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Truman Signs Price Gouge, High Rents, Big Profits Law

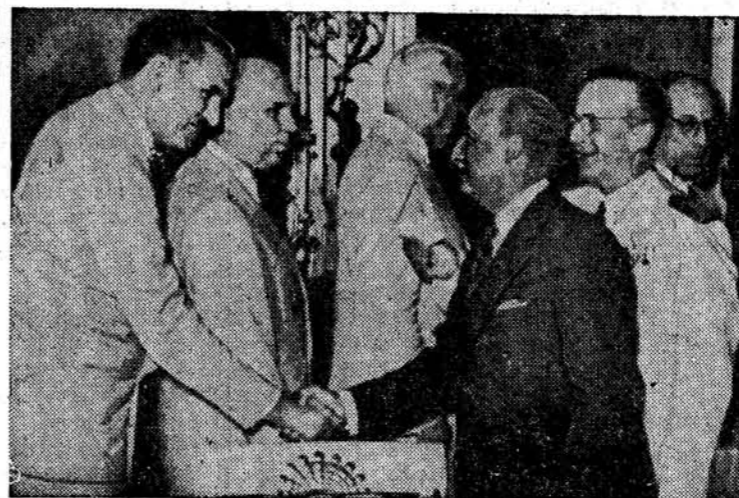
Truman Dreads Peace in Korea; 'Snafu' Charged

Why is there no cease-fire in Korea, and why does it appear possible that there may be a breakdown in the negotiations for a cease-fire?

The real reasons behind the maneuverings and evasions of the Truman administration are clearly indicated in two articles in the N. Y. *Compass*, written by I. F. Stone, independent liberal journalist.

"The Truman Administration," he says, in the first of these articles, on July 31, "seems to fear the success of the Korean cease-fire talks more than their failure. . . . On the surface, the snafu is incredible. An Army spokesman calls in the press Friday afternoon for a special 'on the record' briefing, which makes headlines implying that the Reds are only using the peace talks as a blind to save themselves from defeat and prepare a new offensive. A spokesman for Secretary of Defense Marshall disavows the briefing and denies that it indicates any change in policy."

Franco and Friends



While U.S. workers are suffering a reduction in living standards, these senators were fixing up a deal to give billions to Franco to prop up his dictatorial regime. This new aid comes at a time when Spanish workers have shown by a series of strikes they are moving toward his overthrow.

J. McFall, assistant secretary in charge of congressional relations, is shaking hands with Franco. Behind them (l. to r.) are: Senators Brewster of Maine, Smith of New Jersey and Hickenlooper of Iowa.

New Act Provides Cost-Plus System and 20% Rent Hike While Wages Remain Frozen

Unrestricted profits were given the green light July 31 when Truman signed the new "Defense Production Act" in spite of the opposition of the whole labor movement.

The new law guarantees business men their "customary percentage margin of profits over cost of materials." But the workers are guaranteed nothing. The wage-freeze is still on.

Truman signed the bill with the excuse that any kind of "controls" law is better than none. While the labor leadership had been threatening prior to the passage of this Big Business-dictated legislation, they only hinted that they would like to see the bill vetoed. But now that it is signed, they have shown no signs of any effective protest movement.

CIO STATEMENT

Emil Rieve, as spokesman for the CIO, stated prior to the passage of the controls law that labor would again withdraw from all government posts if the old law was not improved. The new law is even worse than the old.

But labor remains as Truman's window-dressing. The new law removes all sham of price and profit control. It provides the following:

PRICES: Manufacturers are allowed to increase their prices to take care of increased cost of production, thus guaranteeing them a high profit, removing all risk. The term "cost of production" was broadened to include the cost of advertising and selling. Thus, by padding the latter accounts, industrialists can put any price tag they please on their products. They will charge all the traffic can bear.

This will not only lower the purchasing power of the workers, but will hike the already tremendous costs of the war production program. As the cost of armaments soars, taxes on low incomes will be increased.

RENTS: A nationwide 20% increase in rents was provided. Reports from Washington indicate that landlords are already flooding rent control offices with demand for new increases.

BEEF: The act removes all restrictions on slaughtering. The act further prohibits future roll-backs on beef prices. The small meat markets will have to pay premium prices to get any beef, and will pass this on to the consumer.

WAGES: The act continues wage controls. While a certain amount of elasticity remains, labor will be hard put to keep up with skyrocketing prices, since

High Price of Meat Brings Blood Shortage

The American Red Cross has blamed the high cost of meat for a shortage of blood. The proportion of rejects of volunteer blood donors has risen sharply due to a lack of iron in their blood. Officials stated the iron was lacking because people willing to give blood couldn't afford to eat enough meat.

This is a case of literally draining the people's blood to supply big fat profits for the monopolists who control the meat trusts.

the complex machinery of the Wage Stabilization Board will prevent prompt and automatic handling of wage demands.

Immediately following passage of the Act the Chrysler Corporation demanded a 9 1/2% per cent price increase, based on "increased production costs."

TRUMAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

In his veto message, Truman pointed out the act will bring about higher prices and "deplorable" its provisions. But not once during the Congressional debate on the issue did he crack the party whip, as he did for example, when he pushed through the draft-strikers law during the 1946 railroad strike.

The labor leadership, meeting in Washington in a session of the United Labor Policy Committee, confined their action to sending messages to Congressmen and to lobbying. They refused to rally the powerful pressure of the 16 million organized workers, through mass meetings, demonstration and protest strikes.

Now the ULPCC is left with the alternative of continuing to serve on the government boards, administering this soak-the-poor legislation, or once again resigning in protest.

Thus far, CIO and AFL leaders have confined their statements to advice to vote right in 1952. But they still serve as flunkies of the capitalist politicians.

The responsibility for the wave of high prices and lowered living standards rests squarely with the labor leaders who have failed to give political leadership in the form of an independent labor party, which could put labor representatives in Congress.

Few Sign Petition For Bill of Rights; Fear Witch Hunt

The fantastic effects of the witch-hunt and mental strait-jacketing today borne by the American people are made clear in two polls conducted by newspapers, one in Madison, Wis., and the other in New York City. In both cases, petitions containing nothing but excerpts from the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence were circulated. In both cases, the overwhelming majority of those approached refused to sign the petitions.

The Madison petition, circulated by reporters for the *Madison Capital Times*, was signed by only one person out of 112 people interviewed. This was mentioned by Harry Truman in his Detroit speech in an effort to prove that his Republican opponents are causing a reign of terror in this country. He insinuated that the refusal of people to say that they believe in the Declaration of Independence in Madison, Wisconsin, is due to the fact that Wisconsin is the home state of Senator Joseph McCarthy, the Republican witch-hunter.

NEW YORK POLL

This theory was tested out by the New York Post, which undertook a similar petition in New York City. Out of 161 New Yorkers interviewed, only 19 would sign the basic documents of U. S. law, history and tradition. Some of those who signed did so because they had read of the Madison incident, and knew that the petitions were being circulated as a test.

The most general reaction in both cities was one of fear of the consequences of signing a petition. "I don't sign anything," was the repeated answer. "How do I know what you're up to," said others. One secretary said: "You wouldn't be trying to make me lose my job, would you, mister? You put your name on something these days, and it's no telling where it might show up later."

"My husband told me never to sign anything." "I signed something once and my kids gave me such heck I promised them never to do it again." One man started to sign, and his woman companion said: "You might get into trouble these days." He crossed his name out and handed back the petition.

"I DON'T WANT TROUBLE"

A frightened man begged in broken English: "Please, sir, don't make me sign. Only six months I'm here. I don't want trouble. Please."

In Madison, twenty of those approached asked the reporters if they were Communists. One Fourth of July picnicer snapped: "Get the hell out of here with that Communist stuff." Another, noting the appeal to divine providence in the Declaration of Independence.

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CP Leaders Arrested Without Indictments

Even more flagrantly than in the past, the Truman administration trampled on the Bill of Rights with both feet in its July 26 roundup of 12 West Coast Communist Party leaders.

In the two previous arrests of Stalinists under the reactionary Smith Act; the Department of Justice at least went through the motions of taking the case to a grand jury and securing indictments charging violations of law, no matter how vague or flimsy.

But it dispensed with this formality on July 26. An FBI agent appeared before a United States Commissioner in Los Angeles with a "complaint" that the 12 were suspected of violating the Smith Act. The Commissioner obligingly issued warrants for their arrest, although absolutely no specific charges were introduced against them.

After they were picked up, it was announced that a grand jury would be asked to indict them the following week. The alibi for this arbitrary procedure was the government's claim that the 12 were arrested before they were indicted in order to prevent them from going into hiding.

On July 31 a federal grand jury in Los Angeles acted in accordance with the government's wishes and issued indictments that "legalized" the arrests. The indictments were patterned along the lines of the ones obtained in the New York cases — charging "conspiracy" because the defendants had exercised their rights of free speech and association.

The Bill of Rights explicitly forbids excessive bail. But the Truman administration, while hailing the Bill of Rights with hypocritical zeal, has made a complete mockery of this provision and in effect has canceled it altogether in the present case.

\$925,000 BAIL

William Schneiderman, most prominent of the 12 arrested, was held in \$100,000 bail. The other eleven were held in \$75,000 bail each. This makes a total of \$925,000 for the 12, a sum that it is impossible to raise, especially while the government is hounding those who provided bail for the Stalinists in the past.

By contrast, the government asked only \$5,000 bail for the notorious vice czar Frank Costello after he was indicted last week.

All the signs point toward an increased tempo in the government's attacks on the CP. Reports from Washington name Chicago and Detroit as the next areas in which the Department of Justice will strike in line with its announced program of seizing some 2,500 persons in the coming period.

With the precedents set in Los Angeles — circumventing the need for indictments and destroying the right of bail — it can be expected that the Department of Justice will act with even greater arrogance and disregard of traditional legal procedures. The mass raids that characterized the Palmer days after World War I seem closer now than at any time since the beginning of the current witch-hunt.

Success in the case of the Stalinists will only embolden the government to use similar methods against other sections of the labor and radical movements. That is why the labor leaders' approval or acceptance of what the government is doing to the democratic rights of the Stalinists is a crime against the labor movement itself, which militant workers must actively oppose.

Cleveland Truckers Win Rank and File Strike

By Jean Simon

CLEVELAND, July 30 — Militant pure and simple trade unionism won a technical victory here today. Striking members of AFL Teamsters Local 407 ratified a con-

tract granting virtually all of the union's demands. But as the limits of collective bargaining were reached with the signing of the agreement, the employers were able to fall back on their political reserves. They turned to the boss-dominated Wage Stabilization Board in Washington, while the union members, with no Labor Party to represent their interests,

were left helpless in the next stage of their fight for an eight-hour day and wage increases.

MORE UNIONS AID LEGLESS VETERAN

Responding to the appeal of the Katcher Civil Rights Committee, an additional number of unions last week made contributions to its defense fund for the legless veteran James Katcher, celebrated victim of the Truman loyalty purge. Katcher's discharge for his socialist beliefs from his clerk's job in the Newark Veterans Administration was upheld this June by a Federal Judge in Washington. His case is now being taken to the U.S. Court of Appeals for a hearing this fall.

Among the labor bodies aiding his fight for justice are Chrysler Local 7, UAW-CIO of Detroit which gave \$25 and UAW-CIO Local 337 of Cleveland, Ohio, and three steel locals: United Steelworkers of America-CIO, Local 3120 of Cleveland, Ohio; USA-CIO Local 1136 of Chicago Heights, Illinois; and USA-CIO Local 1330 of Youngstown, Ohio.

The United Rubber Workers Local 111 of Kearny, N. J.; Katcher's home state; Machine Tool and Die Local 155, UERMWA of Philadelphia; and Teachers Union Local 655, UPW of New York City round out the recent contributors.

ASK REINSTATEMENT

Abraham Lederman, President of the New York Teachers Union, whose members have likewise been persecuted because of their opinions, wrote: "Our Executive Board, confident that if freedom of thought is to survive in our great land a civil service worker must be judged solely on his performance on the job, voted to reaffirm its support of the legless veteran. They urge that he be reinstated and be given the back pay which he has lost."

Contributions to help Katcher carry his case through the higher courts should be sent to 19 West 10th St., N. Y. C. 11, N. Y.

14 cents for dockmen; a clause against discrimination in employment, because of age. The only concessions by the union were acceptance of a slightly shorter vacation period than they had demanded, and absence of a clause providing for overtime on a seniority basis to be under union control.

THE JOKER

But the joker in the deal is that none of the gains other than the 3 and 5 cent increases contained in the contract thrown out by the membership July 6 go into effect until they receive WSB approval. This swindle was so apparent to the rank-and-file that at the meeting of 1500 men held today to vote on the contract, there was

(Continued on page 2)

Industrial Accidents On the Increase

According to the U.S. Dept. of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, industrial accidents have risen sharply this year compared to last year. There have been 16% more injuries in industry this year. In the first three months of the year an estimated 110,000 workers have lost 2.2 million man-days of work "due to disabling accidents."

This is the same period during which the big corporations intensified the speed-up drive.

Liberty Being Stifled, Says ACLU

The American Civil Liberties Union has called on the American people to exercise their own civil liberties, to support others in exercising them and to be vigilant in demanding that government officials observe and enforce freedom of expression, due process and equality before the law.

This advice was contained in the ACLU's 30th annual report, covering the 18 months before the beginning of this year, which was issued last week as a pamphlet under the title, Security and Freedom: The Great Challenge.

ACLU Executive Director Patrick Murphy Malin, in an introduction, warns: "There is a growingly inclusive and pervasive social atmosphere of fear and intolerance, stifling the good old American habits of speaking one's mind, joining the organizations one believes in, and

observing the principles of fair hearing and holding a man innocent until he is proved guilty. Guilt by accusation, or — worse — by innuendo, is abroad in the land."

INROADS ON FREEDOM

Most of the report's contents prove the truth of this statement in detail, showing "the inroads on freedom of expression and due process being made in the name of national security by federal, state and local law-makers and administrators, and in some cases, the courts, and by private groups."

The report condemns the McCarran Internal Security Act of 1950 as "the worst departure since the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 from the central principle of American law that a man is accountable only for his own illegal acts, not for mere associa-

tion with persons who hold obnoxious opinions."

It condemns McCarthyism and the House Un-American Committee, the purge of government employees, the "loyalty" oaths being imposed on teachers and other public employees, wiretapping, increasing censorship, race discrimination and attacks on democratic rights of unpopular individuals and groups within the unions.

Some of the effectiveness of the report's criticisms is undoubtedly vitiated by its acceptance of the premises of the governmental forces it criticizes.

Director Malin, for example, agrees with the witch-hunters when he says that revolution is a "real and hateful" fact, "in the present as in the past," and that Americans should support the government in doing "its utmost

to prevent or punish . . . revolutionary acts." (Ironically, this is on the same page where Malin praises "our fathers" for having brought forth on this continent a new nation "conceived in liberty" — which was certainly a revolutionary act of the first order, "hateful" only to King George III and his Tory sympathizers.)

The report also suffers from a failure to analyze the real source of the attacks on civil liberties — the determination of the capitalist class to hang onto and increase its privileges and profits, which can be achieved only by regimenting the people at home and abroad.

Despite such faults, the report collects a lot of useful information for opponents of the witch-hunt. Copies are available at 35c each from the ACLU, 170 Fifth Ave., New York City.

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Monday, August 6, 1951

Truman's Shabby Maneuver

We despise Senator Joseph McCarthy as much as anyone else, and we are willing to insist that he take his share of the blame for the "Red" hysteria that has been whipped up throughout the country.

But our contempt for Senator McCarthy cannot possibly be so great as to blind us to the shabby maneuver pulled by President Truman in his Detroit speech last week.

Truman tried to fob off the entire responsibility for the current thought-control reign of terror on McCarthy, by referring to the Madison, Wisconsin, petition test, which we have described elsewhere in this issue. Briefly, the president's idea was that the people of Madison were afraid to sign a petition reaffirming the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutional guarantees of the Bill of Rights because Madison is in Wisconsin, hence, "McCarthyland."

We call this a "shabby maneuver" — this is understating the dirty, self-exculpating excuse of a criminal who is just as guilty as his accomplice. While McCarthy has plenty to answer for, what about Truman?

Isn't it the Truman administration that fathered the witch-hunt? Didn't Truman issue the Executive Order under which thousands have been fired without trial, hearing, or even a specification of the charges or even knowing who their accusers were? Didn't a Truman cabinet member, the Attorney General, issue the "subversive" listing which defames and convicts organizations and their members of "crimes" without trial or hearing?

Does the Truman administration, and all of its supporters, ever miss an op-

portunity to heat up the witch-hunt kettle with new, bitter, anti-Red speeches and charges?

For Truman, at this late date, to try to slip out from the onus of being known as the chief thought control whip-cracker is not only shabby, it is laughable and fantastic. McCarthy may have exceeded Truman in wild and sensational charges, but no one holds the candle to Truman as the chief prosecutor and persecutor. In deeds, if not in words, Truman is far ahead of McCarthy.

Of course, Truman was transparently dishonest when he latched on to the fact that the "fear poll" was conducted in McCarthy's home state and that this accounts for everything. Substantially the same results could be gotten anywhere, and Truman knows this. The Post poll in New York City explodes Truman's feeble dodge.

We can't avoid adding a word on the New York Post, which is horrified at the results of the Madison and New York petition stunts. Any regular Post reader knows that this paper has made its own dirty contributions to the current fever. Murray Kempton, for instance, and such hatchet jobs as the recent Post feature on Dashiell Hammett, do their work. They are not the same as McCarthyism, but they serve to line up the liberals, something that McCarthy could never do.

Each plays a role in the hysterical campaign that results in such a frame of mind as was revealed in the petitions in Madison and New York. McCarthy, the Post, Truman, and others, each work on a different section of the population. All together and each separately, they bear responsibility for the fear-ridden minds of America's people.

French Govt. Still Hunting For 'Stability'

By Charles Hanley

Before the recent parliamentary elections in France many French politicians as well as the American bourgeois press hoped for a certain stabilization of the French government. This hope did not materialize.

Despite a new electoral law, neither the "Third Force" nor the pro-fascist de Gaulle movement won an absolute majority of seats in the assembly.

For the time being a coalition between the Gaullists and other capitalist parties cannot be formed, for de Gaulle will not agree to it unless he is made complete master. The conservative groups are not ready to submit to the would-be dictator as they consider Gaullism too costly a solution.

POLICE CONFLICT

The government crisis which began before the elections was due mainly to difference of policy in the social and economic field between the socialists and their bourgeois partners.

The coalition between socialists and the liberal capitalists had been difficult enough before. Now a coalition including both socialists and right wing capitalists is even more difficult. The socialists are asking for a sliding scale of wages, while the capitalist parties refuse to accept this demand. They are determined instead to further reduce the workers' standard of living. They plan to unload the costs of the Atlantic Pact rearmament program on the backs of the workers.

If the socialist leaders agree to this, the crisis inside the Socialist Party of France would become acute. There already exists strong feeling among the socialist rank and file against participation in any cabinet whose economic and financial policy would be influenced by French Big Business.

Several politicians from the camp of the capitalist class have attempted to form a new coalition cabinet. But four weeks after the elections, the crisis continues. All that they can hope for is a patched up compromise government, awaiting the next elections for a clear mandate to one or another party.

CRISIS OF THE SYSTEM

But the cabinet crisis is not merely a crisis of government: It is a crisis of the capitalist system. French capitalism is rotten, and so is its political set-up.

De Gaulle expects the ruling class finally to turn to him when they see no alternative but a fascist dictatorship to save the capitalist system.

In order to prevent de Gaulle from seizing power, a united front of all labor is needed. Such a front could rally the workers behind the demand for a sliding scale of wages to meet rising living costs, and end the crisis of the capitalist Fourth Republic, by creating a Republic of Workers and Peasants... a socialist government of the people.

KREMLIN BUREAUCRATS INSTITUTE NEW SERIES OF PURGES IN EAST EUROPE

Every day's news from and about East Europe testifies to continuing unrest and resistance to the Kremlin's yoke. In the last week alone, there was new evidence of purges in progress in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

The Cominform paper itself confirmed the rumors about sharpening dissension in Bulgaria when it called the situation in that country's Communist Party "intolerable" and quoted Bulgarian Premier Chervenkov's recent admission that "there are still quite a few party leaders who are reluctant" to carry out party decisions.

A few days later, the Yugoslav press, which seems well informed about Bulgarian developments, reported the arrest of Maj. Gen. Slavcho Trinski on "Titoist" charges. Apparently Trinski is a popular figure, with a reputation among the masses that does not depend on the authority of the Kremlin; this alone would be enough to account for his purge.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA
 From Paris, C. L. Sulzberger of the N. Y. Times reports information pointing to a widespread purge of the Czechoslovak army. Sulzberger quotes from a Ministry of War warning to the top Czechoslovak military commanders against those officers who op-

posed the application of "Soviet methods" in the organization of the army.

This year four of the Czechoslovak top generals have either been arrested or committed suicide. The Stalinist authorities speak about the targets of the purge as "imperialist agents," but that is their standard name for opponents from the left as well as the right.

PURGE IN POLAND
 A similar development is taking place in Poland. The Warsaw radio announced that nine senior army officers, including four generals, would be tried on charges of sabotage and espionage for Anglo-American imperialism.

A specific accusation is that the nine were trying to help the imperialists "tear away the Polish Western territories from the mother country and annex them to neo-Nazi Germany." That could well mean that the nine were opposed to the dismemberment of Poland which has been carried through by the Kremlin.

This trial confirms the view taken in last week's Militant that Soviet Deputy Premier Molotov's bellicose speech in Warsaw — nine days before the announcement of the latest arrests — was motivated primarily by the Kremlin's concern over the unrest in East Europe. Molotov knew all about the coming arrests when he

spoke, just as he knows about the hate for the Stalinist oppressors all over Eastern Europe.

When he threatened Tito in that speech, he was also giving a warning to the bureaucrats and masses in the satellite countries. The false and reactionary policies of the Yugoslav leaders during the last year may have alienated much of the East European people's sympathies for Yugoslavia, but have not quelled their desire for independence from the Kremlin.

MORTAL WEAKNESS

Superficial commentators regard the never-ending purges in East Europe, and inside the Soviet Union itself, as signs of the Kremlin's indomitable strength. Actually, they are evidence of mortal weakness. A really strong and stable regime has no need for continuous purges.

This will be shown again and again as the crisis of Stalinism deepens and the peoples today oppressed by the bureaucracy get an opportunity to take decisive action against it.

**Campaign for
 Socialism
 Sell 'The Militant!'**

The Stalinist Peace Program -- VIII

The Road of Lenin

By James P. Cannon

Lenin, a disciple of Marx, defined our epoch as the epoch of wars and revolutions, and all experience since 1914 has confirmed his analysis.

In the brief span of thirty-seven years, the world has seen the First World War, and in the midst of it the Russian Revolution of 1917. The decade of the Twenties brought the second revolution in China and the British general strike — flaming signs of crack-up in the imperialist metropolis and the colonial extremity of an obsolete social system. The decade of the Thirties produced the Spanish civil war, and the world-wide economic crisis which set the stage and was followed by the Second World War. Out of this war came a successful revolution in Yugoslavia, post-war revolutionary situations all over Europe, and now the great and mighty tide of colonial revolution rising in the Orient. At the present hour we have a "localized" war in Korea which has already taken a toll of two million lives, and all-out preparations for a Third World War, with international civil war and revolution implicit in the event.

There is absolutely no doubt about it — the truth of Lenin's characterization of our epoch is written in its living history.

Lenin taught that wars are caused by imperialist rivalries and struggles for markets and fields for the investment of surplus capital. World War I confirmed that analysis, and World War II dotted all the i's and crossed all the t's.

TWO OPPOSING SYSTEMS

Lenin also taught that a new social system of planned economy based on nationalized property and reinforced by a state monopoly of foreign trade cannot "peacefully co-exist" with imperialist states "for any length of time." "In the end," said Lenin, "one or the other must triumph."

Lenin further taught that the colonial people, kept in poverty and backwardness by imperialist domination, could find the way to national independence and the development of their productive forces only by revolutions in the colonies joining forces with the proletarian revolutions in the metropolitan centers of imperialism.

Lenin finally taught — what he and all of us learned from Marx — that the class struggle of the workers in the imperialist countries must inevitably culminate in the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a socialist society.

On that basis — and on that basis alone — taught Lenin, real peace and a good life of freedom and abundance can be secured for humanity. This is the road to peace, according to Lenin.

The peace campaign now being conducted by the Stalinists runs counter to all these teachings, to all the experience of the past thirty-seven years which confirmed them, and to the future social reality which they project. The central theme of the Stalinist peace campaign, as we have seen, is "the possibility and necessity for peaceful co-existence between the capitalist and socialist states." The main agitational slogan is the demand that the U.S. government "negotiate and agree with the Soviet Union." And their slogan of action, waving in all the May Day parades, is "Unity of the Big 5." The method of the campaign is the mobilization of workers' organizations, pacifist societies, church groups, and "sections of the capitalist class" to present this program to the imperialist government on signed petitions, ornamented by pictures of the dove of peace especially drawn for the occasion by Picasso. This is the road to peace, according to Stalin.

STALINIST CAMPAIGN FOR STATUS QUO

The Stalinist peace program is a proposal to maintain the status quo indefinitely. What does that signify for the workers and colonial peoples? It signifies the abandonment of the revolutionary struggle for the socialist transformation of society in the capitalist countries; the reconciliation of the workers to life-long wage slavery for themselves, and the same perspective for their children and their children's children. It signifies the abandonment of the aspirations of the colonial slaves for national independence and a better life.

The Stalinists have proved by their past practices that they are ready and willing to maintain the status quo on that basis. In their current propaganda they again offer this program to the great powers concerned — to the workers and colonial peoples on the one side and the imperialist exploiters on the other. In the service of that program they offer treacherous slogans to the masses and material concessions to the imperialists. The Stalinists for their part are ready and willing — but they are not able. Their program is doomed because neither of the two great powers, neither the workers and the colonial peoples nor the imperialists, can accept it and abide by it.

The imperialists, on their side, through the program enunciated by Acheson in his Berkeley speech a year ago and military preparations to implement it, are serving notice that the Stalinist program doesn't go far enough to meet their requirements. They demand that the Soviet Union and revolutionary China cease to exist as they are at present constituted. The rulers of America may not have taken the trouble to read Lenin, as in general they don't like to bother with theory, but they are convinced in their hearts and in their money-bags that two rival social systems cannot "peacefully co-exist" to their advantage. The peace they demand is a peace that the Soviet Union and revolutionary China cannot give and continue to exist.

The workers and colonial peoples, on their part, cannot accept the Stalinist program because their lives grow more intolerable as the capitalist world system plunges deeper into decay and drives them on the road of struggle against existing conditions. It is precisely the status quo that must be changed in order that peace may be secured and the people may live in a manner suitable to human beings.

FALSE STANDARD OF 'AGGRESSION'

In the cold-war peace, presently highlighted by a shooting, bombing and burning war in Korea, the imperialist diplomats, along with their apologists on the one side, and the Stalinists along with their dupes and stooges on the other, agree on recognizing "aggression" as the one and only unpardonable sin. They tirelessly accuse each other of committing this sin, or of planning to do so, as if nothing else matters. But what doesn't matter and cannot apply is this criterion itself. In the very nature of this epoch in general, and of the present world situation in particular, this term "aggression" is a false and hypocritical standard by which to judge the justice and necessity of an action. It is a trap for the workers and colonial peoples, designed to paralyze action in their own interests.

The very existence of capitalist imperialism is an aggression against the masses, robbing them of their right to a decent existence by force and fraud. The institutions of capitalism — its armies, police and courts — are instruments of this force, as its official propaganda and moralistic preachments are instruments of the fraud. In the black-is-white language of diplomacy and official propaganda, the American intervention in Korea, for example, is not an act of aggression, although a couple of million Koreans — mostly civilians, the old and the sick, the women and the children huddled in their straw-thatched villages — have already been bombed to bits and burned to ashes in the process. All this — this atrocity of the ages — has been done, so it is said, not to commit "aggression," but to repel it. That doesn't change the reality, however, and doesn't bring the dead back to life, the dead who didn't hear the explanation.

In truth, aggression can no more be outlawed in the present relationship of classes and nations than the blows and counter-blows of contending armies in the field, for the relationship is one of antagonism and struggle all the time. Just as the very existence of predatory capitalism is an act of aggression against the masses, so the very existence of the Soviet Union, with its nationalized property; the labor movement in the developed countries of capitalism; and the surging revolutionary movement of the colonial peoples — they are all standing and unceasing acts of aggression against the imperialist world system. In the language of Marxism this is known as the class struggle. And this struggle, this "aggression," however unconscious of its goal its participants may be at the moment, is designed and historically destined not to maintain the status quo but to change it fundamentally — and nothing can stop it.

CLASS STRUGGLE DETERS WARMAKERS

It is this struggle of the workers and colonial peoples, spontaneously developing as the unavoidable result of the decay of capitalism and the insoluble contradictions engendered by it — it is precisely this struggle, despite all the inadequacy and treachery of the leadership at the moment, that is today the main, indeed the only real, deterrent to the outbreak of a Third World War.

The colonial revolutions, by the demonstration of their mounting power throughout the Orient, are doing a thousand times more to slow down the war plans of Washington than any pacifist prayers and petitions. One has only to read the testimony of the General Staff members and of Secretary Acheson before the Senate Committee for proof of this out of their own mouths. The revolutionary sentiments of the undefeated European workers and the fear of civil war at home are the main reasons for the stumbling reluctance of the European bourgeoisie to go along with the war plans of Washington. An aggressive and politically independent labor movement in the United States, firmly resisting war and fighting its own independent fight on class struggle lines against its real enemy — the ruling capitalists — would be the biggest road-block of all in the way of the war-mongers and war-makers.

Imperialist capitalism is the cause of war, and the struggle for peace is inseparable from the struggle against capitalism. The peace campaign of the Stalinists, by which they sabotage the class struggle of the workers and try to deflect it into pacifist petition campaigns for diplomatic deals in the momentary interests of the Kremlin bureaucrats, is no less treacherous than the jingo sell-out of the workers during World War II. The fight against perfidious Stalinism, in the name of the class struggle policy of Lenin, is a necessary and inseparable part of the fight for peace.

The class struggle of the workers, merging with the colonial revolutions in a common struggle against imperialism, is the only genuine fight against war. The Stalinists who preach otherwise are liars and deceivers. The workers and colonial peoples will have peace when they have the power and use their power to take it and make it for themselves. That is the road of Lenin. There is no other road to peace.

Chicago

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Sunday, August 12th
 from 11 a. m.

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Admission free Hot Lunch served
 SWIMMING GAMES MARSHMALLOW ROAST

Chicago Socialist Workers Party

