

G. O. P. PUSHES WALL STREET PROGRAM

Stalinist Gangs Break Up Two Quaker Meetings

Over 100 Mobsters Stage Vigilante Attacks On Seattle Forums of the American Friends

SEATTLE, Wash. — Failing as yet to arouse any response to their lynch-incitation and slander campaign against the Trotskyists and other labor militants, the Stalinists here during the past few days have been giving open practical demonstrations of the type of hoodlum terrorism they have been seeking unsuccessfully to evoke in the labor movement against their working class political opponents.

West Coast labor and progressive circles were shocked last week when the Stalinists here, in a fashion reminiscent of Hitler's storm-troopers and the anti-labor American Legion gangs after the last war, invaded and broke up two lecture meetings of a series being sponsored by the Institute of International Relations under the auspices of the American Friends (Quakers) Service Committee. The scene of this vigilante gangsterism was the Pilgrim Congregational Church.

Sharp denunciation of the Stalinist hooliganism has already been issued by important sections of the labor movement here. Two big lodges of the AFL Machinists, Locals 289 and 79, have adopted resolutions of condemnation. Local 79's statement specifically repudiated its own vice-president, the Stalinist Glenn Kinney, who helped lead the attack on the Quaker lecture series. The powerful AFL Boilermakers' Local 104 issued in its official organ a denunciation of the Stalinist mob action. A committee of prominent liberals and church leaders has issued a similar statement.

The climax of the Stalinist gang terror occurred on the evening of June 22, when a band of over 100 Stalinists, led by several of their most prominent local leaders, shouted and yelled to break up the meeting and prevent the scheduled speaker from talking, and then marched up to the platform during a five-minute prayer service, muscled aside the chairman and speakers and seized the platform and microphone. On two previous evenings, meetings were similarly disrupted by organized heckling, cat-calling and the shouting of invectives at the Quaker chairman and speakers. These violent actions were preceded and accompanied by the typical Stalinist slander campaign in their local gutter-press.

Uruguayan Trotskyists Assailed By Reaction

Special to The Militant

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, June 16. — The growing fear of revolutionary socialism haunting the capitalist class the world over, which has already expressed itself in the arrest and imprisonment of Trotskyists in the United States and England, has now openly manifested itself in this Latin American republic.

Following a strike which took place in the large Swift meat packing-plant, National Frigorifico, the government issued an executive decree declaring the plant a "public service", thus making strikes therein a criminal offense under Article 165 of the Penal Code. This article prescribes penalties of three to 18 months' imprisonment for strikers in any public service.

The decree was the subject of a debate in the Chamber of Deputies which began on June 9 and continued in the sessions of June 13, 14 and 15. The social-democratic deputy Cardozo rose to attack the decree as destructive of the elementary democratic rights of the workers to strike in defense of their living standards.

In reply, the Minister of Interior launched into a violent tirade against strikes and directed the main stream of his verbal fire against the Trotskyists. In Uruguay, as in England, a reactionary government is using the meth-

CRDC Petitions To Free Eighteen Signed by 9,000

Evidencing the widespread support in the campaign to secure the liberation of the 18 Minneapolis Labor Case prisoners, railroaded to jail under the infamous Smith "Gag" Act, the Civil Rights Defense Committee reported this week that more than 9,000 individual signatures have been obtained on petitions to President Roosevelt calling for pardons for the 18.

A total of 10,000 signatures is the goal of the CRDC in the petition campaign, which has been extended to July 31. The national CRDC office asks all local committees to step up their activities in the remaining weeks in order to insure that the signature campaign goes over the top.

Local CRDC committees with the best records in obtaining signatures are: New York, 2,500; Chicago, 1,290; Buffalo, 960; Seattle, 800; Twin Cities, 700; Detroit, 700; Newark, 730; San Francisco, 500.

LOCAL UNIONS

Memberships of many local unions and other organizations throughout the country have also signed petitions. Among them are: United Steel Workers, CIO, Local 2601, Lackawanna, N. Y.; ILGWU-AFL Local 155, 9 and 10, N. Y.; ILGWU Shop Chairmen, N. Y.; Brewers Local 7, San Francisco, Cal.; Brewsters Local 4, Buffalo, N. Y.; American Car and Foundry, United Steel Workers, CIO, Local 2551, Buffalo, N. Y.; Amalgamated Clothing Workers, CIO, Buffalo, N. Y.; Millinery Workers Union, AFL, Local 24, N. Y.; American Federation of Hosiery Workers, Local 49, Irvington, N. Y.; UAW-CIO Local 217, Cleveland, Ohio; Phoenix Brass Workers Union Local 462, Irvington, N. J.; Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit Fund, San Francisco, Cal.; Workmen's Circle, 355-E, Newark, N. J.; Boston Socialist Party, Boston, Mass.

300 ORGANIZATIONS

At the conclusion of the campaign, the national office of the CRDC will prepare the petitions for presentation to President Roosevelt. A delegation of prominent persons is scheduled to proceed to Washington to demand a Presidential pardon for the eighteen.

Close to 300 local and international labor unions representing over a million and a half organized workers have joined in the campaign to liberate the 18. They have contributed to CRDC funds, passed resolutions calling

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Roosevelt Puts Signature On Mangled "Price Control" Bill

By Joseph Keller

Despite his numerous promises to hold down prices, a demagogic trick employed to justify his wage freeze, President Roosevelt last week put his seal and signature upon the emasculated version of the Price Control Act. He did not fail to deplore for the record the more obvious mutilations. But he did not hesitate to convert into law a measure which guarantees to pave the way for an all-out orgy of profiteering and price gouging.

Liberal and labor organs, trying to cover up for Roosevelt, have attempted to represent his price-control deal with Big Business as a "compromise." That "compromise" entailed permitting Roosevelt to retain a husk still labeled "price control" but emptied of all content.

The big corporations, drooling at the mouth before the new prospects for boosting prices skyward, congratulated Congress on its statesmanship. Thus, the July 1 Business Week, a leading organ of the financiers and industrialists reported with obvious satisfaction: "Businessmen, care-

fully combing Congress' new price control law this week, came up with the conclusion that they had achieved much of what they wanted (and more than the most realistic of them expected) . . ."

Business Week further headlines "N. A. M. Claims Victory," describing how "the National Association of Manufacturers, and other business groups, hailed the price law as a major defeat for OPA and the Administration." It was a defeat in which the Administration had flashed the white flag of surrender almost before the echo of Wall Street's first barrage had died away. Roosevelt had offered only a "token resistance"—sufficient to save his "honor."

What will the pro-Roosevelt union bureaucrats, those who have insistently assured the workers for two years that Roosevelt would muzzle the price-gougers, say or do about this latest act of their "Friend of Labor" in giving the green light to the corporations for their unrestrained price robbery? The Murrays and Greens have been stalling the impatient workers and blocking their efforts to smash the wage-freezing Little Stell Formula by telling them to put their hopes in Roosevelt and price control.

Where is all the talk about Roosevelt's planned "roll-back" of prices which the union leaders were spouting about so much last year? The very phrase has long since disappeared from their organs and statements. But for the past few months the CIO and AFL have been slugging away at thin air in a ferocious "battle of statistics" which is supposed to slay the hard-shelled corporations and pro-corporation government labor agencies with incontrovertible proof that the cost of living has soared far beyond the limits placed on wage increases. Shadow-boxing with statistics is the union leaders' substitute for a real battle for wage increases.

The trial vindicates our party and its role in the recent struggles of the workers," declares the RCP statement, "Comrade Haston, at the very outset, put the stamp on it by characterizing it in open court as a case of political victimization and a frame-up." The trial was staged by the capitalists to expose a supposed gigantic conspiracy.

The yellow press screamed ac-

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Same Policies As Roosevelt's Advanced On All Key Issues

Big Business Interests Back Dewey in Order To Bolster the Capitalist Two-Party System

By Art Preis

"Sad" was the adjective most frequently employed by Republican and Democratic commentators alike to describe last week's Republican Party national convention. Even ardent GOP scribes could not refrain from noting the bleak lifelessness and yawn-provoking stodginess of this biggest and best assemblage of political talent that a powerful section of Wall Street could buy.

Dewey, the almost assured choice even prior to the rubber stamp convention, played to the end his farcical game of "hard to get." But he graciously yielded under "insistent pressure" of a synthetic "draft" movement so loaded with stage props that the chief protagonist was stumbling all over them. No capitalist politician, it seems, desires the Presidency of the United States. For — such is the stench of capitalist politics in general — anyone who appears too anxious for an important government post is popularly assumed to be a scoundrel and crook seeking only the emoluments and special privileges of office. Thus Dewey played coy, but succumbed finally to "popular demand."

What spread the pall over the Republican convention was a lack of issues. For all their "viewing with alarm," the Republican wing of capitalist politics can offer no genuine opposition program to that of Roosevelt. On all the major issues, the Republicans cannot find in their political larder a single crumb of difference with Roosevelt's major policies which might nourish a vigorous and aggressive opposition.

Complaints about bureaucracy and inefficiency do not cut much ice where the issues of imperialist war and peace, international relations, the rise and fall of regimes and empires command the political stage. In these decisive matters the Republicans walk within Roosevelt's shadow.

THE RECORD

Strictly on the record, American capitalism can find nothing to gripe about in either Roosevelt's program or performance. He has given the money bags virtually all they have asked. Wall Street's basic program for extending its imperialist rule over the entire globe is being consistently and ruthlessly forwarded by Roosevelt. Key Republican agents of finance capital hold commanding posts in Roosevelt's war cabinet. Corporation agents and dollar-a-year men are running the war production agencies and shoveling the public treasury into big business vaults groaning under the weight of war profits.

Wall Street's own Baruch-Hancock "reconversion plan," sponsored by Roosevelt, gives assurance to the capitalists of a monumental profits steal on war contracts terminations and a free hand-out of billions in new gov-

DEMAGOGIC PROMISES

For the rest, on domestic issues, the platform and lavish promises of the Republican big-wigs was a mish-mash of contradictory assertions, promising all things to

(Continued on page 2)

Shameful Betrayal

An Editorial

On July 1 forced labor for America's workers was put into effect by administrative decree. Roosevelt and his War Manpower Commission head, McNutt, did not bother with any legislative flim-flam. They sneaked around Congress with an executive edict.

Both Philip Murray and William Green, who blusteringly vowed they would never support forced labor when Roosevelt proposed to establish it by law, have approved this blow at the workers delivered by a dictatorial decree.

Murray and Green betrayed labor when they surrendered the right to strike. They have betrayed labor by their attempts to stifle the struggle against the wage-freezing Little Steel Formula through diverting it into the safe channels of the "battle of statistics." Now they endorse a system of forced labor.

This treachery will receive its due award. A day of reckoning is fast approaching. Scourged by wage-freezing, price swindling, corporation provocations, burdensome taxes and now forced labor, the workers, we can be sure, will soon be demanding an accounting from these "labor statesmen" who connived to deceive labor and place it in shackles.

No-Strike Pledge Will Be Key Issue Before Michigan CIO

By John Saunders

DETROIT, Mich. — The seventh annual Michigan CIO Convention to be convoked at the Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids, on July 12-15 promises to be the largest State Convention yet held. 2,000 delegates representing 800,000 CIO workers are expected to attend. The convention proceedings will be watched with eager interest by workers throughout the country because the convention decisions will be of national importance to the whole labor movement. The convention actions will also be carefully scrutinized for a clue to the alignment of the contesting forces at the coming UAW Con-

vention which is scheduled to meet in September at the same hall.

Despite the attempt on the part of the top union officials to smother the voice of the rank and file — ten guest speakers have already been invited ranging from P. Murray, CIO President, to Bishop Haas, erstwhile labor mediator — the delegates will undoubtedly insist on discussing the revocation of the no-strike pledge, the endorsement of the Michigan Commonwealth Federation etc.

Demands to revoke the no-strike pledge have been pouring into the

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# The Negro Struggle

By Charles Jackson

## The Negro Voters Speak

The declaration by Negro voters drawn up June 17 in New York City by the officers of 25 leading labor, civic, educational, church and fraternal organizations representing a total membership of more than 6,500,000 is another indication of the growing unrest in the ranks of the Negro masses who are gradually forcing their leaders to a showdown with the government and its representatives. The statement, copies of which were put in the hands of the two capitalist parties, was "designed both to make clear the Negro's present attitude of resentment against the shortcomings of both major political parties and to serve as a guide in measuring the future intentions of parties and candidates."

The statement frankly expresses a fact well known to all who have their finger on the pulse of the Negro masses. It states: "No injustice embitters Negroes more than continued segregation and discrimination in the armed forces. The national policy of segregating Negroes in the armed forces violates every principle of democracy." The declaration demands as a price for the Negro vote the "integration of all Americans into unsegregated military forces."

Next, the "...right to work without racial or religious discrimination must be... expanded during and after the war. No party or candidate for the Presidency or Congress can expect the vote of Negroes without supporting legislation for a permanent federal committee on fair employment practices..."

The declaration unquestionably expresses the feeling of the majority of Negroes throughout the country on the question of the ballot: "We insist upon the right to vote in every state, unrestricted by poll taxes... and other devices designed to disfranchise Negroes and other voters." An anti-poll tax bill is demanded.

Not failing to emphasize the bewhiskered demand for a federal anti-lynching law, the two parties are warned: "The ever-serious evil of lynching and mob violence has become more critical as a result of unrestrained violence against Negroes in the armed services. No national administration can merit the support of Negroes unless it is committed to a legislative and administrative program for the elimination of this national disgrace."

The housing issue, which is particularly acute in the northern, industrial cities, is approached on a progressive, non-Jim Crow basis in the statement which, again, reflects the newer trend of thought among Negro workers. The organizations call for "... an enlarged and unsegregated program of government-financed housing."

The many lessons that the Negro workers have learned as to the value of class solidarity are also translated into the political field in this document when it states that any force which "... seeks to destroy organized labor

# China's 7-Year Fight For Liberty

By Li Fu-jeu

China's struggle against Japanese imperialism has just completed its seventh year. Few wars have lasted that length of time, and none, with the exception of the World War of 1914-18, has taken such a fearful toll of human life and treasure. China under Chiang Kai-shek's regime has fallen into utter ruin. And still the end is not in sight.

With the recent Japanese occupation of Loyang, capital of Hunan province, situated on the Peiping-Hankow Railway; of Changsha, capital of Hunan province, on the Canton-Hankow Railway; and now of Hengyang, vital rail link south of Changsha, Japan has all but realized her strategic plan of cutting the country in two along a north-south line and isolating the whole eastern part of the country from the great rural hinterland ruled over by Chiang Kai-shek's regime. The only remaining gap in that line of division is a 170-mile stretch of railway between Canton and Hengyang which Japanese troops are now fighting to occupy.

The seventh anniversary of the all-out Japanese attack on China is a fitting occasion to draw a balance of the struggle. Japan struck the first blow of the campaign at Lukouchiao, just south of Peiping, on July 7, 1937. Five years previously, the Japanese imperialists had "absorbed" Manchuria. Now, convinced that they would easily be able to overcome whatever resistances they might encounter, they set out to conquer China proper and convert it into a colony, as the British had previously done with India.

**GREAT CITIES**

The great cities of Peiping and Tientsin, Shanghai and Nanking (then Chiang Kai-shek's capital) fell to the invaders in rapid succession in the first few months of the war. Chiang retreated up the Yangtze and set up his capital in the big metropolitan center of Hankow. But toward the end of 1938 Hankow, and with it Canton in the far south, were captured by Japanese troops. It was a story of continuous retreat after great battles in which the Chinese armies, inadequately armed, poorly fed and clothed, often unpaid, were compelled to fall back before the superior might of the invading armies. Chiang's capital since 1938 has been located at Chungking, Yangtze river port in Szechwan province, 1,400 miles from the sea.

During these five years and more the struggle has been virtually stalemated. There were occasional battles when the Japanese sought to round out the conquered areas, and a sporadic guerrilla warfare has been taking place behind their lines. But the invaders attempted no general advance westward. Having captured the rich eastern section of

## SHIP CREW STRIKE GETS FAST ACTION

CHICAGO, Ill., June 26 — The value of the strike weapon was once again graphically demonstrated by the successful job action of the crew of the S.S. North American, when it docked at the Michigan Avenue Bridge at Chicago on Saturday, June 24.

The strike was called by the AFL Seafarers' International Union, as a result of the refusal of the ship owners to recognize the right of the union to bargain for the stewards, waitresses, maids and other service workers, and because of repeated acts of intimidation against these workers for union activity. The rates of some of these workers were as low as \$65 per month for 16 hours per day, 7 days a week, with no overtime pay.

The strike was a fine display of labor solidarity. The remainder of the ship's crew, the oilers, firemen, deckhands, etc. were already represented by the union and were working under union wages and working conditions. They recognized the need however, for a 100 percent union crew, and refused to move the ship. The ship was scheduled to sail at 7:30 P.M., and by that time had a capacity load of passengers aboard. As soon as the news of the strike spread, a number of NMU members appeared on the scene and attacked the strike and the strike leaders. They urged the immediate ending of the strike on the ground that it impeded the war effort, was calculated to embarrass "our commander in chief," etc. The strikers made short shrift of these flimsy, chattering off the ship. An official of the steamship company spoke to the strikers along the same line as the Stalinists. The strikers shouted back "immediate action—we want immediate action!"

**OFFICIAL FRANTIC**

Hundreds of cash customers were waiting for their trip. The company official was becoming

## Organizing the Guerrillas



The woodcut above depicts the arming of Chinese guerrillas to fight the Japanese imperialist invaders.

the country, which includes the principal cities, almost all the railroads, most of the industry, and the entire coastline, they rested on the defensive and settled down to exploit their rich conquests. In an effort to disguise the imperialist character of these conquests, and win the cooperation of the Chinese capitalists, they established the traitor Wang Ching-wei as their puppet ruler at Nanking.

**THE EXPLANATION**

What IS the explanation for China's inability, thus far, to carry on a successful struggle for her independence? The superior might of Japanese arms has already been mentioned. This superiority, in the first place, was assured by the superiority of Japan's industry, compared to which China's industrial economy is a veritable pigmy. However, China's military deficiency could in part have been made good by the purchase of arms and military equipment abroad. From 1927, when he slew the Chinese Revolution, until 1937 when Japan attacked, Chiang Kai-shek could have created a formidable military establishment. But the funds that could have been used for this purpose—the money wrung from the masses in city and village by a ruthless taxation system—went into the private pockets of Chiang and his numerous retinue of ministers and officials. There is probably no other country in the world where the public treasury is so regularly and completely plundered by the ruling coterie.

Looting of the treasury, however, is but one part of the explanation for China's unpreparedness. More important, indifference to adequate defensive measures reflected the willingness of Chiang and his clique, and of the Chinese capitalists and landlords who are Chiang's support, to come to terms with the imperialists rather than fight for the independence of their country. Chiang surrendered Manchuria without firing a shot, in fact ordered his Manchurian commander, Chang Hsueh-liang, to withdraw his armies inside the Great Wall in order to prevent "enlargement of the conflict."

It was only five years later, when mass indignation made it clear that this policy of non-resistance had reached its limits, and when the full scope of the Japanese imperialist appetite had become apparent, that Chiang belatedly reminded himself of his duty to lead the defense of the

**MILITARY LIMITS**

Chiang Kai-shek therefore chose to keep the struggle against Japan strictly within military limits. As his armies fell back before the powerful Japanese divisions, his generals stamped upon every manifestation of independent activity by the Chinese masses in the rear. Workers and peasants and students who banded themselves together to render aid to the regular soldiers in the lines were jailed or killed by Chiang's reactionary regime.

Here in essence is the explanation for China's dismal record in the war. The soldiers have fought with an epic courage in the face of fearful odds. Their comrades in the rear who would and could have aided them, were discouraged and suppressed outright by the regime in power.

And, in the time-honored fashion of capitalist rulers in all countries, the masses have had saddled upon them all the immense burdens of this struggle. While the fortunes of the rich have been left intact, tremendous new taxation has been shouldered on to the backs of the poor. Not enough that their lands have been devastated, their cities and their homes levelled, that widows and orphans have been created by the millions, that 50,000,000 homeless and hopeless refugees wander despairingly across the face of a despoiled land! No, not enough! They must pay, they must keep on paying as hitherto, the monetary cost of this struggle which can never fructify in victory as long as Chiang Kai-shek and his regime of landlord-capitalist reaction rules over China.

To all the other woes and miseries of this unhappy nation is now added an unbridled inflation which is completing the economic ruin of the country. The Chinese yuan, or dollar, is today worth less than 1/200th of its pre-1937 value. Prices are nearly 300 times the level of 1937 and continue to rise at the rate of about 10 percent a month.

In this appalling situation, Chiang's regime becomes shakier from day to day. Mass rebellion grows. Peasant lads are forcibly recruited into the Japanese army. Their parents band together in the villages to

## Officials OK Child Labor-- So Long As It's All "Legal"

By Ruth Johnson

The nation-wide scandal of child labor has reached such proportions that government officials can no longer ignore it. Smarter under the growing criticism of child labor law violations, New York Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi on June 22 "made the record" with a proposal which only serves to expose the subservience of all government bureaus to the business interests, and their callousness toward the enslavement of the nation's youngsters.

Corsi proposes to launch a "one week campaign" against violations of the child labor laws. He has asked the mayors of 62 New York cities to bring the situation to public attention, to enlist the cooperation of the press, radio, and civic organizations in informing parents and prospective employers and employees of the law's provisions and the procedure for complying with them. The problem is thus to be solved by a week's ballyhoo. "There is no honest reason why any single person within the confines of the Empire State should fail to cooperate," Corsi explained. Lest anyone still misunderstand the government's real intentions, Corsi's associates immediately demonstrated further that not child labor, but only "illegal" child labor, would be the subject of this 7-day crusade.

**VIOLATIONS INCREASE**

Carefully explaining that they "are not opposed to youngsters working, provided they have working papers," two labor department officials told why some kind of action had to be taken by their respective bureaus. Irving Rozen, regional attorney of the U. S. Department of Labor on June 22 pointed out the increase in the number of violations of child labor laws. "In former years we would have two or three current cases on the book," he said. "Today we have 35... at least 7 or 8 cases that will be criminal prosecutions." Arthur J. White, regional director of the Federal Wage and Hour, and Public Contracts Division of the Labor Department, disclosed that industries flouting the laws now include "clothing sweatshops, canneries, restaurants, retail stores, manufacturers of paper and wooden boxes, and 'home' industries such as artificial flower making."

The same kind of apologetic statements were made by Kate Papert, representing the Women, Child Labor and Minimum Wage Division of the State Department of Labor, who emphasized, "We don't object to children working... We do object to abusing and exploiting children, and that doesn't mean we're trying to mollycoddle them."

The N. Y. Herald-Tribune, or-

## 10 Years Ago In The Militant

JULY 7, 1934

**MINNEAPOLIS** — In preparation for a second general strike to enforce terms of the contract wrested from Minneapolis bosses in May, General Drivers Union 574 on July 2 issued a public statement which exposed the "delaying" tactics of the companies as a deliberate union-busting move. "We desire to negotiate in regard to wages and working conditions in every plant where our members ask such negotiations," said the statement; "This is what we are going to insist on." With the support of every organized trade union body in the city, Local 574 scheduled a mass parade to demonstrate its strength.

**SAN FRANCISCO** — A general strike loomed as public indignation mounted over police murder of striking waterfront workers. Even Joseph P. Ryan, reactionary head of the AFL longshoremen's union, was forced by the pressure of the workers to give support to the strike, which he had condemned a few days before. So widespread was the sympathy for the longshoremen's strike, that Colonel Mittleton of the National Guard frantically threatened court martial for any soldier on strike duty who shot into the air — "Shoot to Kill," he ordered.

**GERMANY** — In a monstrous blood-bath, Hitler purged from the Nazi Party a large section of the rebellious middle class elements who expected fulfillment of Nazi promises of trust-busting and land reform. "This most recent bloody carnage of German Fascism," said The Militant, "begins to open up a new chapter in its history... the strengthening of capitalist reaction."

In a thorough analysis, The Militant explained how the Fascist movement, financed by Big Business, had won to its ranks tremendous numbers of people from the middle class. "To the middle class this program (renunciation of the Versailles Treaty, nationalization of trusts, and land reforms) represented a glorified empire with the oppressive features of Big Business eliminated. The capitalists and the Junkers were never fooled by this part of the program... With the Hitler hordes in power and the working class movement crushed, the fascist revolution... was not entirely completed. The middle class elements had yet to be reckoned with — not in the fulfillment of their own aspirations of trust busting and land reform... but by dashing all of these hopes..."

## Pioneer Paragraphs PROLETARIAN MORALS SERVE SOCIAL REVOLUTIONARY NEED

Engels once wrote that Marx and himself remained all their lives in the minority and "felt fine" about it. Periods when the movement of the oppressed class rises to the level of the general tasks of the revolution represent the rarest exceptions in history. Far more frequent than victories are the defeats of the oppressed. Following each defeat comes a long period of reaction which throws the revolutionists back into a state of cruel isolation. Pseudo-revolutionists, "knights for an hour," as a Russian poet put it, either openly betray the cause of the oppressed in such periods or scurry about in the search of a formula of salvation that would enable them to avoid breaking with any of the camps. It is inconceivable in our time to find a conciliatory formula in the sphere of political economy or sociology; class contradictions have forever overthrown the "harmony" formula of the liberals and democratic reformers. There remains the domain of religion and transcendental morality. The Russian "Social Revolutionists" attempted to save democracy by an

alliance with the church. Marcou Pivert replaces the church with Freemasonry. Apparently, Victor Serge has not yet joined a lodge, but he has no difficulty in finding a common language with Pivert against Marxism.

Two classes decide the fate of modern society: the imperialist bourgeoisie and the proletariat. The last resource of the bourgeoisie is fascism, which replaces social and historical criteria with biological and zoological standards so as to free itself from all restrictions in the struggle for capitalist property. Civilization can be saved only by the socialist revolution. To accomplish the overturn, the proletariat needs all its strength, all its resolution, all its audacity, passion and ruthlessness. Above all it must be completely free from the fictions of religion, "democracy," and transcendental morality — the spiritual chains forged by the enemy to tame and enslave it. Only that which prepares the complete and final overthrow of imperialist bestiality is moral, and nothing else. The welfare of the revolution — that is the supreme law!

(From "Their Morals and Ours," by Leon Trotsky, pp. 47-48. Pioneer Publishers, 1942; 48 pp. 20c. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.)

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