

Stalinist Policy In Trade Unions

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THE MILITANT

Formerly the SOCIALIST APPEAL

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

VOL. V—No. 20

NEW YORK, N. Y. SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1941



FIVE (5) CENTS

HESS FLIGHT SHOWS NAZI RULE SHAKY

GM Workers Ready To Strike

Their Pressure Forces Officials To Set
Strike Deadline; Want Original Demands

DETROIT, Mich., May 12—The International Executive Board of the United Automobile Workers CIO, in the face of protracted and fruitless negotiations with General Motors and the National Defense Mediation Board panel in Washington, set Thursday, May 15, 7 a. m. as the strike deadline in 60 GM plants.

In reports to union officials in a conference in Detroit Sunday, Walter Reuther and George F. Addes reported that none of the union's major demands have been met by the company. The ten weeks of negotiations have brought nothing but a waste of time, and union officials voted to strike Thursday should there be no satisfactory agreement reached in two days of negotiations early this week.

Local union officers were instructed to get their locals in full preparation for strike. Through-out GM, locals are setting up strike kitchens, broadening the Flying Squadrons, and bracing themselves for a strike.

The impasse which has been reached, reveals that the company is bent on a showdown battle. The fruitless weeks of stalling with the Mediation board, a trap into which Reuther and Thomas fell all too easily, netted the union nothing but lost time. Nevertheless, the GM locals are in a strong position.

UNION IS READY

Never was the UAW-CIO as powerful as it is today in GM. The overwhelming majority of GM workers are in the UAW. Locals are well organized compared to two years ago. There is also a considerable treasury built up, both by the international, and in local unions, to support the strike.

The strike date was set after a veritable barrage of demands was hurled at the International officers by local union militants. Committees from local unions in

(Continued on Page

Detroit Is City Of Strikes As GM Battle Approaches

DETROIT, Mich.—The city of Detroit is now the city of strikes. With GM on the verge of a strike, the scene is dotted with major battles.

The Hudson Motor company has been served strike notice by the UAW, and the date set for Tuesday, May 13.

The 7,000 workers of the Murray Corporation in Detroit have also prepared for strike action.

Meanwhile the Ex-Cello strike of tool and die men continues in an effective shut down of all work.

The Teamsters union is waging a major battle with the lumber trade, in a strike which has spread to all the building trades, who walked out in sympathy with the Teamsters. The Teamsters officials have announced that should there be no settlement shortly with the lumber dealers, a general teamsters strike of 30,000 drivers, including over-the-road men, will be called.

Another Detroit Picket Line



Striking members of the United Automobile Workers (CIO) picket the strike-bound main plant of the Ex-Cell-O Corp. in Detroit, where 3,000 workers have walked out to fight for a 10 cent hourly increase. The company has several million dollars worth of war orders for tools and parts.

AFL-CIO Locals Unite In Frisco Shipyard Strike

Repudiate Hillman-Green Agreement, Demand Wages Equal To
Other Machinists In Bay Area, And Signed Bethlehem Contract

SAN FRANCISCO, May 13—Spurning the government-sponsored no-strike "master contract," 1900 striking AFL and CIO machinists, their picket lines respected by 18,000 other shipyard workers, have shut down 11 shipbuilding plants in this area. They went out Friday at midnight.

A huge mobilization of police ordered out to intimidate the strikers by Chief of Police Dullea could find no pretext for molesting the pickets yesterday and today.

The strikers include 1200 members of Local 68, AFL Machinists, and 700 members of the East Bay Machinists Lodge 1304, Steel Workers Organizing Committee (CIO). They are demanding \$1.15 an hour instead of \$1.12 and doubletime for overtime instead of the time-and-a-half offered in the employer-government-AFL Executive Council agreement.

The strikers' demands would represent a \$6.16 increase for a 48-hour week over the wages provided for machinists in the imposed agreement. At a mass meeting yesterday, over 1,000 AFL strikers rejected a demand from the Office of Production Management that they go back to work and then negotiate.

Continued solid picket lines, idle machinery and smokeless chimneys in the five closed yards here and in the six closed yards across the Bay in Alameda testify to the contempt with which the strikers are treating the "outlaw" strike yelping of the labor skates.

The government officials, employers and AFL tops who cooked up the coast-wide shipyard "master contract," with which they are attempting to "freeze" wages and impose no-strike conditions on the shipyard workers, declare the strike is an "unlawful" repudiation of a contract.

The strikers assert that this agreement was signed in violation of their local autonomy and that they have never subscribed to it. It does not exist as far as they are concerned.

Sidney Hillman was the father of this "master contract" idea and had hopes of spreading it throughout the entire shipbuilding industry. The West Coast "master contract" was signed in Seattle April 23.

By contrast to the policy of the AFL chiefs, the CIO heads have not attempted to interfere with their striking members here. The Steel Workers Organizing Committee is backing the strike. The bosses are unable to claim that the "master contract" applies to

AFL Strikers Are Following Example Of CIO Strike Gains

Undoubtedly inspired by the gains won during the recent CIO strikes, AFL workers in all sections of the country are beginning to strike despite William Green's "no-strike" injunctions.

Among the numerous AFL walk-outs of the past week, excluding the San Francisco shipyard strike, were the following:

Building trades workers tie-up at the huge Army ordinance depot construction project at Gallup, New Mexico.

Shut-down of construction work on \$35,000,000 government ordinance plant by AFL carpenters in Ravenna, Ohio.

Halting of work in Boston on construction at the big Navy drydock.

2500 molders out from 40 iron and brass foundries in Chicago and Fox River Valley.

Cleveland Welding Company, manufacturing submarine and tank parts, closed by machinists.

The CIO machinists because the CIO officials were not invited in on the "master contract" deal.

Spurring on the shipyard strikers to press for their demands is the fact that some 2500 AFL machinists — also members of Local 68 — won the rates and conditions which the present strikers are asking, in a recent successful three-weeks strike of the inland machine shops in this area.

The rates demanded by the shipyard men are therefore the prevailing rates in this area.

As E. F. Dillon, business agent for Local 68, expressed the workers' feelings: "Why should 1,200 of our members work under a contract that is less favorable to them than one we won by strike action for 2,500 others?"

No Self-Confidence In Nazi Tops, Rift Shows

But Hitler Still Rests On Masses' Fear Of Another Versailles;
A British Workers' Government Would Quickly Topple Hitler

At the height of the Nazi military victories, Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy as leader of the Nazi party, has fled Germany like a rat leaving a sinking ship.

Had Hess any faith in the durability of those victories, it is inconceivable that he would have fled. Designated as the second heir to the supreme rulership of Germany, what could Hess have fled from, except in fear of impending disaster? The idea that Hess' flight was a trick of Hitler's is absurd on the face of it: what gain to Hitler from such a maneuver could compensate for the major blow to morale caused by the news that Hess has fled to England?

Once Hess' sanity is conceded—and Berlin appears to have abandoned its first attempts to label him insane—it must be assumed that he fled after a serious quarrel among the rulers of Germany and that the strife came over the question of making peace with Britain.

Berlin asserts that Hess wants peace with Britain because he will be destroyed. This "explanation" would have us believe that this monster, guilty of countless murders, has suddenly become solicitous of the lives that would be lost in further warfare! The one probable element of truth in Berlin's explanation is that Hess does want peace with Britain.

That can only mean that the situation in Germany and Europe is far more serious than has been generally believed.

The difficulties confronting the Nazis in the occupied countries are clear enough. Hitler, remembering the disastrous consequences of the German attempt to rule Belgium, northern France and the Ukraine by naked bayonets in the last war, sought to find another way. He sought strong native collaborators, capable of establishing "independent" regimes.

But in Norway, Belgium, Holland, occupied France, Hitler has failed and must rule directly and with bayonets, as did the Kaiser.

Surrounded by universal hostility, German army morale collapsed in 1918 in the occupied countries—that is the danger again today. And, no more than in 1917-18, can production in those countries be organized effectively by armed force. Nazi propaganda adds up the population of occupied allies instead of enemies—but Hess knows better.

UNREST IN GERMANY

Since Hess, "the original Nazi," looks upon other peoples as mere subjects, his demoralization probably means that within Germany too there is extreme dissatisfaction among the masses. One can

scarcely exaggerate the significance of the fact that Hess fled at the height of the military victories. If the dissatisfaction and danger of real opposition in Germany is already so apparent now, then we can imagine what Hess expects when the Nazis run into their first military defeats!

The British authorities — apparently expecting a new Hitler-Stalin pact — appear desirous of spreading the story that Hess opposed full German collaboration with Stalin. The British story would have it that Hess is in "principled" opposition to alliance with the Soviet Union. But if

Hess had any faith that the Nazis were marching to victory, it is hard to believe that he would have been troubled by a new link with the Soviet regime. Nazi victory, he knows, would be followed by invasion of the Soviet Union.

The kernel of truth in this story is probably that Hess believed an alliance with Stalin would not solve any of Germany's problems and that he counterposed to such an alliance the idea of making peace with Britain.

The British are also spreading the implication that Hess believes Britain will be victorious. That, however, does not follow from Hess' lack of faith in the future of the Nazis. He could scarcely hope to convince the British to make peace at this moment, when Hitler has the advantage, if he believed the British would soon win.

Much more likely is that Hess fears the consequences of further warfare, not only to the Nazis but also to the British rulers. With his political experience he knows that, if the Nazi ruler is overturned in the course of the war, it will be the workers and peasants of Europe who will come to the fore; that Britain's subject peoples will also rise, taking advantage of Britain's difficulties; and that in a world in revolutionary flames Churchill will be as endangered as Hitler.

Hess, then, may be pleading for peace, not only for the sake of Germany's rulers, but on the basis that the ruling class of the two countries must unite against the common enemy: revolution.

Whatever Hess' own motivation may be — and it may be long before we really know what he actually thought — his act has dealt the Nazi war machine a deadly blow.

As deep as the gloom in the Japanese press at the news of this blow to its ally is, of course, the joy in Washington and Britain. The "democratic" imperialists consider this their victory and it is true that it bolsters them in their conflict with the totalitarian imperialists.

But, in reality, this demoralization and flight of the No. 3 Nazi is a harbinger of OUR victory, the victory of the revolutionary fighters against fascism and against imperialism whether "democratic" or fascist.

OUR PROGRAM CONFIRMED
Yes, it points the way to our victory. Everywhere in the world — and inside Germany — Hess' act has illumined the essential instability of the Nazi regime.

How foolish appear those "democrats" who had such awe for Nazism that they thought its military exploits were guaranteeing its permanence!

How absurd are those "democrats" who thought that

(Continued from Page 4)

ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

A few weeks ago the Jews celebrated the Feast of Passover, commemorating the departure of the Jews from Egypt for the Promised Land. The near future may hold for Jews the twisted irony of a new exodus, an exodus from the Promised Land back to Egypt.

The chances are that with the threat of a Nazi drive through Syria into Palestine toward Suez, this exodus has already begun. As usual it would be those Jews with some money who are able to get out just in advance of the storm. For the rest, the hapless hundreds of thousands who thought that in Palestine they might find refuge, the time of flight amid the storm may well be drawing near.

For decades now the Zionists have placed all hopes of a Jewish homeland upon the sharp points of British bayonets. They depended upon these bayonets to defend them against the Arabs and preferred this defense to the choice of a compact between Arab and Jew. In the last few years they secured precious little defense against the Arabs and tomorrow they will have even less certainty of defense against the approaching Nazi legions. There will be no way left but to retrace the path of Moses through the wilderness back into Egypt land.

The Arabs, for their part, twisted about like pawns by venal leaders, may find themselves transferred from the

British imperialist yoke to the German. The compromises of their leaders in the past twenty years with the British would bear fruit now not in liberation but in subjection to the Nazis.

Both Jew and Arab, in other words, may have to pay in this form for their failure to find the common ground on which both could be free.

But take the other variant... that Hitler will not succeed in reaching Suez from the East... what then for the Jewish homeland in Palestine? It is already a battle sector. The British have to gamble desperately upon Arab support against the Nazis and who can doubt for a single moment that they will gladly offer up to Arab leaders the carcass of Jewish "homeland" hopes in return for such support?

When we, for years, repeatedly warned that the only hope of the Jews in Palestine was accord with the Arabs fellow-helpers, that the only hope of Jews everywhere was in the overthrow of capitalism, we were brushed off as extremists and dreamers. "Realism" was the keynote of Zionist policy for the Jews. Let Jews ponder now where this realism is taking them—back into Egypt land. For our part we repeat once more: the Jew will be liberated only when all mankind is freed from the butchering rapacity of imperialism.

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.

Letter Gives Effects Of War On Ireland Despite Its "Peace"

Editors: Readers of THE MILITANT will undoubtedly be interested in the conditions confronting the Irish people, as revealed in the following excerpts from a letter I just received from Dublin. Technically Ireland is not in the war; but these conditions show what the war is doing to Ireland—and this is just the beginning.

*** (Excerpts) The almost complete lack of petrol complicates moving. I've got to move my things only about 15 miles, but it is almost impossible to hire a lorry with enough petrol to go that distance. There are no private cars allowed except for doctors and priests, and even the commercial lorries are very short. Most of the haulage is now done by horses. In fact every horse in Ireland that is fit to work and quite a few that are not are now to be seen in the streets.

Most of the lorries that are still running are fitted with producer gas plants, more or less hastily rigged up, to burn Irish anthracite coal, or else have gas bags on top and are running on town gas.

This and the general shortage of everything has had a very bad effect on industry. There is a very great deal of unemployment. In my new house there is no way of lighting except by oil lamps, as in many parts of Ireland, and it's fortunate that the summer is coming, because lamp oil is almost impossible to get. Another difficulty is fuel. It's not only expensive, but often unobtainable.

Many seeds are also difficult to get. One must just sow anything obtainable and hope for the best. Feeding stuffs for my hens and other livestock are so expensive as to be impossible. And on top of everything else, including a very bad sowing season which may have disastrous effects upon the crops, we have a standstill order for cattle owing to the foot and mouth disease.

I cannot, for example, get a permit to take my milch goats from my old farm to my new one. The disease is terribly infectious and no movements of cloven hoofed animals is allowed at all, except under permit for immediate slaughter. It is forbidden to walk

across any field even to do business, for fear of carrying away the germs on one's boots. Even dogs must be kept on a chain to keep them out of the fields. The transport of straw and manure in Dublin is forbidden. These precautions are absolutely necessary, but can you imagine the effects upon agriculture?

Collective Action By Soldiers Gets Them Results At Tilden

EDITOR: You might be interested to hear of an incident that happened in the training camp here at Fort Tilden.

Regulation instructions are that we can't petition Congress on any grievances but we must take any grievance up only with our immediate superior officers. Some of the boys didn't like the fact that we were permitted passes to leave camp only on weekends, as we have most evenings free and not much to keep us occupied then.

They started to circulate a petition to get passes to leave camp at any time we are off duty, which is usually by 4:30 P.M., except for occasional minor duties afterward. From then until 11:30 P.M., which is turn-in, we are off duty.

Those who were circulating the petition were warned by the sergeant to stop, because he said it was a court-martial offense to circulate a petition in the army. That put the squelch on the petition campaign.

Nevertheless, the petition activity must have put the officers wise to how the men were feeling. And to our great satisfaction we have received passes now which permit us to leave camp whenever we are off duty.

A DRAFTEE Fort Tilden, Far Rockaway, N.Y.

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

Strike Headquarters---Army Style



Evicted from their headquarters by a landlord who showed a sudden bias against militant unionism, these undaunted strikers from the J. Saker Mfg. Co. in Queens, New York City, pitched this tent on a nearby vacant lot and set up strike headquarters. The 350 strikers, members of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (CIO), have been holding their picket line for over five weeks in a fight for higher wages and better working conditions.

Bronx Slave Market Is Merely Moved Indoors

Even LaGuardia Has To Admit, At Opening Ceremony, That He Has Just Put A Roof Over It; A Union Of Domestic Workers Needed

By MURRAY FIELD

The New York City Committee on Street Corner Markets, composed of Federal, State, civic, and social agencies, opened a "hiring hall" on May 2 at 1029 Simpson St. just off Westchester Avenue, in one of the many Bronx neighborhoods where side-walk hiring of domestic workers has been going on.

The Simpson Street Day Work Office, which is the first of two projected "hiring halls," will be open Monday through Friday, 7:30 A.M. to 4 P.M., and on Saturday from 7:30 A.M. to 11 A.M. A second office will soon be opened in the West Bronx.

The day prior to the opening of the Simpson Street Office, Mayor LaGuardia and other city officials spoke to a crowd of one thousand people assembled in the area.

Mayor LaGuardia said: "Nothing to date has really been solved on this question of the domestics here, if we are to be perfectly frank."

Miss Cora Cook, Chairman of the Committee on Street Corner Markets plainly states the limitations of the step:

"The primary purpose of the office will be to give housewives and day workers comfortable quarters, off the streets, protected from inclement weather, with adequate seating and other facilities, in which they can meet informally to make their own hiring arrangements, just as they have on the streets in the past. We will not supervise these arrangements or interfere with them in any way."

"The office will be operated by a staff of two hostesses. Workers will not be registered, no references will be required, and there will be no record keeping."

For years certain areas in the Bronx have been known as "slave markets." Negro women, in the main residents of Harlem, would congregate on the street corners in search of domestic work. In

conditions. The workers themselves will find the solution to the problem in organization. A union of domestic workers, united, and firm in its demands for higher wages and better working conditions, can get what it wants.

TROTSKYISTS IN L. A. NAIL A STALINIST LIE

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—The People's World, West Coast organ of the Communist Party, stated on May 7, 1941 that Tommy Laurence, who testified against Harry Bridges in the present deportation case, is a "Los Angeles Trotskyite." The Los Angeles Section of the Socialist Workers Party, labelling this a cowardly slander, typical of the Moscow frame-up trials, has requested that the labor movement of Los Angeles set up a non-partisan, unbiased committee to investigate the charges of the People's World. The S.W.P. addressed itself particularly to the Cutters' Local 84 of the L.L.G.W.U., of which Laurence is a member, to set up such a committee.

The Los Angeles Trotskyists declared, in a widely-distributed leaflet:

"In the name of the Socialist Workers Party we state that Tommy Laurence is not, never was and never will be a member of the Socialist Workers Party (Trotskyist) or any 'Trotskyite' organization... This is an unprincipled attempt to discredit the Trotskyist movement of Los Angeles by connecting it with this government stool-pigeon."

The "Communist Party finds it much easier to fight us by using such lies, slanders and frame-ups than to fight on the basis of principle and program. It is not surprising that the Stalinist School of Falsification, with these methods, has graduated such a mass of renegades as Laurence, Leech, Honig, Gitlow, etc. Government pressure has caused the rats to come out of the C.P. like maggots out of a rotten cheese."

OUR STAND ON BRIDGES

"The Socialist Workers Party repeats its position on the Bridges deportation case," the leaflet stated.

"We are opposed to the attempt to deport Bridges because this attempt is in reality an attack on the labor movement. We have often been in opposition to the Bridges' trade union policy. We believe that this policy is injurious to labor. But these are differences WITHIN the labor movement. Against the anti-labor, red-baiting attacks of the bosses and their courts, we will defend any labor leader whether or not we agree with his ideas and policies. (This is the united front which the Stalinists always preach, but never practice.)"

Rand School "Socialists" Call The Cops

NEW YORK CITY, May 13 — The "war for democracy" Social Democrats who run the Rand School have a simple answer to the Trotskyist fight against the war. John L. Afros, executive director of the Rand School, located at 7 East 15th Street, last night called the cops.

In front of the Rand School, large industrial plant where, during a recent strike, she and a few other devoted supporters of the MILITANT spent many hours disposing of copies of the paper to the strikers. After an enforced lapse of two weeks, she returned to the plant gates with her bundle of MILITANTS and then went her regular rounds of the streets surrounding the factory.

The other day I took the Ford issue and the current issue to the steel plant. As I was getting out of the car a fellow who has bought his MILITANT from me several times came up and spoke to me. I asked him what he thought of the paper and he said it was very good; as a matter of fact he asked for an extra copy for some of his shopmates. A peppy start for a swell day!

I went down the street to a Spanish Club, formerly Stalinist-dominated, where I have often been verbally attacked most viciously; but there had been one who always brought from me, so I went in. The former customer who always brought from me, was not to be found. Was I scared! But definitely! There was no turning back, however, so I went up to the table where the men were playing cards — and were my knees knocking! I asked for the person I was looking for and then one of the others recognized me — and was nice to me! Bought a paper and said he would be looking for it every week. I disposed of several copies of the Ford issue and left, wondering if I was dreaming, for this fellow who first bought the pa-

per had at one time attacked me quite furiously. Then I went on to a "coffee house" called the International Cafe where I knew the people to be very cautious and completely under Stalinist influence. I used previously to get a very distant reception, polite enough but cool, as much as to say, "What's this woman doing here? We have nothing in common with the likes of her, she's a Trotskyist." To my surprise I was well received and they were glad to see the paper.

I have just come back from the sub-station where I mailed out papers to ten or twelve people. That is how we use up the little profit we make on our sales. I usually carry these customers for a week or two (you know, like you carry me for a month or so) but at last I am glad to be able to report that I have very little money outstanding; in fact, at the moment of writing I believe there is but a dime still due. Not bad, says I, when you consider that for a time I had between 2 and 3 dollars due me!

THE SERIOUSNESS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS This week three cities seriously considered the business of applying themselves to the job of securing subscriptions to our press. In each of the communications we received on the subject, they assured us that the monthly quota was to be for absolutely new subscriptions either to THE MILITANT or to the FOURTH INTERNATIONAL; renewals of expirations were to come through as a matter of course.

St. Paul promises a minimum of ten subscriptions a month; Youngstown, five; San Francisco, five. Who else? The sub-consciousness generated in the recent campaign seems to have left a good hangover.



"MY DAY"—BOLSHEVIK STYLE

(The following excerpt comes from a letter sent us by one of our women comrades. She travels ten miles back and forth each week between her home and a large industrial plant where, during a recent strike, she and a few other devoted supporters of the MILITANT spent many hours disposing of copies of the paper to the strikers. After an enforced lapse of two weeks, she returned to the plant gates with her bundle of MILITANTS and then went her regular rounds of the streets surrounding the factory.)

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Remember the good time you had New Year's Eve? The SPRING COSTUME BALL will be whoopier and giddier. Ideas for costumes:—A pair of labor skates or: an OPM fig-leaf (see Hillman for a union label).

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SATURDAY, MAY 17th

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