

REVOLT

Vol. 2, No. 7

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

May 27, 1939

Remember the Memorial Day Massacre!

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Revolutionary Spirit Lives in Daladier's Prison Camps

Chrysler "Disciplines" Workers

Freedom of the Press

Press Lords Dedicate Statue to Naked Truth
World Fair Head Wishes Them Cash Dividends

How Long Will Labor Wait?

Relief Crisis in Chicago

SHOP TALK

Protest Against REVOLT Censorship Grows



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REMEMBER THE MEMORIAL DAY MASSACRE!

HONOR OUR FALLEN CLASS BROTHERS!

Two years ago May 30, during the strike against Little Steel, 1,500 workers with their wives and children were marching in a peaceful demonstration toward Tom Girdler's Republic Steel plant in South Chicago. At the end of the prairie they were halted by 150 police armed with clubs, tear gas and guns. At their head was the notoriously anti-working class killer, Captain Mooney; his men selected for their hardened and inhuman viciousness.

The marchers were commanded to halt. The forward line attempted to stop. Those in the rear pushed them on. A few steps more and they would have swept the police out of the line of march. Suddenly the police opened fire. They clubbed, kicked and slugged the workers who surged in every direction, vainly striving to get out of the line of fire. Children were trampled; women kicked and beaten; one worker had an eye gouged out by the police.

When the smoke cleared fifty workers were found to be wounded. The dead numbered eight. Three more died a short while later. Protest meetings were held. Mayor Kelly was attacked as a reactionary and a butcher. The Stalinists and many unions called him a fascist. A Civil Liberties Committee organized a gigantic mass meeting at the Civic Opera House protesting the outrage and laid the responsibility for the horrible slaughter on Kelly and the police. Leaders of the C.I.O., Van Bittner, Fontecchi; and of the A.F. of L., Fitzpatrick, Goudie, openly branded Kelly and co. as murderers.

Last year at the first commemoration of the massacre, a priest, a rabbi, trade union leaders and a representative of Kelly spoke on "the rights of the employer..labor and capital must find a better means to settle their disputes...violence and use of force are to be shunned." In the recent elections leaders of almost every union in the city, Labor's Non-Partisan League, the Communist Party and others supported Kelly under the slogan: "a vote for Kelly is a vote for progress."

This year the City Council has decided to close South Burley Ave. May 28 to erect a temporary stand for "memorial services to be held in honor of the 10 steel workers who lost their lives on Memorial Day, 1937."

The massacre came during the great strike wave of 1937. Today the workers are on the defensive against wage-cuts, speed-up, relief slashes and a hundred other attacks. The city government memorializes the massacre to preach peace, to prevent the workers from fighting back.

To honor our fallen class brothers - pick up the fight where they left off when they fell. Beat back the attacks of the enemy! Then forward to the attack! Only let the next big clash with the police find the workers prepared for defense against these murderers!

MACHINE GUNS, TERROR USED TO BREAK COAL STRIKE

CAPITALIST DEMOCRACY UNMASKS ITSELF

In Kentucky capitalist democracy is showing its true face. The coal miners say they want a signed agreement by which every man who works in the mines shall be a member of the union, and are on strike to get it. The miners make this demand to defend their low standard of living from being beaten down by the coal mine owners who are interested in raising their own standard of living still higher. The operators refuse to grant the miners' demand and intend to operate the mines with scabs.

The Governor of the State, Chandler, who gets an annual salary of \$6,500, signed a piece of paper as a result of which a lot of young fellows wearing khaki uniforms, armed with rifles, bayonets, tear gas and machine guns - the National Guard - have been called out to see that the mine owners have their way. The kid soldiers, under orders from hard boiled officers, have taken over the roads in Harlan County and kept the striking miners as much as six miles away from the mines. Mass picketing is forbidden. Practically all democratic rights have been suspended.

IT IS ALL STRICTLY LEGAL.

An appeal to a County Judge to clear the roads met with a refusal and the expression of his opinion to the effect that the mines must operate. The incident served to bring into the light of day the fact that the honorable judge is a stockholder in two mines operating with scab labor. An appeal by local leaders of the mine workers' union to the "great humanitarian", Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the president of this sweet land of liberty, to protect the rights of the striking miners met with a refusal and the statement that he was leaving it up to Governor Chandler.

SUPPOSE

Now suppose that the miners took the machine guns away from the soldier kids and ran them out of the county. Would that be legal? Suppose that the miners union bought up a lot of tear gas and machine guns to protect its members against the scab-herding militia. Would that be legal? Suppose the miners union decided that it would patrol the roads with machine guns to make sure no scabs went into the mines and that the mines would stay closed. Would Roosevelt leave it up to Chandler?

Workers are not lawyers. But they know the answers to these questions. The law is supposed to be impartial and apply equally to rich and poor. But experience shows that the law operates for the capitalists against the workers. If the miners armed themselves all the lawyers and politicians in the pay of the capitalist class from the President and his liberal Attorney General, Frank Murphy, down, would prove by a million words and speeches that what the miners were doing was everything from disorderly conduct to treason against the government and the country. And they might call out the armed forces at their disposal to crush the workers. And that would be legal, too.

But if the mine operators knew that that was what the miners would do they wouldn't be in such a hurry to call out the National Guard. The County Judge wouldn't be so cocksure in his opinions. And the Governor of the state and the President of the United States would sing a different tune. They would have a much healthier respect for the rights of the miners which by the way are guaranteed by the Constitution.

The government is spending billions for war ships, planes, plane carriers, landing fields, hangars, cannon, automatic rifles, and tanks. The government says it is for defense against possible aggression by military and fascist dictatorships. It surely isn't for the defense of the striking miners against the militia called out by Governor Chandler at the behest of the mine operators, because Roosevelt has said he is leaving it up to Chandler.

Well if the state government is using the National Guard and machine guns to terrorize the miners and break their strike, and the federal government won't use the armed forces of the country to protect the miners against military dictatorship by the state government, the only defense the miners can have, in the circumstances, is the defense they provide themselves.

STRONGEST UNION

The mine union is the strongest union in the country. It has the largest membership and a big treasury. The miners are good working class fighters and they have some of the greatest fighting traditions of the American labor movement. The workers of the entire country would support the miners morally, financially and by strike action if the miners appealed to them, because every worker can see that if the miners took the necessary steps to defend their strike, their union, their rights and their lives and won it would be easier to organize and win better conditions everywhere in the country.

There is only one big obstacle in the way of the miners defending themselves and their union in the only way that counts against militia boys armed with machine guns. And that obstacle is in the union itself. It is the union leadership of Hohn L. Lewis and his machine.

Lewis is a big shot. He talks to the President. He gets twenty five thousand dollars a year salary, almost four times the salary that Governor Chandler draws. But he doesn't believe machine guns are useful, except against the miners. Ask the miners in Illinois. Ask the coal miners who got blacklisted by Lewis in the coal fields because they opposed his dictatorship and crooked finances in the mine union. Ask the left wing miners who were slugged and shot by Lewis' gunmen.

Lewis is for co-operating with the coal operators and with the government. He says so himself. He talks big about the rights of the workingmen. But he's against real mass action when it counts. When the government speaks John obeys. In 1919 he sold out four hundred thousand miners with the slogan: We are Americans. We cannot fight our government.* Lewis is for the capitalists and their government. He lives like a capitalist.

Defense against the militia means a fight against John L. Lewis. Solving the problem of defense means solving the problem of leadership. It's like killing two birds with one stone. Armed defense against armed attack! and Out with John L. Lewis!

See REVOLT, March 4, 1939.

PROTEST AGAINST REVOLT CENSORSHIP GROWS

PROOF ACCUMULATES THAT POST OFFICE IS MOTIVATED
BY INTENTION TO SUPPRESS REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS

DETROIT, May 14.- A growing protest is the result of the fight REVOLT is making against the censorship imposed by the Post Office which requires that each issue be submitted to the Solicitor of the Department in Washington for a ruling on mailability. Most important fact in this connection is the growth of REVOLT itself. In the last month the circulation has increased twenty five percent. The Chicago unit of the League increased its bundle to four hundred; the New York unit doubled its order; a bundle is now reaching steel workers in Indiana Harbor, near Chicago, for the first time; and a number of new subscriptions have been obtained. In the year that REVOLT has been appearing its circulation has doubled. Expectations are that its increase will be more rapid in the coming months.

On May 1 the Post Office bureaucrats informed us that the April 29th issue was mailable. The issue was submitted on April 26th. The delay of seven days was a reduction in six days from the delay they caused in connection with the previous issue which was held up thirteen days. The issue before that, the first one to be delayed, was held up ten days.

The American Civil Liberties Union sent a second protest to Washington on April 28 addressed to Solicitor Miles in which Roger Baldwin said:

...you state that there was material in the January 7th issue other than the quotation from the Communist Manifesto which prompted you to bar it from the mails.

We have examined that issue, and do not find in it any incitement to illegal action. There are, it is true, a good many expressions of revolutionary philosophy. They are, however, of a character which has gone through the mails without challenge for a good many years.

At this writing we do not know whether the Solicitor has made any reply to the request with which Baldwin closes his letter, to withdraw the "order to hold up and examine further issues."

LABOR PUBLICATIONS

A number of labor publications have reported the essential facts and protested against the arbitrary action of the Post Office. In France Le Proletaire, published in Le Havre and L'Internationale, published in Paris. In the United States, the April issue of Labor Front; the April 15th issue of Challenge; and the May issue of Vanguard; all published in New York City.

On April 20th Ernest L. Meyer, columnist in the New York Post, wrote the following:

At the moment there are a dozen bills before Congress which, if enacted, would turn our nation into a Hitlerland of concentration camps, the goose-step and the Gestapo.

There is for example....There is also...Senate Bill 409 provides ...Another proposed measure...

And the Gag Again

The dictatorial pattern of all these proposed measures is apparent. The Post Office, too, seems to be swinging into line. Some weeks ago the Post Office barred from the mails an obscure mimeographed magazine published in Detroit by the Revolutionary Workers League.

The issue was censored because it printed a quotation from the Communist Manifesto reading: "Communists openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forceable overthrow of all existing conditions."

What is idiotic is this: full copies of the Communist Manifesto can be obtained at many bookstores, most libraries, and are freely circulated through the mails.

IDIOTIC

The quotation from the Manifesto is slightly inaccurate. It should read: "The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They...." And, also, after the word, existing, there is the word, social.

Meyer has given us permission to quote from his column.

The fact that the quotation of this sentence was cited as a violation of the law while the whole pamphlet circulates freely through the mails, is, as Meyer says, idiotic. But that obvious fact only scratches the surface of the thing.

The fact that this alleged violation by a revolutionary publication was given as a reason for imposing a censorship-in-advance over REVOLT while the capitalist pro-New Deal New York Post may republish the "violation" without let or hindrance, shows very clearly what the game of the Post Office bureaucrats is: they created a pretext to attempt to muzzle the expression of revolutionary ideas.

We can assure them they will fail. REVOLT will grow.

But while this censorship exists it is a menace to the entire revolutionary and labor press of the country. Unless it is defeated the Post Office bureaucrats may feel encouraged to discover pretexts to clamp down on other labor papers.

An even wider and stronger protest on the part of the labor press can stop that potential danger from becoming a fact.

CHRYSLER "DISCIPLINES" WORKERS

UNION LEADERSHIP NO-STRIKE POLICY LEAVES WORKERS DEFENSELESS AGAINST ATTACKS

DETROIT, May 4, - In the April 29 issue of REVOLT, in the account of the strike in the Dodge Truck plant, the concluding statement anticipated, as a possibility, an attempt to undermine the union in the Truck plant by the Chrysler Corporation. This the corporation has been able to do with some success, not only within the Truck plant; but also at the Dodge Main and Jefferson plants. Of course the dual union set-up in the industry plus the class collaborationist policies of the bureaucrats in both camps paves the way for and invites such union-smashing moves.

Though the corporation precipitated the April 21st strike at the Truck plant by disciplining Brother Kuhns for "insubordination", Kuhns returned to work with the rest of the workers the following Monday. He worked also on Tuesday. Then the corporation retaliated by laying off Kuhns and Ray Travnick, a white-button steward the corporation contended was responsible for the walk-out. They were laid off for ten days.

The workers were ready and anxious to walk out again, but delayed action until after taking a strike vote, for which a meeting of Local 140 was called the following evening, April 26. The reactionary influence of the International Executive Board of the U.A.W.-C.I.O. meeting in Toledo, Ohio at the time effectively put the brakes on any such move. It insisted that the strike was an outlaw one, due to the no-strike clause in the agreement. The agreement was due to expire April 30. But the International Board had its spokesmen in the Local break the news at the meeting that the old agreement had just been extended another sixty days. To mislead the workers they contended that a strike at the time would play into the hands of Martin's dual union.

REACTIONARY ROLE

Incidentally, the Monday following the Friday of the strike found Martin's men playing their reactionary role, denouncing the strike in leaflets in the identical language of the employers, blaming the strike on C.I.O. "stooges," etc. Martin who has a no-strike policy tried to make it appear that the U.A.W.-C.I.O. has a strike policy. If the U.A.W.-C.I.O. had a class struggle policy, that is, a policy different in substance from Martin's, it would have authorized a strike. It would have authorized the membership to go ahead with strike action at the time the corporation fired Clark Hutchinson, a Chief Shop Steward in the Dodge Forge plant, several weeks before, when the men went out on strike and the International ordered them back to work.

After the membership took that initial beating with the help of the International, it became easier for the International to help the Corporation put over the same thing again. And this is just what has happened. Only a few days after bulldozing of the union precipitated a strike at the Jefferson plant. This took place May 1, 1939. And, of course, again the reactionary influence of the International was decisive, as it kept

the struggle within the framework of class-collaboration factionalism. Frankenstein and Field, acting under the authority of the Stalinist controlled International Executive Board, "settled," that is, sold out the strikers. They were ordered back only to have their stewards and committeemen disciplined by the Corporation. Four white-button stewards and four chief shop stewards, one of them, Matthew Claive, Vice-President of Local 7, U.A.W.-C.I.O., were laid off for a two weeks period, charged with "insubordination."

But the Chrysler Corporation has been making inroads against the union in practically all of its plants. The most glaring incident of all, lately, was at Dodge Main where Brother M.E. Patrick, Chairman of the Plant Shop Committee was fired by the corporation's plant Labor Relations Director, Johnson, while sitting in a negotiations meeting with the rest of the committee.

Brother Patrick had tried to get Martin men wearing stewards' buttons to remove them. The U.A.W.-C.I.O. claims about 7,000 workers against about 5,000 for Martin out of a total of about 20,000 men in the plant. The corporation claimed this was a matter between rival unions, not a grievance against the corporation, and that Patrick had no right to do what he did on company time.

A meeting of the members of the U.A.W.-C.I.O., Dodge Main Local 3, decided yesterday that there were sufficient grievances to warrant taking a strike vote. A two thirds vote of the membership of the Local is necessary to carry a strike vote. It is unlikely, however, that a strike vote will be taken, if at all, until some time in September. The International Executive Board is negotiating with the Corporation over these grievances. And the men feel that with the Martin set-up as strong as it is in the plant, to strike now would be to play into the hands of Martin and the corporation.

Once again we see that the factional split aids only the employers and the bureaucratic leadership.

AUTO WORKER

WORKERS PAY WITH LIVES FOR CAPITALIST NEGLIGENCE

CHICAGO, May 13.- The ninth grain elevator fire in Chicago in 18 years broke out Thursday, May 11 in the Rosenbaum Brothers Grain Elevators at 102nd St. and the Calumet river. Five elevators were burned; the fire jumped the river. An estimated four million dollars' damage was done; 3,000,000 bushels of grain, mostly corn, were destroyed, enough to feed the entire city for one-half year.

The elevators were of wood with the exception of one which was concrete. This latter was the only large structure left standing. The streams of water from the fire hoses went up in steam before they reached the inferno. The fire burned itself out.

Eight workers lost their lives.

The property was insured.

The next day the price of wheat and corn rose several cents per bushel.

RELIEF CRISIS IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, May 12.- The relief budget for Illinois was cut 15% last February. Last week another 10% was lopped off. This is a total of 25% below the regular starvation level. A larger cut was temporarily postponed with a \$3,000,000 appropriation by the State legislature. But how long before the Chicago Relief Administration again declares it is "out of funds"?

About every six months the Relief Administration threatens to shut down relief stations and lay off hundreds of thousands of WPA workers. Then they "compromise" with a less serious measure by cutting the budgets. They prepare the unemployed to expect the worst so that they feel relieved with what they actually get.

These crises are all part of a carefully prepared strategy to systematically drive down the standard of living. The 15% cut in February was the first move; the laying off of aliens from WPA and direct relief, was the second move; the 10% cut last week was the third move.

Each time the standard of living is slashed a little more because each time, and particularly in Chicago, the Administration sees less opposition from the workers.

They feel the pulse of us "guinea pigs" with one hand while with the other they scrape the bones to be thrown to us. This is close to premeditated murder of the unemployed workers and their families. It is one of the few things which is really planned in capitalist society.

Charles Gyzinski and Joseph Jadlec, both Chicago WPA workers, committed suicide for fear of being laid off as aliens. They had had enough of this slow starvation. But this was only one of the New Deal tactics for "economizing". There will be others, and then more suicides - unless the unemployed fight.

Some struggles are taking place here in Chicago. On WPA Project #2782 the Administration was using 8 non-union truck drivers. The Excavating Teamsters, Truck Drivers and Chauffeurs Union Local 731 called off the 22 union drivers and tied up the work on the project. The Administration thought to break the strike by laying off the entire project "until further notice." They finally made a settlement with the union. 1,100 WPA painters are on strike for better conditions.

As the WPA increases speed-up and encourages scabbing, more and more of these struggles will inevitably take place.

What is needed is a broad struggle of workers on WPA and direct relief to show the starvation-administration the working class will not starve to death.

WPA WORKER

EXTRA! EXTRA! Nine judges of N.Y. General Sessions reject voluntary pay cut of 10% in annual salary of \$25,000. - New York Times.

LETTER FROM FRANCE

REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT LIVES IN DALADIER'S PRISON CAMPS

While in the Provincial Prison at Cuenca in the spring of 1938, I was fortunate enough to meet three leading anarchist comrades of Valencia. They had all been leaders of the Iron Column, one of the finest most revolutionary militia formations that Spain's struggle produced. The Iron Column always fought on two fronts, against Franco's armies and against the Peoples Frontists in the rear. In defiance of the collaborationist policies of the anarcho-syndicalist leadership, the Iron Column on numerous occasions sent armed detachments from the front to intervene in conflicts between revolutionary toilers and the forces of counter-revolution in the rear. The three comrades had been imprisoned and sentenced to thirty years by a Stalinist-controlled court for refusing to lead their column into a death trap during the fighting on the Teruel front. Having feared them dead, the reader can understand my emotions upon receiving the following letter.

Russell Negrete Blackwell.

* * *

Dear comrade Negrete:

Greetings to you, in liberty!

When we separated more than a year ago, we to be taken to the front, and you remaining in that filthy little Cuenca prison, we agreed that as soon as we were able to get out of Spain, we should write you so as to reestablish the relations that had begun under such unfortunate circumstances

We write you today in no better conditions than those in which we first met. Our present domicile is the vast beach of Argeles-sur-Mer, at the foot of the Pyrenees, in sight of Spain.

We live as did our ancestors - in miserable huts and shacks surrounded by a high barbed wire fence and closely guarded by Senegalese troops. We await the solution of our problem, without knowing yet what it will be...

From the prison at Cuenca, we were taken in April of '38, to the XIII Disciplinary Combat Battalion with which we remained for exactly eleven months. It would be an endless task to attempt to relate our life and experience during those months. Suffice it to say that aside from the usual dangers of the front, aside from the dangers incidental to war itself, which we risked as much as anyone else, our lives on several occasions hung by a thread. Sometimes by force, other times by cunning, we were able to come through it alive, we have at last been able to emerge, safe and in good health from the conflict that has just ended.

Early in March taking advantage of the disorder created by the formation of the Council of Defense, we were able to escape and reach Valencia. We embarked on the 22nd in a British ship bound for Marseille where we arrived after an anxious crossing on the afternoon of the 25th.

From Marseille we were brought by the gendarmes to this concentration camp which is a choice contribution to our welfare, tendered by democratic France. Here we await the future...

What one might tell about the political and social developments in Spain, down to the final crack-up! It was disaster after disaster. Our country was like a magnificent stage of history on which anything might have taken place, a stage offering infinite possibilities.

The revolutionary tendencies had in their hands, absolute dominion of the free zone of Spain, and allowed the leadership and the orientation of the struggle to be torn from them bit by bit.

MAY BETRAYAL

Following the Barcelona May, which - as we agree - was betrayed by the revolutionists themselves, everything went from bad to worse. The bourgeoisie with its faithful allies, the Stalinist communists, all united under the "ogre" Negrin, built up and tore down at will.

Everyone else had to keep quiet, then when the military situation became impossible for them to handle, they called on the others for aid - but without making even the slightest concession. And the Libertarian forces - the truly revolutionary forces of Spain - repeatedly fell into the trap.

Neither the 13 points, nor the reopening of the churches, nor the repressions, were of any practical value. Russia has turned out to be a very bad counsellor. At the end, with the loss of Catalonia and all possibilities of continuing the military struggle, it was decided to displace Negrin and the Stalinists from power, even this was not done with an eye to seeking a way out in accordance with revolutionary dignity, but with hopes for a settlement through surrender to fascism. And even in this miserable objective, they failed...

The attempt to evacuate the militants of the so-called Central-Southern zone, has been a disaster - a great many of the comrades have been unable to get away and have paid with their lives for the ineptitude of others. Once the fleet was lost, there was no longer any way to really organize the evacuation. Those who were able to get away only managed it with the greatest difficulties. In short it has been a tragedy.

Perspectives? Plans for the future? We have many, but we do not yet know the solution to the first immediate problem, to get out of our present situation so as to work more freely. Here it is hoped that Mexico will take us in and this illusion tides us over. There are not very many individual solutions for getting out of the concentration camps.

Whatever the outcome may be, we are still young and our spirit is still firm. Pessimism cannot, must not, get us down. We must persevere - and march forward! ...We await news of you. Receive the revolutionary greetings of,

April 13, 1939.

S.....
C.....
R.....

IS HITLER DESTROYING GERMAN CAPITALISM?

The following figures give in millions of marks the profits of several armament firms in Germany in 1937 and 1938:

	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>
Acieries Reunies (United Steel)	198.4	222.1
Krupp	339.5	352.2
Deutsche Bank	144.1	157.
Dreadner Bank	94.7	101.4

On the other hand, the Frankfurter Metall-Gesellschaft has increased its profits 11 millions; Siemens-Schukert has raised its dividend from 7 to 8%. The A.E.G. has increased its dividend from 4 to 6%.

The National Zeitung of Essen writes as follows on this matter: "Whoever is familiar with finances will certainly know that it is national socialism alone that by its friendly political attitude has established the foundations for this successful situation."

HITLER DESTROYS THE MIDDLE CLASS

Hitler proclaimed himself the defender of the middle class against the threat of communism. He claimed that he would bring about the rebirth of the artisan class. Petty bourgeoisie and artisans voted for him.

Hitler has defended them so well that they are on the verge of passing out of existence. According to the review Bauwelt, 104,000 small owners and artisans have been forced to close their establishments in 1938 and go to work as ordinary workers in the factories.

On the other hand, 20,000 shops have been abolished and according to the Frankfurter Zeitung 25,000 shops will be closed in 1939. Furthermore, the editor of the Deutscher Volkswert demands that the small enterprises which have an insufficient income should be abolished. In this way 350,000 new workers will be put into circulation.

Concentration of Capital

According to statistics just published by the Bank-Archiv, 210 private banks were closed or liquidated in 1938.

There are at present only 520 banks in Germany (Austria and the Sudeten included), while in 1932 before the advent of Hitler, there were 1,350 in the old Germany of the Versailles Treaty. Before the war there were 1,800. Fascism, then, has only hastened the evolution of capitalism.

Depopulation of the Countryside

Another point of the Nazi program: the return to the land. But Darre, minister of agriculture, states that from 700,000 to 800,000 people have left the country to find work in the city. Since 1933 Wurtemberg has lost 44.5% of its agricultural workers. - LIBERATION, April 6, 1939.

LIBERATION is the organ of Jeunes Equipes Unies Pour Une Nouvelle Economie Sociale, a group of French radical technicians who see the solution of the world's ills in reorganizing economy on the basis of satisfying human needs. But they do not accept Marxism.

SHOP TALK

NEW YORK, May 4.- The other morning when I punched my time card I read a notice from my boss telling me that my wages would be cut ten percent. My boss added that he was sorry to do this, but he had to reduce the price of his product or lose the business. During lunch a couple of the fellows got together to talk it over.

Now the item we make is composed of brass, aluminum and steel. Why couldn't the boss first try to buy the metals cheaper, I wondered. On second thought, I guessed it's easier to cut the workers' wages so I kept still. "He got a cheaper price for the metal," said one worker, "so he also gave us a cheaper price for our work." "But he didn't ask us how it stood with us," he continued indignantly.

"Compared to the metal we're treated worse," joined in the machinist. "When the slow season comes he keeps the metal in the warehouse for which he pays rent, and even hires a watchman to protect it. But we workers get laid off and he doesn't have to pay for our rent." "And our pork and beans," someone added.

"Our labor is the same as pork and beans," I said. "When there is too much pork and beans the price goes down and when there is too many workers for one job the wage goes down too. Our labor is a commodity. We have to sell it in the labor market. And the boss is out to buy our labor as cheap as possible. He buys our labor-power, but because we're human beings and he is the boss he doesn't have to bargain with us, 'unless we make him.'"

D.W.

GENERAL MOTORS ORGANIZED IN BOMBAY

The Congress Socialist, published by the Congress Socialist Party in Bombay, India, reports in its April 9th issue that General Motors was recently organized in Bombay.

The General Motors Workers Union is the most recently formed union in the city. It has a membership of over 300 out of a possible membership of 700. The feature of this union is its very cosmopolitan composition embracing Anglo-Indians, Christians, Parsis and Hindus.

Let us hope that the General Motors workers in India will draw the lesson of the fight in the UAW in the United States and throw out their own Homer Martins and John L. Lewises the minute these capitalist leeches show their faces.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

PRESS LORDS DEDICATE STATUE TO NAKED TRUTH
WORLD FAIR HEAD WISHES THEM CASH DIVIDENDS

The first session of the fifty-third annual convention of the American Newspaper Publishers Association was held in New York City on April 25 at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, after which the publishers went by special bus under police escort to the World's Fair grounds where they attended the dedication of a Freedom of the Press statue, one of the four statues dedicated to free speech, free press, free assembly, free worship.

The New York Times said on April 26:

The Freedom of the Press statue...is a nude figure of a woman, to denote the "unadorned truth..."

The statue was dedicated by James G. Stahlman, President of the ANPA. Mr. Stahlman is also the publisher of the Nashville, Tennessee Banner. In his Lords of the Press Gilbert Seldes says of Stahlman:

The Nashville Banner locked out its employees in 1929 and imported a gang of strike-breakers. The management refused to hire composing room workers without first checking their pasts for evidence of pro-union tendencies. Union men had no chance. This condition prevailed up to August, 1937 when the Newspaper Guild made an investigation...The Guild...charges the Banner with serving "as an informal clearing house for strike-breaking type-setters." Two documents support the charge. First there is the Banner letter (photostats have been published, according to Seldes) which contains the statement: "Naturally the thing we wish to avoid is the placing of workers with union sympathies..." The second is the signed statement of the president of the Nashville Typographical Union, Robert Cuthbert, who describes the lockout of the composing room of the Nashville Banner....

"The only alleged reason for that act was that, after the paper's contractual relations extending over a period of forty years or more, Mr. Stahlman posted a notice in the composing room would be at a rate of twelve cents per thousand ems - an arbitrary figure...with no provisions for any method of determining details of such a practice.

"At the moment the notice was posted Mr. Stahlman had quartered in a local hotel nearby a large number of professional strike-breakers obtained through arrangement with the H.W. Flagg Agency...Mr. Stahlman has declared consistently that he never would employ members of the Typographical Union in the composing room of the Banner...Aside from his own paper's anti-labor attitude, Mr. Stahlman sponsors and foments every effort possible against any organization of labor...

"Stahlman," said the Guild Reporter, "is a close crony of J.F.W. Brown, vice-president of the Tennessee Electric Power Company. These two men and John J. Edgerton, formerly president of the National Association of Manufacturers, and still a power in it, figure together in many local and state activities. Stahlman's paper constantly reflects the close identity of interest with the big power, utility and manufacturing concerns...."

Stahlman, Banker Brown and Tycoon Edgerton form a powerful group on the board of trustees of Vanderbilt University where they are charged with reactionary militancy against all attempts at liberalism by the faculty. They have been accused of proposing the dismissals of professors and even the abolition of certain liberal departments.

The other press lords in the ANPA which dedicated this statue to the "unadorned truth" are of the same kidney as their president, Stahlman. They are all big capitalists. "It takes a million to start a newspaper nowadays," says Seldes who also says that the New York Times recently rejected an offer by Henry Luce who publishes the weekly, Time, of \$40,000,000.

From the same source we learn that Chandler, owner of the Los Angeles Times, according to the conservative weekly, Time, (July 15, 1935):

.....'launched a syndicate which bought up 862,000 acres in Lower California. He and his associates built Hollywood; founded a vast agricultural colony at Calexico which produced \$18,000,000 worth of cotton in 1919. He owns a 281,000 acre ranch in Los Angeles and Kern Counties stocked with fine cattle, a 340,000 acre hunting preserve in New Mexico, is officer or director in thirty five California corporations, including oil, shipping, banking'....Throughout the valleys where Chandler and his associates own and control California crops there is terrorism..."

HEARST

Hearst's communication system of newspapers, magazines, newsreels and radio broadcasts reaches more than 30,000,000 people. Hearst is the "ruler of a \$220,000,000 domain," says Seldes.

Of the New York Herald Tribune Seldes says:

My main contention of course is that the Herald Tribune is a class newspaper, that it is the organ of a small powerful, and rich minority....The Herald Tribune openly serves money, wealth, power and the interests Henry George first called "vested".... It is the organ of the ruling class....Several years ago I mentioned the will of the late Mrs. Whitelaw Reid leaving the owners of the present Herald Tribune more than \$16,000,000 in stocks and bonds, and I remarked that "every move the American government made toward intervention in Cuba and Mexico affected Whitelaw Reid's and Mrs. Reid's Mexican and Cuban investments..."

In the National Biscuit Company Strike of 1935 there was very little newspaper publicity. "The National Biscuit Company is a big advertiser..."

When one of the trucks was overturned because it was manned by scabs the Herald Tribune was silent despite its anti-labor policy.

...the strikers and the liberal press explained it by the fact that Odgen L. Mills, director of the biscuit company, was a relative of the Reids and a holder of Herald Tribune stock. But apparently no one knew at the time that the \$16,000,000 Reid portfolio of stocks and bonds had as its biggest item 84,250 shares of Biscuit common; then worth \$5,971,218....The Reid portfolio also contained 11,995 shares of Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad shares worth two million dollars....Great public utilities...are represented by such items as American Power and Light (897 shares), Commonwealth Edison (2,120 shares), Consolidated Gas of N.Y. (1,000), Pacific Northwest Public Service Co.(2,465). There were 4,448 shares of New York Central then worth half a million dollars and many million dollars' worth in western railroads. Then there were Cuban and Mexican bonds, oil and mining concessions, and 8,300 shares of Cerro de Pasco copper.

The estate had been valued at \$34,518,119, but from 1918 to 1929 Mrs. Whitelaw Reid had been giving her son and daughter securities & properties of almost equal value to that left in the will. At any rate it is obvious that the same persons who owned the Herald Tribune were also owners of some \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000 or more of stocks and bonds in American utilities, railroads and other forms of big business and in Mexican and Cuban properties.

The annual advertising budget of the newspapers in the United States is one and a half to two billion dollars. Profits run into hundreds of thousands of dollars, in exceptional cases, into millions. "Property," says Seldes, "is the program of the ANPA."

Freedom of the press is, for the ANPA, as it must be for all capitalists, freedom to defend their property and the rights which go with property - in the case of the newspaper owners, to decide editorial and news policy against the demands of labor for better wages and conditions and its protests against the dirty, lying propoganda of the capitalist newspaper owners.

LENIN'S THESIS

In March, 1919, twenty years ago, Lenin submitted a thesis to the First Congress of the Communist International in which he summed up the whole question of the freedom of the press as well as it can be done:

Capitalists have always explained the word "freedom" as freedom of profits for the rich and freedom of starvation for the poor. Capitalists explain "Freedom of the Press" as freedom of bribery by the rich, the freedom for employing wealth to fabricate and falsify so-called public opinion...The worker knows...that this freedom is sheer fraud so long as the best printing presses and big stores of paper are in the hands of the capitalists, and so long as the power which capital has over the press remains, which is so plain and clear all over the world, so cynically interwoven with democratic and republican regimes, as, for example, in America..."

That is why Stahlman could say with conviction: "Let us, therefore, be alert to defend and certain to preserve all of the constitutionally guaranteed freedoms...."

On the committee which sponsored the statue for the ANPA were : Chandler of the Los Angeles Times, Sulzberger of the New York Times, Ogden Reid of the New York Herald Tribune, William Randolph Hearst of the New York Journal-American, Colonel Robert R. McCormick of the Chicago Tribune, and many others who have proved by many words and actions that they are pillars of capitalist exploitation which is driving the world to barbarism.

Grover Whalen, president of the Fair Corporation and former head of the John Wanamaker Department Store, struck the right note in his address to the assembled publishers, which was read for him:

When the world, later on, returns to you its gratitude for your collaboration in bringing true progress and greater harmony to the world I hope that gratitude takes the form of cash dividends.

Cash dividends! That is the capitalist measure of gratitude! It is also the capitalist measure of freedom. Freedom is freedom to make cash dividends.

The bourgeoisie, says the Communist Manifesto,...has pitilessly torn asunder the motley feudal ties that bound man to his "natural superiors," and has left remaining no other nexus between man and man than naked self-interest, than callous "cash payment."

The New York Times account did not quote any of the publishers as saying that the naked woman was holding a brass check.

* * *

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS - REVOLUTIONARY STYLE

Germany, November, 1918. The monarchy is overthrown. The sailors of the fleet have slung their rifles across their backs, muzzles down. The Spartacists, led by Liebknecht, Luxemburg, Jogisches have organized a general strike in Berlin. The workers are marching in the footsteps of their Russian brothers. Crowds sweep through Berlin's streets.

"Liebknecht speaks:

Comrades...The Red Flag is floating over Berlin....The Berlin workers have not led the way in the German Revolution, but it is left for them to make it a Communist Revolution....The civil and military power, the factories, the banks, the transport combines, must be taken over by the workers.

"Professor Hermann Duncker...a member of the Spartacist group is outside Wertheim's store awaiting his wife who has gone to inquire by telephone the whereabouts of...Jogisches who was in prison. A procession passes.... An old friend...editor of various workers' journals...comes toward Duncker...the two men embrace...Duncker...marches off...he is standing in a motor lorry...surrounded by a group of armed soldiers. The lorry sets off down Leipzigerstrasse, past Donhoffplatz. A little farther on the lorry stops in front of the main entrance to the Berliner Lokalanzeiger, which is besieged by a crowd of people.

"Down with the jingos!" the mob is shouting.

"Down with the lying newspapers!"

"All newspapers belong to the people!" explains Duncker, the professor.

"Let's go in then, and take them over," suggests his soldier friend.

"Sure," agrees another, as he fixes his bayonet.

"They jump out of the lorry, and push their way through the crowd - Duncker, his friend, three soldiers and a sailor. The liveried porter turns the revolving door and they enter the building. One of the departmental chiefs comes down the stairs: 'This way, gentlemen, please - the directors are expecting you.'

"The six men enter the conference room.

"The directors and editors of the paper are seated at a round table. They turn hopefully to the unarmed man with the bald head and academic air for an explanation. But Duncker, accustomed as he is to delivering long harangues upon the capitalist exploitation of the people and the servile part played by the bourgeois Press in the process, does not waste any words on these people. In a single sentence he presents the revolution's requirements to the capitalist press:

LEAF TURNS

"Gentlemen, the leaf has turned - yours must do the same."

"The epigram suffices to make the situation clear:

"The editorial board of the Lokalanzeiger listens anxiously to the shouts of the crowd...they...look from one to another and then at the long-legged doctor who has nothing more helpful to tell them than this atrocious joke.

"At last one breaks the silence. Then the rest find their tongues, all most polite and accomodating:

"I expect you are right, sir."

"Things cannot go on as before."

"Of course, we shall fall into line."

"Good, then we shall take over at once. Where is the composing room?'"... A short speech - the workers declare themselves in agreement with the change in editorship. The soldiers retire and post themselves at the entrance below. Duncker and his friend set to work...They take off their coats, bend over the already finished matrix of the evening edition... and indicate the parts which must be removed and replaced by reports of the revolution.

"Duncker prepares the text for a pamphlet explaining the general situation, and a second for a small handbill announcing a mass meeting at the Busch Circus."

Quoted from The Kaiser Goes: The Generals Remain, by Theodor Plivier, former member of the Communist Party of Germany.

MAY DAY, CHICAGO, 1939

CHICAGO, May 3.- In this city, which is generally regarded as the birthplace of the International May Day, a parade was held on April 30, billed in the Labor Press as the official May Day celebration. The estimated number of marchers was upwards of 50,000 although the Chicago Tribune stated "only a few thousands" participated, and the Stalinist Daily Record estimated the crowd at 75,000 (they must have included half of the city's lampposts).

The parade wound up at Union Park where numerous speakers addressed the assembled workers. Passing the Hearst Building on the line of march, they roared out lusty boos in solidarity with the Hearst Guild Strikers. At the head of the parade were several American flags, a sound truck playing the Star Spangled Banner, and the local Stalinist officialdom. In this leading section sat the well-known Stalinist, Weber, of the Farm Equipment Workers Organizing Committee, who sent his sluggers to prevent the sale of REVOLT at the union hall on 1110 S. Oakley.

Picturesque floats of the Packinghouse Workers, International Harvester Workers and others added an artistic touch. On the whole, as the slogans showed, it was a demonstration of support for the New Deal.

The Stalinists were in control. They held a solid majority of the Committee which organized the parade. The Socialist Party boycotted the Committee meetings and the parade. They held a mass meeting on the night of May 1 at the Labor Lyceum.

Early in the morning of May 1, the day after the Stalinist-New Deal parade, mysterious explosions shook the entire neighborhood along two miles of Cicero Avenue way out on the West side. About 90 windows were broken by the blast. According to the Tribune, police and firemen "found no evidence that the explosions resulted from a May Day Plot." The blasts which injured several persons were finally blamed on gas, probably generated by fluids leaking in from cleaning stores or filling stations. As always, the attempt was made to link to the labor movement an explosion caused by vicious capitalist neglect of the proper safety precaution. Two days later another explosion occurred in a sewer under construction by the WPA on the South side. Two workers were burned. No workers' demonstration had been held in that area. There were no reports in the press of looking for evidence to connect the explosion with any labor activity.

FROM THE BULLETIN PUBLISHED IN PARIS BY THE COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE

"The following information was given to us by the former watchman of the cemetery of Fuenterrabia, a small town across from Hendaye, in Spain.

(invited back by Franco)

"As the refugees/crossed the International Bridge, they were filtered and separated into categories...The refugees whose names were included in 'special lists' were taken directly to the Fuenterrabia cemetery -- they were herded into small groups and massacred by machine guns...1,200 were put to death like this...most horrible was that those who were only wounded were thrown into the common grave with the dead...."

On March 30 Pope Pius XII sent his blessing to Franco. See REVOLT, April 29, 1939.

HAYMARKET COPS SPRY, LUCY PARSONS DESTITUTE

CHICAGO, May 2.- Some fifty years ago, four men, Spies, Engel, Parsons, and Fischer were among those accused of being responsible for the throwing of a bomb which resulted in the death of seven policemen and the wounding of 66 others at the Haymarket Square Riot. With four others they were brought to trial, sentenced to death and hanged. Lingg, one of the remaining four, committed suicide while awaiting trial. Neebe was sentenced to 15 years; the death sentences of two others were changed to life imprisonment.

The capitalist press still maintains that an anarchist threw the fatal bomb; anarchists deny it. Working class tradition has it that the incident was a police provocation, part of a carefully prepared plan to discredit and smash the young and powerful Chicago labor movement. The movement was temporarily halted with the beheading of its leadership, only to surge upwards again and again.

Two policemen, George Roycraft, 92 years old and Frank Tyrrell, 81 years old, are the lone police survivors of the Haymarket Riot. The Chicago Tribune reported on May 1, 1939, that they are "spry 53 years later." They themselves say, according to the newspaper, that they "are in the best of health." They have their police pension to live on.

BLIND PENSION

A month and a half ago a short paragraph appeared in the columns of the Chicago press stating that Mrs. Lucy Parsons, 81 year old widow of the Parsons hanged in 1887, was seeking a "blind pension." It stated that she was destitute, that she had married again, that her second husband was dead and she was left without any means of support.

The writer saw her about this time. It was at the Labor Lyceum, on the West Side, at a workers' meeting. The little old woman could hardly see. She was wrinkled and sickly looking. We exchanged a few words. She still has the fighting spirit she displayed in the struggle for the 8-hour day over 50 years ago, at the trial of her first husband and throughout the years.

Whether she received the blind pension I do not know. According to the Daily Record, Stalinist rag, she is now one of the "wards of the Prisoners Relief Fund Of the International Labor Defense."

Her destitution is a reproach to the labor movement which ought to come to her assistance.

J. Drake

EXPERT RECOMMENDS TIN CAN GARDENS

"Malnutrition in America is due more to ignorance than to lack of food," said Federal Expert, Miss Marjorie Heseltine, according to the New York Times of May 7. In order to eat better she recommended tin can gardens. In order to eat better we recommend tying a tin can to all the Heseltines and scrapping the capitalist system.

HOW LONG WILL LABOR WAIT?

With the situation of labor as a whole getting steadily worse, one wonders how much longer the demagogues can continue to lull the toiling masses to sleep. The distress of the workers becomes less bearable each day, despite the hopes created by the great strikes of 1937 and the millions in the C.I.O. The trouble is that the C.I.O. leadership has used the workers as pawns, emulating the A.F. of L. in corruption.

American workers have militant traditions in the early struggles against long hours of labor. In 1806-1820 against a working day of fourteen to twenty hours which tested the limit of human endurance. The strikes between the years of 1820-1830, the most conspicuous of which was the mechanics' strike in Philadelphia during 1827, which culminated in the organizing of thousands of militant workers, who sacrificed their all to bring about a ten hour day. The New York workers' strike, seven years later, against an eighteen to twenty hour day. The strike of the McCormack International Harvester Co. in 1884, with the premeditated "massacre" of workers in the so-called Haymarket Riot in 1886. The South Chicago "Memorial Day" fiendish slaughter of peaceful men, women and children in 1937.

REACTIONARY MR. GREEN

What can workers with such traditions expect from the red-baiting reactionary Mr. Green of the A.F. of L., whose policy is the same as that of the most vicious monopoly capitalist powers of the nation? What can be expected of collaborationist John L. Lewis, when he is working with the Roosevelt administration to strangle every movement of rebellious labor?

More glaring is the situation among the unemployed and WPA workers, whose condition becomes worse from day to day by constant slow starvation. The Workers Alliance of America is a liability instead of an asset to the unemployed. Roosevelt's stooges, David Lasser, and Herbert Benjamin of the Communist Party, who manage to hold themselves in office by all means from the mildest trickery to intimidation and outright strong arm tactics, maintain a powerful, national, bureaucratic, mechanical control over the organization, to see that no obstacles will be placed in the path of Roosevelt's so-called recovery program, which only perpetuates a condition that is hastening the unemployed and WPA workers to their graves.

It is plain enough to see that all these paid agents of the bosses are trying their utmost to bring about an employee-employer peaceful relationship, which can ultimately wipe organized labor off the map. Freedom of action on the part of the worker is as essential for his well-being as food, clothing and shelter. It is imperative that the toiling masses of the nation put up a determined fight against leaders who sacrifice the liberty of thought and action of the bread-earners for their own comfort and purposes.

How much longer will American labor endure sell-outs by these faking scoundrels before there will be a national upheaval? A good number of people will not be fooled for long, despite the disinclination of many of us workers to read such scientific works as Wage-Labor and Capital, Value, Price and Profit, Socialism, Utopian and Scientific, and the absorbing volumes of Capital. Neither will the laboring masses generally

take the time and patience to study political economy for the next twenty five years.

The workers, consciously or unconsciously, are going to work for the overthrow of this fast-decaying capitalist system of exploitation, and are not going to wait to be delivered, tied hand and foot, by the highly paid agents of the bosses to the Fascist forces.

The non-existence of a revolutionary party in the United States, makes it imperative on the part of all class conscious workers, to band themselves into a well advanced political revolutionary force, to be prepared to serve as a vanguard. Events in the past five years gives concrete proof that American labor moves fast, makes the immediate establishment of a revolutionary party most essential so it can expand into a broad force to be able to give guidance when the resentment of the broad masses will reach the point when it will be beyond restraint.

BEN PALIFERRO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

from the

W.P.A. and UNEMPLOYED WORKERS UNION
Meets every Friday at 2741 W. North
Chicago, Illinois

The following motion was carried at the WPA&UWU meeting of May 5, 1939:

Motion - The WPA and Unemployed Workers Union condemns the actions of the WPA administration in the strike on Project 2782 of April 27-May 5.

- 1) Having refused to settle immediately with the Excavating, Grading & Asphalt Teamsters & Chauffeurs Union Local 731 in regard to the 8 non-union truck drivers on Project 2782 by agreeing to employ only union drivers; and,
- 2) Laying off hundreds of men from Project 2782 because of lack of materials caused by the strike forced by WPA on the union - telling these men they were laid off "until further notice"; and,
- 3) Putting pressure on the material companies involved to attempt to break the strike by sending them letters telling them their contracts would be cancelled if they did not deliver; and,
- 4) Causing materials to be smuggled onto the project the night of May 3rd after the project was closed so that the union spotters could not warn the drivers not to help break the strike - this was an open strike-breaking act.

We supported the fight of the truck drivers against working with non-union men. The WPA & Unemployed Workers Union works to organize the WPA workers so strongly that WPA cannot carry out such strike-breaking activities.

We send copies of this motion to Local 731, WPA Labor Relations Head Mr. Dougherty, Mayor Kelly and the labor and general press.

CATHOLIC CHURCH HIERARCHY NO FOE OF FASCISM

The following are extracts from Social Questions Bulletin, published by the "Methodist Federation for Social Service (unofficial)", May, 1939. Stalinist influence seems to be strong in the Federation judging from the fact that Harry F. Ward is one of the Federation's Secretaries. And also from the line of argument in the Bulletin to the effect that, despite the facts adduced below, "The Church can be a strong force for democracy...", an argument which it bases on the "pro-democratic attitudes of such members of the Hierarchy as Cardinal Mundelein," and the idea that Pope Pius, "Though the head of a totalitarian organization, it is generally believed (he) understands democracy more intimately than any of his predecessors." To which it is only necessary to add that this same Pope has already sent his blessings to Franco.

* * *

IN THE UNITED STATES

That the Roman Catholic Church holds a strategic position in the United States as far as political matters are concerned is beyond denying. This is due not only to the control the Church is able to exert over its members but also to the power it exerts within the Democratic Party and its numerical strength in politically strategic states....

The editor of the Catholic World says, "I must confess my disappointment at the fact that some Catholic newspapers here in the United States gave little space or none to the Holy Father's three addresses on anti-Semitism...it is scandalous that Catholics in America have to learn from the secular press what the Pope has said on a matter of vital importance...." Such a situation is largely explained by the influence of Father Coughlin and Father Curran, who are quite obviously anti-Semitic and pro-fascist in their sympathies and utterances....The fact that Father Coughlin has become a hero in Germany is most embarrassing to the liberal wing of the Church....

The Institute of Public Opinion shows that sympathy among Catholics was fairly evenly divided, and the editor of the Catholic Worker claimed that at least 75% of American Catholics were opposed to General Franco. She states that it was just the capitalist element within the Church that supported General Franco. Yet the Catholic press was almost 100% pro-Franco....Catholic Action, official organ of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, was pro-Franco, and the Catholic press is largely coordinated by the press department of the NCWC, which is headed by Father Coughlin's immediate superior....

IN ITALY

...Pius XI...a few weeks before the Ethiopian invasion prayed concerning war as "a crime so enormous, a manifestation of savagery so insane that we would consider it quite impossible" petitioning God to "Scatter the nations that seek war," only to permit 103 Italian cardinals, archbishops and bishops to make declarations in favor of Mussolini's war policy, and further to express his own joy over "The triumphal gladness of a whole good and great people" after the subjection of Ethiopia.

There is no basis for assuming insincerity. The alternative is that the Pope is still a prisoner, subject to the political power of the fascist state....

IN GERMANY

...from the beginning the Catholic Church has sought friendly relations with Hitler. It was only luke warm to the Weimar Constitution, but greeted Hitler as an ally against a common foe - communism. Episcopal letters speak of "unser Führer" rather than "der Führer,"...Catholics are persecuted, priests are charged with crimes, churches are damaged, and even cardinals attacked. Yet not once has the Church attacked the form of government, or political policies of Hitler. The Bishops even wired Hitler consent to his Czechoslovakian policy....

IN SPAIN

...the majority of the Spanish Hierarchy followed the land-owning class and the army....The factor that probably comes closer to explaining the sympathy and support of the majority of the Spanish Hierarchy is that Franco promised to reestablish the Church as the state church, with power over education and protection of land holdings....

ITSELF TOTALITARIAN

The Church itself is a totalitarian organization. It shares with fascism the belief that communism is its worst enemy. Both deny the class struggle and preach harmony among the classes. Both reject the idea of a classless society. Both favor a state system under strong authoritarian leadership, the Church leaning toward the type seen in Austria under Dollfuss, or in Portugal. Both commend and strive for a state organization along vocational lines in which conditions of labor are fixed by law and strikes and lockouts are prohibited. Hitler proclaims his ideal in Mein Kampf and the Roman Catholic position is fully stated in Quadragesimo Anno....

RACE DISCRIMINATION IN SEATTLE

...We attended a city council hearing on Tuesday at which a "realtor" asked the city to enter into a contract regarding a real estate development in Carleton Park which included a discrimination clause. We are glad to report that the council turned it down in short order. Mr. Fraser, a Negro, in speaking against the contract, said that discrimination was getting so bad that it was almost impossible for the Negroes to buy a home or to get a loan with which to buy. Mr. Bishop, the real estate agent made the startling assertion that the Federal Housing Administration had asked for the discriminatory clause. Councilman De Lacy said that that was not true, but that the Federal Agency had approved it.

Quoted from the New Religious Frontier, May 4, 1939.

READ: What Is the Foreign Policy of the Stalinist Government?, The Price We Pay, and Arriba Espana! in the forthcoming issue of REVOLT.

IN THE RICHEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

Bravo for the rubric, In the Richest Country in the World- Dhermont, In charge of International Connections of the J.E.U.N.E.S. See note bottom p. 12.

"The American Way" is not just a rhetorical phrase. It has deep and significant implications. - Harry Hopkins.

Roosevelt relief budget for fiscal year, 1939-40 asks for cut of one-third from 1938-39. One million to be thrown off WPA.

Ousted from WPA Rolls, Alien Hangs Self in Home

Joseph Jadlec, a Czecho-Slovakian lost his job when aliens were ordered removed from WPA rolls. Yesterday he hanged himself in his home at 1711 South Laflin Street. He was 57 years old. His wife, Barbara, found the body. - Chicago Tribune, May 8.

The Nicholas F. Brady house, Inisfada, on Long Island, contains eighty-seven rooms, ... Its cost was \$3,000,000, and it contains a great hall eighty feet long and fifty feet high, ... a dining room in which fifteen hundred guests have been served at once, chambers for forty-five over-night guests ... a private chapel where masses may be said by special dispensation of the Pope ... and a house telephone switchboard with eighty-seven extensions ... The vast kitchen contains thirty feet of stoves and a special butcher room that will accomodate entire beeves, boars, stags, and a wide variety of game. A wine cellar "stretches endlessly" under the lawn ... Only twenty five servants were required to operate this place, which was recently given to a Catholic order. - Ferdinand Lundberg, America's Sixty Families.

Rule Mother of 4 Must Find Job

Immigration officials, who had delayed action several times through pity, today announced that unless Mrs. Mary A. MacKinnon, widow ... obtains employment in two weeks she will be deported and have to leave her four children behind. The children, American born, range in age from 3 to 13 and cannot be accepted by Canada for fear they might become public charges ... Her husband died in 1937. She and the children have been on welfare since. - Detroit Times, May 4.

While other peoples are learning to use gas masks and bomb-proof shelters, we are improving the lot of the underprivileged, eliminating illiteracy, opening up opportunities for work and play. - Harry Hopkins.

COMRADE MANUILSKY EXPLAINS THINGS

There was in session, recently, in Moscow, the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. That there was no real discussion of any kind was to be expected and deserves a mere marginal note. There were a number of speeches, and, connected with them, resolutions which were unanimously adopted. Then, the Congress was over.

Here are a few verbatim quotations from the official report on the Congress, as printed in the Deutsche Zeitung, a Moscow German paper, March 21, 1939:

The Russian people, utterly devoted to the party of Lenin-Stalin and the great leader, accept the program for the grandiose projects, drafted in the most exalted document of the epoch in the report of Comrade Stalin, in order to zealously bring it to completion.

Our Bolshevik party..., under the gifted leadership of the great Stalin, enters upon a new phase in the development of our country.

And so forth.

STALINIST MANIA

The Stalinist mania of never being wrong and always winning victories brings about grotesque contradictions. Manuïlski, for instance, gave a long speech on the international situation and the role of the Communist party in the whole world. We do not wish to prove here how much Manuïlski's assertions are lacking in truth, to what high degree they run counter to actuality. That would be beyond the limits of an article of this kind, and, furthermore, it might become boring, since too many matters, already known to the reader, would have to be repeated. But here is just a single little sample of the truth and the logic contained in Manuïlski's speech. Everyone can be his commentator in this matter.

Manuïlski said the following about the work of the illegal Communist party in Germany:

The Communists keep on working in the industrial plants. Thanks to the active work of the Communists the Fascists could gain no influence in the factories and industrial plants of either Germany or Italy.

Sixty-four lines later the same official report (page 14, Deutsche Zeitung, No. 52) sets down the following words of Manuïlski's:

The great feebleness of the Communist Party of Italy must be noted. During the long years of the existence of the Fascist dictatorship it (the C.P.) has not known how to forge a strong illegal organization nor how to develop serious work within the Fascist trade unions, or other Fascist mass-organizations, nor how to tear important layers of the growing young generation away from the influence of Fascism.

The report does not contain the slightest indication that some printer's apprentice, or some student of logic, present by chance, had called Comrade Manuilski's attention to the fact that here was some sort of contradiction to what he had said three minutes ago about the active work of the Italian Communists which prevented the Fascists from gaining any influence in the factories and industrial plants. The report of the Deutsche Zeitung about Manuilski's speech merely closes with the following sentence, which reads like the direction for stage dummies:

Phrenetic applause! All rise from their seats. Cries of "Hurrah!" "Long live the great leader of world communism, Comrade Stalin!"

JULIUS EPSTEIN

* * *

This article was submitted for publication in REVOLT by the author who is not a member of the Revolutionary Workers League. It is the policy of the League to make REVOLT available to workers who are looking for a medium to expose the oppression and misery of the capitalist system and the dirty work of its agents in labor's ranks. The author says of himself:

Until 1933, I lived in Germany as an independent journalist. 1933 I emigrated to Prague where I continued in my profession. I was active as correspondent for several left papers in Switzerland and Holland, at the same time free-lancing for numerous left, anti-fascist publications. Among them were: Die Wahrheit, Prague; Sozialistische Warte, Paris; Das Neue Tagebuch, Paris, etc. I also wrote several books and pamphlets, some of which appeared before, some after 1933; among them were:

Das Schicksal der Akkumulation in Deutschland, oder der Irrsinn der Autarkie (The Fate of Accumulation in Germany, or the Lunacy of Autarchy); Quellen des Anarchismus (Sources of Anarchism); Die gelbe Franke; Japan an der Schwelle der WeltHerrschaft (The Yellow Claw; Japan at the Threshold of World Rule).

FIT FOR A KING

EL CENTRO, Calif., May 7-(U.P.)- Three hundred choice cantaloupes, costing more than \$2 each, were en route to Montreal today by air express to whet the royal appetites of King George and Queen Elizabeth.

65 Slain as Indian Police Open Fire on Rioting Mob

BOMBAY, April 29.- About sixty-five persons were killed yesterday in Gangpur, a small native state in eastern India, when police fired on a mob of rioting natives. - Chicago Tribune.

J O I N T H E L E A G U E

LEAGUE, C.R.L.A. ADOPT PROGRAM OF JOINT ACTION

At a joint meeting of the New York unit of the League and the members of the Committee for Revolutionary Labor Action, a group of young revolutionary workers in New York City, on May 13, a program of joint action and discussion of political problems was adopted. The perspective of this work and discussion, as agreed to on both sides, is unification of the C.R.L.A. comrades with the League. The political basis for this joint action is established in the letters which are published below. The position of the C.R.L.A. comrades on the Russian question is being elaborated by them. On its receipt the question will be discussed; and the discussion and the result will be reported in REVOLT. With the idea that REVOLT can be improved we heartily agree.

* * *

Committee for Revolutionary Labor Action

May 4, 1939

Dear comrade Spencer:

Our New York unit has informed us of several informal meetings between members of your group and comrades of our New York unit. From these reports we gather that there is general political agreement between your group and ours.

In view of the urgent need of building the vanguard party to meet the life and death questions of the coming period we are anxious to do everything that we can to unify the revolutionary ranks. If there is fundamental agreement on the central questions of revolutionary perspective and strategy, we think that those who so agree should join together to build a party.

If we are correct in our understanding that such an agreement exists between us, we think that, from both sides, recognition of this fact should be taken and we should proceed to discuss the concrete steps of getting together. If this is acceptable to you, will you please notify us to that effect as soon as you can so that we may proceed without unnecessary delay? If we are not correct, if there are obstacles which you see or points which you think need clarification through discussion, will you please let us know what they are so that we may do what we can to eliminate obstacles to our getting together.

For the Central Committee Bureau
Comradely
T. Stamm

Dear comrade Stamm,

May 7, 1939

The nature of the meetings, that were held between the New York unit of the R.W.L. and the comrades of the C.R.L.A., pertained not only to the points of general political agreement, but also to several obstacles. Of course, and especially in these times, clarification is always in order.

The points of agreement are as follows:

- (1) We are in agreement with the position of the R.W.L. as advocated and practised in the trade union movement.
- (2) We are in agreement with the general, simple mass action approach as expressed in Revolt! We think, however, that there is a great deal of room for improvement. We shant go into all the suggestions for improvement now, but, we are enclosing, as an example a copy of a leaflet which we distributed on May Day.
- (3) We are in agreement with all your theoretical analysis (as far as we know them at present) which deal with the U.S.
- (4) We are in general agreement with your war position, excluding, however, your application of it to the Russian Question.

The following are the points of disagreement:

- (1) We hold that Russia is not a workers State. The workers have no political power and thereby no economic power. We deny that Stalin will work for the defeat of the "Soviet Union". We hold that Stalin has already defeated the SOVIET UNION. In our minimum program for Russia we stand opposed to the issuance of the slogan: Defend the Soviet Union; we believe this slogan is meaningless. We stand opposed to sending material aid to Stalinist Russia and in the coming war we will support all revolutionary strikes for seamen, etc. against sending arms, etc. to Russia. We hold that the Russian question is a split question only if, after its lessons are interpreted in terms of American life, we find a principal disagreement for action in America. For that reason we insist on our minimum position among which are also the slogans: For the Reconstitution of Soviets in Russia; For Workers Democracy in Russia; For the Building of a New Marxist Party in Russia.

Several other disagreements are less important. We will take them up in our discussions.

As soon as the obstacles are overcome and our minimum program for Russia is agreed upon we will enter into joint activity which we hope will culminate in our being in one organization.

For the C.R.L.A.
Comradely,
William Spencer

W O R K E R S B E W A R E !

Talk, words, empty phrases about "democracy", "freedom", "progress", etc. --WORDS enough to cover a mountain, but ACTION not enough to remove an ant-hill! What has been accomplished? What have the bosses and their government done to solve the problem of the 13 MILLION UNEMPLOYED, while magnificent machinery gathers rust from disuse? What have they done to adequately feed and clothe so many millions, while MILK IS SPILT, WHEAT BURNT, AND COTTON PLOUGHED UNDER - all in order to insure the bosses' profits? What have they done to stop the PERSECUTION AND LYNCHING OF THE NEGROES? For whose "democracy" do the machine guns in the Ford factory grounds speak - or the Girdler's TEAR GAS AND ARMED VIGILANTES? What is their answer? WAGE-CUTS, RELIEF SLASHES - words, words, "democracy", words, words, "progress", more words and "prosperity", etc.

- ON GUARD WORKERS! - BE CAREFUL! Now, in the name of those same hypocritical phrases - the bosses intend to plunge us into the new world WAR for markets and bigger profits. THE WORKERS FIGHT AND THE BOSSES WIN! While they prepare to divide and slaughter us in a new war, we must clench our

fists and raise our voices in solidarity with our working class brothers and sisters of all colors and nations of our planet. That's the meaning of MAY DAY.

Let them hear that in the coming world blood-bath, when the German, Italian and Spanish workers arise and revolt against the Hitlers, the Mussolinis and Francos, we will be with them in the fight against fascism, capitalism and imperialist war! With them we will be fighting for SOCIALIST FREEDOM, ECONOMIC SECURITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ALL WORKERS! And when the majority of the American population; the workers and poor farmers will arise to TURN THE BOSSES' WAR INTO A WAR FOR SOCIALISM, the European workers will also aid us.

WORKERS, DON'T BE FOOLED by the new war for "democracy that the Roosevelt government is plotting to drag you into! Unite with the international working class AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR!

ALL WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED! BREAD NOT BULLETS!
UNION PAY FOR W.P.A.! ADEQUATE RELIEF FOR THE UNEMPLOYED!
FOR A UNITY OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT BASED ON WORKERS DEMOCRACY WITHIN
THE UNIONS AND A CLASS STRUGGLE POLICY.
NOT WITH WORDS BUT WITH REVOLUTIONARY ACTION WILL OUR PROBLEMS BE SOLVED.

STATEMENT BY MARAT ON JOINING THE LEAGUE

Class conscious workers, members of organizations, or not, I appeal to you to reconsider the present day situation.

The imperialists of the world are on the verge of another war. The U.S. is building the biggest war machine in its history. A new imperialist war will break out in a few months, or perhaps in a year or so.

Nationally we have the class struggle cut off from the top by the social patriots, Lewis, Green, and the Stalinists. Roosevelt cuts relief and WPA and is ever increasing the war appropriations. War propaganda and "national unity" slogans are stuffed into the workers heads. The working class is being mobilized to fight the "fascist aggressors".

Parallel to this is the increasing misery of the unemployed. The rise in prices, the lowering of real wage standards.

There is only one method of fighting all this. That is by fighting, by action. A revolutionary workers party must be built. Not by petty factional disputes, not by false sectarian policies of each being his own Marx, and the "only Marxist", but by taking part in the class struggle, by educating the workers to Marxism and organizing them into a revolutionary party.

There is only one organization that carries out such action, the only Marxist cadre that participates in the class struggle and does not isolate itself in sectarian problems over hair-splitting issues.

I call upon all revolutionary workers to aid in building the party of the working class. To do this, follow my example, join and help the Revolutionary Workers League, publishers of REVOLT.

(Signed) Tom Marat.

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of the

LABOR PRESS

by the

POST OFFICE

STOP THE CENSORSHIP OF REVOLT

*"The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They
[REDACTED] (censored) [REDACTED]"*

*"Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communist revolution. The
proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to
win. Workingmen of all countries, unite!"*

—Communist Manifesto of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels.

The sentence censored appeared in the January 7, 1939 issue of
REVOLT. Other passages in the same issue are also banned by the Post Office.

On February 13 Post Office Solicitor, Vincent B. Miles, ruled the
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Huston, advised REVOLT was "under suspicion" and "will be scrutinized
very closely." On March 6 Huston held up the March 4 issue pending a rul-
ing by Miles. On March 15 Huston advised that Miles had ruled that the
March 4 issue could be mailed, but that "This ruling . . . covers only the
March 4 issue." Huston added, "Kindly see that copies of subsequent issues
are presented at this office . . . for submission to the Solicitor."

The April 8 issue was held up thirteen days.

The April 29 issue was held up seven days.

This is censorship of a labor paper for its Marxist views. Unless it is
stopped it will be extended to other labor papers.

Help us stop it!

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of the United States.

Box 141, Alfred Street Station, Detroit, Michigan

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