to labor. In the United States President Roosevelt is that man; in Mexico, President Cardenas is that man."

A week later the International Congress Against War again gave Cardenas, Lewis, and Toledano their opportunity to bellow forth support of the struggle of U.S. imperialism against Italian, German, and Japanese competition. This support is worth millions to the U.S. capitalists. The Congress decided, among other measures, to fight fascism with "popular pressure to overcome the passive attitude of democratic governments in the face of fascist aggression". When Mexican and Puerto Rican delegates proposed listing the United States as an aggressor imperialism, the Stalinist-labor bureaucracy clique cracked down and silenced the "extremist" minority.

U.S. imperialist policy will not escape opposition at Lima. Voices have already been raised in some South American countries against the policy of "continental solidarity" to the greater glory of American super-profit. But by and large Roosevelt's delegation should gain much, since his new policy implies for the immediate future greater purchases by U.S. business of Latin American agricultural produce, financial credit, and other concessions.

#### FOR A SOVIET UNITED STATES OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA!

From all this the workers north and south of the Rio Grande will get exactly - zero. Lima is not their affair. Yet they have a great stake in the issue. For the aim of the Conference is to uphold profits, which today means to cut wages. The union delegates will be eloquent in their defense of the right of employers to enjoy profits free from fascist aggression, but they will be silent on how to defend the unions and wages from aggression by the capitalists in democratic countries.

If we had a revolutionary working class movement in this hemisphere, we could make the holding of the Lima Conference an occasion to demonstrate our international solidarity against all the capitalist interests represented there. The Communist International under Lenin's leadership used to circulate great quantities of literature throughout Latin America, encouraging the workers and vast Indian and Mestizo populations - almost ninety million peoples - to revolt against Yankee imperialism. We must learn how to do that again.

Against American imperialist continental solidarity we must raise the slogan of international revolutionary action for a Soviet United States of North and South America!

#### U.S. INTERESTS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Most recent governmental figures for July 1, 1937 place the U.S. foreign investments in Canada and Latin America at \$7,731,000,000 or 70% of the world total of a little over eleven billion dollars. In 1937 this hemisphere supplied 35.3% of the total U.S. foreign trade.

# C.I.O. CLIQUE CONTROLS PITTSBURGH CONVENTION

## RANK AND FILE REVOLT CAN BREAK STRANGLEHOLD ON MOVEMENT

Pittsburgh, Nov. 18.- Today the Committee for Industrial Organization concluded its first Constitutional Convention after a five day session in Grotto Hall. From beginning to end, the Convention was cut and dried, never out of control of the ruling clique: John L. Lewis's, Philip Murray, and Sidney Hillman.

The new setup will be known as the Congress of Industrial Organizations. The Convention report listed 500 hand-picked delegates from 35 affiliated international union executive boards and 8 organizing committees comprising 675 local industrial unions with an alleged membership of 3,787,000. This figure is unquestionably padded. At any rate, the membership had nothing to do with the electing of the "delegates".

On the fundamental questions of unity, democracy, militant trade union policies, this Convention proved there is little difference between the die-hards of the American Federation of Labor and "progressives" of the C.I.O. The A.F. of L. Convention closed the door on unity, the Pittsburgh Convention turned the key in the lock!

The bureaucratic Lewis-Hillman machine rode rough shod over the Convention. Hillman, chairman of the Convention, at one point called on the delegates to adopt a new constitution which they had never seen. Just after the Convention, led by the Stalinists, had sung, "Lewis is our leader, we shall not be moved", and Lewis Merrill, Stalinist stooge and President of the United Office and Professional Workers had presented John L. Lewis with a hand-painted portrait of himself, Bridges (West Coast longshore pie-card) demanded copies of the proposed Constitution.

### STALINISTS PROTEST ANTI-RED CLAUSE

What bothered the Stalinists about the Constitution was a clause under article 2, "Objects", which provides that workers shall be organized "regardless of race, creed, color, or nationality". The Stalinists demanded the inclusion of the words, "or political belief", in order to "illegalize" the big stick which Lewis had learned to wield over the heads of the reds in the United Mine Workers of America. The anti-red formula was put over and the Stalinists put in their places. Lewis could then express "confidence" in Bridges and other Stalinists before the Convention.

He proceeded to inform the delegates that their constitution was a democratic document, that the CIO had the same democratic principles as the United States government and would fight for that government and its principles.

This contradiction left many of the delegates bewildered, but it can easily be explained. The Roosevelt administration and its lieutenants in the C.I.O. need the Stalino-democrats to whoop up the patriotism of

the membership to fight the coming capitalist war for "democracy" and against "fascism". The Stalinists are perfect war-mongers. They suit to a T the needs of the big capitalists, of Roosevelt their underling, and his lieutenant, John L. Lewis.

The Constitution as now adopted makes possible the "purge" of the CIO of any or all minority political groups. John L. Lewis, President of the CIO, is empowered to "interpret" the meaning of the Constitution. The CIO Executive Board has the right which even the A.F. of L. Executive Board never had to intervene in the affairs of any international union whenever it chooses. Conventions will be called when this same Executive Board in ITS judgment deems it necessary.

The Executive Board consists of 45 members, but votes cast in the Executive Board are based on membership. So Lewis, Hillman, and Murray will automatically control the majority vote on all questions. This triumvirate is the POWER of the CIO.

#### HYPOCRISY OF LEWIS' NAZI ATTACK EXPOSED

Like the A.F. of L., the CIO convention ignored the Negro problem. Lewis denounced the persecution of the Jews in Nazi Germany in order to whip up the war spirit of the American workers but turned his back on the horrible persecution of the Negro in "anti-Fascist" America. Not a word on the Negro worker in industry and in the unions. Not a word about the lynching, Jim-crowism, and oppression of the Negroes in our "democratic" south. His emotional outburst on the conditions of the Jews in Germany, therefore, is so much patriotic hogwash.

This Convention could not at all express the tremendous sentiment in the working class for unity and struggle. The voice of the rank and file never reached the Convention floor. To achieve militant, class struggle policies in the unions, the pressure from the depths of the working class would have to burst the chains forged by the Wolls, Freys, Lewises, Greens, and Hillmans. To unify the trade union movement, we will have to struggle against the labor agents of capitalism in our own ranks, against the war mongers, for workers' democracy, and for policies of struggle that can alone bring real gains to wage earners.

The C.I.O. itself was born in the heat of the struggle for industrial unionism. Checked and hogtied by a treacherous leadership today, the awakening giant of labor will one day break these irksome bonds and with one sweep scrap these petty bureaucrats and the whole system of capitalist exploitation they defend.

#### WM. GREEN PINCH HITS FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 4. - Wm. Green proposes to establish a new colony of refugee German Jews in Palestine "where they may find it possible to begin life anew under the protection of democratic nations."

It has become fashionable for prominent liberals and labor leaders to champion the cause of the downtrodden Jew. Not for asylum in the United States - heaven forbid! But in Palestine, to embarrass England.

How about the millions of disfranchised and lynched Negro and foreign born workers in this country!



# RACKETEERS TERRORIZE RETAIL CLERKS UNION

## TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP TO WISE UP AND ACT

CHICAGO, Nov. 27.-- The present strike against the O'Connor-Goldberg Shoe Stores in Chicago, being conducted by the Retail Clerks International Protective Association, is doing a great deal of harm to the organization of unorganized clerks and salespeople in the city of Chicago. Like the strike against the Edgewater Beach Hotel- now in its THIRD YEAR!- this strike is earning the justified contempt of many workers. The O'Connor-Goldberg stores are being picketed ONLY on Saturdays!

The Retail Clerks International Protective Association, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, professes to organize clerks and salespeople. It is far more accurate to say that it organizes for the boss against the workers. In Chicago, the RCIPA is in the hands of Max Caldwell whose real name is Pollack. The ability of this petty racketeer to work hand in glove with employers has won him the affection and cooperation of C.C. Coulter, International Secretary. Add to this the not unimportant fact that Caldwell is the son-in-law of Charles Wills, editor of the Federation News, and the tie-up with the top bureaucrats of the Chicago Federation of Labor is complete. The methods and policies of C.C. Coulter even in the days before the formation of the CIO, were distasteful to John Fitzpatrick and the A.F. of L. Coulter, by making Caldwell an International Organizer, has made closer collaboration possible with the powerful Chicago Federation of Labor.

### BOSSES USE CALDWELL TO HEAD OFF CIO

Caldwell's method is quite simple. Wherever the CIO is carrying on organization activity, wherever the CIO locals are conducting a strike, he steps in and offers to solve the problem for the employer by "unionizing" the workers. If the employer turns him down, he terrorizes the workers who refuse to go along with him. In a little over a year, by this method, Caldwell has "organized" over 8,500 dues-paying members. There are no membership meetings. Anyone expressing distaste for his policies is quickly fired. Dues are collected by the check-off. And the boss is grateful that a bonafide union drive has been side-tracked. There is no clearer example of a racketeer, strike breaking, company union, and dues collecting agency than the RCIPA in Chicago.

There are plenty of examples to conclusively PROVE the charges made in this article.. Local 233, Grocery Employees Union, is organizing the Jewel Tea Co. warehouse workers. This local, affiliated with the United Retail and Wholesale Employees of America, a C.I.O. International, has a majority of the warehouse workers. Caldwell offered his scab services to Mr. Lunding, Merchandise Manager. Lunding was informed that the C.I.O. was organizing in his plant and that if he wanted to avoid any trouble, all that was necessary was for the Jewel Tea Co. to sign an agreement with the RCIPA. Caldwell would take care of the rest. Lunding was shrewd enough to realize that this might precipitate a strike, under circumstances disadvantageous to the company. So he turned the RCIPA down.

Or the Berger strike. This strike after seven weeks, conducted by Local 234, against Berger and Son, a shoe store employing 11 men, was still as strong and militant as the day it started. Berger was offered the aid of the RCIPA to break this strike. A contract was signed and a \$51 check for initiation fees and dues was given to Mr. Caldwell.

Only the intervention of the Chicago Federation of Labor, which found it difficult to stomach this wanton treachery against the strikers, prevented the consummation of the deal. Caldwell was compelled to destroy the contract.

The "organization" of the Hillman Food Stores is a classic example of the methods employed by the RCIPA. Without ONE SINGLE member in this food chain, Caldwell presented a contract to the management. This company fearful of a bonafide union, aware that organization was still in its infancy, signed an agreement with the RCIPA. A mass meeting of the workers was called, and the management instructed all employees to attend. Over 1,000 responded. Caldwell was the speaker and he stated that everyone present was a member of his "union", since he had a closed shop agreement with Hillman's. He asked that everyone sign an application card. The first question put to Caldwell was a request that the contract which he had signed be read to the assembled body. Caldwell, at first relectant, was compelled by the tremendous pressure exerted at the meeting to read the agreement. Caldwell read the contract - and bedlam broke out. Not ONE person signed an application card, and the meeting broke up in disorder.

#### HILLMAN WORKERS REVOLT

The next day a rank and file committee visited the offices of the company and informed the Superintendent that they did not care to belong to the RCIPA as it did not represent their interests, that they had not signed anything giving Caldwell or the RCIPA any right to bargain for them. They were politely informed that there was nothing the company could do. The RCIPA had a closed shop agreement with the Hillman Stores, and anyone failing to join the "union" would be replaced with others more amenable to reason. To protect their jobs the workers are flocking into this racketeering union. The workers in the Atlantic and Pacific were treated to the same dose of "unionism".

The workers of the Maling Shoe Stores are being organized by Local 334. This has been met with a reign of terror. Men have been slugged and beaten. Telephone calls, anonymous and mysterious, have been made to Maling workers fighting against Caldwell's attempt to subordinate them to the will of the company. Wives and mothers have been phoned and threatened. Thugs have hopped out of cars and have beaten Maling workers with lead pipes. One of the workers in Maling's was openly assaulted in the store in which he was working by agents of the RCIPA. All of this, in the name of "organizing" workers.

The continued practice of these methods will eventually destroy the RCIPA. The restlessness and hatred of the workers for the methods employed by Caldwell are expressing themselves every day. The intervention of the RCIPA is by itself a signal that more and ever increasing numbers of workers are seeking organization. The RCIPA is only a stop-gap. Inside of the union set up by Caldwell a force is growing that

will shake the RCIPA as if struck by a hurricane.

The workers must not wait. They must organize themselves. They must band together to defend themselves against C.C. Coulter, Caldwell, the RCIPA. They must demand membership meetings, democratic rights, and the removal of the petty racketeers and bureaucrats that control their livelihoods. Only along this road will they build bonafide unions, controlled by themselves, obtaining shorter hours, better wages, and better working conditions.

## CHICAGO STOCKYARDS STRIKERS DECLARE TRUCE

CHICAGO, Dec. 4.- Two hundred and sixty-five livestock handlers, members of Stockhandlers Local 567 of the Packing House Workers Organizing Committee (affiliate of the CIO) went on strike November 21 for a closed shop, pay raise, and the check-off. The rival A.F. of L. Union had voted against the strike. As one CIO picket put it when asked why the A.F. of L. was not picketing with them, "They're our enemies."

The CIO decided to have only two pickets on the line at a time. At the beginning of the strike squads of cops were present, armed to the teeth. Later on, four or five cops were assigned to watch the pickets walking back and forth in the damp, chilly Chicago weather. On one day, when trouble threatened, a detail of 30 police was on duty.

A week ago, led by Thomas Devero, A.F. of L. business agent, thirty AFL members attempted to scab. They were "allowed" to pass the two man picket line, and entered the yards. However, they soon had to leave because there was not enough men to handle the stock. The heads of the Union Stock Yards and Transit Co. tried to get men from all sections - clerks, foremen, etc., to replace the strikers, but they could not get enough of them. The strike successfully stopped the movement of cattle in and out of the yards.

Thugs attempted to murder Herbert March, field representative of the CIO. James Sykes, a CIO butcher at Armour & Co., was stabbed Wednesday by a thug, the CIO union claims. Strikers demanded the right to carry arms to "protect their lives".

Three conferences were held with state and federal conciliators present. The Company and Union officials failed to reach a settlement until December 4th when the Stockhandlers Local voted to accept the peace proposal made by the Union Stock Yards & Transit Co. through Mayor Kelly, with the stipulation that the company must sign a written contract in ten days or another strike would be called. Henry Johnson, assistant national director of the PWOC, stated the Company had agreed to recognize the union as sole bargaining agent and would continue negotiations on wages, hours, working conditions, and other demands.

The joker in this step, however, is that after the men are back on the job, they have lost their trump card in dealing with the Company. There is nothing that cannot be negotiated and settled BEFORE the men go back to work, if there are no monkeyshines involved.

D. Zeigler  
J. Drake

# MILK MONOPOLY EXPOSED!

## FEDERAL GRAND JURY WILL FIND SCAPEGOATS AND HUSH UP AFFAIR

CHICAGO, Nov. 19.- Last week after going over the records of the Chicago milk companies for months, the Federal Grand Jury found that the public had been paying almost five cents a quart more for milk than it was worth. Milk costs the farmer about two cents a quart to produce. But the retail price is 12 cents. Approximately five cents a quart is expended for salaries, equipment, maintenance, etc. The remaining five cents has been going to Dr. Herman Bundesen, head of the Department of Health, Dan Gilbert, Chief of Detectives, to the presidents of the Teamsters' Union and of the Milkdrivers' Union, and to the owners of the dairies.

All these leaders of our fair city have been indicted for "conspiracy to defraud the public". They are released from jail on bond. Trial is scheduled for the first of the year.

For years the Milkdrivers' Union, A.F. of L., has been controlled by an unscrupulous bureaucracy which rules openly by the gangster method. The union headquarters is lined with machine guns and other nice toys - and the milkdrivers who dared to open their mouths for democracy were wiped out. In the struggle for power in the union several of the "leaders" were assassinated by their rivals. The record of the present leadership is one of the blackest in the history of the unions in this city.

The Teamsters' Union has substantially the same set-up: the voice of the rank and file of the union is stifled - via the gun and black-jack. The leaders of these two unions which help supply this city with milk are openly anti-working class. They openly consort with the owners of the dairies to raise the price of milk to 12¢ (grade "A" costs 15¢ a quart, 10¢ a pint) beyond the reach of the worker with his \$14 weekly income.

## POLICE TREAD WHERE WORKERS DARE NOT TREAD

The chief of Detectives, Dan Gilbert, is another fine example. Officially he is supposed to guard the lives and property of society. His shares in the spoils of this milk racket helped to kill many a baby for lack of proper nourishment. But if a desperate worker tries to steal a bottle of milk for his starving kids, Dan is there to see he gets the works.

Dr. Bundesen has been a candidate for the governorship of the State of Illinois. He writes articles in the Evening American on how to keep well!

Last year at this time, a milk war was on. Several independent dairies (independent of the Bundesen set-up) were selling milk for 7¢ a quart, four cents below the monopoly price of 1937. The "inspection" of their milk by Dr. Bundesen's Department was a long-drawn out affair. Plenty of red-tape was used to hinder its sale. This 7¢ milk was as good as the 11¢ variety, and in many instances even better as has been proved.

Who is the nasty man who spilled the beans about Dr. Bundesen and his pals of the milk monopoly? None other than that rival capitalist grouping - Bundesen and his group are Republicans - victor in the last elections, the re-united Democratic Party machine, led by Mayor (Memorial Day Massacre) Kelly and Governor Henry (Sales Tax) Horner. This was the opportunity to deliver a death blow at any Republican aspirations in the city of Chicago and the state of Illinois. And they did it.

The records of the milk companies are under the inspection of the Federal Grand Jury. The press after the opening bombshell has significantly kept silent. Why? Because, without a doubt, the Bundesen machine has the goods on the Horner diversion of the sales tax revenue, and on the Kelly-Nash "diversion" of relief funds.

#### EXPOSURE BRINGING MILK PRICES DOWN

The workers are learning the bitter truth about the "leading citizens". Already the price of milk has come down 1¢. There is reason to believe that it will come down even further. The government is threatening to step in and take over the dairies - for the time being - to keep the exposure within bounds. But government interference is resented by the milk monopoly and the opposing victorious Democratic Party. Yet they fear more exposure. These trials reveal too much of the sordid graft and corruption which is behind the drive about democracy and equality. The Hines trial in New York went too far for the Democratic Party to be able to sit still. The trial in Chicago - if it ever comes off - will not tell the whole story of capitalist corruption. Some of the leaders of the milk monopoly will be made scapegoats and land in jail. The matter will then be hushed up.

For the rank and file in the Teamsters' and Milkdrivers' Union this incident should serve as conclusive evidence of what interests their leadership represent. The fight for democracy in these unions is a necessary task. It will be a fight against the capitalistic "labor leaders", against the machine gun and individual murder. But it is a struggle which can win the whole-hearted backing of workers everywhere in the United States.

## IN THE RICHEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

CHICAGO, Dec. 1.- Judge McKinley sentenced Mrs. Hazel Hinds Cornwall to one to ten years for taking money from the Western Springs State Bank where she had worked as a bank teller for \$90 a month.

Turning to Hiram Parks, president of the bank, on the witness stand, the judge "criticized" the banker. "How on earth did you expect Mrs. Cornwall to live on \$90 a month in decency?"

TWELVE MILLION PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW TO LIVE ON A HELL OF A LOT LESS THAN THAT!

#### -BUGHOUSE - FABLES-

"For the first time in six years, some of us feel that NOW business has a real chance to succeed." - W.J. Cameron on Ford Radio Hour, Nov. 20.

# WPA OC SHOWS STEADY GROWTH

PLANNED ORGANIZATION WORK WILL DRIVE MOVEMENT AHEAD

CHICAGO, Dec. 1.— On September 30, 1938, rank and file members working on North Side WPA projects, convened to form local 10 of the WPA Organizing Committee. The executive board, represented almost in full, attempted to strangle the local by moving to limit the local to only two projects. The rank and file was quick to respond. It rejected this motion, and established a general local for all workers on North Side projects. An executive committee was elected from the rank and file.

This meeting was extremely significant. With close to 1,000,000 workers in Chicago dependent upon relief, the opportunities for organization are very favorable. These workers actually cry out for organization. But, organization to them means a fighting organization, one that they can control.

It was the misery of these workers that gave birth to the WPA Organizing Committee. For over ten months the Committee directed its energies towards organizing the projects. Its success was almost negligible. In REVOLT of October 29, 1938, "Danger Ahead for the WPAOC", the history of the Committee and its policy were discussed.

The majority of the Executive Board, fearing that the Stalinists, because of their stronger apparatus, would capture the organization, decided on measures and policies which made the organization narrow and bureaucratic. They attempted to prevent a Stalinist bureaucracy, by establishing an anti-Stalinist bureaucracy.

The meeting of September 30 was the only real local meeting ever called. Since the local was established, every meeting found more workers participating. There are now over 50 members paying dues. The local carries on activity on 20 projects.

A one-page mimeographed bulletin called the WPA ORGANIZER was issued for the third, fourth, and fifth meetings. It is a regular bi-monthly feature of the local. There is no doubt that the bulletin is inadequate. However, when the local establishes a broader and stabler foundation, the bulletin can be expanded into a newspaper.

The present form of the organization appears to be territorial. It is in reality based on the projects. At present, the majority of members are scattered over different projects, as individuals or in small groups. Wherever more than one worker is present on the same project, a project committee is formed. The local seeks to set up project committees wherever possible. These project committees are the skeleton of the local and give it mobility. In time these committees can grow into locals.

Local 10 is the type of organization that the WPA needs. It has every chance to grow into a force to be reckoned with.

# WPA WORKER SUES CURTIS CO. FOR \$250,000

SWANKY LADIES HOME JOURNAL JEERS AT HUMAN MISERY UNDER CAPITALISM

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 1.- I have entered a suit against the Curtis Publishing Co. for \$250,000 for slander and libelous and malicious acts perpetrated against me, my wife, and my two children.

The October issue of the Ladies' Home Journal published a picture of myself, my wife, and son. It described me as representative of a slothful, characterless, shiftless, and irresponsible class of people.

The Curtis Publishing Company publishes the Saturday Evening Post, circulation 3,032,571, Ladies' Home Journal, circulation 2,965,694, and the Country Gentleman, 1,618,270. Tons of propaganda are poured out through these mediums against the unemployed. The President of Curtis Publishing Co., W.D. Fuller, is a Director of the First National Bank of Philadelphia, a Trustee of the Penn Mutual Insurance Company, and DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION. Both he, and Mary Curtis Bok, another Vice President of the Curtis Publishing Co., are listed by "Who's Who" as Republicans.

The editorial policy of the Ladies' Journal is anti-New Deal. In the eagerness of the Ladies' Home Journal to discredit the New Deal, it finds it necessary to slander and vilify the unemployed workers who are being slowly starved to death by this same New Deal Administration.

The co-editors of the Ladies' Home Journal are Bruce Gould and his wife, Beatrice Blackman Gould. Bruce Gould, editor of the Saturday Evening Post in 1934-5, became editor of the Ladies' Home Journal in July, 1935. I have carefully read the Ladies' Home Journal for the whole of the year of 1937, hoping to find a declaration of policy, perhaps a solution offered by the great publishing house. On the question of unemployment they are as silent as the Chicago Herald & Examiner is vociferous. Yes, Dorothy Thompson was hired during 1937, but this great "liberal" who has so much to say about upholding Democracy, has little to offer in solving the tragic question of unemployment.

I was, together with millions of others, forced on relief because of unemployment. In my case it was sickness.\* I was considered on this basis and accepted; to receive the meager starvation budget for myself and family. But it became harder to get aid from the "relief administration".

\* Comrade Paliferro has devoted forty-five years of his life to activity in the class struggle. In the period following 1908, when he first joined the political movement, he was identified with the Socialist Party, the I.W.W., the Italian Revolution of 1919, the A.F. of L., the Communist Party, various unemployed movements, and the Revolutionary Workers League. For further details as to his identity and integrity, see REVOLT #9, August 27, 1938, p.24. - Editorial note.

Obtaining food, clothing, and shelter by the needy was daily becoming almost impossible. Innumerable restrictions and obstacles were piling up before the prospective relief "clients"; that great mass of jobless workers whose great "crime" was forced unemployment, over which they had no control, and never will, under the present system.

On the theory that the unemployed should be made to work, the C.W.A. was set up, after which the W.P.A. came into being, financed and supervised by the Federal Government, revolutionizing the entire relief set-up of the nation. Work assignments were issued indiscriminately by the district stations, monthly, by the thousands. For the physical examinations all available unemployed "quacks" were hired, whose only interest in the unfortunate patients, was a job. Being victimized, just as other thousands had, by such haphazard examinations, I was given a laborer's classification, which as a rule, means pick and shovel work. For me, even were I a healthy man, because of my size and age, this would be a physical impossibility. I was over 50, weighed 98 pounds, and am five feet tall.

I opposed most strenuously the arbitrary ruling of the Relief Administration, that everyone on relief must report for work on the W.P.A. project on receiving an assignment. Failure to do so meant being cut off relief. I was forced to report on a project as were the other physically unfit unemployed workers. A relief doctor, named Swastek, called on my return home from my first day's W.P.A. work, as I had taken ill several hours before quitting time. I had to remain indoors for two weeks, after which I refused to accept any more such assignments. I remained on direct relief for fourteen months, after a determined fight with the district station.

#### OLD AND INFIRM FORCED ON W.P.A.

Many changes had been taking place during the supposed emergency period from 1931-6. The Federal Government was no longer contributing direct relief funds to the State, so the State and County Administrators forced a great number of unemployed workers back onto the rolls of the national government. The old, the weak, the infirm and the sick were forced onto W.P.A. I rebelled against this policy of FORCED LABOR, and as a result, the payment of my rent was discontinued. For the first time, I was evicted into the streets. This was in 1937. After a short struggle, I was re-instated. Undoubtedly, the Relief Administration was of the opinion that this brutal intimidation would "teach me a lesson". The Relief Administration in the person of Miss Jenny Greenspoon, Supervisor, continued its efforts to drive me into forced labor.

I was again deprived of rent. The electric light was shut off for non-payment. Knowing that I was sick, that my family had no clothing, that the loss of shelter was threatened at any moment, the Chicago Relief Administration played its trump card. Unless I accepted a W.P.A. assignment, I was to be cut off relief ENTIRELY. On March 16th, 1937, I answered this threat by piling my home furnishings in front of the Wicker Park Relief Station, 1750 North Lincoln Ave. I lived in front of that station for 36 hours before being re-established in a flat.

As a member of the Illinois Workers Alliance, Local 2, I had sought aid from this organization in my fight against the Relief Administration.



While many rank and file members of the Alliance were willing and did help me, the leadership of the Illinois Workers Alliance, corrupted by their obedience to the Administration, refused to permit any militant action against the relief authorities. The Alliance openly worked with the Relief Administration to discourage any militant action, to demoralize me. It became necessary, then, not only to fight the Administration, but to expose the rotten leadership of the Illinois Workers Alliance

On May 2nd, 1937, because of my consistent refusal to be put at forced labor, which if I had conceded would mean my death; I was, again deprived of all aid. After two days of picketing with my son and daughter, and two rank and file sympathizers, I was given a food order but no rent, light, gas, or other essentials. I was forced into the streets for the third time within eight months. Again I placed my furniture in front of the Wicker Park Relief Station. This time I constructed a "room" out of my belongings.

Here we set up a heater on which the coffee, as well as ourselves, was kept warm. The weather was damp and cold. The next and the following ten days, milling crowds gathered, composed of curious but sympathetic people. Police squad cars would come to look us over regularly. Case workers would peep through the windows with cynical smiles, while the relief station officers would occasionally come out into the street to deride us. This continued from early morning well into the night, day after day, for eight days.

During the first few days one case worker after another was sent out to convince me that my attitude was wrong; that the children HAD TO GO TO SCHOOL, and, if they did not, they would be taken away from me. Then a truant officer was sent to see me who backed up their threats. The hypocrisy of the social system in which we live could never be better demonstrated than this particular incident. They wanted to compel me to send the children to school. What did it matter that my children had no food or clothing? Did it matter much if my children never knew whether they had a home to which they could return? No, send them to school!! Yet, when my son, Benjamin, attempted to organize the students of Wells High School against the National Youth Administration pay-cuts, he was summarily suspended, unless he agrees to discontinue his organizing activities.

#### ADMINISTRATION SEEKS TO DECLARE ME INSANE

Then the Relief Administration attempted to turn my wife and children against me in my very presence; and had the unmitigated gall to send Mrs. Verin, Assistant Supervisor, to try to induce my brother, Henry, to make a statement of my possible insanity. The Relief Administration wanted grounds to send me to a Psychopathic Hospital; even the W.P.A. authorities were urged to find reason to dig under my sidewalk "home" so that I would be driven away. I refused to be intimidated, coerced, or driven. I stayed!

During this whole period the Chicago press was screaming its hymn of hate. Everything I said was distorted, or I was quoted as saying things which had no basis in reality or fiction. The Chicago Herald & Examiner in the issue of May 11th, 1937 quotes me as saying, "What? Go to work? My health is ruined from sitting out here so long. I need two weeks

of rest until I can take any kind of job". This slimy paper, in the same article, concludes that since I was getting the magnificent sum of \$62.68 on relief and only \$55.00 on W.P.A., that I was after was the additional sum of \$7.68 per month. On May 12th, the Herald & Examiner had the following to say: "Wicker Park Relief officials finally become more tired of Ben Paliferro, 50 years old, than he himself is tired of all things and nothing in particular". I am referred to as "the 'preferred' relief client".

On May 12th, R.W.Hilliard, Relief Executive, swore out a warrant for my arrest. I was released on \$50. bond. Judge Cecil Smith, before whom I was "tried", summoned Miss Greenspoon, Supervisor, and Mrs. Verin, Assistant Supervisor, to facilitate a settlement. I was represented in court by an attorney named Langdon Chapman.

I was offered an indoor watchman's job, where I could sit or stand at will, on condition that I immediately go to work. I demanded that provision be made for the re-establishment of myself and family into a flat, and that this be done before I accept the job which they were offering to me. After much wrangling, and finding it impossible to cajole me into accepting meaningless concessions, the lawyers for the Relief Administration, the District Supervisor and her Assistant, accompanied by my lawyer and the Judge who at this point terminated his court proceedings, all retired together to an anteroom. In this conference all my demands were granted by the relief authorities.

But the struggle started anew on my return to my one room "home" in front of the relief station. The Relief Administration insisted that I, physically unfit, go in search of a flat. This was impossible, not only because of the vicious publicity my name had been given by the press, but also because of my poor physical condition. Only when I insisted on remaining out in the street indefinitely, did they, on the 11th day, take my wife in a caseworker's automobile to find a flat, into which we readily moved. I was told to report to work on my own leisure, which proves concretely that the accounts given by the general press were libelous and untrue.

#### LADIES' JOURNAL NOT INTERESTED IN WORKERS' TRUTH

The Ladies' Home Journal made no attempt to investigate my particular case, never interviewed me to establish the truth, and knows nothing about me as an individual. The Ladies' Home Journal represents the interests of the big bankers, of financial and industrial capital. They had no interest in establishing the truth. If they had taken the trouble to investigate, they would have been compelled to recognize the seriousness of my physical condition. I absolutely refused to be driven into forced labor. I made this an open issue, exposing the inhuman set-up of the Relief Administration.

The Ladies' Home Journal knows or could easily find out for itself that there are hundreds of thousands, who, despite physical incapacities, are forced to accept pick-and-shovel as well as other heavy outdoor work, under threat of being deprived of relief. In many known cases these assignments on W.P.A. projects are death sentences. The Journal is interested in covering up the causes which bring about such miserable, distressing conditions in the home of the unemployed and under-paid

workers, which causes wives and husbands to part because of their inability to secure the meager necessities of life, that forces thousands of our youth who cannot find jobs to take to stealing, that forces women and girls to take to the streets because life has become unbearable. It is in the interests of the Ladies' Home Journal and of Mr. W.D. Fuller, President of the Curtis Publishing Company and Director of the National Manufacturer's Association to bury the causes of these conditions under a heavy screen of lies, distortions, slander, and silence.

It is my task and the task of the Revolutionary Workers League to expose the Ladies' Home Journal and all the other agents of a putrid, decaying system. Only after we have organized ourselves into a huge militant unemployed movement will it be impossible for the bosses to practice what the Chicago Relief Administration is practicing every day against the divided and helpless unemployed.

-- BEN PALIFERRO

## GET READY TO DIE

"The army is making strides towards a state of preparedness commensurate with America's place in the family of nations," says General Malin Craig, Chief of Staff in his report to Secretary of War, Harry Woodring.

\* \* \*

To make the American army an efficient military machine, says the General, we must secure appropriations for tools and dies for the manufacture of arms and ammunition. Sure, a general strike in the tool and die industry would upset the apple cart.

\* \* \*

The cost of maintaining a CCC youth averages about \$1,000 annually. "For this," the Chicago Tribune says, "they could obtain a college education." Yeah? Try and get it!

\* \* \*

"The CCC youth in the army would be under the moral stimulus of a great service," says a Tribune editorial. "The CCC is useful, but much of it is obviously an excuse for giving the boys something to do. IN THE MILITARY SERVICE EVERY YOUTH SHOULD BE ENGAGED IN PREPARING HIMSELF FOR THE HIGHEST DUTY OF THE CITIZEN - THE DEFENSE OF HIS COUNTRY." (our emphasis).

\* \* \*

So, getting your gory guts thrown all over the landscape in some far-off country for the greater glory of Mr. Moneybags is the highest duty of the citizen. Very interesting.

\* \* \*

HEADLINE: Roosevelt to use WPA workers to build arsenals and naval bases. That should give you WPA pogies something to look forward to.

\* \* \*

President Roosevelt recently declared that the aircraft procurement policy of 2,320 first line planes is out of date, and therefore the army and the National Youth Administration should cooperate in the training of 20,000 young men for the production and servicing of military aircraft.

\* \* \*

Maybe that's what they mean by vocational training.

# POUM TRIAL BARES NEGRETE FRAME-UP

## VICE-CONSUL REPORTS HE IS AWAITING TRIAL

NEW YORK CITY, Nov. 30.- Russell Negrete Blackwell is awaiting trial, according to word received by the Blackwell Defense Committee here several days ago. This information was contained in a letter sent by the American Vice-Consul at Valencia on November 5. No other details were given in the letter. The trial date and the charge are unknown.

In an attempt to get this information the Committee queried the Spanish Government through its Embassy in Washington and the American State Department. The State Department replied that the Charge d'Affaires at Barcelona reports that the Spanish Government is giving the case its "immediate attention". A further report is expected shortly.

These are meager facts on which to draw conclusions. But taken together with other facts it can be done. The most important facts to consider are the reports of the recent trial of the leaders of the POUM in Barcelona who were sentenced to eleven and fifteen years on the charge of "rebellion" after the espionage charges against them were dismissed and the Court pronounced them "sincere anti-Fascists". The rebellion charge refers to the insurrection in Barcelona from May 3 to May 7, 1937.

The trial took place from October 11 to 22. But the government did not allow the press to report the trial until the 25th, which explains why reports have reached the labor press in this country so late.

The accused were charged with espionage and high treason in the interests of the Gestapo and Franco, illegal traffic in arms and money, and "rebellion". The indictment covered ten single-spaced typewritten sheets. During the trial Blackwell's name was dragged in as being a secret espionage agent of Franco, the Gestapo, and the OVRA, Mussolini's spy service.

## FRAME-UP ANALYSIS IN REVOLT CORROBORATED BY TRIAL

Writing in REVOLT #10, September 24, we said that the arrests of the foreign and Spanish revolutionists was a frame-up inspired by the Stalinists. The recent trial proves that what we said was correct. On the subject of espionage and the much touted plans of vital defense works that were supposed to have been discovered in the possession of the accused, a communique from the National Defense Ministry was read which stated that the plans submitted as evidence have no military value whatever. They turned out to be photographs used in the aerostatic courses given by the government and hence accessible to many persons, including the police.

The testimony of Roca was conclusive. It will be remembered that in a search of his house in September, 1937 a letter was found in various places (the evidence was contradictory) including a "chestnut colored fibre suitcase" in which Blackwell's name is listed as Franco espionage

agent "C.29". Calling attention to the fact that Roca's signed statement of his cross-examination by the police as printed in the Stalinist press, included the remarkable fact that the cross-examination was postponed after five questions had been asked because of the exhaustion of the accused, we charged that Roca had been tortured. Roca, on the stand, admitted being a Fascist spy, but said that one day a valise had been left in his house and four hours later the police arrived. He said that the police kept him without food for forty eight hours and that he was coerced into confessing what the police wanted. He said that he had retracted his confession before the judge and in a letter. He said he had no connection with the POUM.

In his summary the defense lawyer said: "The trial has been marked by the bitter fight between the presiding judge and the police from whom he has continually requested the source for the evidence on which it bases its accusations without ever obtaining a satisfactory answer." "...in spite of the repeated requests of the judge, the police never turned over to him the foreigners of the POUM said to be agents of the Gestapo; that the judge had insisted time and time again on seeing these foreigners and obtaining their signed confessions and that he was only able to get a list of prisoners which is in the files of the trial. There is only one foreigner on this list...who has already been released." Over fifty foreign POUM sympathizers accused of espionage were arrested during the summer of 1937. All were subsequently released.

#### STALINIST "MOSCOW TRIAL" TACTICS DEFEATED

The espionage charges were the doings of the Stalinists working on the technique of the Moscow frame-ups. The verdict of the court smashed this part of the frame-up. This must be construed as a victory for the Republican elements in the Loyalist Government against their Stalinist blood brothers.

There remains the charge of rebellion on which the defendants were sentenced. Their crime consisted, according to the court, of having participated in the insurrection with the objective of establishing their own social concepts; of having tended towards implanting in Catalonia and in the rest of Loyalist Spain, a political and economic order different from the present one.

The judgment of the court is remarkable. First of all it is contrary to the facts. The POUM leadership did not organize the insurrection. Testimony was introduced in the trial to prove this. Federica Montseny, Minister of Public Health in the Largo Caballero government which was ousted following the insurrection, testified that neither the POUM nor the CNT-FAI were responsible for the May events; that this affair had all the ear marks of being hatched in an underhanded manner to overthrow the Caballero government, for the purpose of doing away with what she called the proletarian influence in the government. Abello, President of the Court of Appeals of Catalonia, testified that the POUM had the least part in the May days since the CNT-FAI was stronger and more numerous and the POUM could have done nothing without it. Irujo, former Minister of Justice, testified that the police acted in an arbitrary manner, arresting people without the knowledge of the charge, transporting prisoners to unknown destinations (polite for assassination), and that the judge appointed to investigate the disappearance of Nin, leader

of the POUM, who was assassinated by the Stalinists, was nearly arrested by the police. The implication of Irujo's testimony, especially when taken in conjunction with Montseny's is that the police provoked the May insurrection--and the police, as is known, are in the control of the Stalinists. This checks with other known facts.

As a matter of fact the insurrection was a spontaneous uprising without leadership and against the opposition of the official leadership of the CNT and the POUM after it had begun. The leadership of the POUM joined the leadership of the CNT in calling on the workers to leave the barricades and go back to work. The leadership of the POUM called for a solution of the uprising within the framework of the then existing government.

#### LOYALIST GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO PROVE ITSELF ANTI-RED

In sentencing the defendants for revolutionary actions of which they were not guilty the Court said several things. Its verdict is an attempt to prove that the Loyalist Government is not red. While it frowns on the anti-working class excesses of the Stalinists, it can be counted on to fight for the capitalist order in Spain. Proletarian revolution is now officially outlawed. Its advocacy is a crime. The Loyalist Government now stands closer to open dictatorship than it does to bourgeois democracy.

How does all this affect Blackwell's chances? The smashing of the espionage charge is a factor making for his release. But the sentencing of the defendants to long terms is a factor militating for his trial on the same count of rebellion. Yet it is difficult to see how he can be brought to trial on this count after, both del Vayo and Pena have stated to the American government that they favor his release.

Taking all the factors into consideration we still incline to the opinion that he will be released shortly. The cryptic message from the Vice-Consul in Valencia probably describes Blackwell's technical status rather than the intention of the government.

But should he be brought to trial the Defense Committee is prepared to engage defense counsel in Spain and send counsel from the United States, France or England. It has cabled the Independent Labor Party of England for assistance and is expecting an early reply.

#### BARNACLES ON THE MERCHANT MARINE

The Dollar Steamship Lines have been converted with the blessings of the U.S. Navy Department into the American President Lines, offering round the world services to those as can afford it. But before the RFC sank 2½ million dollars into the venture, the following parasites had to be removed (at a pretty price): R. Stanley Dollar, \$2,526,501.22 salary from 1923 to 1934; J. Harold Dollar, \$1,081,693.62; H.L. Lorber, \$737,926.21; and H. Fleischhacker, \$377,756.85

Dollar Line men should make a note of this when negotiating their next contract.

# ZYGMUND DOBRZYNSKI = RAT

## FROM SLUM PROLETARIAN TO CAPITALIST HIRELING

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 3.- This is a story of a rat. It is a story of how the capitalist system seduces, bribes, and corrupts workers for their own purposes. The capitalist exploiters do not dirty their own lily-white hands. They buy men to do their filthy work for them, to betray workers, and to spy on militant and revolutionary workers.

These paid hirelings are best called "rats". Zygmund Dobrzynski, known in revolutionary circles as Herman Beck, is just such a one. When on November 14th, heeding the call of his masters, he testified before the Dies Committee in Washington D.C. against "communism" in the United Automobile Workers Union, he climbed another rung in his career from slum proletariat to a class collaborationist rat.

Dobrzynski was born and raised in dire poverty, the eldest of five children of a humble widow. He was forced to add to the family dole or income through the sale of stolen automobile tires or coal taken from cars on the siding of the Grand Trunk Railroad just above the Seven Mile Road in Detroit. Not until 1936 did he obtain a job in industry, in the only factory in which he ever engaged in productive labor. It was the Hoover Rd. plant of the National Automotive Fibers, Inc.

It was while clad in tatters, his shoes filled with holes, and eking out a miserable existence by dodging railroad or city "bulls" that this man found his way into the Proletarian Youth League as far back as 1931. He sought a solution for his wretched life in the Citizens Unemployed League. His interest in the classes of the Proletarian Party was both positive and real. After that he took classes with the Communist Party Opposition. But these ideas were powerless to overcome the parasitic practice that had become deeply rooted in his make-up during his slum proletarian existence. On the contrary, he was able to learn about the political tendencies in the labor and revolutionary movement, and because he is an ambitious renegade, and because he studied Marxism in the Proletarian Youth League, the Communist Party Opposition, the Communist League of America, the Workers Party, and the Revolutionary Workers League, he is a more dangerous blood-sucker of the working class than the ordinary run of rats.

### HIS COMRADES AID HIM

As long as Zygmund Dobrzynski was pursuing a class struggle line in the automobile union and a Marxian line politically, his positive concern for "build-up" in the movement was legitimate and proper. All his comrades assisted him in building himself up. He became president of Local 205, the "Fiber local" of the UAWA.

But a new day dawned for this traitor. He feared a block between the Martin bureaucracy and the Stalinists to end the policy of struggle prevailing in Local 205. He feared this block would force him back

into his miserable poverty and degradation. He decided to rat, even though it meant sacrificing his own comrades. Unfortunately, at the time when this was all clear, Beck was assisted in his maneuvers of betrayal by one Sidney Okun. He helped this turn-coat line up members of the R.W.L. against those who were fighting to expel this rat. At the trial which resulted in Dobrzynski's expulsion in April, 1937, Okun acted as his lawyer. He deliberately obscured the main issue of solidarity against a rat by bringing up false charges against another R.W.L. member. In truth, the only thing that prevented Okun from crossing over to the lines of the enemy class was Dobrzynski's contempt and distrust of him.

Okun visualized Dobrzynski as the editor of the United Automobile Worker in name, and himself as the real editor. Careerism in Okun at this point led him to a very serious error, an error that practically tied the hands of the League in the emergency, when it should have been fighting the class collaborationist enemy with both fists.

Immediately after Dobrzynski's expulsion from the Revolutionary Workers League, he budded forth as a class collaborationist strike-breaker. He sided with the Detroit Paper Products management against their striking employees, who were members of Local 205, within two weeks after his exit from the League. He went all the way with Martin in his vicious red-baiting and dirty class collaboration--even to testifying for Martin before the Dies Committee.

But even while testifying he did not overlook to build himself up, exactly as he had done while in the political organizations of which he was a member. This stool-pigeon testified for Martin, while Martin's regime in the UAW was losing ground, and Dobrzynski himself was thoroughly discredited in the union. He was casting about for a new job.

#### POSES AS A HUNDRED PERCENT PATRIOT

Beck, of course, did not tell the Dies Committee the real reasons, those of capitalist misery and starvation, which forced him into the revolutionary organizations. He brazenly posed as an always-was and always-will-be patriot, who "joined certain parts of the Communist cause in order to find out how the party was operating in the Union". (It will be recalled that Beck joined these "certain parts" in 1931, long before the coming of the UAW.) To be sure, these statements were made for the benefit of the reactionary political forces of capitalism backing the Dies Committee. Dobrzynski wants to make himself acceptable to them for secret service or some other kind of dirty work. He has reached the point where he must keep on ratting on the working class or return to the shop, or worse yet, to his former lumpen-proletariat existence.

All workers and workers' organizations are warned against this vicious and dangerous rat, this under-hand parasite who has evolved from snatching coal for money down to taking workers' blood for money. He is an agent of the enemy class who can stomach the dirtiest of their dirty work.

It was announced this week that Zygmund Dobrzynski has finally been removed as an organizer of the UAW. The automobile/are well rid of him and his kind.  
workers



# COUGHLIN, KERENSKY SLANDER RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

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Coughlin and Kerensky! Slanderers of the Russian Revolution! Yuh pys yer money and yuh tykes yer chice!

Coughlin went on the air last week to slander the Russian Revolution. He charged that it was financed by capitalist, banking interests. To bring his charge into line with his defense of the Nazi persecutions in Germany, he said the banking interests were Jewish. And, for good measure, he added that the revolution was led by Jews. Adding up all these charges, what do we get?

That the revolution was not a popular revolt at all, that it was not an elemental, universal uprising against capitalist slavery, embracing Russians, Ukrainians, Jews, Cossacks, Tartars, Georgians, and many other peoples; and that it was not led by the great party of proletarian revolution, Lenin's party of factory proletarians, but was a racial, conspiratorial plot. Since the known facts completely refute this frocked, political Rasputin, he is appealing to the lowest prejudices and the darkest ignorance of his supporters and followers. He is a fascist demagogue of the worst sort.

Kerensky is a swine of a different specie. He refuted Coughlin's racial tripe. But he added some slanders of his own. He said the Bolshevik revolution was a plot, all right. But not Coughlin's kind. According to Kerensky who actually did conspire with the Czarist Kornilov to assassinate the Russian proletariat in the summer of 1917 as Franco is doing today, the Bolshevik revolution was a plot financed by the German Imperial Government. This is the old cry about German gold and Lenin and the Bolshevik leadership being German agents.

When this slander was first started, the Bolshevik party indignantly denied it. They demanded that the Kerensky government and the Soviets investigate and that the author of it, a former deputy in the Duma, Alexinsky, be brought to trial and dealt with accordingly. Kerensky replied by trying to illegalize the Bolshevik party. The workers settled the issue when they rose in their unconquerable might and put a finish to Kerensky's government. Kerensky got away through the intervention of the United States government. His recent tours here indicate that far-seeing capitalist circles are grooming him for a new try at ruling Russia after the Stalin regime is ousted.

Let's make a resolution that when we take power in this country we won't let Coughlin get away to slander and plot against our revolution abroad. Let the American workers give these foul birds the answer: "To the scaffold with the pogrom makers and the liars!" \*

\* See, "Proclamation of the CC of the RS-DLP Concerning the Slander Against Lenin", published as a leaflet. Lenin, Towards the Seizure of Power, Vol. 2, p. 300.

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# MEXICAN TROTSKYITES DENOUNCE OWN BUROCRATS

OPPORTUNISM AND BOLSHEVISM CANNOT LIVE LONG TOGETHER - LENIN

In the last issue of REVOLT we said some pretty harsh things about the recent "founding Congress" of the Trotskyist Fourth International. We did not, as some workers have written in by way of criticism, analyze the theoretical material published by the Congress. We aimed our guns at the political relationship of the Trotskyites on a world scale in order to demonstrate that their claim to be now, in the living present, the fighting, revolutionary leadership of the world's oppressed was just so much hog wash. That in actual fact they were nothing more than an anti-Stalinist propaganda group.

In this issue we publish some material which shows how the Congress was received by the workers in the Mexican section of the Trotskyist organization. To the charge of impotence and sectarianism which we laid at the door of the Trotskyist International can be added bureaucracy and political compromise with the class enemy.

In the statement of the Mexican workers there is a glaring contradiction. They state - and we can believe it because of our own experience with the Trotskyist leadership in the past - that their revolutionary will is being crushed by the Trotskyist leadership. In the next breath they say they are submitting to this leadership - but they are protesting.

This attitude has a familiar ring. From 1924 to 1928 this is exactly what the Russian Trotskyists said about the Stalinist leadership. They accused it of all the crimes in the revolutionary calendar; they protested, but they submitted time and time again. In the end they were crushed.

If the Mexican comrades wish to avoid the same fate, they must learn the lesson of that historic struggle. Let them do as Lenin did: declare that opportunism and Bolshevism cannot live side by side in the same organization and draw the necessary consequences. Either they will throw out the opportunist leadership or they will be thrown out, in which case they can set about the task of building a revolutionary movement in Mexico. It was Trotsky himself who wrote in his History of the Russian Revolution, that a revolutionary conception without a revolutionary will is like a watch with a broken spring.

## LETTER TO THE MILITANTS OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

(To all the sections that attended the International Conference in September convoked by the International Secretariat):

Dear Comrades:

The former Mexican Section of the Fourth International, International Communist League, received from the Eastern American Bureau for the Fourth

International a clipping from the "Socialist Appeal" (published in New York, October 22, 1938), which contained the resolution "on the Mexican question" drawn up by the International Congress of September.

The former ICL called together its members to discuss the conference resolution on October 29, and in the name of this plenary session, as well as of all those militants of the Fourth International in Mexico who were unable to express themselves on that occasion, we now address ourselves to you as follows:

The International Conference of September has decided to accept the complete series of slanders and falsifications which the Eastern Pan-American Conference had deliberately issued, and which we had repudiated. The International Conference has declared its solidarity with comrade Diego Rivera and with the leaders of the American section without considering in any manner or form the arguments which we presented to the Conference through various channels, and which represent your will - a Conference which, according to the "Socialist Appeal" of October 22, 1938, lasted only one day - a fact which gives us the right to think that the "Mexican question" was voted without discussion.

#### PERSONAL INTERESTS PLACED ABOVE CLASS INTERESTS

It is with profound dissatisfaction that we Bolsheviki-Leninists of Mexico have felt the blow of this international apparatus, in learning of a resolution which places above the interests of the working class and especially above those of the Bolshevik-Leninists in Mexico, the personal and political interests of a single individual who does not represent the Fourth International Movement in Mexico.

We declare that the International Conference has been deceived by comrades Cannon, Schachtman and Company, who, on Rivera's behalf, have succeeded in passing a resolution which throws overboard the fundamental principles of proletarian democracy in the Fourth International. The militant workers of the Fourth International in Mexico have been made into a laughing-stock.

We Bolshevik-Leninists of Mexico maintain that the international apparatus in the case of Mexico negates our revolutionary will. The apparatus reveals in each word of the resolution its firm intention of screening Rivera from all the errors committed during his period on the Political Bureau and on the Central Committee of our organization (errors which we have denounced most decisively), in order to throw slander on comrades Fernandez and Galicia, who, whatever have been their errors, were not directly responsible for the work, since, above them was the will, the political line, and the money of Rivera. It is infantile to say that we Bolshevik-Leninists believe in the celestial purity of the man who had in his hands the leadership of the organization up to February of 1938.

We are not going to relate here the differences which we had with Rivera, and the apparatus, since we have not changed one iota the statements we made and sent to you under special cover.

We declare that there is a serious danger that the Bolshevik militants of Mexico will be forced to kow-tow to the national bourgeoisie and its government, and that, in consequence, the independence of the revolutionary movement will be destroyed.

We declare that there is the danger that we Mexican Bolshevnik militants will be forced to enter into shameful alliances with the traitorous leaders of the worst opportunist reformism, not upon the basis of united front agreements, but of agreements which come under the head of secret diplomacy.

We have weighed these circumstances and every one of us has expressed his desire to oppose the corruption of our international movement and to combat this gangrene everywhere. There are comrades who have put forward the idea of working for the Fourth International outside the control of the International Secretariat, but we have decided in a disciplined and conscientious manner the following:

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF MEXICO SUBMITS TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND SENDS THIS PROTEST TO ALL THE MILITANTS OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

#### SUBMIT TO BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURE

Without renouncing in any way the political principles for which we have fought for years, without believing that the Riveras and Shactmans are correct, we submit to the discipline of the International Conference and we accept the program which it drew up, with the understanding that we expect, better say we ardently hope, that democratic centralism will in the future be substituted for the bureaucratic procedure which is beginning to make its power felt in the Bolshevnik ranks of Mexico.

With full responsibility and a clear understanding of the meaning of our action, we inform the comrades of the international organization of our unyielding desire to continue the Fourth International movement, loyal to the discipline of the International and its program. But we denounce the anti-democratic procedure which we have been victims of, and we call upon our world comrades to oppose with all their power the conduct of our international leaders when they seek to do in other countries what they have done with regards to the Mexican section. We were born in the communist struggle, opposing within the Stalintern a monolithic apparatus, the infallible bureaucracy; it will not be, then, that we will permit the birth and development in our ranks of the earmarks of Stalinist bureaucracy. The future of our international organization depends not only on its program but and principally on the tactic of struggle and on democratic centralism as an organizational norm. It is for this reason we Bolshevnik-Leninists of Mexico beseech you to make your protest with the firm resolve that we will demonstrate in practice the correctness of our convictions and the false position of the comrades whom we have denounced internationally.

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

Mexico, D.F., November 5, 1938

ACCEPTED BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF  
THE ORGANIZATION.

(Signed with the initials  
of thirty comrades.)

(NOTE: Article on Nationalization of Railroads held over for later issue.)

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