

4th Int'l. Calls for Socialist Anti-War Struggle

Delegates From 25 Countries At World Congress

(Reprinted from the Sept. 13 La Verite, weekly publication of French revolutionary Socialists)

The Third World Congress of the Fourth International was held in Switzerland at the end of August and the beginning of September. A total of 74 elected delegates

participated in the plenary sessions and commissions which lasted 11 days. Delegates, observers and visitors came from 25 countries and represented 27 organizations. Especially notable was the delegation from the Far East composed of a dozen comrades representing China, India, Vietnam and Ceylon, as well as delegations from Latin America representing Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay.

AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVE
A representative from the labor movement of Black Africa participated for the first time in a meeting of the Fourth International. Europe was represented by delegations from all the principal countries. A representative of a Communist opposition movement in the USSR who was to participate as observer at the Congress was prevented from coming at the last moment by material difficulties.

The Congress held its plenary sessions in a hall specially decorated for that purpose. A Vietnamese revolutionary artist reproduced portraits of the principal martyrs of the Trotskyist movement.
The Congress assigned honorary chairmanship to its militants who are at present victims of imperialist or Stalinist repression. Among them are Bolivian, Vietnamese and Greek comrades, notably the recently arrested Guillermo Lora, member of the Central Committee of the Bolivian Section of the Fourth International, Deputy in the Bolivian Parliament and leader of the

miners' union, and Comrades Rene and Liu, leaders of the Vietnamese section of the Fourth International, under arrest by the Vietminh authorities.

Grand Jury Indicts Cicero Jim Crow Victims See Page 4

FIVE LANGUAGES

The work of the Congress was carried on in five languages for which a permanent translator functioned: English, French, German, Spanish and Chinese, without taking into account summary translations in other languages.

The Third World Congress opened with a greeting from the Secretary of the International, with the election of an Organizational Commission for the Congress and the election of special commissions. The principal reports given were a general political report, a report on the "People's Democracies" in Eastern Europe, a report on Yugoslavia and a report of the activities of the outgoing International leadership.

POLITICAL REPORT

The political report emphasized the two main features of the present world situation: the accelerated preparations for war by imperialism and the development of the revolutionary upsurge in Asia. It declared that the launching of imperialist war in the present world-wide relationship of forces (which are unfavorable to imperialism and cannot be reversed in the next two to four years) meant that it would tend from the start to become transformed into global civil war.

The report demonstrated that in the course of this class war the proletariat would free itself from all bureaucratic control by the Kremlin and that the struggle unleashed on a world scale could be terminated only by the victory of the socialist revolution over imperialism and over Stalinism. To achieve this victory it is indispensable for the revolutionary movement to defend the USSR, the "People's Democracies," China and the colonial revolutions against imperialism, while irreconcilably combating Stalinism which is incapable of unifying and effectively directing

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Workers of the World, Unite!

THE MILITANT

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Machinists Union Says Taxes Rob Workers of Wage Gains

Auto Units Call Parley to Fight GM Speedup Drive

FLINT, Sept. 13 — Recent events point to a sharpening of the struggle against speedup in the assembly plants of the Chevrolet division of General Motors corporation. In the Flint Fisher Body units two wildcat strikes were provoked in the space of a week.
In spite of these actions, GM has set a determined course to maintain stepped-up production standards. Indications are that the company is deliberately attempting to provoke a strike in Flint Chevrolet, in the hope of beating the workers back to their jobs with the aid of top UAW-CIO officials.
But the Chevrolet workers, wary of isolated strike struggles, have been preparing a national conference in St. Louis of all the assembly units to work out a unified program against the speedup campaign.

The forthcoming meeting of ten assembly plant locals has thrown a fright into the Reuther UAW leadership. To forestall any independent action, Reuther has indicated he intends to call a conference of GM locals in Detroit.
Meanwhile, GM management has been penalizing workers who do not meet production standards. The top bureaucrats are calculatingly indifferent to the suffering of the workers. Assembly line workers have to run all day to keep up with the line. Adult workers wet their pants waiting for relief. But thus far the sole concern displayed by the International officers is to discover if "party liners" are "fomenting" trouble.

In spite of sharp reductions in the working force, far in excess of production cutbacks, Reuther has made no attempt to obtain relief by demanding more manpower on the line. As in previous days, foremen once again remind you of the unemployed outside the gates waiting to be hired.
Goaded by this situation, workers have engaged in a series of walkouts. But these local actions prove ineffective. The forthcoming conference, demanded by the Chevrolet workers, will make it possible to unify the struggle, and force the top union officers to take action.

By taking control of such a conference, Reuther hopes to forestall any determined action. He will no doubt turn loose a legion of international representatives to browbeat the delegates. But the workers are determined to unite their forces and fight the company, and anyone else who stands in the way of a defense of union conditions.



SWP Candidate Gets 3,516 Votes in Detroit

DETROIT, Sept. 13 — Howard Lerner, only independent working class candidate in a field of eight running for Mayor of Detroit, came in sixth with 3,516 votes in Tuesday's primary election. Lerner ran on the Socialist Workers Party platform. His vote represented 1.5% of the total cast, and showed that there is a militant minority of workers who will not permit the rebaiting reaction to frighten them from voting for a genuine socialist candidate.
Albert Cobo, union-hating incumbent, came in first with 138,103 votes, while Edgar Branigan, Democratic machine politician, got 62,957. These two agents of the employers will be in the November run-off.
The CIO hit a new low in this contest. No other result was possible so long as the CIO under Walter Reuther persists in the self-defeating policy of endorsing any company-minded candidate who puts on a Democratic Party label.
Here is a typical example of the stand the CIO-endorsed

Branigan took in the daily press: "My personal belief is that property is now taxed too heavily; that part of the load should be transferred to other sources, such as pay rolls."
On the right of government employees to strike, he said: "I do not believe in conceding such a right to them — their grievances should be adjusted by other means!" He also announced that he would assume no "obligations" to the labor movement.
The only CIO member in the contest was John H. Mial, a Negro, vice-president of the Wayne County CIO Council and a member of UAW Local 155. Out of 52 candidates for the City Council, he came in 29th with 11,034 votes. Only the first 18 are in the run-offs. What a miserable showing in a town with one-quarter million UAW members!
The vote proves Mial got no support from the CIO. His candidacy was not intended to be a serious fight in behalf of the Negro people. Its sole purpose was to pull votes away from the Rev. Charles A. Hill, independent Negro candi-

date for City Council. Hill ran on a civil rights pacifist program. He has collaborated with Stalinist front movements, but takes an aggressive attitude on the rights of minorities. He is also a member of the local Katcher committee and has cooperated with Howard Lerner in elections.
The SWP endorsed Hill's candidacy. He came in 16th and made the run-off with 28,471 votes. He will be the only Negro candidate on the November ballot.
Ford Local 600, leading opposition local in the UAW which did a good job in fighting for a referendum on the FEPC issue, showed that it still suffers a hangover from Reuther's PAC policy. It endorsed City Council President Miriani for re-election. Miriani is strictly a real estate man. He is active in white-supremacist neighborhood organizations and openly hostile to FEPC and the petition drive for it.
Endorsement of such scoundrels is no different from Reuther's policy, and will bring the same results.

Govt. Cost-of-Living Index Called "Snare and Delusion"

The AFL Machinists Union, representing 700,000 workers, last week attacked the Department of Labor cost of living index as a "snare and a delusion" because it fails to take taxes on low incomes into account.
Since the Wage Stabilization Board wage freeze is pegged to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Index, the exclusion of the tax factor in estimating living costs has become a pressing problem to the labor movement.
The need to include taxes in cost-of-living calculations becomes more acute as the Senate and House prepare a new tax law which according to all indications will increase taxes at least by a straight 11 percent.

local taxes. Last year, for example, state sales taxes jumped 300 percent. During 1950 the states collected \$2 billion in sales taxes. These taxes and local sales taxes are not included in the BLS living cost figures.
The Senate tax bill now being considered would increase the federal excise taxes as well as income taxes. There is a proposal, sponsored by the NAM, to levy a general tax on all manufactured goods except food.
While workers are hard pressed to buy the necessities of life after their wages are cut by the tax gouge, special tax handouts further enrich the big corporations. In the first 8½ months this year, 3,343 tax rebate applications were approved — over \$9 billion for plant expansion. But workers are given no rebates to build homes — or buy groceries.
"The less taxes Big Business pays the more you will have to pay," the AFL League Reporter states. "The government has to get the money it needs for the defense program some place." And that someplace is from the worker's pay envelope.

"QUIT STALLING"
The Machinists Union weekly paper on Sept. 15 demanded the Dept. of Labor "quit stalling" and immediately include the increasing tax deductions from workers' pay envelopes as part of the rising cost of living. Income taxes, the union said, "are now a major factor in the cost of living of almost every union family."
The AFL League Reporter (published by Labor's League for Political Action) stated Sept. 15 that "within a week or two both the Senate and House will give their final approval to this year's tax law. It looks as if it will be another law to help the rich get richer and the poor get poorer."
The demand of the Machinists Union deserves the support of every local union. Those unions with escalator clause contracts are finding that the failure of the BLS index to include taxes in measuring rising living costs renders the escalator provision ineffective. Unions which win wage increases based on the WSB formula, find that these increases compensate workers for only a part of the higher cost of living.

TAX BURDEN GROWS
As war preparations mount in cost, the workers' tax burden grows. Unless increased real wages compensate workers for this taxation, millions will suffer drastic reductions in their standard of living.
The statement of the Machinists Union is an indication that large sections of the labor movement are awakening to the fraud of the wage-price-tax program.
The truth is that the Truman administration is following the letter the "elastic" wage policy and tax steal proposed last year by GM President C. E. Wilson. (See article below on escalator clause.) Wages are "elastic," but taxes take the stretch out of them.
SALES TAXES
Not only income taxes should be included in cost of living figures, but all federal, state and

Myra Tanner Weiss Flays Warmakers At N.Y. Meeting

NEW YORK, Sept. 14 — Myra Tanner Weiss, prominent West coast fighter for revolutionary socialism, continued her national speaking tour sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party, with a talk on "The Outlook for America—Lessons of the Korean War," at Adelphi Hall in New York City last Friday night.
An enthusiastic audience, many of whom were newly won friends of the party, followed with great interest the speaker's analysis of the events that are shaping the America of the future.
TWO LESSONS
The Korean War, Comrade Weiss said, was a result of the invasion and consequent ruin of that small country by American imperialism whose intention it was to crush the revolutionary aspirations of the Korean masses. The fourteen months of bloody war, the speaker continued, provide two fundamental lessons. The first, she stated, was the weakness of world capitalism, racked by crisis at home and impotent to resist the extension of the revolutionary upsurge in Asia. The second was the strength and militancy of the oppressed colonial peoples and the militant anti-war sentiment that pervades the working class of Europe and America.
It is this last factor, Mrs. Weiss said, that has caused the American ruling class to hesitate in carrying through their plans to unleash World War III.

the speaker declared, "They threaten us with: 1. a third war, 2. a \$46 billion profit coined by them in a machine powered with blood, 3. forced labor under government injunction, and 4. a youth demoralized and unable to plan a future except in the army."
"We," she said, "see a different future for America and the world, our socialist future, and we are prepared to fight for it." Speaking for the entire party she concluded with the words: "We want no other life, we could live no other life."
Michael Bartell, Socialist Workers Party candidate for President of the City Council in the coming elections in New York City, was chairman. He outlined plans for an intensive election campaign in which, Bartell pointed out, the S.W.P. will be the only independent working class party on the ballot.

FUTURE FOR AMERICA

The speaker showed how the tremendous accumulation of surplus capital in the hands of the sixty families that own and control this country is today the real economic force leading to imperialist aggression in the modern world.
Outlining the future prescribed for the American people by the Wall Street rulers and their political stooges in Washington,

By Michael Bartell (SWP Candidate for President of N. Y. City Council)
For the fourth consecutive year the Socialist Workers Party has overcome many difficulties, and fought its way onto the ballot in New York City and State elections. Socialist campaigners who secured the required signatures have reported that, despite the anti-red campaign that rages in the newspapers, the many workers who were approached for signatures did not appear to be intimidated and signed as readily as before.
The big new feature of the

campaign this year is that, for the first time, the ballot will be clear of the numerous parties and sects that have for years misrepresented themselves to the radical voters as "socialist" or "communist." Neither the Socialist Party, nor the Communist Party, nor even the Socialist Labor Party will be on the ballot.
IMPORTANCE OF N. Y.
The key importance of this is emphasized by the fact that it takes place in New York City, traditionally the stronghold of radical political parties in America.

A further significance is given to this by the proposal of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee for a Socialist presidential slate in 1952. The National Committee has proposed that Farrell Dobbs and Grace Carlson, who were the Socialist Workers Party candidates for President and Vice-President in 1948, be nominated again in 1952, and that a vigorous campaign be conducted in their behalf.
PRESIDENTIAL TICKET
None of the three parties who have claimed in the past to represent socialism has as yet

proposed a presidential ticket for 1952. It is certain that neither the Socialist Party nor Communist Party will run Presidential candidates.
The Socialist Workers Party, therefore will probably be the only radical party to enter the 1952 elections on a national scale.
SOCIALIST PARTY
The Socialist Party, after announcing last spring that it intended to enter into the New York City elections this year, has decided to withdraw its candidate and support Rudolph Halley. Halley is the nominee of the Liberal-Fusion forces in this city.

He is a straight-out capitalist candidate supported by "reform" sections of the capitalist class who propose another city gambling clean-up. Halley is the new politician-demagogue of the LaGuardia-Dewey type, who appeals to middle-class elements with the slogan of clean government, but approves the whole rotten capitalist system and everything that goes with it including war, witchhunts, and lowered living standards.
This action by the Socialist Party comes after some years of dispute within that organization. At the last convention of the

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Tax Swindle Hits Escalator Pacts

By C. Thomas
The history of the labor movement is studded with instances of fundamentally sound and progressive ideas being twisted and perverted to serve ends different from, and sometimes opposite to, their original purpose. A case in point is the escalator — cost-of-living — clause devised to protect the workers' standard of living in periods of mounting inflation.
In what way has the escalator clause been corrupted? Why, for example, did the billion-dollar General Motors Corporation literally force the escalator clause on the unwilling Reuther leadership of the United Automobile Workers Union? And why did Reuther and Company later insist on retaining the clause in the controversy which flared into a walkout of the labor leaders from the Wage Stabilization Board?
General Motors, for example, traded Reuther an escalator clause for a five-year agreement. This was a good deal for General Motors. We shall see why by following the reasoning of C. E. Wilson, GM president, who was attacked at the time by his fellow-industrialists as a traitor and renegade for "selling out" to Reuther.
Wilson felt called upon to reply to charges that the General Motors-UAW escalator agreement was inflationary. In a letter reprinted in the Wall Street Journal, he dismissed the charges as so much nonsense. "I think our contract only provides for doing in an orderly way," he asserted, "what others will have to do finally anyway, and after a great deal of friction, loss of efficiency and leadership, and

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SWP Only Socialist Party on N.Y. Ballot

