

REVOLT

Organ of
Revolutionary
Workers
League,
U. S.



Vol. II.—No. 17
CHICAGO, ILL.
DECEMBER 9, 1939
Price 3 Cents

Fraud If On Relief While Kin Eat

Springfield, Ill., Nov. 23. (AP).—Gov. Horner broadcast a Thanksgiving message today . . . "We have cause for much thanksgiving for the blessings of heaven that have come down to our commonwealth . . . The year just passed brought an abundance of the harvest yield to many; industry and agriculture are in such condition that the future looks even brighter for enlarged prosperity."

* * *

Relief Administration in the State of Illinois is "putting the law on unemployed workers to throw them off relief rolls and force their relatives to feed them."

An immediate survey to find indigents on the rolls of the Chicago Relief Administration who are legally entitled to support from their relatives was ordered yesterday by Leo M. Lyons, CRA head. He asked Raymond M. Hilliard Emergency Relief Commission to investigate and report next week on any such cases.—CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Nov. 25.

Said the Tribune on Nov. 18:

This dodging of legal responsibility, as defined by state law, which has been virtually unchanged in more than a century, is blamed as one of the chief reasons for the continued heavy relief burden.

So it's the fault of the unemployed that the relief burden is heavy. And the Relief Administration is going to take the unemployed and their kin to court for "dodging of legal responsibility."

Back in 1932 when Mayor Cermak & Co. cut relief in Chicago to the bone, the unemployed marched in a monster demonstration of over 60,000 before the City Hall.

Cermak sent a telegram to Horner:

Send funds or send the militia.

Horner sent funds.

Demonstrations of tens of thousands of unemployed and employed workers can do it again.

Amen!

Stalin Must Go

WITH FIRE and death from the land, the air, the sea Stalin is teaching the Finnish people collective security, democracy, and peace. In 1918 as a result of the Bolshevik revolution Finland became an independent state. In 1939 Stalin extinguishes Finland's independence. A new achievement for the Sun of Socialism!

With blood-soaked cynicism Stalin's puppet government of Terijoki speaks in the name of proletarian revolution:

This government hereby calls the entire Finnish people for the overthrow of the tyranny of hangmen and war provocateurs. . . . Arise, long-suffering, toiling people of Finland! . . . Let triumph the cause of the workers, peasants and working intelligentsia of Finland!

The equally cynical capitalist press attacks the invasion as the spread of world revolution. It is not true.

What is the aim of the invasion? Naval bases on islands off the south coast of Finland, which together with the naval bases granted by Esthonia and Latvia would give Stalin absolute control of the Gulf of Finland. The Petsamo peninsula which would make Russia's northern border contiguous with Norway. Removal of the Finnish border on the Karelian isthmus further away from Leningrad. Defensive measures! Stalin fears, with increasing justification, that the stalemated war in the West will be transformed into a united imperialist attack against Russia.

Once before the imperialists ganged up on the Soviet Union. In 1917-18-19, Germany used the Baltics as a highway along which to attack. In 1918-19 Finland was the channel through which poured supplies and money for White-Guardist armies. In 1919 the French occupied Murmansk near Petsamo; the Americans occupied Archangel. To prevent a second assault by this route is the aim of the bullying of Latvia and Esthonia and the desperate invasion of Finland.

In 1918-19 Lenin met the situation with a revolutionary policy. In his report to the Seventh All-Russian Congress of Soviets of Workers', Peasants', Red Army and Cossack Deputies, on Dec. 5, 1919. Lenin explained the policy of his government.

. . . the history of the Entente intervention. . . falls into three main stages. . .

The first stage. . . was its attempt to destroy Soviet Russia by means of its own troops.

. . . It landed troops in Murmansk. . . Japanese troops are still occupying a remote part of Eastern Siberia while the troops of all the states of the Entente were to be found. . . in every part of Western Siberia. Furthermore, French troops were landed in the South of Russia. . . The end of it was that the Entente was obliged to withdraw its troops from Russia, because these troops proved unfit for a war against revolutionary Soviet Russia.

. . . It was not only a military victory, and not even a military victory at all, but a victory of the international solidarity of the toilers, for the sake of which we had started the whole revolution. . .

This first victory was followed by the second stage in the interference of the Entente in our affairs. . .

You probably remember, comrades, the news that appeared in our newspapers regarding a speech made by the British minister Churchill in which he declared that fourteen states would join the attack on Russia. . . I have heard that Churchill subsequently denied this report. But even if this source were to prove incorrect we know very well that such indeed was the spirit of the activities of Churchill and the British imperialists.

We know very well that every means of pressure was brought to bear upon Finland, Esthonia and the other small countries to get them to wage war against Soviet Russia. I. . . read an editorial in the English newspaper, the Times. . .

"The whole world has its eyes on Finland," said the British capitalists, "the whole fate of Finland will depend on whether she understands her mission and whether she will help to stem the filthy, muddy and bloody tide of Bolshevism and liberate Russia."

And in return for this great and moral cause, for this noble and civilized cause, Finland was promised so many million pounds sterling, some piece of land or other, certain benefits or other. . . It was a time when Yudenich's troops were only a few miles from Petrograd and when Denikin had advanced north of Orel, when had they received the slightest assistance the fate of Petrograd would have been decided in favor of our enemies in the briefest possible time. . .

The Entente brought all its weight to bear upon Finland; and Finland was up to her ears in debt to the Entente. Not only was she in debt but she could not exist for a single month without the support of those countries. How are we to explain the "miracle," the fact that we won the contest against such opponents? And win we did: Finland did not go to war, Yudenich was beaten, and Denikin was beaten. . .

How did we win? . . . The reason was that the Entente played the cards which all capitalist states play, acting entirely and exclusively by means of deceit and pressure with the result that every action it took aroused a counter-action so that the advantage was in our favor.

We were badly armed, we were exhausted, and we said to the Finnish workers who had been crushed by the Finnish bourgeoisie (20,000 were killed, 90,000 imprisoned by the Finnish butcher, Mannerheim, with the aid of German bayonets—Ed.): "You must not fight us." . . .

We won, because the Entente no longer had troops of its own to fling against us and was obliged to resort to the forces of the small nationalities. And the small nationalities—not only the workers and peasants, but even a large section of the bourgeoisie, which had suppressed the working

Continued on Next Page

Chrysler Strike Won on Picket Line Sold Out by CIO Officials

DETROIT, Nov. 30.—A meeting of the Local 140, UAW-CIO membership with about three thousand present, was held November 29 for the sole purpose of ratifying the Chrysler agreement. The agreement turned out to be a betrayal of the membership by the International Officers, Philip Murray of the CIO, and Local 140 officers and executive board members.

Brother and Honorary Chairman, Frank B. Tuttle, Local 140 negotiator, opened the meeting by explaining the negotiations and praising Frankenstein and Phil Murray for their efforts in the interests of the membership. Not only he, but every other local officer, with two exceptions, were for ratification.

It was a cut and dried proposition from the start. Chairman O. E. Zimmerman had commissioned a chief steward to call Mr. Dragsdorf labor relations director of the Dodge Truck plant to find out what men were to come to work in the morning. This was done even before the contract was read or voted upon in order to psychologize the membership for ratification.

The officers played their parts well in putting the ratification over. Those who were opposed were the militants who had carried on the fight from the start. The main issue, according to O. E. Zimmerman, Kaip, Clark, Jennings, Claire and Tuttle, who played the leading parts in the meeting, was getting the men back to work. The actual terms of the

contract were glossed over. They did this in order to do Phil Murray's and the CIO top leadership's bidding.

The membership was warned by the chairman of forthcoming violence of the company, the militia, strike-breakers, scabs and a racial war, if they did not go back to work. They stated that if the strike continued, it would mean the end of the union or that someone might get hurt or killed in the struggle.

Chairman Zimmerman declared that in his opinion it was in the best interest of the membership to accept the agreement and go back to work. Honorary Chairman Frank B. Tuttle added that this was the best agreement ever written and should be accepted. In point of fact, however, it is worse than the old one as will be seen when the company starts to go to town on it.

Incidentally, the corporation had placed ads in the paper calling the men back to work in all Chrysler plants hours in advance of ratification.

What a coincidence! Chrysler Employee

What Is Britain Fighting For?

IN HIS recent broadcast to the Empire Prime Minister Chamberlain said Britain was fighting to defeat the aggressive mentality of the German government. England has a million and a half men under arms who will have to lose their mentality and their lives when the idiotic mentalities in the British government give the word.

Best statement of British ruling class is by Mayor Dr. W. Lyle Bedford of Vancouver, B. C., Canada, as reported by the Associated Press on November 16:

. . . we are not sure yet just what we are fighting for. . .

Great Britain. . . financed Germany. It loaned them a lot of money. Canada sent millions of pounds of nickel to Germany but now the darn stuff is coming back a lot faster than it went over—in arms and bullets designed to kill those who sent it over.

British money built Germany's factories and institutions. Now war is declared so we must go over and blow them up. Then eventually when the war is over our taxpayers will be asked for more loans to build up the factories and institutions we have just blown up.

But now we haven't so many on relief. . . for some who were are going off to war. War—that's a new form of relief. We're afraid of war and we're desperately afraid of peace. Why if we had peace tonight we'd have the old relief problem right back again, only worse, because we'd have less money. We couldn't properly look after them before the war and we couldn't look after them if peace came tonight.

When this picture of the situation hits home to the millions of men under arms in Europe the war will take a healthy turn—it will develop into a civil war to put an end to British, French and German imperialism.

In the Richest Country in The World

Brenda Frazier, glamour girl among last year's debutantes, models before New York society at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel wearing a necklace embodying a \$1,000,000 diamond. The stone, 125 carats, is part of a 726-carat stone found five years ago and is reputed to be the largest diamond in the world.... Chicago News, Nov. 29.

Cleveland, Nov. 21 (AP).—Miss Belle Greve, county welfare director... told of one mother, about to have another child who had eaten only apples since Saturday; a woman with eight children who had only corn meal to eat; and another who took her last \$1.25 to buy a street car pass so that she could ride the trolleys three days and nights to keep warm.

The will of James Simpson, chairman of the Commonwealth Edison Company and also chairman of the executive committee of Marshall Field & Co.... provides that his widow... be given \$150,000 and after two years an annual income of \$100,000.... Chicago American, Dec. 1.

TOLEDO, Dec. 6.—(AP).—The council sent fifty investigators... to interview 10 per cent of 3,253 cases who potentially were eligible for direct relief November 4....

"There were many cases in actual want and acute need—where persons were starving," the council declared....

Investigators reported that many... people were picking up scraps—scavenging."

George H. Coleman... has been appointed conservator of the estate of the 31-year old son of the late Frederick H. Rawson, former chairman of the First National bank... young Rawson was made beneficiary of a fund which limited his income to \$14,000 a year —Chicago Times, Nov. 24.

Cleveland, Nov. 29 (AP).—...Relief was being refused to adults with no children, and to all unmarried men.

A woman cried: "Seven people. Two dollars and four cents (for five days' food). What do they think I am?..."

A man... exclaimed: "No, no, coal this week! I want coal. I got kids at home."

COST OF A MEAL AT THE COLONY CLUB RESTAURANT
 2 dry Martinis at 50c each \$1.00
 2 orders of Beluga caviar at \$3.50 each 7.00
 2 lobster Newburgh at \$2.50 each 5.00
 1. Duck a la presse with wild rice 5.00
 2 Salads de Saison, at 75c each 1.50
 1 quart Clos de Vougeot Burgundy 6.50
 2 Peche Melba at \$1 each 2.00
 2 cups of coffee at 50c each 1.00
 Total \$29.00
 Tip \$ 3.00
 Super total \$32.00
 New York Herald-Tribune, Dec. 5.

...Miller Gebhart Company, 2050 N. Larrabee street... (fined)... \$7,512 for violation of the fair labor standards act... pleaded guilty... children as young as 11 found working in their homes... Pay ranged as low as 2 cents an hour and averaged 8 cents an hour... The legal minimum is now 30 cents.... Chicago Tribune, Nov. 25.

REVEALING portraits of the labor-hating and Jim Crow Southern Congressmen, silver-tongued stooges for the South's industrial and financial bandits, most reactionary section of the American capitalist class, are drawn by two sharp-witted reporters Michie and Ryhlick in their first book, *Dixie Demagogues*. Michie is former foreign editor of J. P. Morgan's *Time* magazine.

Dean of the demagogues is Garner, typical capitalist statesman-numskull, Vice-President of the United States, who has stated, "I never make statements or comment on anything."

Most revealing portrait is that of Garner's protege, Representative Martin Dies, former elocution teacher and lawyer whose modest practice was supplemented by fees from Andrew Mellon's Gulf Oil Co.

According to authors Michie and Ryhlick, that witch-hunting patriot, Dies, has been living on the public payroll since 1930, as representative of the 2nd Congressional District, comprising 11 counties in the Pine Belt of Eastern Texas, which is dominated by Lumber-baron, John H. Kirby, Garner's friend.

MOTHER LOVE

Backed by Kirby, whose group has stripped the Pine Belt of its timber (production declined from 2½ billion board feet in 1907 to less than ½ billion in 1932), Dies who learned politics from his father, a congressman under Wilson, went out to bag votes in 1929, waving the flag, shouting America for Americans, and denouncing aliens. When the papers mentioned the separation of Dies parents, he dug up the issue of Mother Love, and loudly defended her honor against slander. In a later election he shifted to Father Love.

Said Dies: I used to make about \$1200 a year back home. Now I'm serving the people at

Portrait of A Dixie Demagogue Martin Dies

\$10,000 per annum, and I mean to go right on.

Highlights of his Congressional career have been his introduction at each session of half a dozen bills to restrict immigration and deport aliens as a member of the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization; aid in killing a utility-regulation bill which would have harmed Garner's friend, Joseph W. Carpenter, president of Texas Power & Light Co; membership on the all-powerful Rules Committee with Garner's aid; bottling up the Wages-Hours Bill in the Rules Committee for a while together with four other southerners.

Dies organized the House Demagogues Club, and made himself president. Members were pledged to vote for all appropriations, against all tax bills.

Garner encouraged him to become the first Representative to denounce sitdown strikes, and to introduce a resolution for an investigation of the CIO. Rules Committee approved the measure, but the House voted it down.

AFRAID OF CIO

Dies has reason to be afraid of the CIO. Population in his District in 1930 was slightly over 300,000. Eligible voting population numbered 166,000. More than 70,000 Negroes, almost one-fourth of the population, were automatically disfranchised by the poll tax. Fewer than 65,000 paid the poll tax. Of these, almost half, 29,304, are in Jefferson County where the CIO oil workers union is strongest.

After conferring with Garner Dies drew up a resolution for investigation of un-American activities in 1937 and got a \$25,000 appropriation from Congress. In 1938 Congress voted \$100,000 to continue Dies' activities to 1940. Dies is now conducting a national campaign to influence Congress to extend the life of the Committee.

Dies has received favorable publicity from the press, which is anti-labor, and 85% of which is anti-New Deal.

Dies Committee has been a valuable weapon for the anti-New Deal Garner Democrats and Republicans. During the Michigan election campaign of 1938 Dies Committee conducted hearings which showed that Murphy had allowed sitdown strikers to hold several plants, and "exposed" Murphy's labor supporters as reds. During the 1938 Pennsylvania elections Dies similarly aided Earle's campaign against New Dealer, Arthur James.

NEEDED FOR 1940

Dies' backers want him to continue his work in crucial 1940.

Author Michie and Ryhlick do not do as well with the Dies Committee. Following data is partly theirs, partly mine.

Main activity of Dies Committee is to "investigate" Communism. Four-fifths of Dies' report to Congress, on January 3, 1939, is devoted to Communism.

Dies is praised by the German-American Bund, Silver Shirts, Senator Reynold's Vindicators, Coughlin and other Fascists.

Real aim of Dies Committee

is to discredit the labor movement by labeling it Communist and alien, disrupt it by furnishing "evidence" for red scares and prosecution.

First volume of the Dies Committee Hearings alone labeled as Communist 640 organizations, 280 labor organizers, and 483 newspapers.

Dies Committee strategy is to show up at an important phase of a labor conflict — Armour Packinghouse elections in Chicago in November, 1939, for example—and "expose" the leaders as reds.

RATS

Senior investigator for Dies Committee, E. F. Sullivan, was shown by the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee to have been a labor spy, an anti-Semitic speaker before Nazi organizations, who served six months for larceny.

Dies Committee witnesses against Communism are professional red-baiters like William Green, Homer Martin and Henry Linville, head of the New York Teachers' Guild; renegades from Communism like Gitlow and Zack; stool-pigeons like Dobryzynski; and "innocents" disgusted by Stalinist policy.

Dies Committee deliberately confuses Stalinist policy and tactics with Communism thus aiding Stalinism pass itself off as revolutionary.

Bulls-eyes were scored when Dies proved Shirley Temple a dupe of the Soviet Union and when a witness mentioned Marlowe's play *Faustus* in connection with the Federal Theatre Project, Congressman Joe Starnes of Alabama, one of the five members of the Committee, wanted to know: Marlowe? Is he a Communist?

Witness had to explain that Marlowe was a famous poet and playwright in Queen Elizabeth's reign.

J. Drake.

The Stalin Gang Must Go

Continued from Page One

class... thought democracy meant living in freedom, and not that every American billionaire might plunder their country and every noble-blooded officer might behave like a boor and become an impudent profiteer ready to do any dirty job for a few hundred per cent profit. That was the reason for our victory.

When the Entente brought pressure to bear... on each of these fourteen countries it met with resistance. The Finnish bourgeoisie, which has stifled thousands of Finnish workers during the White terror and knows that it will never be forgiven for having done so, and that it is no longer backed by the German bayonets which enabled it to do so—this Finnish bourgeoisie hates the Bolsheviks with all the vehemence a plunderer hates the workers who have thrown him off.

Nevertheless, the Finnish bourgeoisie said to itself: "If we follow the instructions of the Entente it means losing absolutely all hope of independence." And this independence has been granted to them by the Bolsheviks in November 1917 when there was a bourgeois government in Finland. And so, wide circles of the Finnish bourgeoisie wavered. We won the contest against the Entente because the latter counted upon the small nations and at the same time repelled them.

Lenin's policy! Defense of the proletarian dictatorship by revolutionary propaganda among the workers against the capitalists; respect for the right of small nations to determine their own existence.

Stalin's policy! Defense of the interests of the ruling gang against revolution. Betrayal of the Chinese revolution in 1925-27. Betrayal of the German workers to Hitler 1930-33. Murderous counter-revolution in Spain 1936-39. Partition and annexation of Polish territory.

Invasion of Finland. Imposition of a hand-picked government. Head of the "government" is Otto Kuusinen who issued an appeal during the Finnish revolution of 1918 for everyone to stay at home to avoid becoming victims. The "government" asserts it is not a Soviet type of state; only a provisional government; and announces its intention

to organize what will be, if it is ever realized, a capitalist popular front setup. Kuusinen's "government" recognizes the economic and financial obligations of Finland toward other states—Stalin's crew are ready to take over the dirty work of robbing the Finnish workers and peasant in order to pay the principal and interest on loans made by British and American imperialist bandits.

Lenin won the sympathies of the workers and peasants. He made use of the antagonism between the imperialist powers and small nations.

Stalin drives the workers and peasants into the arms of the Finnish capitalists and the entire Finnish people into the arms of the imperialists who are plotting to destroy Russia.

To cloak his monstrous game Stalin makes use of the superior economic and social structure which the revolution created in Russia. The Provisional Government of Terijoki promises the Finnish people reforms:

1—a People's Army; 2—state control over large banks and industries; 3—confiscation of large landed estates; land and loans to the peasants; 4—elimination of unemployment; 5—improvement of working conditions; 6—democratization (!) of the state; and 7—subsidies for cultural needs and schools.

These are reforms which the Finnish capitalists who pawned the Finnish nation to the British and American imperialists, could never permit.

Some of these reforms like democratization of the State Stalin cannot carry out. But even if he could it is questionable whether he will have the opportunity. For his defense policy is filling the peoples of small nations with bitterness and hatred. Because the coming imperialist attacks will compel Russia to devote all of its energies and resources to meet them.

The Stalin gang is the deadly enemy of revolution, tyrannical oppressor of small nations. The revolution cannot go forward in Russia, the right of small nations to independence cannot be secured, until the working class of Russia rises and tears this gang to pieces.

New York Sectarians Reject Unity

NEW YORK, Nov. 26.—The League for a Revolutionary Workers Party, the Revolutionary Labor Group, and a third group, the Power Group, which entered the picture for the first time, attended today's meeting which had been organized at our suggestion and was held in New York at the suggestion of the LRWP, to discuss the possibility and basis for unity. The Central Committee of the League had proposed immediate unity in a Declaration published in the November 25 issue of *REVOLT*. The other three groups, acting as a bloc, rejected unity.

Here is the political record of the meeting. The League had taken the position that the ruling class of this

country had entered into a conspiracy to exploit the war in Europe for profit; enter the war at an advantageous moment for the same purpose; violently suppress the revolutionary movement; impose a military dictatorship on the country.

The bloc neither agreed nor disagreed; advanced no position of its own.

The League had declared that this situation posed before the revolutionists the task of uniting to make an effective agitation against the plans of the ruling class and its government and to organize resistance to it.

Continued on Last Page

SEVEN THOUSAND COPIES of the following leaflet, issued by the Auto Workers Fraction of the Detroit Unit of the Revolutionary Workers League, have been distributed to Chrysler and other auto workers.

THIS is the question many Chrysler workers are asking themselves.

We have gone back into the plant. But not with the contract which we wanted. Not with the contract we could have won, if the fight had been carried on correctly.

We asked for a union shop. We got the right of sole collective bargaining power which we had already got through our vote in the National Labor Relation Board election. We asked for a blanket ten cents an hour raise, to meet the rising cost of living. We got three cents an hour. We asked for two weeks vacation with pay. We got zero. We asked for a voice in setting production. The company got the final say on this question. We asked for a grievance procedure workable in our interests. What we got were phrases of the old "Ten Commandment," somewhat sugar-coated, which leaves the last word with the company.

For eight weeks we walked the picket lines. We had to buck one of the most ferocious and hysterical campaigns of anti-strike propaganda in the recent history of the labor movement. We fought and resisted back-to-work movements.

THEN WHY NOT A VICTORY?

From the very start Frankenstein, Morris Field, and Thomas deliberately used criminal tactics and strategy. They played into the hands of the reactionaries by refusing to call a strike when

Chrysler Workers Why Not Victory?

picket lines were thrown around Dodge Main. By continuing to call it a lockout, they enabled Homer Martin, Gerald K. Smith, J. Frank Norris, Coughlin, and the Council for Industrial Peace to start back-to-work movements in the name of unionism. By continuing to call it a lockout they enabled the rats of reaction to set the stage for race riots.

These union leaders did everything but allow the Chrysler workers to employ their full forces against the company. In this struggle, when the company was trying to smash the whole UAW, the international officers did not even draw in the other Chrysler plants and UAW locals. By continuing to call it a lockout they prevented the active participation of Chrysler workers in the struggle.

STAGE SET

By the time Murray came the stage was prepared for a betrayal. Murray used the situation created by the reactionaries and made possible by Frankenstein, Morris Field and Thomas, to ram down our throats this agreement of betrayal. To do this he painted a black picture, using the arguments of the reactionaries, that if the strike was to continue, the national guard would be called in, the police would be mobilized, race riots would break out, injunctions would be issued, union treasuries would be tied up by court action in damage suits—in short, the union would be smashed.

If Murray had been a real representative of the United interests of the CIO workers, he would have offered the full resources of the CIO to the Chrysler workers, he would have told Keller that if he didn't negotiate a decent agreement with the Chrysler auto workers, the CIO would fight to a finish. If Murray had stated this the whole situation would have been changed, the reactionaries would have run for cover and shut up, and we would be in a stronger position to win a victory.

A SERVICE

But Murray was not interested in changing the situation in favor of the workers. He was representing the New Deal capitalists. Before Murray came to Detroit, President Roosevelt phoned him up in Washington and said: "Phil, I want you to render me a service."

This Murray certainly did. He betrayed us Chrysler workers. He had us accept a contract which signs away rights guaranteed by the Wagner Act. This act states that nothing in the act shall be interpreted as interfering with, or impeding, or in any way limiting the right to strike. The contract states that "the union will not cause or permit its members to cause, nor will any member of the union take part in any sit-down, stay-in, slowdown in any plant of the corporation..." Some negotiators!

THE TASK BEFORE US

Murray did not put over this betrayal without some opposition among the militants, especially at the Dodge Main meeting. But we failed because we were UNORGANIZED AND DISUNITED. There was no one voice to speak for all of us. There was not a strong enough opposition organized to put the demands of the workers forward against the betrayal of the union leadership.

Could the Communist Party perform this function? No. It was actively participating in the betrayal. And where was the Socialist Party opposition in Dodge Main?

There is no need to be pessimistic about the situation as those who talk about withholding dues and tearing up membership cards and even going over to Martin. What we must have, above all else is one solid union in the auto industry. The way to get it is to take a positive attitude towards the union and towards union questions. The way to put the skids under this misleadership is for every worker to take part in every meeting, every election, every activity of the union to move the union ahead progressively.

Down with traitors like Murray, Frankenstein, Field and Thomas! Down with class collaborationist policies!

Above all we need to develop the influence of the Revolutionary Workers League further in the auto union in order to sweep the traitors misleading us clean out of the labor movement and to prevent other such betrayals in the future.

Socialist Fakers Cover Up Chrysler Sell-Out

THAT THE CHRYSLER strike was sold out by the leadership after it had been won on the picket line is proved by the reports and articles published in these pages. Ten votes had to be taken at the meeting of the Dodge Main workers before the leadership could browbeat the workers into submission. Hundreds of workers left the meeting in disgust.

That the Socialist Party whose members claim to be in opposition to the union leadership in the auto union is a shameless apologist for the leadership is established by the account of the strike settlement in that party's organ, *The Call* of December 9. Said the *Call*

Without much doubt this contract represents the best the union could achieve... under the prevailing circumstances. Serious errors in union strategy... gave the corporation advantages which were overcome after weeks of hard fighting severely straining the affected workers who were left with no incomes. Lies and distortions!

The strategy, decided by the leadership, was cowardly, spineless, treacherous, class collaborationist. The *Call* speaks of serious errors!

The *Call* says weeks of hard fighting overcame the advantages the Corporation got as a result of the "serious errors in strategy." The settlement shows that the advantages were incorporated into the contract.

The *Call* suggests that the reason the contract was no better was that the "affected workers" were severely strained and had no income. True they had no income. Unemployment compensation was denied.

But where was the union? The workers pay thousands of dollars in dues every month. The leadership spent thousands of dollars for ads in capitalist newspapers. It should have used the money for relief.

AND where was the CIO? The union pays thousand of dollars in per capita every month. The CIO leadership spent half a million dollars to reelect Roosevelt. Roosevelt asked Murray, vice president of the CIO, to do him a personal favor and settle the strike. Every cent of the CIO's money—if need be—should have been spent to win this strike.

The workers could have won. For fifty four days Chrysler didn't produce a car. If the workers knew that their union was behind them they could have held out as long as necessary.

They didn't win because they were sold out by Murray, Field, Frankenstein, Thomas, the Stalinist gang that runs the union. Of this the *Call* says not one word. By covering up the traitors the *Call* makes itself a party to the sell-out.

The *Call* is worried about the effect of the strike.

The vital problem now remaining to be settled is the effect of the strike on Chrysler workers and workers in other plants... Whether their union loyalty will be greater or less than before the shutdown remains to be seen. Whether their understanding of unionism and of adequate progressive policy has been increased or lessened also remains to be seen.

The three-cent an hour increase will be truly important only if along with that increase this struggle achieved greater UAW-CIO strength and solidarity in the shops.

Weasel words! When the auto workers do achieve an adequate understanding of class struggle unionism and run the Murray-Thomas-Stalinist gang out we hope they include the Socialists three cent fakers in the house cleaning.

Lesson of the Chrysler Strike

DETROIT, Dec. 4. — The 54-day Chrysler strike, ended November 30, will long be remembered for its high-lights as well as for the manner in which it was conducted.

From the beginning the Union charged the Corporation with speed-up in certain departments of Dodge Main. In reply the Corporation charged the Union with pulling a slowdown strike.

There is no doubt that when the Corporation started firing those who could not "hit-the-lick," departments in which higher rates of production had not yet been set slowed down in protest. There is no doubt, either, that the Corporation was basically at fault: 1st—Because of the speedup; 2nd—Its brazen contempt for the election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board shortly before when it refused to permit the voting to take place within the plants; and 3rd—For its callous indifference to grievances and demands which had been allowed to pile up for two and a half years.

From October 6 to 13, employees reported for work each morning, only to be sent home after a few moments. This convinced them that the Corporation's policy was to lock them out. On Monday, October 15, they threw a picket line around the Dodge Main Plant.

SOW CONFUSION

Though strike votes had carried in all Chrysler plants by tremendous majorities, the International Officers of the UAW-CIO did not officially declare a strike even at Dodge Main. They should have declared their intention to strike the whole Chrysler Corporation if need be.

It should be made a matter of record that those who apologize for instead of avowing and defending the strike weapon, sow confusion in the workers' minds and leave doors open for back-to-work movements. Radio priests and preachers of the most reactionary stripe, including Homer Martin, were able to say, "There is no strike. Go back to work."

On November 13, Detroit police, working with strike-breakers, gathered at all Chrysler plant gates in the Detroit area, especially at the Plymouth plant, where there was no picketing. But even the followers of Martin did not turn out well in this first back-to-work gesture. Chrysler employees generally were looking forward to gains through negotiations.

New Contract Worse Than Old

DETROIT, Dec. 4.—The agreement entered into between the Chrysler Corporation and the UAW-CIO, November 29, is worse than the old agreement, which was widely recognized as anything but a good one for the workers.

The rights of the workers have been signed away as was the case in the old agreement. Though the misleaders deny this, contending the no-strike clause has been deleted, the agreement speaks for itself. Article 4 reads as follows:

The union will not cause, or permit its members to cause, nor will any member of the union take part in, any sitdown, stay-in or slowdown in any plant of the corporation, or any curtailment of work or restriction of production or interference with production of the corporation. The union will not cause, or permit its members to cause, nor will any member of the union take part in any strike or stoppage of any of the corporation's operations or picket any of the corporation's plants or

The International Officers instead of meeting the situation by wide scale strike action, ranted against the lockout and paid for ads in the capitalist press that cost seven Chrysler locals in Detroit \$7,000. Their most militant move was a demonstration at Cadillac Square at which Thomas emphatically exempted the Chrysler workers from the "crime" of going on strike.

After their first rebuff the strikebreakers changed their tactics. Instead of a general call to return to work, they concentrated on moving Negro workers into the Dodge Main foundry. What they were really aiming at was a race riot. The city police were to be aided in their scab-herding by the National Guard, encamped at the Fair Grounds.

10,000 PICKETS

Ten thousand pickets turned out at the Dodge plant, Conant gate. In the meantime negotiations had practically broken down, the Corporation's representatives using a foremen's union's request for an agreement as an excuse to charge the CIO with wanting to control production. The situation was growing tense.

Thomas' eleventh hour declaration of a strike at Dodge Main was never intended to put teeth into this fight. It was called only to arouse the New Dealers in Washington and the National Council of the CIO to the need of a quick settlement before the workers took matters in their own hands.

Thomas had invited Phillip Murray, vice president of the CIO, to negotiate a settlement. "Ma" Perkins of the Labor Department urged Murray to go. President Roosevelt told him on the phone, "Phil, I want you to render me a service." John L. Lewis told Murray to go.

And what a service Murray rendered the Federal and State government, the New Deal and Chrysler. The Corporation was out to smash the UAW or pull its teeth, rob the workers of the right to strike, the right to effect changes in production rates, or unite themselves in one union.

The betrayal agreement engineered by Murray together with Field, Frankenstein, Thomas and many Local officers and executive board members means that the Chrysler Corporation has won a good part of its objective. The Chrysler workers, especially at Dodge Main, have been sold down the river.

Auto Worker

premises until all the bargaining procedure as outlined in this agreement has been exhausted, and in no case until after the negotiations have continued for at least five days and not even then unless sanctioned by the International Union, UAW of America... The corporation reserves the right to discipline any employee taking part in any violation of this section of the agreement.

If we slowdown, individually or collectively, we are violating this article of the agreement. If we tell or hint to any fellow, though he may be a pace-setter, to slowdown we are violating this article. If in any way we shall apply pressure on the Corporation to improve our condition, we are laying ourselves open to dismissal.

And here is something that, from the standpoint of the Corporation, this agreement has over the old one.

The management in any plant may present to the secretary of the local union as grievances, any abuses of the bar-

Continued on Next Page

REVOLT

Published by the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Workers League, P. O. Box 5463., Chicago, Illinois
3 cents a copy 50 cents a half year (13 issues) \$1.00 a year (26 issues).

Dec. 9, 1939 Vol. II. — No. 17 Whole No. 30

Chrysler Contract

Continued from Page 3

gaining procedure by the union, its chief stewards, its plant shop committeemen, its local union officers, or other representatives or members of the union. If the management is dissatisfied with the disposition of the grievance made by the local union, it may take the grievance up with the International Union.

THE FINAL arbiter is the set of bureaucrats who betrayed us. It is like giving the police an additional club to "defend" our rights. The speed-up—the issue that precipitated the dispute—has not been checked at all. Each plant management is given authority to set production rates.

As to bargaining procedure, which is referred to so often and through which all grievances must pass—it is useless for adjusting grievances. It is more complicated than it was under the old agreement, and few grievances ever saw the light of day after entering that dead letter office. Stewards' rights are more restricted than in the old agreement, and the obligations to the Corporation are specifically defined.

It is understood and agreed that each chief steward has full time work to perform in the plant.

He can leave his job to take up grievances only with the permission of the foreman. He is subject to the same shop rules as any other employee.

The agreement gives each plant management the authority to fire.

With the exception of skilled workers, the old six months probationary period is retained. The agreement excludes from membership foremen, assistant foremen, timkeepers, office employees, confidential salaried employees, salaried engineers, and plant protection employees. And the old sore spot of exceptional employees has not been cured.

Wages are not mentioned in the agreement. The negotiators gloat over the three-cents-per-hour general wage increase and the increases in certain classifications and additions. The fact is that in relation to the rising prices, our real wage has actually gone down since 1937, even counting this increase.

It is going to be even more difficult for the Chrysler workers to live with this agreement than it was for them to live with the last one. As a matter of record the trim department workers in Dodge Main got into trouble the very first day, November 30, 1939.

They will soon be in revolt against it.

Auto Worker

Sectarians Reject Unity

Continued from Page 2

The bloc neither agreed nor disagreed.

THE LEAGUE had declared that it recognized the LRWP, RLG and others as groups standing on the fundamental principles of Marxism. The bloc made no statement of its political attitude toward the League.

The League had proposed that the basis for unity should be a concretization of the principles of Marxism in the form of a program for the class struggle in the United States.

The bloc rejected this basis.

The League representative asked what basis the bloc proposed.

The bloc proposed—nothing.

The League had declared that since there was agreement on the fundamental principles of Marxism and also that the Stalin regime was a counter-revolutionary government which could not be supported either in peace or war the difference on the Russian question was not a splitting issue.

The bloc declared that agreement that Russia is a capitalist society and that in a war in which it is involved the correct revolutionary strategy is to work for its military defeat—that agreement on this is necessary BEFORE it will consent to discuss what the basis for revolutionary unity should be.

According to this if you say, as the League does, that Russia is a society which is transitional between capitalism and communism on the verge of going back to capitalism, you cannot help the American workers transform their struggle for better wages and conditions and more relief into a revolutionary struggle against capitalism itself. You cannot participate in the work of building a revolutionary party. But if you say Russia is a capitalist society you can.

What it all boils down to is this. All these groups together have no contact with the class struggle. They haven't any connection with the labor movement. They have no press. Their intransigent stand on principle—for Russia—is a formula to preserve their isolation from the class struggle.

This is sectarianism.

Only sectarians and people opposed to the creation of a revolutionary party will approve or rejoice at the actions of these groups. Those who want to build a revolutionary party will condemn it.

If these groups change their attitude in the future the League will not place obstacles in the way of unity.

* * *

This meeting brings to end, at least for the present, the efforts of the League in the east to bring together a number of revolutionary groups in one organization. There remain a number of groups in the middle west which did not attend this meeting. Whatever steps the Central Committee decides on with respect to unity with them will be reported in the next issue.

ABC of Marxism

STUDY COURSE

10 Lessons

25c

Shop Talk

DETROIT.—"See here Mike," said Frank to me at lunch, "If I didn't like you as much as I do, I'd biff your right square in the eye. Don't laugh! I meant it!"

"But what the hell did I do?" I protested.

"Plenty," he returned. "By Christ, every time you climb into a job you sit so I can't work. It holds me up!"

"But I can't help it, man," I replied, "I've got to sit that way to do my work!"

"Well why in hell don't you skip a job once in a while then?" He blazed.

"Jesus, I'm behind and the boss is riding my can."

"Well, you don't think mine is tossing daisies at me do you? I'm behind too."

"I don't give a damn," he answered. "Keep out of my freakin' way or there'll be trouble."

"Listen Frank," I countered. "This aint one bit like you. You're making a god-damned fool of yourself."

"Whaddya mean a fool?"

COMPANY FAULT

"Just what I said, Frank, you're a fool just like a lot of other guys who are tearin' into each other every day. There's no use beefin' to me about this. It aint my fault the place is so crowded."

"But Christ, why must you be in such a god-damned hurry?"

"That's what everybody thinks about everybody else, brother. We're all slavin' away in a hurry. It's the fault of the company."

"The company?"

"Yeah, the company. It's the company and nobody else who's in a hurry for production; and it's the company who's got us packed in like a bunch of sardines."

"He's right Frank," broke in Glenn. "It aint him or any of the rest of the guys that controls the speed of the line."

"And it aint me," I added, "that's hired more men than the place can hold. If they built more workin' space for us I wouldn't be gettin' in your way the way I do."

"But we're fallin' all over ourselves this way," exclaimed Frank.

"Well it aint because we're clumsy," said Glenn. "They just want more production than they're equipped to get."

"But there's no percentage in that. Why we waste half our time tryin' to get in the freakin' jobs."

LIKE MULES

"Sure," I answered. "And the rest of the time workin' like mules tryin' to catch up. They don't allow us any more time because we're crowded. They figure that's our worry."

"Boy you aint only saying it," said Frank. "What a hell of a system!"

"Oh, it's a smart enough system for the bosses," I replied. "A new building costs dough, and then there's maintenance and taxes. Us they only pay while they're usin' us. Besides they're only in such a hurry because there's war orders comin' up. After the war they'll have no use for the extra space, or for us either. But the space'll keep costin' em, we won't cost 'em nothin'."

"Guess you're right at that Mike. Sorry I talked the way I did."

"Oh that's all right Frank. It's easy to lose your temper when everybody's jostlin' you and the foreman is raisin' hell. But you gotta' keep in mind that every time you fight one of the guys, the company grows fat on it. The only way to stop all this crap is to get together and slow down the line so we can work comfortable."

Mike Bono

Book Review

Betrayal in Central Europe

By G. E. R. Gedye

Insanity Fair

By Douglas Reed

Disgrace Abounding

By Douglas Reed

EVER since that eventful moment in the history of capitalist diplomacy, referred to as Munich, hundreds of volumes have appeared dwelling on this subject. The above three books are probably the most outstanding, representing the "collective security" point of view, that is, that the "democratic" nations should take up arms against the Fascist nations. Mr. Gedye is former Central-European correspondent for the New York Times, and Mr. Reed is the same for the London Times. They were both expelled from Austria and Czechoslovakia by the Nazis. If anything these gentlemen of the press are masters at irony and sarcasm. The books are merciless, sweeping condemnations of Anglo-French double-crossing and intrigue, otherwise known as diplomacy.

Mr. Gedye's book contains a wealth of material, facts and documents. Himself a strong Social-Democratic sympathizer, he praises to the sky the Social-Democratic movement in Austria, led by Otto Bauer and Julius Deutsch. In his opinion, and correctly so, they stand for the reform of capitalism as exemplified in the former "model Socialist city" of Vienna.

He exposes the intense hatred of the workers movement of the Roman Catholic Church under Cardinal Seipel; and its consequent conniving with Anglo-French Imperialism and Mussolini to smash this movement and drown it in blood in 1934. His proof of the charge that certain Jewish bankers helped Dolfuss in the above mentioned dirty-work is convincing.

MR. GEDYE insists that the Social-Democrats would have saved Austria. Nonsense. Not only couldn't they have saved it—they paved the way for triumph of Fascism and their own undoing.

At the crucial moment they refused to send the armed workers guards into the streets and annihilate the Fascists and drive them out. This, Mr. Gedye says would have given Hitler cause to come in. Very well. So would it have given the German, Italian and French workers cause to do the same. The Social-Democrats, you see, believed in the ballot and for years they polled 43% of the Austrian votes, built apartment houses and reduced the rates on electricity and gas—and finally got—Hitler.

Mr. Reed, in both his volumes, presents pretty much the same material. *Insanity Fair*, the earlier of his two books, means Europe is an insane asylum with men like Hitler and Chamberlain galloping all over the lot. *Disgrace Abounding* refers in particular to the umbrella carrier and the ruling class which he represents.

Mr. Reed shares in common with Mr. Gedye, the honor of having predicted these events—months before they happened—the moral indignation which he manifests, as he pours out his venom against his fellow-Englishmen for the crimes they committed, is typical British ruling class hypocrisy. It seems to this reviewer, that Mr. Reed is not as angry at the triumph of the German lunatic as he is at the loss to British Imperialism of its buffer state in Central Europe—Czechoslovakia!

MR. REED levels an attack against the Jews for their crooked business practices and their desertion of their country; their quick conversions to other faiths and national allegiances for purely business reasons. These attacks are purely nationalistic and partially false. However, he is justified when showing their desertions at the expense of the Social-Democratic and Communist workers who were left "holding the bag" when Hitler came to town. He also exposes their can-shaking rackets (similar to the Stalinist rackets we might add) and their lack of interest in the workers. On this score Mr. Reed is perfectly correct.

Mr. Gedye ends his book by leaving the impression that "democracy" is most preferable, but in a showdown between Communism and Fascism, he would pick the former. Mr. Reed is a strong British nationalist. His only solution apparently is war on the part of England and France to exterminate Germany which, unfortunately, is now taking place.

Their books show that Messrs. Gedye and Reed do not understand the whys and wherefores of imperialist diplomacy. They believe in "democracy" in the abstract and do not see its class roots.

E. Denny

THE CIRCULATION of this issue increased by

1,000 COPIES

as a result of contributions received in response to the appeal in the last issue for

\$3 Donations

to publish extra copies for distribution to factory workers.

REVOLT is published by workers for workers. It has a few subscriptions. But is more interested in mass distributions than in single sales.

REVOLT is sold and given away free at plant gates, on picket lines, in demonstrations at union meetings and political meetings, wherever workers are in action against the enemy or wherever working class problems are discussed.

It is financed entirely out of the pockets of the members of the League and its friends by their sacrifice.

The number of copies distributed depends on two things: Money, and distributors.

The present distributors can handle a minimum of ten thousand copies a week.

REVOLT is appealing for contributions of \$3. For each \$3 received 500 additional REVOLTS will be printed and distributed to factory workers in the auto, marine and other industries.

All contributions will be used only for printing REVOLT, and ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE REPORTED IN REVOLT.