

Free The Eighteen Imprisoned Trotskyists

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Campaign To Free 18 Is Gaining Labor Support

Additional Union and Liberal Forces Join CRDC Drive to Win Unconditional Presidential Pardon for Imprisoned Trotskyists

NEW YORK CITY—The Civil Rights Defense Committee reports that its local branches throughout the country have been collecting hundreds of signatures on petitions calling upon President Roosevelt to pardon the 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Union Local 544-CIO now serving twelve to sixteen month prison sentences following their frameup under the infamous Smith "Gag" Act.

Last week a number of new labor and liberal protests were recorded against the unjust imprisonment of the 18. Local 104 of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Welders & Helpers, Seattle, Washington wrote in its paper, 10 1/2 Reporter: "We didn't know—that's how dumb we are—that the U. S. Supreme Court would let a 'gag' law rape the constitution, especially when the rape was committed by a fellow named Smith, the same Smith who co-authored the Smith-Connelly Act, designed to wreck unions and cause more strikes."

In an article in the *New Leader* of Jan. 29 Liston Oak declares: "The outstanding violation of civil rights in this war is the imprisonment of eighteen Trotskyists for the expression of Bolshevik opinions. . . The whole history of the struggle for civil liberties proves that it is the treatment of minorities. . . that is important. Such cases establish precedents. If such minorities are convicted for ideas. . . other larger minorities may be likewise treated."

The Civil Rights Defense Committee as they have done in the Minneapolis labor case. In an editorial *The Western Socialist* for January stated: "We register our protest against. . . the sentencing of Trotskyites to jail on the basis of the Smith 'Gag' Act, which is an instrument of suppression against unpopular views on war and organized labor."

Not "Fit" to Print
One statement during the Congressional debate on the new tax bill which the capitalist press did not quote was the following remarks by Wisconsin's Rep. S. A. H. Hoff printed in the Congressional Record of Jan. 18: "Instead of a revenue act for 1943 it should be entitled, 'A Plan for the Relief of War Profiteers.' Human life seems to be the cheapest thing in the world, while money seems to be the most precious. You can pass a bill through Congress in a day to conscript men, but we have not been able to conscript money in 25 years of effort and during two world wars. You can even raise a universal hue and cry for regimenting men and women all over the country to help make these war-born profits, but you cannot pass a law that will regiment the wealth which they create."

DEMANDS PARDON
"The Bill of Rights is on trial. We must not permit thinking, talking and writing to become a criminal activity in these United States. . . We should therefore petition the President of the United States to rectify an injustice by granting immediate and unconditional pardon to the eighteen Trotskyists now in jail for their opinions. And we must demand that Congress repeal the undemocratic, anti-labor Smith Act."

WLB IMPOSES WAGE PENALTY ON CRAMP SHIPYARD WORKERS
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 26.—The War Labor Board's Shipbuilding Commission today announced a vindictive reprisal against 14,000 Cramp shipyard workers here because they struck for four days early this month against the board's seven-month delay in considering the contract demands of Cramp Local 42, CIO Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers.

The Commission, with the labor member dissenting, arbitrarily ordered that as penalty for striking the workers shall lose one month's retroactive pay in any increase that may finally be awarded. This order followed a company agreement not to seek penalties for the strike and to grant retroactive pay back to last June 23. The WLB order dates the retroactive pay to July 23 instead.

This vicious mass penalty, the first of its type, sets a dangerous precedent which is bound to be used against militant unions throughout the country if it is permitted to go into effect. It is part and parcel of the government's present intensified anti-labor drive.

The strike which was the pretext for the penalty was called after the workers were compelled to work months without a contract because of the stalling of the pro-corporation WLB. During this period, the company took advantage of the union's no-strike pledge to commit innumerable provocations, firing leading shop stewards, chiseling on pay rates, etc.

Lucien Koch, IUMSW representative on the Shipbuilding Commission, declared in his dissenting opinion that "this punishment is totally unwarranted" and warned against "the ominous implication of the action taken." He charged that the company "by its ill-considered actions contributed to the stoppage; yet the commission majority does not penalize the company in any way whatsoever. Only the union is adjudged guilty."

17 Mexican Youths Are Framed Up By California Court
Seventeen Mexican boys have been framed-up and clapped behind prison bars as part of the recent anti-Mexican attacks on the West Coast which the capitalist press labeled the "Zoot-Suit Riots."

Race Hatred Marks Trial; Counsel Denied
The "Sleepy Lagoon" case, as it has come to be known, follows the lynch pattern familiar to other minority groups in the United States. Police, prosecutor and judge joined to uphold "white supremacy" and railroad innocent youngsters to jail.

The facts in the case are as follows. In August, 1942, a group of Mexican boys tried to "crash the gate" at a boisterous party near Sleepy Lagoon, Los Angeles. They were dispersed. The following day, a guest, Jose Diaz was found unconscious in the road. He died shortly after. Police rounded up twenty-two of the boys who had tried to join the festivities. There was no proof that the man had been murdered; his injuries could have been caused by a fall, a hit-run driver, or a fight with some other invited guest. Nothing indicated that the Mexican lads had had anything to do with it.

THE FRAMEUP
The Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee charges that the defendants were mercilessly beaten by the police to extort confessions; that the boys were tried in the midst of a wave of anti-Mexican hostility which was utilized to the limit by the prosecutor, who refused to let the boys change clothes or get a haircut before the trial and then pointed to their disreputable appearance as typical of their people. The defendants were not allowed to consult their counsel during the trial; the presiding judge referred to them as a gang; a representative of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Sheriff's office filed a statement embracing the Nazi doctrine of "Aryan supremacy." The judge repeatedly ruled against the defense and in favor of the prosecution on the same points.

The sentences for the alleged "crime" which may never have been committed by anyone, were as severe as a prejudiced court could make them. Of twenty-two defendants, three were sent to jail for life; nine for five years to life; five for six months; and only five acquitted.

The race-baiting reactionaries of California who drove Japanese-Americans from their homes so their competition would be removed, have now added these anti-Mexican outrages to their crimes.

The Sleepy Lagoon case is a reflection of the general reactionary drive against organized labor and minority groups. It flows directly from the efforts of the employing class to sow all sorts of division among the various racial, national and religious groups among the workers. The whole background and conduct of the trial, one of the rawest frameups of recent years, demonstrate its race-hatred purposes. All workers, every labor organization, should do their utmost to save these 17 victimized Mexican youth.

Contributions to aid the fight for freedom of the 17 Mexican boys should be sent to Carey McWilliams, National Chairman, Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee, 902 Spring Arcade Building, Los Angeles, 13, Cal.

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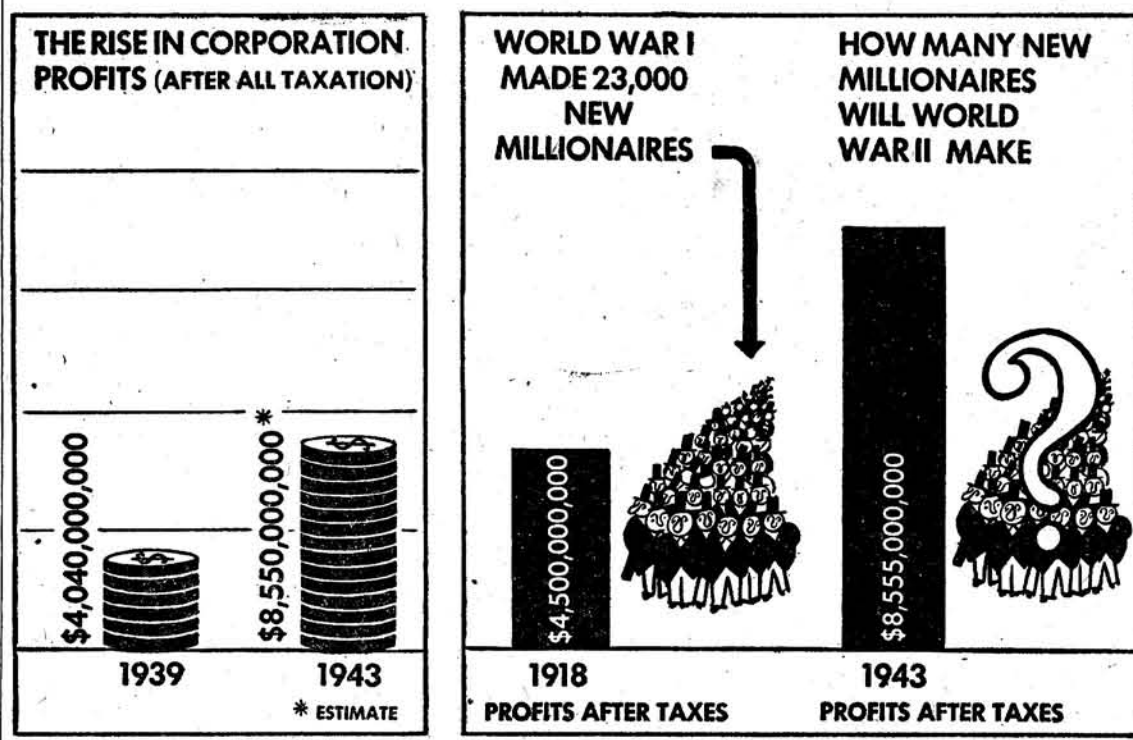
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Roosevelt Gives Signal For Drive Against Labor Unions

Profiteering in World War II



CIO Head Reveals True Facts On Price Rises, Profiteering

Cost of Living Is Up 50% Murray Proves At Senate Hearings

CIO President Philip Murray last week made public documented evidence proving conclusively that the cost of living has soared since Jan. 1, 1941 by more than double the 23.5 per cent rise recently claimed by Roosevelt's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

War Profiteers Grab Biggest Loot in All History During 1943

Remember Roosevelt's pre-war fireside chats when he personally pledged there would be no more war millionaires? Take a good look at the charts above if you want to learn how much that promise was really worth.

High Prices Force Workers Into Debt

What the rising cost of living means to two typical steel workers was shown in detail by CIO President Philip Murray on Jan. 25 at the Senate's Pepper Subcommittee hearings. These two workers, who were among 4,000 interviewed, provided an actual record of expenditures:

A Small Example!

You need 400% more pin-money today than two years ago. PM's shopper found that the standard paper of 240 common pins, sold for years at 5c, has become a black market commodity. Stores were cutting the papers in half and asking 10c for each half! No item too small, no article too large, for the pickpocket profiteers.

Browder Wants One Bosses' Candidate

Having previously announced the intended junking of the Communist Party in favor of the traditional capitalist two-party system, Earl Browder on Jan. 30 in Cleveland ventured a step further. He advocated that the Republican and Democratic parties "explore the possibility of a single Presidential ticket for both parties."

SHOCKING REVELATIONS
Charging that the administration's figures are "worthless," Murray contended that the CIO's own scientifically compiled data disclosed "most shocking revelations" about the rising cost of living which has made it impossible for the steel workers to "make both ends meet."

Following Murray's disclosures, the AFL and CIO members of the Presidential Committee on the Cost of Living issued a joint report, made public last Sunday, showing that living costs have risen 43.5 per cent since Jan. 1, 1941, instead of the 23.4 per cent fraudulently claimed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This report, which was submitted by R. J. Thomas, UAW-CIO President, and George Meaney, AFL Secretary-Treasurer, charged that there is a "discrepancy of 23.5 per cent between the rise in living costs and the wage adjustments (15 per cent over Jan. 1, 1941).

IN THE RED
At the end of the three-month period, Moore was in the red by about \$76, and vowed he was "far better off" when he earned \$1,400 in 1941 than \$2,600 in 1943, because of price extortions.

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War profiteers grab biggest loot in all history during 1943. Remember Roosevelt's pre-war fireside chats when he personally pledged there would be no more war millionaires? Take a good look at the charts above if you want to learn how much that promise was really worth.

One chart compares 1943 corporation profits, after all taxes, with those of 1939 when Big Business raked in the lush sum of \$4,040,000,000. In 1943, the bosses squeezed enough "sweat, blood and tears" out of the workers to double the 1939 grab, netting profits of \$8,550,000,000. The other chart indicates how many more millionaires have been created in World War II than in World War I. 23,000 new millionaires was the production record for 1918. In 1943 Big Business not only sur-

Alarmed by the rising militancy of labor's struggle against the wage freezing program of Big Business, the kept press has been howling for a "firm labor policy" to batter the workers into submission. Wall Street's labor experts have been busy formulating plans which all add up to one solution—smash the unions. The *New York Times*, authoritative spokesman for monopoly capitalism, demands "a complete revision of the Administration's labor policy."

Wall St. Agents Emboldened By Forced Labor Proposals

U.S. Steel Trust Leads Open Shop Campaign; H. W. Smith Wants CIO Leaders Indicted

By C. Thomas

Less than a month has elapsed since Roosevelt issued his demand for "a national service law which, for the duration of the war, will prevent strikes and, with certain appropriate exceptions, will make available for war production or for any other essential services every able-bodied adult in this nation."

Roosevelt motivated his demand for such legislation by the need for "nothing less than total mobilization of all our resources and manpower, in order to guarantee an 'earlier victory' in the war. His proposal was so worked as to give the go-ahead signal to the militarists and reactionary labor-hating wing of his own party who are only too eager to act as the spearhead of the drive to crush the unions.

THE REAL AIM
These gentlemen promptly swung into action. In commenting on the President's proposal Senator Vandenberg remarked, "I am unable to understand why we must regiment every adult male civilian and particularly every adult civilian woman in order to achieve the desired result. . . I prefer to outlaw all strikes or lockouts in defense production or services for the duration." That this is likewise the aim of the administration was made clear when Secretary of War Stimson, testifying before a committee hearing on the Austin-Wadsworth national service bill, said that he was for a forced labor draft "even without" the adoption of the President's other proposals. Under Secretary of War Patterson, testifying before the same committee, when asked by Senator Austin if there had ever been a genuine shortage of manpower, said: "Of course not. We have no man-

power shortage. There is plenty of manpower, both for the armed forces and for war production." N. Y. Times, Jan. 27.

ANTI-STRIKE BILL
The testimony of Patterson, who, as the N. Y. Times points out, "has been a key organizer of munitions production since the start of the war program," effectively disposes of the motivation given in Roosevelt's message to Congress. It didn't take long for that arch reactionary, Howard W. Smith of Virginia, to take the cue from Roosevelt. Two days after the President submitted his message, Smith introduced "a new anti-strike bill" which provides for the imposition of drastic sanctions against the unions. In commenting on the new bill introduced by the co-author of the Smith-Connelly anti-strike law, the labor editor of the *Scraps*-Howard press underscores that: "One effect would be that unions whose members engaged in wartime strikes, with or without the consent of union officers, and whether or not the industry was under government control, would cease to exist for the duration (and for six months after the war) so far as union-protective statutes are concerned." — N. Y. World-Telegram, Jan. 13.

It is apparent that the sanctions proposed by the Smith bill have as their aim the outright strangulation of the unions. Here again, Smith takes his cue from Roosevelt who, after the passage of the Smith-Connelly act, issued an executive order providing for the application of drastic sanctions

A Three Point Program For Organized Labor

An Editorial

Alarmed by the rising militancy of labor's struggle against the wage freezing program of Big Business, the kept press has been howling for a "firm labor policy" to batter the workers into submission. Wall Street's labor experts have been busy formulating plans which all add up to one solution—smash the unions. The *New York Times*, authoritative spokesman for monopoly capitalism, demands "a complete revision of the Administration's labor policy."

The *New York Herald-Tribune* places its editorial finger on the nub of the problem: "It is virtually impossible at this time to have a wage dispute which is not concerned directly with Administration policy—which is the President's policy. It is no longer a question of the unions against management—it is the unions against the President." And Roosevelt has openly ranged himself on the side of Big Business—against the workers. First, by inspiring General Marshall to unleash a nationwide campaign to inflame public opinion and the servicemen against the unions; then, by utilizing this manufactured "public opinion" as a pretext to present Congress with a proposal to adopt forced labor legislation.

Against the destructive policy of the open-shop union wreckers, a policy which Roosevelt has wholeheartedly embraced, it is essential that the labor movement counterpose a constructive policy which will answer the needs of the workers. Experience has taught that the following planks must be included in labor's program for the defense of the unions against its enemies:

For an escalator clause in all union contracts!
Roosevelt's promise to stabilize the cost of living has proven to be a gigantic hoax. A government run by capitalists for the benefit of capitalists cannot and will not curb prices or profits. Wages have been frozen in the face of a continuing rise in the cost of living while profits soar skyward. Only the escalator clause—a rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living—can provide the workers with a means of protection against the worst effects of war-inflation.

Rescind the no-strike pledge! No matter how many pledges and promises the capitalist politicians make and break, the bosses insist that labor must continue to give unconditional adherence to the no-strike pledge made by the bureaucrats without even consulting the union membership. In the face of an intensive campaign of repression directed against the very existence of the unions it would be suicidal to remain committed to the surrender of labor's most effective weapon of defense. The preservation of the unions demands that the no-strike pledge be repudiated.

For an Independent Labor Party! Labor must make a decisive break with company unionism in politics. No support to the agents of monopoly capitalism whether they parade under the banner of Democrats or Republicans. The unions must organize labor's own political party to support labor candidates running on a labor program against the candidates of the bosses in all election campaigns.

The Negro Struggle

By David Ransom

The Burial of the Communist Party

The dissolution of the Communist Party does not mean that the Stalinists are going to stop betraying the struggle of the Negro people.

As for Roosevelt, whom the Stalinists put forward as the great American leader, every Negro knows that Roosevelt has refused to speak out in behalf of anti-poll tax and anti-lynch legislation.

Not content with betraying 13 million Negroes at home the Stalinists are ready to help Wall Street exploit the hundreds of millions of colonial peoples throughout the world.

Earl Browder made this crystal clear in his Madison Square Garden speech a few weeks ago.

The Negro people, warns Browder, must not disrupt "national unity" in order to win their democratic rights.

In plain words this means the colored masses of Asia and Africa must give up the struggle for national and social liberation.

Browder is interested in seeing that the American capitalists aren't disturbed in their war for markets and profits.

These are the real fruits of Stalin's collaboration with Churchill and Roosevelt. Stalin is ready to betray the struggle of the American workers and the colonial masses of the world in order to preserve the power of the degenerate Soviet bureaucracy he represents.

The Stalinists, he boasts, "have consistently advised only the most orderly, unified, calm, and well considered forms of political struggle well established in American democratic procedure."

But although the Stalinists are ready, as Browder put it, to shake hands with J. P. Morgan, the Negro masses are primarily interested in shaking off the capitalist parasites and their Jim Crow system.

Now if there is one thing that thinking Negroes are agreed upon today, it is the fact that the capitalists, the government, and the two major political parties constitute the major obstacle in the path of the Negro fight to become a first-class citizen.

They will learn that to do this they need a working-class party that struggles for socialism and the democratic rights of all oppressed peoples at home and abroad.

The Negro is well aware that the government has refused to heed the pleas of Negro leaders to abolish discrimination in the armed forces and in industry.

PIONEER PARAGRAPHS

SEGREGATION IS ONE OF MOST VITAL ISSUES FACING NEGROES

The issue of segregation is in many respects the most important one facing the Negro today.

to secede from the Democratic Party when there is talk of ending or altering the system of segregation.

The truth is that all Southern capitalists and their "liberal" agents stand so firmly on this issue because once segregation is ended, all else is lost for the oppressors of the Negro people.

(From "Negroes in the Post-War World," by Albert Parker, pages 12-13, published by Pioneer Publishers, 1943, 16 pages, 5c. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y.)

But flag-waving won't solve the problems of the Negro people and it won't change the mind of a single one of their enemies.

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Liebknecht And Luxemburg-Martyred Socialist Leaders

By Ruth Johnson

The twenty-fourth anniversary of the assassination of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg by Junker hirelings of the German Social Democracy comes at a time when the German people are as bitterly hostile to Hitler's regime as they were to the Kaiser's in 1917-18.

These two outstanding German Marxists bequeathed a magnificent heritage to the German workers which they will surely draw upon in the revolutionary struggles ahead.

But imprisonment does not daunt revolutionists. When World War I broke out, Liebknecht was a member of the Reichstag.

At the magnificent May Day demonstration he organized in Berlin in 1916, Liebknecht denounced the imperialists and called upon the German proletariat to fight against its main enemy—the capitalist class—at home.

THE GERMAN REVOLUTION In 1918 came the revolt of the Kiel sailors and soldiers of Berlin. One of the very first acts of the revolutionary masses was to throw open the prison gates for Liebknecht and Luxemburg.

Rosa Luxemburg, fiery orator, gifted writer, theoretician and activist, conquered physical frailty to become one of the greatest of revolutionists. Born in Czarist Poland, a political refugee at the age of 18, she devoted her tremendous talents to the cause of socialism.

In prison Rosa received the great news of the Russian Revolution. She burned with indignation over the Brest-Litovsk peace forced by Germany upon the Bolsheviks.

Three Imprisoned Union Leaders



Emil Hansen, Edward Palmquist, and Clarence Hamel, organizers for Minneapolis Truckdrivers Union Local 544-CIO, photographed in Minneapolis headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party shortly before they were imprisoned in Sandstone penitentiary.

Bolsheviks as an opposition to the Russian Revolution. This is false. It was as one of them that she criticized some of their tactics.

The most vicious lie is that spread by the Stalinists, who have tried to depict her as an enemy of communism.

Conscious of the work that had to be done, of the pressure of time, Liebknecht and Luxemburg began with feverish haste to organize. Rosa edited Rote Fahne (Red Banner) and wrote the program, in complete agreement with the program of Lenin and Trotsky, for the German Communist Party.

The Social Democracy in charge of the government did everything in its power to crush the revolution in infancy. Leaflets were circulated demanding the death of Liebknecht and Luxemburg, large rewards were offered for their capture.

Luxemburg and Liebknecht live on in the hearts of the masses. Neither they, nor the lessons they taught, have been forgotten.

Joseph Gilbert, Famous Minnesota Fighter For Free Speech, Salutes 18

The following expression of solidarity with the 18 Minneapolis labor prisoners was written by Joseph Gilbert, who as organizer for the Non-Partisan League was framed up three times in cases involving free speech during the First World War.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 919 Marquette, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Friends:

Enclosed is a dollar to pay for the ticket you sent me for the dinner in honor of the 18 martyrs in the Minneapolis case.

The value of the work in which you are engaged and for which these 18 now have to pay the penalty, lies in the fact that you are doing all within your power to enlighten the working class to a realization of their real interests in society.

As I have stated before, I do not agree with the tactics pursued by your organization, but at the same time I admire your courage as I also deplore your judgment and discretion.

The plutocracy against whom you contend consists of an agreeable, astute, forcible, self-confident, and when hard-pressed, unscrupulous people, who will stop at nothing they deem necessary to retain their power and privilege.

May you be enabled to carry on the fight against this plutocracy in the days to come, fortified and strengthened by your experience, so that when the time arrives, which it surely will, when Labor discards the fake leaders who are no longer able to help or satisfy them, they will give heed to the teachings of those of their class who possessed greater foresight and the courage of their convictions to guide them in their great extremity.

I salute you, harbingers of a brighter day that is soon to dawn upon a suffering humanity.

JOSEPH GILBERT

War-Time Strikes in Canada Increase Sharply Despite Forced Labor Draft

Canada is frequently cited in the American press as a model to follow in wartime legislation. Canada, we have been told among other things, has allegedly had great success in preventing inflation.

In 1940, for instance, the Dominion had only 168 strikes, involving 60,619 workmen, for a loss of 266,318 man-days.

Canada has been operating under a labor draft program which is proposed by many as a "model" for drafting the American workers. Each year has seen new regulations for civilian mobilization to put "teeth" into these attempts to enslave the Canadian workers and slash more deeply into their standards of living.

Canada has a "cost of living law" through the operation of which the workers are presum-

Argentina Submits Under U. S. Economic Pressure

By A. Roland

Argentina has finally yielded to the tremendous pressure exerted on it by the "Colossus of the North."

There are certain analogies between the present situation and that which existed in the first World War. The moment the United States entered the war in 1917, it proceeded to exert pressure on Argentina to take an active part on the side of the Allies.

ECONOMIC PRESSURE

Except as a final resort that method of "persuasion" need not be used by the U. S. which today dominates the whole world through its unrivaled machinery of production.

To pay for its necessary imports of fuel, lubricants, textiles, chemicals, tractors and other farm machinery, Argentina must acquire foreign exchange by means of its own exports.

The United States played also on the fears of the so-called "Yankees of South America." The ruling class of Argentina, a country of thirteen million people, has pretensions to the role of leader of their continent.

They were incensed also by the attempt to pull Paraguay away from Argentine influence. Everything that passes in or out of Paraguay must go through the hands of Argentine transportation companies.

a distinct threat to Argentine domination.

The economies of the United States and Argentina are competitive rather than complementary. Argentine grains and meats have always gone to Europe, particularly to England.

U. S. DEMANDS What demands does United States imperialism make on its southern neighbor?

Argentina again refused to accept the demands made at the Rivera, Uruguay Conference in September, 1942.

The tremendous forces unleashed by the war are exerting themselves on all countries. Since the entire world economy is involved no country can escape the effects of the war.

The impact of the war strikes Argentina at a time when the internal economy of that country is undergoing great changes.

The internal struggle is reflected also in the regime and in its foreign policy. This aspect of the Argentine situation has made it appear that the United States opposes a reactionary regime and favors a more liberal one.

Nothing could be further from the truth. One need only look at Vargas in Brazil or Batista in Cuba or at any other of the Latin-American dictators supported by this country to see that Washington's policies in Latin America are dictated not by consideration for democracy but by the determination of Wall Street to crush all its rivals in this war and dominate the entire western hemisphere.

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