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THE MILITANT

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The Fourth of July Tradition

By Ruth Johnson

July Fourth is the time when the red-baiters will hit the peak of frenzied oratory, proclaiming their patriotism at rostrums draped in flags.

violence" and other pleas to shun the revolution as a plague. They heard them from the ruling class of Britain, and still defied the Crown.

packages of stamps tossed into bonfires by cheering crowds.

No sooner was this infamous Act withdrawn than Britain decided to save its East India Tea Company from bankruptcy at the expense of colonial merchants.

CAPITALIST CLASS TODAY Since this was so in 1776, why do the American capitalists today slander the idea of revolution as nothing more than incitation of "force and violence"?

can forget the violence unleashed by the capitalists against the workers — the tragedies of the Molly Maguires, the Ludlow Massacre, the Haymarket Massacre or the Memorial Day Massacre in 1937?

In its senility, its fears of the working class have become defier still, and its crimes defy description. Police brutality in every strike, savagery against the Negro people, lynch incitations of the witch-hunters darken the columns of every newspaper.

Far more even than King George in '76, the American ruling class today has reason to fear that the masses will rise in discontent and protest.

Least the workers turn to their own Declaration of Independence the ruling class seeks to outlaw free speech, gag the press, impose thought control.



TROTSKY

In the capitalist states the most monstrous forms of bureaucratism are to be observed precisely in the trade unions.

—Leon Trotsky, "Communism and Syndicalism," 1929.



LENIN

The NMU Ranks Point the Way

All organized labor is indebted to the rank and file of the CIO National Maritime Union for blocking an amendment to the NMU constitution to bar "subversives" from membership.

purge amendment. They recognized it a menace to the rights of the membership as a whole and to anyone — not just the Stalinists — who might oppose or criticize the present leadership.

Red-baiting union leaders who push the witch-hunts and purges claim they represent the sentiments of the members.

A referendum on the amendment has left no doubt that a majority of the NMU members are opposed to "loyalty" oaths, political discrimination and purges.

The strength of this anti-purge vote was all the more significant because the amendment was sponsored and supported by the overwhelming majority of the NMU National Council and President Joseph Curran.

The witch-hunt inside the unions is part and parcel of the witch-hunt outside the unions. It is inspired by the employers and their political agents who are trying to smash all democratic rights and civil liberties.

There is only one antidote to this witch-hunt disease that has infected the unions. It is the determined, organized resistance of the union ranks.

Even more significant is the fact that the great majority of NMU members are bitterly anti-Stalinist. They had voted out the whole Stalinist leadership who had ruled the NMU until two years ago.

Results of 'Lesser Evil' Politics

Last fall the top union leaders told us we must elect Truman and the Democrats at all costs. They condemned any talk of independent labor politics through labor's own party and candidates.

class, the dirt farmers, the Negro people. Confronted with this prospect, a Republican majority would not have dared to act as they have in this Congress where they are a minority.

Although the "lesser evil" policy has only led to the victory of the "greater evil" on Taft-Hartley repeal, the top union leaders want to repeat this bankrupt policy.

The outcome of the fight for Taft-Hartley repeal has put this "lesser evil" theory to an acid test. The "lesser evil" won the elections. Truman got back in the White House and the Democrats captured Congress.

But what kind of appeal can the union leaders make to the people on the basis of the miserable record of the Truman Democrats in the 81st Congress?

Would labor have been any worse off if, instead of backing the "lesser evil," it had launched its own party and put genuine labor candidates into Congress?

Even a few labor Congressmen, fighting uncompromisingly for labor's program, could have accomplished more than the Democratic majority that now sits in Congress.

Labor would have been far better off today if it had an established party of its own, with a fighting record — even as a small minority — in Congress, that could go to the people next elections with a real labor program and trustworthy candidates from the union ranks.

Ku Klux Klan Terrorism

In recent weeks, the newspapers have been reporting an increase of Ku Klux Klan terrorism. Burning crosses are lighting up the skies of the Darkest South.

of Klan outrages. We are assured that the "leading citizens" of the South are opposed to the Klan and that state and local governments are preparing laws "with teeth in them" to stop the hooded bands.

Renewed Klan activities began after the war. It was directed almost entirely against Negroes, to intimidate them from voting and exercising other civil rights.

The resurgence of the Klan, however, is no accidental phenomenon. It has taken strength from the very atmosphere pervading America today.

In the past few weeks the Klan's terrorism has been increasingly directed at whites, including the flogging of war veterans and women.

These assaults on whites could not be ignored by the press, especially since groups were being formed in parts of the South by private citizens to take their own counter-measures against the Klan hoodlums.

Fascist-like, terrorist organizations like the Klan find fertile soil today. So long as the federal government fails to enact an anti-lynch law and other civil rights measures, so long as witch-hunts and spy scares command the headlines, outfits like the Klan will flourish.

THE ROAD OF REVOLUTION

The colonial revolutionists had not intended to take the road of revolution; they were driven to it inexorably by the greed and brutality of their oppressors.

"All experience hath shewn," they wrote, "that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed."

RESISTANCE FLARES

When the Stamp Act of 1765 saddled the colonists with taxes to pay for Britain's war against France, the first lightning of revolt lit up the skies.

THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT "We hold these truths to be self-evident," the Declaration says: "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable human Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

For decades the capitalist class of the colonies had been kept in swaddling clothes by the nobility, the land-owners and the merchants of England.

The leaders of the American Revolution would not be stopped by shrieks against "force and violence" and other pleas to shun the revolution as a plague.

The huge signature of John Hancock on the Declaration of Independence symbolized the contempt all the insurgents felt for their oppressors who kept yowling: "Sedition! Treason!"

Criticism Stifled at Labor Party Conference

LONDON — The annual conference of the British Labor Party met in Blackpool June 6 under the shadow of the railway and dock strikes at various ports, notably Liverpool.

Labor government and what it has done for the workers of Britain who, he declared at a pre-conference rally, "have achieved prosperity in excess of their moral stature."

The highlight of the conference was the motion to refer back to the National Executive the expulsion of Ziliacius and Solly, the two M.P.'s who had consistently voted against the government on foreign policy.

Bob Shaw, a railway worker from Nottingham, demanded workers' control of the nationalized railways and dismissal of the old managers and bosses.

SHARP CRITICISM TOO But it was not altogether smooth sailing. The National Executive, also came in for sharp criticism. Specially articulate were the representatives of the farmers who spoke freely.

On the whole, the conference at Blackpool was characterized by a deep-going fermentation inside the Labor Party.

There were other left-wing elements; Mrs. Braddock, M.P., castigated the leadership on its complacency. She said that she

was sick of all the talks about the "achievements" of the Labor government when there are no houses for the workers while luxury buildings are being constructed.

But the capitalist press in general is attempting to minimize the significance

of the "achievements" of the

HAWAIIAN STRIKERS FIGHT BACK AGAINST UNION-BUSTING DRIVE

The Hawaiian longshore strike, called by Local 136 of the CIO International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union for a 32 cents wage increase, remains firm after two months of bitter struggle.

The employers' arrogant refusal of the union's June 17 offer to arbitrate the issues, coupled with rabid anti-union newspaper and radio attacks and efforts to unload ships with scabs — all this is proof that the "Big Five" corporations of Hawaii are out to smash the union.

The union offered to submit the dispute to a three-man board composed of Mr. Sam Kagel, West Coast waterfront referee, one representative from the union and one from the employers.

The union's demand of 32c. an hour wage increase would bring its rate to within 10c. of the U. S. West Coast longshore scale. In the past few years West Coast longshoremen have obtained several wage increases. The Hawaiian longshoremen were out of work in sympathy with the West Coast strikes, but at the time no demands were pressed to raise their wages too.

EMPLOYERS' STRATEGY

Their strategy is to center their attack on the union leadership. They hope to take advantage of the red-baiting hysteria whipped up by Washington.

Describing how the corporations entrenched themselves, Hawaiians say: "They came as missionaries years ago, pointed to the sky to teach us religion while with the other hand they took our land away!"

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