

THE WORLD CRISIS AND STALINISM

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Workers of the World, Unite!

THE MILITANT

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Censorship Keeps GIs' Voice from Home Folks

What is happening to the American GIs facing possible entrapment in Korea? What are they thinking and saying? Are they, echoing the pleas of their parents and wives at home, asking to be withdrawn from the bloody Korean mess into which they were unwillingly thrust? Do they, too, want the war to be stopped now before more tens of thousands of them are added to the over 50,000 U.S. casualties already suffered in Truman's "police action?"

According to a Jan. 9 Associated Press dispatch from Tokyo, correspondents are forbidden, among other restrictions, to file stories that would "embarrass the United States, its allies or neutral countries," that would "injure the morale of our forces, or our allies" or might cause "despondency in our forces or our people." Breach of these regulations by correspondents would mean expulsion from the war theatre and even court-martial, although newspapermen are civilians.

Very revealing is the AP disclosure that "for several days large chunks of field dispatches have been snipped out of press reports" and "one field dispatch from an AP correspondent, Tom Lambert, was killed by censors because it described American troops as dispirited, bewildered and uncertain of the future."

PROTESTS MOUNTING ON DRAFT OF 18-YEAR OLDS

As the administration disclosed its program to conscript all 18-year old young men for two years and three months, a steadily increasing torrent of protest letters and telegrams poured into Washington.

Testimony of Secretary of Defense Marshall and his assistant, Anna M. Rosenberg, before the Senate Armed Services Committee revealed the sweep of U.S. capitalism's plans to Prussianize the youth. As both Marshall and Rosenberg emphasized, the plan was not an "emergency" measure but a long range program of militarization. The bill they presented not only has no time limit but some of its sections presume its remaining in force for more than ten years. The proposed bill does not replace the present draft of men in the 19 to 26 age group. That draft will continue. The new measure would obligate all young men upon their reaching their 18th birthday, to 27 months in the Jim Crow armed forces.

Furthermore the administration spokesmen revealed to the senators that Truman had just increased the figure for the armed forces to 3,462,205 and that the forces had to reach that figure as early as possible, with June 30, 1951 as the very latest. It was also stated that Truman may set even higher figures within the next few weeks.

LONG PERIOD OF SERVICE

By lowering its physical standards the military leaders figure that they can take 80 per cent of all 18-year olds. The remaining 20 per cent will be subject to some type of non-military duty which has not yet been decided upon. The 18-year olds accepted by the armed forces would be given from four to six months of basic training (at reduced

pay) and then would be available for all types of duty — overseas and especially combat. After completing their 27 months, assuming they had not been killed in some "police action" or that the country had not been plunged into an all-out war, they would then have to join the National Guard or Organized Reserve for three years or the inactive reserves for six years.

As Marshall and Rosenberg were spelling out the drastic terms of the conscription program, letters and telegrams from angry constituents started deluging the congressmen. One senator, who asked that his name be kept secret, told reporters that "The protests have been increasing with every mail." Other senators, upon being questioned, admitted that they were receiving an ever-increasing number of protests on the 18-year old draft.

PENTAGON DILEMMA

The Defense Department spokesmen bluntly warned the senators that if they weren't given the 18-year olds their alternative would be drafting married veterans without children and non-veteran fathers in the 19 to 26 year groups.

Many politicians caught between the cross fires of the militarization program and the wrath of parents are looking for a way out of the hot spot in which they find themselves. A "compromise" now receiving serious consideration is to conscript the male youth at 18½ rather than at the age of 18. This proposal originated with Senator Taft.

World Opinion Forces UN 'Peace' Maneuvers

U.S. LABOR'S STRUGGLE LINKED TO ASIA REVOLT

By The Editor

The White House and the Pentagon are thinking of a negotiated peace in the Korea war. They have been confronted with three granite facts. First, the combined strength of the Chinese and Korean revolutions has so far proved superior to the military power of U.S. capitalism. Second, there is a tidal wave of popular resistance all-over the world to becoming involved in the Truman-MacArthur intervention in Asia. Third, the American people want the war stopped now.

This failure of American capitalist power to crush the Asian revolution despite superior arms has given new confidence to oppressed peoples everywhere. The decayed system of capitalism in Europe and colonial exploitation in Asia has one main "policeman" — the U.S. ruling class. And that ruling class no longer seems invincible.

As yet U.S. workers have not by and large connected the setback of their own ruling class abroad with their experiences at home. The unexpected failure of American arms in what was considered a minor foray against a weak people on a tiny peninsula has staggered the American public.

Big Business and U.S. Workers

However, to understand what has happened to U.S. imperialism abroad, the workers need only turn to their own experiences with Big Business over the past two decades. It is not news to American workers that the blustering monopolists can be whipped. They whipped them handily in the organizing drives of the late Thirties and early Forties. They again humbled the big corporations in the post-war strikes.

The same ruling class which served an ultimatum to the Korean people to submit to capitalist rule, also commanded the American workers to bend the knee to open shop rule. Henry Ford once bluntly announced he would never sign a union contract; the domineering bosses of Bethlehem Steel would not talk with union representatives; General Motors called out the National Guard to put down "anarchy" and "red terror" against the '37 sitdowners.

But the U.S. mass production workers, fed up with the speed-up and the stretch-out, determined to win their democratic rights in industry and under the slogan "Solidarity Forever" brought the industrial tyrants to heel. The odds against the workers seemed overwhelming. Just as the U.S. imperialists used the UN to bring pressure against the Korean people, so the American capitalists used their courts against labor. But here as in Korea, the odds proved, in fact, to be against the small minority of industrial barons who were powerless against the organized forces of the new unions.

Invincible Power of the Oppressed

The U.S. workers demonstrated in struggle their inventiveness, talents and power. They found new ways to fight and win, just as the Korean soldiers mystified the West Point brass with their "irregular" tactics and "fanaticism."

Workers who know all this can also understand what humbled Truman and MacArthur in Korea. It was the invincible power of the oppressed millions, striking for freedom, unity and independence, convinced their cause was just. The U.S. billionaires have not given up. Although forced to retreat, they continue preparing for large-scale war against the Asian peoples, just as they never rest in their class-war against the workers at home.

Wall Street's wars to crush the anti-capitalist struggles of the peoples of the world are no less reactionary than their unremitting offensive against the American workers. These wars will never cease until the U.S. workers join in the world-wide fight for socialist emancipation.

Truman's War Budget to Boost Workers' Taxes Another 40%

Truman wasn't fooling when he said in his Economic Message to Congress on Jan. 12 that the American people would have to pay "much higher taxes" to finance his war program and "must expect sacrifices."

On Jan. 15 he spelled it out in cold cash. He called for 1952 federal spending equal to the annual average of the World War II years from 1942 to 1945. The appropriations figure he set for the fiscal year 1952, which begins this coming July 1, was \$71,594,000,000 (that's billions).

BIG LEAP IN ONE YEAR

This is a terrific 78% leap in one year over the present all-time-high "peacetime" budget of \$47,210,000,000. Almost all of the 1952 increase is for military expenditures. Proposed appropriations for the U.S. armed forces are \$41,400,000,000 compared to \$12,300,000,000 in the pre-Korea fiscal year ending last June 30, and \$21 billion for the 1951 fiscal year ending this June 30.

Against this \$71½ billion budget the government will have estimated maximum receipts of \$55,138,000,000 including the 20%

increase in income taxes of wage-earners enacted last year. The expected receipts will be \$16½ billion short of expenditures, but Truman in his budget message insisted that we must maintain a "balanced budget."

Although his budget message contained no actual proposal on new taxes, he informed reporters that he intends to ask Congress for as much as \$20 billion more in taxes for 1952. Most of these taxes, according to the report of his Council of Economic Advisors on which his messages were based, must come from the "lower and middle income brackets."

TAXES ON WORKERS

A rise of even \$16½ billion in taxes will double this year's increase of \$8 billion. For every five dollars the workers pay in taxes in the current fiscal year, after this coming June 30 they will pay \$2 more, a 40% boost over the recent 20% hike.

But, Truman admitted, "the full amount of inflationary pressure is not measured by the budget deficit alone." In addition to the \$71½ billion that will actually be appropriated, there

Next Week
"THE GREATEST ATROCITY"
A Documentary Record of U. S. Intervention In Korea
DON'T MISS IT!

Power of Asian Revolution Staggers U.S. Imperialism

By Art Preis

Peiping has rejected the terms of the latest UN "peace" proposal as a maneuver "merely to give the U.S. forces a chance to rest" and recoup their strength for renewed warfare in Korea. Mao Tse-tung's government is insisting that the invading American forces be withdrawn from Korea as a major condition for consideration of any settlement of the Far Eastern conflict.

Moreover, Mao opposes restricting any conference on a Far East settlement to the "Big Three" powers (U.S., Britain and Soviet Union) and China, as the UN plan provided. Peiping demands the inclusion of semi-colonial India and Egypt, as the leading

WELL-FOUNDED SUSPICION

Chinese suspicion of Washington's intent in voting for the UN's cease-fire plan is well-founded. U.S. representatives in the UN, after the vote, had let it be known that they had agreed to the plan only because they felt sure the Chinese would not accept it. State Department spokesmen, in defending the administration from charges of "appeasement," pointedly stated that "discussion" with China did not imply any concessions.

Nevertheless, the fact that the U.S. voted for the cease-fire proposal at all is generally recognized as a diplomatic retreat for American imperialism. That is why it has stirred up a further storm of disagreement over foreign policy within Congress and has even created the beginnings of a conflict in administration circles.

CONCESSION TO CHINA

It is true that the State Dept. regarded the cease-fire plan, if accepted by Peiping, as a maneuver to gain time for strengthening U.S. forces in Korea. But the fact remains — and this is what is such a bitter pill for the capitalist politicians in Washington — that their maneuver involved a concession to the Mao Tse-tung regime, insofar as it acceded to direct discussion with China on the previously-banned issues of Formosa and seating of Peiping in the UN.

Their maneuver — a fact they cannot conceal — was from weakness and not from strength. Their concession, however hedged with conditions and mental reservations, was wrested from them against their will. They were forced into it by the power of the Asian revolution, as expressed by the sweeping advances of the Chinese and Korean armies against U.S. military might, and by the great tide of world public opinion, including large sections of the American people.

Originally, Washington had tried to get the UN to demand withdrawal of the Chinese forces from Korea as a condition for any Far East "settlement." Only a few days before the cease-fire plan was voted on, the State Dept. circulated in the UN a proposal to brand China as an "aggressor" and to invoke "sanctions" against her.

THE UN PROPOSAL

But the U.S. delegates approved a simultaneous cease-fire by both sides, to be followed by further attempts to restore peace, effect the withdrawal of all non-Korean troops "in stages," arrange for the Koreans to choose their own government and, finally to hold a UN-sponsored conference between the U.S., Britain, Soviet Union and China with specific reference to Formosa and UN membership for Peiping.

It is, of course, no coincidence that the U.S. agreed to this when its military situation in Korea is extremely grave and when its own "allies" are clamoring for concessions to Peiping rather than involve them, along with America, in full-scale war with the 500 million Chinese people.

Both the European and Asian "friends" of U.S. imperialism refused to go along with Washington's "get tough" policy. These governments are under terrific

J.P. CANNON EXPLAINS SKOGLUND CASE ISSUES

NEW YORK CITY, Jan. 15 — The recent deportation order against Carl Skoglund under the McCarran Act was reported in the Swedish press and brought a letter of inquiry about his case from Evald Hoglund, Swedish Trotskyist leader, to the Socialist Workers Party. Following is the reply by SWP National Secretary James P. Cannon:

Swedish Letter On Skoglund Case

Dear Comrades:

In an ordinary bourgeois paper we have read that the old Swede, Carl Skoglund, is expelled from the USA. He has been charged with "revolutionary action" for the Trotskyists! If it is any reality behind this and if Skoglund is coming to Sweden and when, let us know it immediately.

With revolutionary greetings,

EVALD HOGLUND
Stockholm, Sweden
(Swedish Trotskyist leader)

of all for his long and honorable record of service to labor's cause. For almost forty years he had been active in union ranks and was foremost among those who helped build labor's present power throughout the Northwest.

Moreover, his defenders have recognized that the persecution against him is more than a personal matter and involves issues affecting every American. Skoglund is the second victim of the recently-enacted McCarran Law

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WIDESPREAD SUPPORT

Skoglund's case has widespread support in labor and liberal circles. Many prominent defenders of civil rights in this country have come to his aid through the Civil Rights Defense Committee. Skoglund merits this support first

U. S. Army Censor Holds Reporter 'Incommunicado'

Alex Valentine, correspondent for Reuters, leading British news agency, reported on Jan. 15 that he was "virtually held incommunicado for twelve hours" at the U.S. First Corps headquarters in Korea when he sought to transmit a story which "concerned grumbling by enlisted men."

He finally was released and got his dispatch cleared by the Eighth Army censor to whom he was seeking to transmit the story when he was held by the First Corps chief of staff. The latter said the report of the soldiers' grievances was "scurrilous" and "untrue."

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