

Labor's Answer To Government Strikebreaking

An Editorial

Against state police and company gangsters at River Rouge—and at Bethlehem—and at Allis-Chalmers—and at International Harvester's plants—everywhere the workers are showing their readiness to fight as hard as necessary to win their just demands.

Company towns where yesterday no worker dared wear a union button are today union strongholds: Ford's Dearborn and Bethlehem and Johnstown are only the more dramatic examples of this transformation, wrought by the workers' will to struggle.

Everywhere they have brushed aside the bosses' argument that this is no time to strike. The war propaganda has not blinded the workers. They KNOW that this is the moment to win and they are on the march!

But as they march toward victory, enemies lie in ambush. Enemies whom the workers don't yet fully realize are enemies. Unless the workers recognize these enemies for what they are, the great march of labor will be waylaid and cut to pieces.

Who are these enemies? They are those who sent the order to the Allis-Chalmers strikers to return to work. Those who declare that henceforth all unions must observe a "cooling off" period. Those who, in the International Harvester, Vanadium, Universal Cyclops Steel, Cornell-Dubilier strikes demanded that the strikers go back to work immediately and thus continue negotiations under conditions where the boss, with his plant running, has the upper hand.

The enemies of the workers are those who call upon the 48 state administrations to speed up organization of the Home Guard "to curb labor disturbances." Those for whom the six-ton armored car belching gas at the Allis-Chalmers strikers, the 30-inch riot sticks with which women and children were clubbed at Bethlehem, the Chicago killer-cops, are not enough, but who demand "Home" Guard strikebreakers by the tens of thousands—these are the enemies of labor.

Who committed these crimes against labor? Their names are known to all workers. OPM Director Knudsen and Secretary of the Navy Knox sent that order to the Allis-Chalmers strikers. National Mediation Board Chairman was responsible for telling all unions henceforth to observe a "cooling off" period. The National Mediation Board as a whole told the strikers, in every case certified to the board, to return to work first and discuss their grievances later. It was Secretary of War Stimson who, reminding the state government they would get from him all the guns they needed, urged them to speed expansion of their Home Guard units to "maintain law and order" against "labor disturbances."

Nor does these names complete the list of enemies of labor. The direst threats against the workers are coming from the poll-tax Congressmen. Summers of Texas, foaming at the mouth with class-hatred, calls for death in the electric chair for strikers in war industries. Cox of Georgia calls for industrial conscription of all workers up to the age of 65. Smith of Virginia launches a new assault on the last vestiges of the Wagner Act.

And does anybody rise in Congress to blast these poll-tax Congressmen out of their seats? Not at all. On the contrary, the poll-tax Congressmen's speeches are being used to scare the workers. Congressional "friends of labor" point to these rabid speeches and tell us: "See, unless you are reasonable, and do what the Mediation Board and the other government agencies want you to do, Cox and Summers and Smith will have their way." Thus the poll-tax Congressmen and the "liberal" Congressmen are together working the old "hard-cop, soft-cop" trick: the hard cop hits you to make you give in, while the soft cop wheedles it out of you.

Nor does this exhaust the list of those who are cracking down on the workers. Roosevelt demands "uninterrupted production" of coal, but says nothing about the fact that the miners offered to continue working on condition that any gains under the new contract be retroactive until April 1, and that the bosses refused this. By saying nothing, Roosevelt condones the refusal of the bosses and puts pressure on the miners to go back to work unconditionally.

Nor does this exhaust the list. The most outrageous acts against the workers have come from those agencies of government in which labor "representatives" are functioning: the Office of Production Management in which Hillman is co-director with Knudsen, the Mediation Board on which sit Green and Harrison, Murray and Kennedy. Hillman "vacations" and lends consent by silence, while Knudsen orders strikers back to work. Philip Murray, CIO head covers up the strikebreaking moves made by the Mediation Board on which he sits.

Add all this up. Add together the actual moves made against the workers, plus the threats of further action against the workers, and the answer is plain: the basic tendency of the government as a whole is toward systematic strikebreaking. All these individual instances are not separate and apart from each other, but are parts of this strikebreaking tendency.

This kind of strikebreaking, like any other kind, can be stopped by the workers. But they can't stop it until they understand what it is. Once they understand that it is government strikebreaking, then they can fight it successfully.

Unmask this governmental strikebreaking! Show it up for what it is! No trade union official shall serve the government agencies as a fig-leaf covering up its strikebreaking. Withdraw all union officials from the government service!

Every strike shows that the workers can win only by their own independent class action. An end to this business of union officials spending all their time fraternizing with government bodies while inexperienced picket lines are left to shift for themselves.

These and other immediate tasks of the working class become clear and can be concretely formulated, once we understand what must be done.

In the adjoining column we submit such a program of immediate tasks for the consideration of all workers and their trade unions and other workers' organizations. We welcome discussion of this program by all workers and throw open our pages to letters from trade unions and individual workers.

THE MILITANT

Formerly the SOCIALIST APPEAL

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

VOL. V—No. 14

NEW YORK, N. Y. SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1941



FIVE (5) CENTS

A Program For Today's Fight

1. Demand that trade union officials resign from all posts in the government, including the OPM and the National Mediation Board.

Hillman and Murray, Harrison, Green and Kennedy shall no longer serve as union fig-leaves for government strikebreaking.

2. Organize the picket lines for all-out militant defense against the thuggery of government cops and company hoodlums.

No more inadequately prepared picket lines. The place of union officials is directing the strengthening of picket lines and not trying to get non-existent government "help" for favorable settlements. The workers can win only by their own independent class action.

3. Organize Union Defense Guards to protect the picket lines and union halls against "law and order committees," "home guards," and all other anti-labor bands.

4. Call an immediate halt to all acts of hostility between the AFL and CIO which serve the bosses' strikebreaking.

The CIO had no business lending its name to four electricians working for a boss who wouldn't sign the regular AFL union contract at Wright Field; that gave the government a pretext to crack down on what it called a "jurisdictional" strike. On the heels of that came the AFL's chartering of the company union at International Harvester, giving a "jurisdictional" cover to Chicago's cops to beat up the CIO picket line. Similar crimes are being committed by the AFL at Allis-Chalmers and Ford.

5. Demand the unification of the AFL and CIO on the basis of preserving and extending the industrial form of organization.

The main responsibility for a divided labor movement must be placed on the shoulders of the craft union moguls of the AFL. They can and must be forced to yield to a progressive unification of the trade union movement.

6. Independent working class political action.

"Pure and simple" trade unionism is bankrupt. Every governor, mayor, sheriff, police chief, who acts today against the workers got his office with the help of "non-partisan" labor votes. It is now a life-and-death question that the workers must have their own party, an Independent Labor Party constituted by the trade unions, all of whose candidates shall be answerable to it for all their actions. Such a party will rally the farmers and all other toilers behind it and open up the road to a Workers' and Farmers' Government.

ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

Everybody knows that when Hitler speaks of "liberation" he means enslavement. Everyone knows his "order" and "peace" is chaos and war. Everyone knows his "promise" is always a conscious deception.

But Hitler has no monopoly on this imperialist doubletalk. When Churchill, Roosevelt and their minions speak glitteringly about "freedom" and "independence" and "post-war adjustment" just what do THEY mean by these things?

Last week Lord Halifax, the British ambassador, was in New York. He made a speech before the Pilgrim's Society in which he spoke eloquently about all these fine-sounding propositions like the rights of man and the free independence of nations. The next day, however, he made the mistake of facing a battery of New York reporters who tried to pin him down to some more concrete explanation of his terms.

In his replies, the British envoy gave a pretty good demonstration of capitalist squirming. One reporter asked if the Anglo-American "cooperation" of tomorrow meant abandonment of the Ottawa imperial preference system erected as a barrier against U. S. trade inroads into British imperial markets. "I wouldn't at all be taken as saying that," the ambassador replied quickly.

Another reporter dwelt on the ambassador's promise that in the post-war world "economic difficulties" would be ironed out. He asked the envoy "to point to a specific failure in world economic dealings which may be corrected in the future."

"I think it would be unwise," Halifax uncomfortably replied,

Another reporter quoted from the Halifax speech about "equal political opportunity for all peoples" and asked if this meant Britain was ready to free India.

"It is not possible to dispose of India in a sentence," replied the former viceroy of India, adding that Britain still held to her promise to give India "dominion status" at some future time.

In this and in all the other embarrassing subjects brought up at the conference, the British ambassador showed a curious unwillingness to fill in the shadow outlines of his speechifying with concrete facts and names. He himself explained the difficulty:

"It is comparatively easy to lay down principles (but) the trouble may come when you come to the question of discussing with other nations how these general principles are to be applied."

In other words, in "general principle" Britain is for freedom for India, world economic "adjustment," freedom and independence for all. But when it comes to applying them, we always discover that Britain really means enslavement for India, continued anarchy in world economy, and continued subjection of the world to imperialist interests.

Hitler doesn't fool anybody with his big words. But neither should Churchill, Roosevelt and Halifax. None of them is really talking about freedom for the people of the world. What they are fighting about is who shall be slave-master of the world. All the rest is propagandistic and diplomatic claptrap.

Steel Workers Win In Two Bethlehem Strikes

This Human Wall Did It



An unusual shot of one of the scenes during the victorious strike of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (CIO) at the 21,000 man-plant of Bethlehem Steel in Bethlehem, Pa. A mass of strikers are shown here blocking the entrance to the main gate of the plant.

SWOC Shows Strength In Huge Victory Parade

BULLETIN

Score two runs in a row for the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (CIO). The strike of 15,000 steel workers of the Cambria Works of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation at Johnstown, Pa., which began Friday right after settlement of the strike at the parent plant in Bethlehem was ended Sunday, March 30, with a victory for the union. Called to halt a company union election, the strike won an agreement identical with that won in Bethlehem.

By ART PREIS

BETHLEHEM, Pa., March 28—The victory parade of the Bethlehem steel strikers starts. "It's bigger than the day they signed the Armistice!" an exultant steel striker beside me exclaims.

The steel workers pour out of the smoke-filled, jam-packed Beth-Allen Casino where they have just shouted their acclaim to the agreement with Bethlehem Steel.

"Only 'twenty' per cent out, huh?" crows a big striker in a leather jacket. "Old Eugene Grace would like to make a profit as big as this 'twenty' per cent."

"God Almighty! Wouldn't this be some parade if that 'eighty' per cent who scabbed were in it?" roars another voice.

"Write this in your paper, will you, Shorty?" says the striker in the leather jacket.

High up in the air they hoist me, on two powerful shoulders. All the way down Broad Street, clear to New Street, is a sea of heads. Eight and ten abreast, pressed chest to back, the steel workers are massed in the street. And behind us I see the line swelling and growing for a block, two blocks, as new hundreds leave the sidewalks and join the parade.

"God Almighty! Eighty per cent!" big Leather Jacket keeps chucking out loud. "Wait'll those rats at the plant see our 'twenty' per cent."

The line starts to move. A cheer and a whoop and a holler ripples up and down the marching thousands.

NOW THEY KNOW—

Not until this moment have these Bethlehem Steel workers fully understood what the union is, what it represents, its size, its solidity, its power.

Even inside the only available hall in the area, where three to four thousand had managed to squeeze in, while overflow thousands crowded the broad stairs and out into the streets, the full realization had failed to dawn upon them.

Not even when they heard the details of Grace's concessions—the first ever granted to a union in Bethlehem's parent plant—did they fully grasp what the union and this strike really means.

Now, when the parade swings forward, they see the UNION as it really is. They see it whole, its numbers, its dynamic power in action, stretched forward and behind as far as the eye can see.

"God Almighty!" Leather Jacket breathes one final exclamation

(Continued on page 4)

Jugoslav Masses Given No Part in Army Coup

New Regime A Dictatorship, Like the Old; But the Revolt Was Popular, For the Masses Are Determined To Resist Fascism

What happened in Yugoslavia was a *coup d'etat*, staged by anti-German officers, apparently with support and connivance of the British legation, and without too much opposition on the part of the old government. What mainly differentiates the new from the old dictatorship is that it is on the side of the British—and that is why Yugoslavia is said to have "found her soul" and become a "hero nation" overnight.

While it is undoubtedly true that in their own way the army leaders will make every attempt to defend Yugoslavia against German and Italian aggression, they can at the same time be trusted by the bourgeoisie to be completely incapable and unwilling to solve that country's most pressing and dangerous problems: a fact amply and brutally demonstrated during the sixteen years of King Alexander's reign, when the army was the real power.

And yet the events of the past few days in that country may well signal the beginning of the real struggle in Europe. Unquestionably the British and American press had good reason to play up the "popular revolt" angle. But at the same time we must guard against underestimating the part which popular opposition, particularly in Serbia and Montenegro, has played in these developments.

Yugoslavia is a Versailles patchwork composed of the pre-war independent kingdom of Serbia, the Austrian provinces of Croatia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, and the unconquerable mountain region of Montenegro. Eighty per cent of the population are peasants, nominally free, but for the greater part living far below subsistence level.

Before the last war the political ties between Serbia and Czarist Russia were more than close. The Serbian royalty, educated at the court of St. Petersburg, granted refuge and lent active support to the Russian counter-revolution and made their country a basis for the most ignominious white-Russian machinations against the rising Soviet power.

PRO-RUSSIAN PEASANTRY

At the same time, however, due to the similarities of culture and language, a true pro-Russian feel-

ing existed among the masses of Yugoslavia's population, a feeling vastly strengthened by the victory of the October, 1917 revolution. The Yugoslav peasants, discontented, unable to understand why in the midst of the abundance that was growing on their fertile soil they were forced to lead a life of undescendible misery and squalor, sensed dimly that their way out lay in the example of Russia.

This attitude recently found a distorted expression in the appointment of Milan Gavrilovitch, long-time leader of the agrarian party, as Yugoslavia's first envoy to Moscow.

ARE STALINISTS SWITCHING?

A fact of no little interest is the curious behavior of the Stalinists in Yugoslavia. The illegal, brutally suppressed, but nevertheless not insignificant Communist party, for years vociferously advocated collective security. Just as obediently as everywhere else the Yugoslav Stalinists switched after the Stalin-Hitler pact and started whining for peace and neutrality.

The bourgeois press speaks of authenticated reports according to which the Comintern has instructed the Yugoslav section to join hands with the new government. Which may and may not be wishful thinking. However, it is an indisputable fact that the Stalinists have actively participated in the demonstrations at Belgrade, Skoplye, and Cetinye.

Furthermore, the Yugoslav minister to Moscow Milan Gavrilovitch, close friend of the Stalinists and in constant touch with the Kremlin, resigned immediately after the signing of the Vienna pact. Does his pro-British conduct signal the long-expected return to the "fight for democracy" line?

But the masses of Europe are stirring. The real struggle is beginning. This is but the first stage of the struggle in Yugoslavia. In its unfolding it will go far beyond mere anti-fascism.

WORKERS' FORUM

Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about?—tell us what the bosses are up to—and the G-men and the local cops—and the Stalinists—send us that story the capitalist press didn't print and that story they buried or distorted—our pages are open to you. Letters must carry name and address, but indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Harlem Negroes Are Picketing Bus Lines For Jobs For Negroes

EDITOR:
The New York bus strike was settled over a week ago, but in Harlem the picketing of the bus lines still continues. Various Negro organizations have joined with the Harlem Labor Union in a concerted effort to place 100 Negro mechanics and 100 Negro bus drivers on the New York bus lines. There are no Negroes employed by either of the two bus companies.

Picketing by the Harlem Labor Union has been going on along 7th and 8th avenues at all the major bus stops in Harlem. The Negro people of Harlem are being urged to stay off the busses. A free bus system has been put into operation: all cars and taxis that the Harlem union can get have been mobilized for service. These cars carry a plain white card on the right hand side of the wind-shield to distinguish them as service cars. A soup kitchen has been set up at the Abyssinian Baptist Church.

The strike committee has tried to contact Mayor LaGuardia, John A. Ritchie, head of the bus companies, and Mike Quill, President of the Transport Workers Union. As yet none of these people have responded to the repeated invitations of the committee, except that the TWU sent M. H. Froge, editor of the Transport Workers Bulletin, as representative to speak for the union. Froge explained that the TWU has been fighting the Transit Commission on many issues and one of the main issues has been the Commission's refusal to hire Negroes. Froge pointed out that the main responsibility for the present situation lay with the bus companies. He pledged the Transport Union's further cooperation in ending Negro discrimination on the bus lines.

Although the Harlem Labor Union has repudiated the support of the Transport Workers, I believe that the Negroes now picketing in Harlem can best fulfill their aims by achieving solidarity with the white transport workers.

Both the Negro and the white workers are subject to exploitation under the present capitalist system. The Negroes in Harlem have a strong hatred for the white boss class that gives them only the most menial tasks, that pays them the lowest wages, that exploits and bears down upon them by segregating and discriminating against them in all phases of capitalist social, political, and economic life. They see the white workers in the trade unions, with higher wages, better working conditions, than they, the Negroes, enjoy. Because of isolated incidents where unscrupulous trade-union bureaucrats have discriminated against them, they feel resentment when they see the white workers in their trade unions fighting and winning higher wages and better working conditions.

And so they say, "Only the Negro can solve the Negro's problems!" Yes. Only the Negro can solve the Negro's problems; but he can only do it by cooperating and fighting side by side with the white worker against the boss system that has been the cause of his suffering. The struggle of the Harlem Labor Union is a fight against the boss system, just as the fight of the white workers is. Both Negro, and white worker can best achieve their task by fighting together against the common enemy. New York City

MURRAY M.



BULLETIN!

Forty-one subs amounting to 84 points arrived this morning after this column was set up. They are not included below. However, they came in before the deadline, and make the week's total 161 subs, 339 points!

MASS STRIKES AND MASS CIRCULATION

Last week was a militant one—for the working class and for us. Last week was a week of headaches for those in high places; it was a week in which our press reached its peak circulation to date. Workers in the Bethlehem victory parade snatched eagerly at every extra copy we could rush there. Workers, either actually on strike or standing at the threshold of class action, welcomed the thousands of copies of the MILITANT made available to them by the loyal and devoted work of our comrades in Allentown, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Youngstown.

SPLENDID RESULTS OF OUR SUB CAMPAIGN

Except for a few tardy subscriptions which we know are still on the way to us from the remoter parts of the country, the column below gives final results on the two-month subscription drive conducted with a gusto and enthusiasm unsurpassed by any section of the political labor movement in recent years.

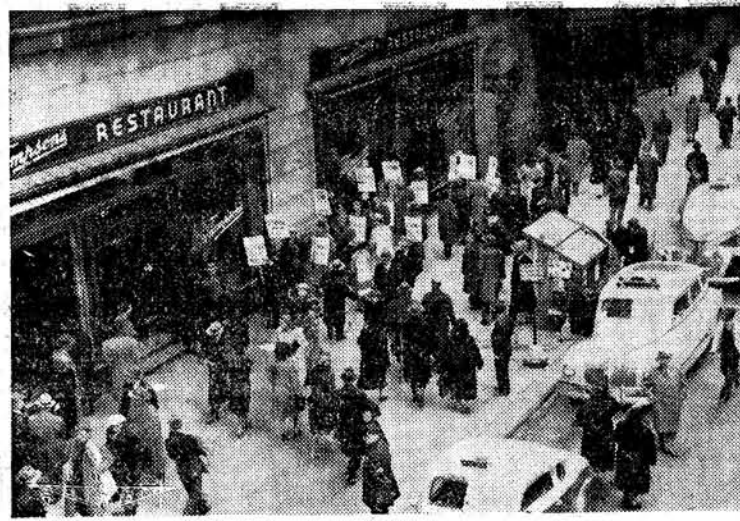
A complete grasp of the significance of these totals cannot be had from the scoreboard as it here appears, but even a cursory glance will show one interesting fact: Whereas the campaign was conducted with a 50c. Special combination subscription as the base, the final total in points (1 for each 50c.) indicates that the average payment for a subscription ran well above a dollar.

Minnesota speaks for itself; it simply ran away from the rest of the field. Chicago, which lost out to New York on a fluke last week, has redeemed herself and come in second.

The press staff of THE MILITANT and the FOURTH INTERNATIONAL here publicly expresses its boundless gratitude for the token of enthusiasm and devotion represented in the final totals of this short and effective drive: 798 subscriptions and 1658 points (\$829).

	This Week	Total
	Subs Pts	Subs Pts
Minnesota	27 87	335 828
Chicago	29 52	65 172
New York	8 14	70 120
Boston	10 16	53 93
Detroit	1 2	36 81
Cleveland	11 17	32 66
Los Angeles	1 6	22 53
Flint	1 1	29 37
Newark	6 8	21 32
Youngstown	0 0	23 31
Frisco	4 4	14 18
Toledo	0 0	12 18
New Haven	0 0	12 17
Rochester	5 8	11 15
Milwaukee	5 5	8 11
Quakertown	5 10	5 10
Allentown	0 0	4 7
Philadelphia	1 2	3 6
Plentywood	0 0	2 6
Paterson	0 0	3 5
Pittsburgh	0 0	3 5
Pittsburgh	0 0	4 4
St. Louis	1 1	3 4
Kansas	1 2	2 4
Palo Alto	0 0	1 4
London, Eng.	0 0	1 4
Rockville	0 0	1 4
New Castle	1 4	1 4
San Diego	1 1	3 3
Texas	0 0	2 2
Albany	0 0	1 2
Memphis	1 2	1 2
Fresno	1 2	1 2
Wash. D C	1 2	1 2
Totals	120 255	798 1658

Thompson Chain Strikers



Workers of the J. R. Thompson cafeteria chain are shown picketing one of the strike-closed stores in New York. The 250 Thompson workers, members of the powerful Cafeteria Workers Local 302 of the Food Workers Union (AFL), have been conducting a militant strike for increased wages since March 17.

GRACE CARLSON TOUR THIS WEEK

SEATTLE, Washington: Tuesday, April 1.
PLENTYWOOD, Montana: Friday, April 4th, 8 p.m., at the Farmer Labor Temple. Subject: "The Right To Life."
FARGO, N. D.: Monday, Tuesday, April 7, 8.
TWIN CITIES: Wednesday, April 9.
ST. PAUL: Friday, April 11, 8 P. M. "The Role of the American Workers in the War Program."

GRACE CARLSON REPORTS WEST COAST MEETING

By GRACE CARLSON
SAN FRANCISCO, March 29.—An audience of over 50 seamen, longshoremen, dining car employes, culinary workers, building trades workers and others heard the Trotskyist analysis of *The War Today* at the open meeting which I addressed in San Francisco last night.

From the interested questions and the substantial collection, one may draw the encouraging conclusion that an increasing number of San Francisco militants are accepting Trotskyism as the only solution to the problems of the working class.

On Monday night, March 24, I had an opportunity to speak in Oakland at a meeting, sponsored by the Oakland Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Copies of *The Militant* and leaflets announcing the SWP meeting were distributed there after the meeting. Some of the Negro workers who attended last night's meeting were undoubtedly attracted there as a result of this distribution.

Good meetings were also held in Los Angeles and San Pedro. The Los Angeles mass meeting, which was held on March 23, attracted over 100 people. Many of these were militants from the aviation industry, who applauded vigorously all of the attacks made upon the red-baiting tactics of Roosevelt, Knudsen, Hillman, Green and the others. One aircraft worker, who announced that he was at his first Trotskyist meeting, took the floor to express his support of our program of an independent working-class struggle against fascism.

The audience in San Pedro was made up of seamen, shipyard workers and cannery workers. Some of these were Mexicans, and they had a genuine appreciation of our analysis of hypocrisy of the Rooseveltian "good neighbor" in Mexico and South America.

Stalinist Goons Attack 'Militant' Salesmen In N. Y.

Two members of the Socialist Workers Party, Local New York, who were distributing *The Militant* at a meeting in Manhattan Center of Local 65 of the Retail Clerks (CIO) Tuesday night were attacked by a Stalinist goon squad of 15 to 20 men. Apparently the Stalinists were afraid of letting the workers read the truth about the Soviet Union as published in the Trotskyist press.

The distributors managed to stave off the attack for about ten minutes during the time the greatest number of workers were crowding into the meeting, by calling the attention of the union members to the threatened violation of civil liberties by the Stalinists.

Most of the Militants were distributed by the time the Stalinist bureaucrats worked up this squad to a high enough pitch to carry out their dirty work. The remaining literature of the SWP members was torn from their arms.

Art Walker, one of the *Militant* distributors, suffered a blackened eye in the melee, but swore he will be back at the same spot for the next distribution.

United May Day Group Meets

Police Refuse Committee's Line Of March; SWP Delegates Seated Only As Observers

By JOSEPH HANSEN

NEW YORK CITY, March 28.—Plans for a united May Day parade were presented to representatives of trade unions and other labor organizations today at a conference in Webster Hall, called by a self-constituted Provisional May Day Committee. The conference passed a resolution to make this committee permanent, with Louis Weinstock, secretary-treasurer of District Council 9 of the Painters, as Chairman, and Harry Weinstock as Director.

The credentials committee present represented 60 organizations, 75 of the delegates representing 43 local trade union bodies with a membership of 148,375. Most of these organizations were among those which are generally recognized in the labor movement as led by Stalinist leaders and allies: IWO, Painters, Furriers, Shoe Workers, Pocket Book Makers, etc. etc.

The credentials committee recognized and seated as delegates all the representatives present with the exception of Arthur Burch and Joseph Hansen of the Socialist Workers Party, Local New York. The reporter of the credentials committee declared that this delegation was challenged on the ground that no invitations has been issued to political parties to participate in the May Day parade.

The representatives of the Socialist Workers Party were invited to remain as observers pending a decision by the permanent May Day committee as to whether or not political organizations of the working class will be invited to participate in the May Day parade.

The police at first wished to shunt the parade down Ninth Avenue, which is close to the Hudson River. They later conceded moving it to Eighth Avenue, which is a block closer to Fifth Avenue, the traditional street for parades.

The conference passed a unanimous resolution asking all working class organizations to telegraph Police Commissioner Valentine protesting his arbitrary and undemocratic attempt to detour the May Day parade.

First speaker at the conference was Louis Weinstock, who attacked British, German, and American imperialism without suggesting any program whatsoever as a real alternative to the war plans of the capitalist class. He ended his speech with such purely pacifist and highly misleading slogans as "The Yanks Are Not Coming."

Featured speaker was Reverend Clarence A. Boyer of the Madison Square Church House. He delivered a sermon on the virtues of peace which could have graced any pulpit in any chapel of any denomination at any time up to the day the professional pulpitiere trade in their "peace is wonderful" theme for a list of army approved recruiting slogans.

Among the attractions at the conference was a film of last year's May Day parade, a boys' band, and an elocutionist who spoke of the need of color and drama in May Day parades.

By the time the resolutions committee was ready to report, the greater part of the delegates had gone. A list of 45 slogans were unanimously approved as "official," and all resolutions were unanimously left up to the resolutions committee for "appropriate" action.

The slogans approved were in large part purely pacifist slogans of the type which the Stalinists are now shouting, such as "Get out and Stay out of the War," "The Yanks Are Not Coming," "No gold star mothers," "Defend democracy by preserving peace."

Such slogans are no different from the stock in trade of professional pacifists who shout for peace only at the last moment to jump in the war chariots and call for "total victory."

Some slogans were good, however, such as "No Jim Crow Army," and "Defend the Right to Strike," although the latter slogan needs as a supplement: "Organize Workers Defense Squads."

WHAT IS NEEDED
What is needed now, and especially on this historic May Day which may well be the last one before U. S. entry in the war, is a set of militant slogans that really provide an alternative to the capitalist war.

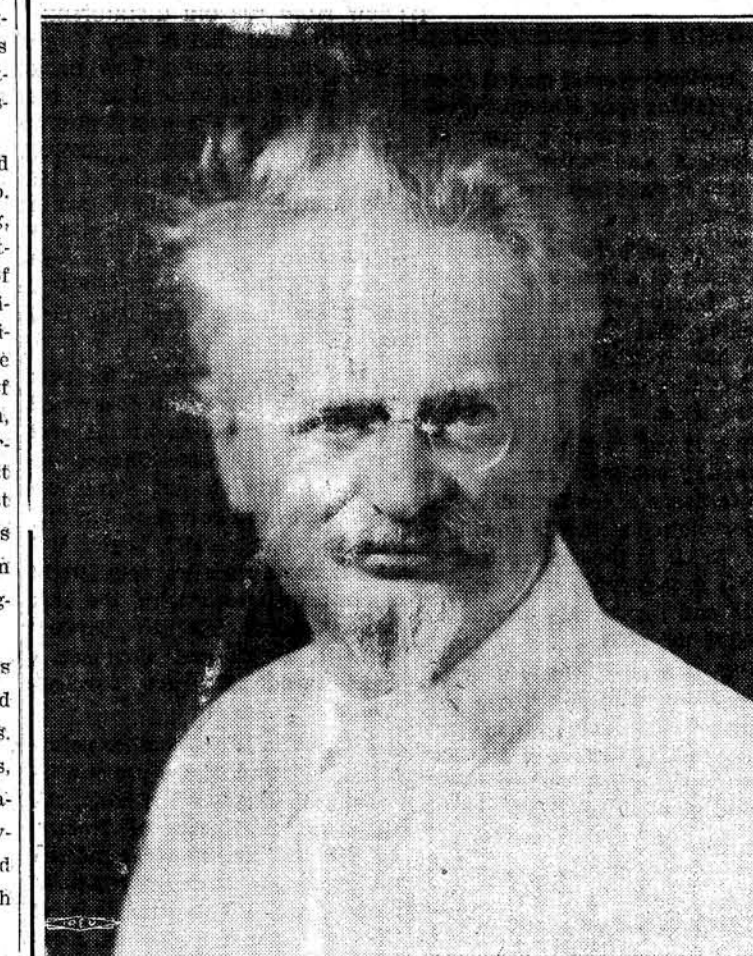
The representatives of the Socialist Workers Party are submitting to the Resolutions Committee for consideration the following slogans, NONE of which were included in the official slogans passed by the conference:

1. Down with Imperialist War!
2. Defend the Soviet Union!
3. Trade union control of military training!
4. Build an Independent Labor Party!
5. For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!
6. For a Socialist Society!

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for April 19. At this meeting the committee's decision will be announced as to whether political parties of the working class will be invited to participate in what was announced by the Provisional Committee as a "united" May Day parade.

For Every Workers' Center For Every Militant's Home

THIS SPLENDID PORTRAIT OF LEON TROTSKY



done on velvet-tone paper (unframed)
8 by 10 inches—\$ 2.00
(4 times the area of this cut)
11 by 14 inches—\$ 4.50
16 by 20 inches—\$12.00

Send prepaid orders at once to

THE MILITANT

116 University Place New York

Buy the MILITANT IN MINNEAPOLIS at: Shinders News Co., 6th St. & Hennepin Av. Morris Kroman, 4th St. & Nicollet Av. Pioneer News Co., 238 Second Av., South A. Peterson News Stand, Washington Av. & B'way N. Labor Book store, 919 Marquette Av.

In Los Angeles Buy the MILITANT at Lazerus Candy Store 2109 Brooklyn Ave. Book Store E. 1st St. & Rowan Ave. Sam Smit's Newsstand 5th & Main St.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE LABOR PRESS

BY CARL O'SHEA

For a prime example of mealy-mouthed politics, read the statement by Norman Thomas, national chairman of the Socialist Party, on the resignations of Porter, Trager, McDowell and Woodcock from the national committee, and the statement by Porter-Trager. They appear in the March 22nd CALL.

Despite their open pro-war position and resignations from the committee, Porter, Woodcock and Trager continue as S.P. members.

By the way, Thomas was not so genteel when he was expelling the revolutionary wing of the Socialist Party—remember?

No, VOGUE magazine can hardly be classed as a labor paper. But this snobbish organ features in its March 15th issue an article on the ILGWU entitled "It's a Nice Union: The powerful garment workers raise a startling new banner—'Bigger Profits for Employers.'" The author tells how in recent negotiations the union "ignored higher wages and shorter hours. Instead it insisted that the employers begin to apply streamlined efficiency methods..." For the first time, a union has mustered all its power to force employers to make money." Julius Hochman is referred to as "one of the country's most cultivated labor leaders."

Hochman and Dubinsky are beyond blushing at receiving compliments from such a journal as VOGUE. The trouble with labor leaders like Hochman is they are too damned cultivated—they regard for the welfare of the garment workers has been cultivated right out of these leaders.

One of the more worthless labor papers in the nation is the AFL St. Paul UNION ADVOCATE edited by an interesting fellow named A. F. Lockhart. Lockhart, who reflects the views of the heads of the Minnesota Federation of Labor, has a hatred of militant unionism, matched only by his unblinking ignorance about the doctrines he opposes. In the March 20th ADVOCATE he instructs us on the communist movement as follows: "The late Emma Goldman and Emil Bergman were communists before communism had become an international menace. They used to mount U. S. soapboxes to glorify Marxian socialism," etc. etc.

You're doing fine, Lockhart. Only it was Alexander Berkman, not Emil Bergman. And it was Marxian socialism that they hated, not glorified. Both were anarchists, with all the traditional opposition to Marxism.

Because Big Business refuses to provide adequate safety equipment, and insists on using the war program to justify a speedup system, accidents in industrial plants are taking a terrible toll of workers, figures of the U. S. Department of Labor revealed last week. Accidents have increased 10 per cent in the last few months alone.

"Deaths and injuries due to

these mishaps are causing a greater loss in working time than strikes or any other factor," Verne A. Zimmer, director of the Division of Labor Standards, reports.

Whenever the nation's railroads wish to strike at a competitor they never have any difficulty in lining up the Railroad Brotherhoods to go down the line with them. Instead of fighting the railroads for higher wages and better conditions, the brotherhoods join the railroads in fighting competing industries and fellow workers in those industries.

At last this policy is booming on the brotherhoods. The railroad unions' LABOR for March 25th reports that the Railway Express Agency, owned entirely by the rail carriers, is now buying thousands of new trucks and trailers, to haul any kind of freight by truck anywhere in the country. The Express Agency has ordered 2,667 trucks and trailers to add to its present fleet of more than 13,000, and has filed with the I.C.C. applications for authority to operate trucks over 65 routes scattered from coast to coast. The Standard Labor Railroad Organizations, which originally supported the applications of the Railway Express for truck operating rights, is now whining that if the I.C.C. grants the applications, trucks will be substituted for trains and the jobs of railroad men lost.

Max Hayes, editor of the AFL Cleveland CITIZEN, used to be a socialist. He's sure degenerated in recent years. In the March 21st issue of the CITIZEN, an editorial states that "Right at this moment there is a so-called strike going on at the Vanadium Corp. of America and we sincerely feel that sabotage is far more applicable to this situation."

This is a slander, and a very dangerous slander, against the Vanadium workers, who certainly have legitimate grievances against the company, which THE MILITANT has reported in detail.

To the bosses today, any strike is sabotage, whether the AFL or CIO organizes the strike. Hayes plays right into the hands of the bosses by repeating this lie about the strike being sabotage. If he is still capable of feeling shame, he should feel it over his strike-breaking editorial. Some day, AFL unions in Cleveland who are forced out on strike will see how Hayes' editorial boomerangs on them.

Workers in Chicago ought to give a good kick in the rump to the editors of the Chicago AFL FEDERATION NEWS. In its March 22nd issue this paper hails the strike-breaking work of William Green in issuing an AFL charter to scabs at the CIO strike at International Harvester. Green has put the old pie-card artist, Frank Fenton, in charge of the AFL campaign to break the Harvester strike.

The MARXIST SCHOOL

Lectures for Sessions—Week of April 7th

MONDAY

7:10 to 8:40 p.m. by William M. Warde
The Degeneration of the First American Revolution. Autocracy of the Slave Power; The Development of New Revolutionary Forces.

8:50 to 10:20 p.m. by Lydia Beidell
The Western Federation of Miners and the Development of the I.W.W.

WEDNESDAY

Special lecture to start at 7:10 and go through the evening. By JACK WEBER

The Situation in the Balkans

What is Hitler's goal? Are the Balkans to be Hitler's stumbling block? What will Stalin's Role be now?

IRVING PLAZA

Irving Place and 16th St.

