

Unions Fight Picket Ban

Los Angeles Bosses Pass Anti-Picket Ordinance

LOS ANGELES. — Organized reaction struck a vicious blow at trade unionism in Los Angeles on September 16th, 1938; a day that will go down as Black Friday in local union history.

The reactionary anti-picketing ordinance, sponsored by labor-hating Southern California, Inc. as a part of the coast-wide union-smashing campaign, was passed in a special election by a vote of 198,507 to 152,065.

The A. F. of L. ordinance, offered as a substitute to the reactionary ordinance, lost by a closer margin. This ordinance was supported by the A. F. of L., the C.I.O. Council and the Trade Union Conference.

Bosses Spend Half a Million
The Southern California, Inc., according to *Business Week*, "spent \$500,000 in bill-board, radio, and newspaper advertising" in order to secure the passage of this ordinance. The Chamber of Commerce, the Merchant and Manufacturers' Association, and several other anti-labor organizations were active in attempting to put over this law.

The Council of the A. F. of L. and the Trade Union Conference aided each other in united activity in opposition to this ordinance; their lead was followed by all other labor organizations, including the Los Angeles Industrial Council. Although handicapped by lack of funds and the division between the A. F. of L. and C.I.O., nationally and locally, labor was able to effect a great degree of unity on this issue and succeeding in arousing a large section of the working class.

The anti-picketing ordinance, if enforced, will virtually eliminate all strikes and picketing and will deal a smashing blow to the trade-union movement. Sympathetic strikes, secondary boycotts, right of a union to decide for itself the calling of a strike, the right of free speech and mass picketing are practically outlawed by the new law.

Workers Deprived of Vote

A large number of workers employed in the city of Los Angeles were prevented from voting against this measure by reason of their residence in working-class districts outside the city limits. In addition many Mexican workers who are denied citizenship were unable to vote. Of course, the youth under 21 who make up a large section of the workers particularly in mass industries were without the right to vote, and could only stand by and watch the Wilshire and Hollywood potbellies rally the middle class and scabs to the polling booths to relegate the youth to industrial peonage.

Labor, marching 75,000 strong in the recent A. F. of L. Labor Day parade carrying banners against the ordinance, will not permit itself to be shackled by this enslaving measure. The initial unity that saw A. F. of L. and C.I.O. unions get together in joint action in this fight must be extended to include all bona fide unions within a defense committee that will protect their right to strike and picket lines, to protect their union organization, to defend the working class against the onslaught of capitalism. The rank and file of labor is thoroughly aroused and resolved to take militant action in self-defense against this reactionary drive.

OMAHA DRIVERS HALT TRUCKING

(Continued from page 1)

boasted that Nebraska is free from "trouble-making" unions. The attempt of the owners to take the offensive has gained them nothing. Backed by the entire drivers' movement of the North Central Area Local 554 has made the strike fully effective. Cruising pickets patrol all highways coming into Omaha, and flank trucks are met by union representatives.

By agreement between the General Drivers' Union and farmers' organizations, farmers driving their own trucks to market were permitted to pass through the picket lines. The farmers are in full sympathy with the strikers.

Cooperating on the spot with Local 554 was an authoritative subcommittee of the Permanent Area Committee, elected only the week before in Indianapolis at a meeting of 175 local drivers' unions. The strike will be maintained until the employers involved sign both city and over-the-road contracts.

Signal
PRINTING CO., Inc.
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Grand Jury Clears Mpls. Unions; Slanderers Hit

MINNEAPOLIS. — Declaring that charges of "labor racketeering and gangsterism" in the Minneapolis labor movement cannot be substantiated by facts, the report of the summer panel of Grand Jury, issued last week, exploded the campaign of the enemies of labor who for months have been trying to smear the unions with these charges.

The report, summarizing four months of intensive investigation, hit hard at Mayor Leach, chief instigator of the slander, and stated, "The Grand Jury considers it unfortunate that a person in high official position should make charges, both in public and before the Grand Jury, concerning organizations embracing a large section of our population without being in a position to substantiate such charges and accusations."

Probe Death of Brown
The Grand Jury spent four weeks investigating the death of Bill Brown, militant leader of General Drivers Local 544 killed last summer, and though "there were many reports that dark forces were involved" no evidence could be found to substantiate such reports.

The report, appearing in the midst of a slander campaign backed by the boss press and the Stalinist clique who pretend to speak for the C. I. O. in this area,

STRIKE TIES UP N. Y. TRUCKING

(Continued from page 1)

arising from the Federal Communications Act, have proved to be an obstacle to the official calling of the Express drivers who are organized into Local 808 of the truck drivers' union, but the matter is being given further consideration by the strike leaders.

Cooperation by the strike committee and the regularly constituted officers of the striking locals is reported to be improving steadily. An appeal for aid to the A. F. of L. unions and the rest of the city's organized labor movement against the combined efforts of the various employers' associations to break the strike is in order.

NEW YORK, Sept. 20.—Twelve thousand trucks have stopped rolling in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queen and Staten Island. All general trucking in this city is at a standstill. Five thousand teamsters are patrolling the streets in cruising cars to see that the strike is 100 per cent effective. At this writing, it is announced that the three key locals in New Jersey, at the other end of the Holland Tunnel, have joined the strike.

Building construction jobs and factories face immediate closing. Newspaper publishers have declared that continued limiting of newsprint shipments will soon cause suspension of the city's daily papers. Local and state government officials are working overtime to force through a settlement but with no success so far.

Strike Voted Last Week
Strike action was voted by acclamation at membership meetings of Locals 807, 282, and 816, Wednesday, September 14, after negotiating committees reported no progress in obtaining a new agreement with the bosses. The old agreement expired September 1. The men demand the establishment of a 40-hour week at the old basic wage of \$56.50 in order to spread the work to the 4,000 unemployed members of the drivers' unions. At present they are required to work 48 hours. Anxious to solve once and for all this crucial problem of unemployment, the strikers and their leaders reiterate time and again that there will be no compromise on this demand.

Although the strike has been called "outlaw," there can be no doubt that the membership of the locals involved are completely behind the committee of ten which is directing the strike. And while officials like Michael Cashal, international vice-president and William Devery, president of Local 807, are loathe to declare the strike legal, many other officials, such as Business Agents Austin Furey and William Campbell, are reported as inclined to favor immediate sanction.

Meanwhile, conduct of the strike rests in the hands of an elected rank-and-file committee, which has the complete confidence of the men and is doing a remarkably effective job of pulling and picketing. Outstanding among the leaders of this committee are younger men such as Abe "Red" Klein, Bob Dillon and Jack Strong. They stress the fact that they do not intend to supersede the

disappointed the employers who had hoped that the report would aid the drive to smear the unions. However, the complete absence of any evidence against the unions or their leadership forced unanimous agreement with the report, even though several members of the Jury are very sympathetic to the employers behind the slander machine.

Boss Lie Machine
For many months now, the bosses of Minneapolis, caught between the deepening economic crisis on one hand, and the rising union movement on the other, have systematically sought to propagandize the people with lies that "labor racketeering and gangsterism" were prevalent in the city, and that consequently the unions must be "cleaned up" and the "right kind of leaders" put in.

The suit of the five flinks against the General Drivers Union, now being fought by the union's attorneys, is a vehicle to carry such slanders. The many court cases against various unions and union leaders in the past few months have furthered this anti-labor drive.

In the face of the findings by the Grand Jury it will be hard to get an audience for the vicious lies spread by the enemies of the Minneapolis labor movement. Even their own allies will no longer believe them.

Drive on Picketing Jails Seven L. A. Strikers

LOS ANGELES. — Seven members of the I.L.G.W.U. were arrested last week on charges of having committed assault and battery in a manner likely to produce great bodily injury a felony.

Appearing before Judge Chambers of the Municipal court, they were released on bail of \$1,500 each and were requested to appear the following Friday for their preliminary hearing. They were represented by attorney Marshall Ross.

The union men were employees of the I. Youlin Embroidery Co. and had gone on strike Sept. 15, demanding Union recognition, higher wages, and the settlement of charges of discrimination.

Arrest All Pickets
The first morning of the strike Dick Jones, a scab, attacked 3 members of the union with a stick and attempted to provoke a fight. After being struck, two of the union men attempted to defend themselves against the scab's attack, wrested his club from him and were successful in warding off further attacks. This story was corroborated by several persons questioned by the union attorney. Police who came to the scene of the fight immediately after its occurrence refused to arrest either the strikers or the scab, but that night after listening to the story of Jones, the District Attorney issued warrants against the entire picket line with the exception of three women, including one member of the union that was absent from the scene of the struggle.

The arrests occurred the same day that an anti-picketing ordinance, virtually destroying the right to strike and picket, was passed by a vote of 198,507 to 152,065 in a special election held in Los Angeles. The frame-up of these striking workers is apparently part of a planned anti-labor drive in Southern California.

At the present time several members of the local teamsters' union, including some of its officers, are being tried on charges of "labor terrorism." A special division of the District Attorney's office has been set up to deal with "goon squad activity" and are apparently ready to order the arrest of entire picket lines when the bosses charge that some one has been injured, and file felony charges against the union men. The arrest and trial of the teamsters was used to whip up a frenzied campaign in support of the anti-picketing ordinance, and apparently marks the beginning of a persistent and continued campaign against labor.

If labor is to resist this attack, it must begin to weld together in unified action all the unions in Los Angeles. The A. F. of L. Council and the Trade Union Conference, which includes the unions recently resigned from the Los Angeles Industrial Union Council, have taken a step in this direction by their unity in the campaign against the anti-picketing ordinance that recently passed. Labor in Southern California is reaching its most crucial crisis since the recent organization drive, and this very crisis must be used to bring unity to the ranks of labor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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NEW YORK

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TWO STUDY COURSES: "Fundamentals of Socialism"—6 Lessons
W. W. Norris, Instructor
"History of American Labor Movement"—6 Lessons
Felix Morrow, Instructor
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Set Hearing for Jobless Youth

Four members of the Workers Alliance, charged with felonious assault as a result of a demonstration in a Brooklyn home relief bureau, are out on \$1,000 bail, awaiting a hearing on Oct. 1 in the Brooklyn Felony Court. The police are trying to railroad them to prison for a long term in order to quell the militant spirit of the unemployed.

The riot in the bureau followed the refusal of relief officials to consider the case of William Lubin, starving and homeless youth who had been given an 11-week run-around.

Sixteen members of the Alliance delegation were arrested, beaten, and charged with disorderly conduct. Lubin and three others are charged with felonious assault. Funds are sorely needed for defense. Contributions should be sent to the Lubin Defense Committee, c. o. the Socialist Appeal. Save the 16 militants from jail!

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NEW YORK C. I. O. SUPPORTS F. D. R.

Head of State Body Pledges Workers to War-Makers

NEW YORK. — Support of President Roosevelt's New Deal, speech-making for company union politics, and a pledge made by Allan S. Haywood, President of the newly organized State Industrial Council, to go to war in defense of democracy, were the keynote of New York's first C. I. O. convention held here over last week-end.

The first day's session was transformed into a campaign rally for aspiring Democratic Party candidates. The 800 delegates representing between 700,000 to 800,000 organized workers, listened to Governor Lehman, who has recently announced his candidacy for the Senate, outline his good deeds in the behalf of labor.

Lehman contended that "prosperity hinges on the intelligent cooperation of industry, labor and government." Deploring the use of strikes to settle the worker's economic problems, he declared that "he had found industrial strife frequently comes because of misunderstanding and ignorance of the actual facts."

Parade of Politicians
A long and loud parade of politicians followed, haranguing the delegates on the familiar subjects of New Deal politics, support of President Roosevelt "who is the greatest friend the workers ever had," fearful appeals for A. F. of L. — C. I. O. unity, demagogic speeches on fascism and windy orations on the many blessings of democracy.

The main report of the convention was made by Allan S. Haywood, setting forth a program of legislative reforms and emphasizing the need for redoubled support of the Wagner Labor Relations Act. Among the future activities named in his report were a fight against racial and religious discrimination, more adequate relief standards, union assistance to the unemployed, improvements in the Social Security Act. This program was voted on and passed unanimously by the convention.

Haywood in his main speech declared that the convention was not being held to widen the split in the ranks of organized labor. "The formation of this State body is not directed against the A. F. of L.," he said. "Our first consideration shall be to carry out the policies enunciated by our great leader, John L. Lewis, namely to organize the unorganized and while we are doing this, we must progress and strengthen the C. I. O. unions."

Pro-War Resolution
A war-mongering resolution in support of "peace" was carried. It said in part: "the mad rush of nations toward war, engineered by the autocratic fascist powers, can be checked if the proper economic measures are put to use, and we urge that fascist war aggression be resisted through economic means. We call upon the democratic nations of the world to join efforts in utilizing to the utmost the economic instrumentalities of peace, to the end that war may be prevented..."

The resolution called upon the States government "to cooperate with the democratic forces makers and to preserve peace and democracy."

Many delegates proposed resolutions in favor of Roosevelt running for a third term, but they were tabled by the convention, although it was made amply clear that the deference of this issue was due only to tactical reasons.

"Stand by France"
In the last session held at Mecca Temple Leon Jouhaux, president of the French Confederation of Labor, was introduced by Haywood with the pledge that the American workers "would stand with the workers of France if the French found it necessary to go to war to safeguard democracy."

In line with the Stalinist-inspired tone of many of the resolutions adopted by the convention, a good sprinkling of Stalinists were elected to the State Committee, set up by the convention.

The International Ladies Garment Workers Union did not send any delegates to the convention, though some of its locals sent formal telegrams of solidarity with the convention's aims.

BOOKS ASKED FOR SCHOOLS

The International Allied Printing Trades Association has requested that the W.P.A. allot ten million dollars to purchase new text books for the many thousands of schools in the United States whose expenditures for school purposes have decreased nearly 700 million dollars annually during the past eight years despite the fact that the number of students has increased many hundreds of thousands.

and that now is the time to lay the groundwork to fight these layoffs, a task in which the Alliance failed miserably.

RUSE MENACES MCCORD STRIKE

(Continued from page 1)

Houser's move for which he had no authority whatever and declaring that the strike would continue.

Ever since the strike at the McCord plant began and for weeks prior to its commencement, Houser and his cronies on the International Executive Board, on both sides of the faction fight, viewed the McCord situation with great uneasiness. The local had called upon the International to furnish assistance through sympathetic action in other plants. Promises were plentiful, but Local 210 was put on a carousel as far as any real assistance was concerned. Houser's attempt to end the strike under the worst possible circumstances came as a culmination to months of delinquency and sabotage.

Houser Condemned

A statement of the local union appeared in the press condemning Houser for violating every accepted practice of unionism as well as the constitution of the U.A.W. The Local called on the policy committee of the Executive Board to meet immediately and carry out the resolution passed at the Regional Conference of all Michigan locals to the effect that the International instruct all locals to refuse to work on scab McCord products.

President Martin was advised in a wire from the local that Houser had violated the constitution of the union and that they expected him to convoke a meeting of the Executive Board and reach a formal decision of assistance to the strike. The Executive Board

Appeal Army

"... I cannot close without saying a few words about the Appeal. In comparison with any other mass organ we have ever had, I am satisfied that the Appeal is the most outstanding."
— John Enestved of Chaska, Minnesota.
"... We are interested in your publication and would appreciate very much receiving copies for use in our current-events work."
— The Sholem Aleichem School, Brooklyn, N. Y.

These letters are typical of many we receive every week. All indicate that the Appeal is reaching an ever-broader circle of readers and sympathizers of the Fourth International. The recent pick-up of new subscribers and bundle-orders indicates that great possibilities of rapidly increasing our circulation await us.

For this reason we strongly urge all local branches and litigants to launch at once local campaigns for new subs and larger bundle-orders. We expect to announce plans for the great Appeal Fall-Winter Drive shortly. But we would like to see all branches follow the example of our super-star saleslady, Ruth Querio of Allentown, who on her own initiative has more than doubled her bundle-order in a few weeks and has taken as high as 80 Appeals some weeks. We expect from now on a steady increase in circulation with our goal of 10,000 drawing closer and closer!

Here's the list of new subs that came in last week. We want to point out that this is a record for the Appeal:
NEW YORK CITY — — — — 16
Minneapolis — — — — 12
Michigan — — — — 7
Chicago — — — — 4
Washington, D. C. — — — — 4
New Jersey — — — — 3
St. Paul — — — — 3
Massachusetts — — — — 2
Connecticut — — — — 2
Philadelphia — — — — 2
Ohio — — — — 1
Texas — — — — 1
Foreign — — — — 3

TOTAL \$60

It looks like Karl Shier of Chicago is going to win the subscription contest. With only two weeks left to go, Karl is way in the lead with 21 subs!

Abe Miller of New York City has just placed an order for 1500 extra copies of the World Congress issue which will appear very soon. Has your branch come through yet?

Notice: Those who have already ordered their bound volumes of the 1937 Appeal will receive them shortly. There has been some delay in the process of having them bound.

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SOCIALIST APPEAL
116 Union Place
New York, N. Y.

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BRONX: Jerome Ave. & 170th St.; Jerome Ave. and 167th St. (opp. Loew's Theatre); Sorokin, 206th St. and Bainbridge Ave.; Jerome and Burnside Aves.; 160th St. and Prospect Ave.; Allentown Ave. Station; Freeman Ave. and Southern Boulevard; 174th St. & Boston Rd.; Kingsbridge Rd. & Ave.; East Moshula Subway Sta.; 3897 Sedgwick Ave.
BROOKLYN: Havemeyer and S. 4th Sts., Tompkins and Myrtle Aves.; Strauss St., near Pitkin Ave.; Sutter Ave., near Van Sinderen Ave.
LONG ISLAND: 23rd St

Post-War European Lineup Shattered

(Continued from page 1)
off from the working class in all countries. It is now threatened mortally by the friends it tried to make among the capitalists. The "victory" of Hitler in Central Europe is another "victory" for Stalin's brand of "realistic politics."

Re-Making the Map
Both in London and Paris the hope rides high that war has been averted. But that hope has little basis. The troubles of the World War victors are only beginning. The successful German campaign for the amputation of the Sudeten regions of Czechoslovakia has quickly aroused the other countries bordering the land of many races. Hungary, with full support from Hitler, has demanded "self-determination" for the Hungarian minority in Czechoslovakia. Poland has come forward with a demand for the strip of Czechoslovak Silesia — containing incidentally the richest coal region in Czechoslovakia — in which the Polish minority lives. The map makers will not be able to keep up with the process of dismemberment that will set in.

What we are witnessing is the

dissolution of the entire political system created as a result of the last World War. The process, left in the hands of the bourgeoisie, "democratic" and Fascist, is leading directly toward a Second World War. It will be sharply interrupted and put on the rails towards a real lasting peace only by the revolutionary intervention of the workers of all countries. The workers have no side in the war that is being prepared. To say they have is consciously to accentuate the divisions in the working class along national lines, to fan the national and race hatreds which keep the workers lashed to their respective capitalist classes. That is the role now played by the reformist trade union leaders, the so-called Socialist and Labor parties, and above all by the Stalinists. That way leads to war and mutual destruction.

By cutting across these national lines and uniting the workers of all the would-be belligerent nations and of all the races in Central Europe with a revolutionary program identical with their common interests, the revolutionaries will lead the way toward proletarian power and — this way alone — toward peace.

Akron Unionists Blast Lying Liberty Article

By R. FERGUSON

AKRON. — Akron labor began its response to the vicious anti-C.I.O. attack launched against the local union movement in the article "Why Akron Is a Ghost City — How Strikes Brought Ruin" published in last week's Liberty magazine, by entering a libel suit for \$500,000 damages against the author, publisher, and local distributors of the article.

C. Nelson Sparks, ex-mayor of Akron and founder of the late Law and Order League which fizzed out in the Goodyear strike of 1936, wrote the article from his customary stock-in-trade of rabble-rousing vigilantism. Its publication in a nationally known magazine such as Liberty signifies that this type of reactionary propaganda is steadily gaining favor with the real rulers of America.

Workers Know Sparks
Sparks, in the legal action taken against him, is charged with being "irresponsible, untruthful, unreliable, bankrupt, a distorter of facts, a disgruntled politician, an exploiter of World War veterans for his personal gain," etc.—all of which charges the workers of Akron have long since substantiated as the result of their experiences with him in the first Goodyear strike. The extreme verbal violence of Sparks' fascist appeal to run the "out-side agitators" out of town in March, 1936, even caused so much alarm among the more "responsible" Akron capitalists that the Beacon Journal immediately printed a bold front-page editorial "No Room for Vigilantes" to disavow him.

The Liberty article obviously is meant to be for outside-of-Akron consumption, inasmuch as everyone locally knows Sparks as a former agent of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., in whose service at that time he appealed to war veterans to help his Law and Order League crash the picket lines around Goodyear. His league flopped dismally because all Akron labor was waiting with weapons in hand to meet it.

The article claims to show how Akron as a community has been "ruined" by the "invasion" of the C.I.O. and how law and order has "broken down." The truth of the matter, however, is altogether different, and it is to be hoped that the C.I.O. movement will not be content with taking Sparks to task merely for his obvious fakeries, but that it will utilize this occasion to take the offensive against the real inspirers of Sparks, the rubber barons and Wall Street banking houses.

Who Ruined Akron?
The "ghost city" aspect of Sparks' propaganda was originally propounded by the Chamber of Commerce and the rubber companies this Spring as a method of intimidating the Goodrich unionists to accept a drastic wage cut or be faced with loss of 5,000 jobs through decentralization to out-of-town plants. In this respect Akron is no more of a "ghost city" than Flint, Detroit, Toledo, New York, etc., etc., where bosses have moved production away to the South or to Hague-protected New Jersey, in order to chisel away at labor standards.

But there is a certain truth in calling Akron a "ghost city." It is that for thousands upon thousands of workers and their families, with 21,000 men and their families dependent on W.P.A. wages for livelihood, with 2,000 trying to get on W.P.A., and 12,000 individuals on direct relief

in the county, more than one-fourth of the population is directly dependent on relief to prevent starvation. Thousands more work two or three days per week, just enough to keep them off relief. Akron shares a great part of the 10,000 evictions by the H.O. L.C. in the state of Ohio for the month of June only. The courts are jammed with countless cases of repossession by finance companies of autos, radios, furniture. Akron is a "ghost town" to the extent that the rubber barons have ruthlessly exploited it, pushed the vast majority of its people down under a grinding stone of economic crisis, maintained the armed force of capitalist law and order as a threat against serious attempts to better workers' conditions. To the same extent all other cities are "ghost cities," and the country itself a "ghost country"—ruined not by the C.I.O., but by the consuming greed of a tiny clique of capitalists.

OCTOBER N. I. HAS VARIED CONTENT

Varied, lively, thorough articles on the Congress of the Fourth International, Czechia, Palestine, Canada and other important articles will feature the October issue of the New Internationalist, now going to press. In many respects, readers are likely to regard the October number as the outstanding issue of a magazine already first in its field. Leon Trotsky writes on the founding Congress of the Fourth International, recently concluded in Paris, in an article, "A Great Achievement."

A qualified writer, signing himself "D. S.," contributes an article on "Czechoslovakia and the European Crisis." A telescoped, but profound review on various aspects of "The Political Situation in Palestine" has been offered by L. Rock, writing from Jerusalem. Shortly there is to be published in book form in the Jewish and English languages a comprehensive historical study of the Jewish question in Palestine by the same writer, an adherent of the Fourth International, now at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Maurice Spector writes in extenso on "The Soviets and Democracy." "Is Canada Going Fascist?" is the subject of an excellent article by E. Robertson. Editorial Comment concerns itself with current burning issues, Czechoslovakia, War, American Politics, and a special editorial on the "Position of the American Farmer." The Soviet Arts today are reviewed by Edna Margolin. Archive material never before published in the English language; a discussion article contributed on the "Their Morals and Ours" discussion by R. E. Scouler, Marxist journalist from Glasgow, Scotland; and other interesting material, complete the contents of the forthcoming October issue of the New Internationalist.

Readers who wish to make sure of not missing an issue of the major Marxist organ published today are invited to subscribe. The price for a single copy is 20c. For one year, \$2.00. Address: THE NEW INTERNATIONALIST, 116 UNIVERSITY PLACE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

PENA QUERIED ON SPANISH TRIALS

(Continued from page 1)
sent. He disclaimed any knowledge of the arrest or imprisonment of the Bolshevik-Leninists, Munis, Carlini and Rodriguez, and said he knew nothing of their impending trial.

In regard to the P.O.U.M. leaders, he declared that they would be given every opportunity for a legal defense in the courts. The tribunals in Spain, he insisted several times, were "absolutely independent," even of the Minister of Justice. The judges draft the indictment, hold the trial and pronounce their verdict, and it is the function of the government only to carry out the decisions of the courts.

"Denies" G. P. U. Trials
Secretary Novack then inquired of the Minister of Justice whether the G. P. U. also had its independent tribunals in Spain. Shrugging his shoulders the Minister, emphatically denied that any such Stalinist tribunals existed.

Later the Minister's interpreter told another member of the delegation, Assistant Secretary Kluger, that even if the trial were held, the defendants confessed, and a verdict rendered, he felt sure the defendants would be pardoned as they did not wish to murder workers having differences of opinion.

"We are not interested in the petty squabble between the Trotskyites and Stalinists," Mr. Pena declared. "We have bigger problems to concern ourselves with, such as winning the war." Asked where he stood in the fight between the Trotskyites and Stalinists, Pena replied that he stood in the middle, and that was a difficult position to be in. He made no reply to the query what he thought about people who said they stood in the middle during the Civil War.

Minister Not "Responsible"
Asked if he knew whether Andres Nin had been assassinated by the G. P. U., he disclaimed any knowledge of Nin's fate. He inferred that Nin had been killed during the barricade fighting in Barcelona a year ago last May.

He did not answer the question as to the fate of Erwin Wolfe, former secretary to Leon Trotsky, Marc Rein, son of Rafael Abramowitch, leader of the Second International, and Kurt Landau, Austrian socialist, all reported kidnapped and assassinated by the G.P.U. in Spain. He said he was not responsible for what happened before he entered the government.

He promised to personally investigate the Russell Blackwell case on his return to Spain, stating that the rearrest had taken place after he left and he had no knowledge of the circumstances surrounding it.

He said that there were no prisoners belonging to the U. G. T. — C. N. T. being held for trial since both these groups were not part of the government.

Concluding the interview, he repeated that labor prisoners now being held for trial would be given as fair a trial as could be secured anywhere in the world. Novack replied that hundreds of thousands of supporters of the Spanish workers in the United States were waiting to be convinced of this fact.

A sharp protest against repression of revolutionaries in Spain and in particular against the legal frame-up of militants of the P. O. U. M. and the Bolshevik Leninist group in Barcelona was made in a letter last week to Gonzalez Pena, Spanish Loyalist Minister of Justice, by the Socialist Workers Party.

The S. W. P. warned the Loyalist minister against the adoption of fascist methods by the government. He demanded that the Bolshevik-Leninist militants now under menace of death sentence in Barcelona be accorded a free and open trial to be held with an international commission attending.

Pena arrived in New York to address a mass meeting organized by the Trade Union Relief.

Text of Letter
The S. W. P.'s letter was as follows:

"We address you as loyal and determined anti-fascists who have from the beginning supported, with every means in our power, the struggle of the Spanish Government against the mercenary hordes of the fascist Franco and his reactionary allies. "The welfare of the workers of the world is bound up with the success of this struggle against the fascists, and consequently the eyes of all workers follow with the most intimate concern every phase of the events in Spain.

"We bring once more to your attention the grave apprehension felt by all serious anti-fascist militants at the invasions and abrogation of working class rights and the repression of working class militants which have taken place within the territory of your government. It is impossible to defeat fascism by borrowing from the methods of fascism. Only through full proletarian democracy and freedom can the boundless resource of the workers be gathered together for successful resistance to, and triumph

G.P.U. Assassins and Their Victim



Left: Ignace Reiss, who broke with the Soviet secret service and declared for the Fourth International, was kidnapped and murdered by Stalin's G.P.U. near Lausanne, Switzerland, on Sept. 4, 1937. Vladimir Kondratieff and Dmitry Smlzensky (Upper right), Renata Steiner and Gertrude Schildbach (lower right) are the G.P.U. agents who participated in this dastardly crime.

MURDERERS OF REISS SEEK LIFE OF TROTSKY

The G.P.U. that shot down Ignace Reiss in Switzerland a year ago, that kidnapped Erwin Wolf, Trotsky's secretary, in Spain last summer, that kidnapped and probably murdered Rudolph Klement, secretary of the Fourth International, in Paris last July, is now plotting to take the life of Leon Trotsky in Mexico.

This dark international mafia directed by the hand of Stalin in the Kremlin is behind a new campaign that has been begun by the Stalinists and their agents in Mexico in an attempt to work up a lynch atmosphere directed against Trotsky. Stalinist agents in the unions in Mexico are trying to exert pressure in this direction. The Teachers' Union recently adopted a resolution, Stalinist-inspired, hostile to Trotsky. In the Stalinist press the familiar lies and slanders are being whipped up into a fresh frenzy of hysterical hate of the world's premier Bolshevik.

This campaign, begun as soon as Hernan Laborde returned from his secret visit to New York, the G.P.U. center for North America, is designated to create an atmosphere "favorable

to a terrorist attempt on the life of Trotsky.

We have in the last few months been able to follow the traces of various prominent G.P.U. agents who have been ordered to Mexico to organize the assassination of Trotsky. Last February police investigating the murder of Ignace Reiss, the ex-G.P.U. agent who broke with Stalin and came over to the Fourth International, came upon the effects of one Rossi, alias Rous. Among his belongings were found a map of Mexico City and a copy of Rossi's application for a Mexican visa.

Another French agent named Georges Fournial was reported in Mexico last March. In April it was reported that George Mink, an American who has carried out some of the most murderous assignments of the G.P.U., especially in Spain, was on his way to Mexico. All these attempts are now going to add up to what the G.P.U. hopes will be the final and successful one.

Safeguard Trotsky's life! Let the guard around him be doubled and trebled. The G.P.U. must not be permitted to carry out the vicious crime it contemplates.

The Defense of Czechoslovakia

In an article, "The Defense of Czechoslovakia," Walter Held analyzes the positions of the various working class and pacifist forces in relation to the Czechoslovakian Government and War, and sets forth the policies to be pursued by revolutionaries in case of war between Czechoslovakia and German Fascism. This penetrating article, taking the form of a controversy with Willi Schlamm, former Communist Party leader, and having direct implications concerning the attitude of similar forces and individuals in the United States, such as Eugene Lyons, and Charles Yale Harrison, will appear in the October number of the New Internationalist.

over, their enemies. The effect of the repressions which have taken place within the territory of your government can only be to weaken the united struggle of the workers, to sow division in the face of the enemy and thereby to act as a grievous obstacle to the workers and their allies throughout the world.

Held Incommunicado

"In particular we are alarmed and indignant at the proceedings which your government has followed with respect to the trials instigated against the leading members of the POUM and the leaders of the Spanish Bolshevik-Leninist group, Munis, Carlini and Rodriguez.

"These good comrades, all of them with long and spotless records in the labor movement of Spain, stern and front-rank fighters in the struggle against Franco were long months ago imprisoned on charges obviously and brazenly framed up by the Spanish representatives of Stalin's GPU. In violation of the most elementary civil rights, they have been held incommunicado, without benefit of counsel, without public indictment and with no opportunity to defend themselves. Secret trials have been planned for them. One such trial was scheduled for August 20, but without either prior or subsequent explanation, it was postponed in the same secrecy that has marked all the actions taken with respect to these defendants.

"In the name of the struggle against fascism and reaction, to which we have dedicated our lives, we demand for these defendants their full rights so that they will be able to make known to the workers of Spain and to the world, their complete innocence of the GPU's frame-up charges against them.

BRIDGES ACCEPTS CHANGES IN PACT

(Continued from page 1)

ions as a whole. The drive of the bosses aimed to prevent the unions from tying up shipping, either in protest against infractions of agreements or in sympathy with other unions. Statements by Almon E. Roth, president of the Waterfront Employers Association, declare that this has been accomplished.

Bridges Willing

That Harry Bridges, head of the I.L.W.U., was not opposed to such an agreement, striking at the power of the union, is known from both statements and actions. Elementary labor solidarity has often been violated by Bridges, culminating in an open attack on picket lines established by the S.U.P.

From statements of both union and employers, it seems clear that all work must continue during such arbitration. While other unions, such as the S.U.P. and

"We demand that they be given full right to independent counsel; that they be permitted to communicate freely with friends, witnesses, and colleagues; that all charges against them be made precise and public; that their trial be held publicly. We demand, furthermore, that an international commission, composed of known supporters of the fight against Franco, and having the confidence of the international labor movements, shall be admitted to Spain to have free access to these defendants, and to be present as observers at their trial.

"Against the Moscow trial frame-up methods in the international labor movement.

For full unity and solidarity in the struggle against fascism and reaction."

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War Crisis Curbs Strikes In France

French Bosses Use National Defense Plans to Breck Strikes and Chain Workers to War Machine

By F. L. DEMBY

What has happened to the recent strikes of the French workers against the extension of the working week to 48 hours by the Daladier Government? Two weeks ago the red flag was reported waving over factories in Amiens, a general strike of the 50,000 textile workers was threatening and the Marseilles dock workers were conducting a two-month-old militant strike. Has the French government used the international crisis to mobilize its war apparatus, calling the workers to the colors and thus putting an end to the strike movement? We do know that the National Committee of the C.G.T. (trade union federation) has approved the national defense plans of the bourgeoisie.

The contrast between the morale of the French proletariat today and last year, between the course of the class struggle today and a year ago, is really amazing. Gone is the enthusiasm, spirit and militancy of the French workers. In its place reigns discouragement, disinterestedness in politics, and all the obvious characteristics of a period of social reaction. The miserable showing of July 14 was one example. The steady drift of the workers away from the C.G.T. (General Confederation of Labor) is obviously proof of the reaction.

It is easy to read the minds of these workers. They say to themselves: "We had everything. Now we have nothing. We cannot even trust our leaders. Daladier does not represent the People's Front. Maybe the People's Front is no good. What can we do? We might just as well enjoy ourselves in the short time that remains before we have to fight against Hitler." This reaction and chauvinistic sweep is, of course, the logical fruit of the People's Front. But the French proletariat does not, as a whole, yet understand this elementary truth.

It is easy for us to trace the origin and course of this reaction, because we predicted it. It is not so easy to estimate the extent and duration of the reaction. That depends on too many variable factors. True, there is certainly a legitimate economic base for a strike wave at present. But are the present strikes merely the tail-end of the whole preceding period of sharp class struggles, the last desperate gestures on the part of the leaderless workers before the vise of the reaction clamps down completely? Or, on the contrary, do these strikes mark the end of the reaction and the beginnings of a desperate upsurge on the part of the working class? A third element, which cannot be neglected, is the possibility that (as was the case in April of this year when the Blum government fell and the Daladier government came into power) the Communist Party is principally responsible for the strikes.

The Hand of the C. P.
That the C. P. is the driving force behind the strikes may seem strange, but not if one knows what has been happening recently. We know that the Stalinists did not hesitate to use the magnificent strike action of the French proletariat as blackmail against the French bourgeoisie, when they thought that the formation of the Daladier government meant the abandonment of the Franco-Soviet pact and the entry of France into the politics of the Four-Power bloc. We know, too, that the 73 deputies of the C.P. voted for Daladier only on the basis of an agreement that no open steps would be taken by the French bourgeoisie to break the Franco-Soviet Pact during the summer period. If, as is quite possible, the British-French "sell-out" of Czechoslovakia is to be used as a step towards the formation of a Four-Power pact, then the motivation for previous Stalinist-inspired strikes and for the reported present opposition of the C. P. to the Daladier government is definitely understandable.

Aside from the possible repercussions of the international situation upon French domestic affairs, there is, however, another reason which might cause one to suspect the Stalinists. For the past four or five months there has been a steady drift of the French workers away from the C. P. and its periphery apparatus. This has been part of, and one of the signs of, the general reaction. Numerically, the C. P. has compensated for these defections to a certain extent by extending its base amongst the petty-bourgeoisie, intellectual and lumpen elements. The bureaucracy, however, knows that not only will they not be able to exert any

pressure on the French bourgeoisie if they continue to lose their working-class following, but also that not all the workers who leave their ranks will retire into political inactivity. Some will find their way to the revolutionary ranks, the Fourth International. Hence, in order to keep their following, the Stalinists are forced into action.

Economic Battles Inevitable

In spite of all the variable factors which play a part in the present struggle in France, and which are so difficult to estimate precisely, it is absolutely inevitable that the present reaction and general discouragement amongst the workers must give way to stormy battles either in the immediate present or in the very near future, unless war intervenes. The economic struggle alone, that is the general and rapid worsening of the living standards of the masses, is forcing the French working class once again onto the path of extra-parliamentary action. A revolutionary situation goes through many ups and downs before the final crisis is reached, but inevitably it merges into a revolutionary crisis.

Whether the progressive elements in the C.G.T. will succeed in calling an extraordinary congress to prepare for the present struggles remains to be seen. The French workers still have time to prepare for their decisive battles (these decisive battles might take place before, during or after the war), but their time is becoming increasingly short. The People's Front has not only wasted valuable time in the last two years, but it has also, while entrenching the reaction, disarmed the workers ideologically, weakened their fighting organizations, criminally sabotaged the struggle in the colonies and placed the officers' corps (solidly fascist) in a commanding position. What were once very favorable conditions for a revolution in France have become definitely less favorable, due especially to the betrayal of the workers by their leaders.

One thing, however, which must not be overlooked is that the French working class has a long and militant tradition of class struggle behind it. It is definitely anti-fascist. This, of course, is no guarantee that fascism will not triumph in France, but it gives the revolutionary forces an advantage. The fascist movement itself has not grown and, as a matter of fact, has had great difficulty in maintaining its positions. All forces, from extreme left to extreme right, recognize the gravity of the present situation in France, and intimate that they expect decisive battles in the fall.

The present Daladier government will surely fall then, although it is not excluded that Daladier himself will again be chosen to head the new cabinet, this time possibly a national union government. One gets the feeling, however, from a stay in France that, in spite of everything, the biggest unknown factor is what will the French workers do. It is the French working class which will have the decisive say in the coming momentous battles in France, and it is here that the great opportunity for the P.O.I. (French section of the Fourth International) lies.

'TREASON TRIAL' DELAYED AGAIN

(Continued from page 1)

three Bolshevik-Leninists named above. There are several others involved in this trial and many in prison of whose fate it has been impossible to learn anything.

Legal Murder Attempt

It is in any case plain that an attempt at legal murder of our Spanish comrades is under way despite the protests that have poured into the Spanish Loyalist capital from labor organizations and liberals throughout the world.

(A telegram of protest was dispatched by the American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees signed, among others, by John Dewey, John Chamberlain, Ludwig Lore, Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, Dwight Macdonald.)

The demand must now be raised with redoubled vigor that all these accused militants be given an open trial, the right to choose counsel and an immediate end to the shameful third degree torture methods applied by the Spanish-Stalinist-G. P. U. jailers.

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MAX SHACHTMAN
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A Bona Fide Strike!

New York's 100 per cent effective drivers' strike is added testimony to the fact that the men rolling the nation's commerce over the highways and in the cities are leading the labor movement in organization and militancy.

Within a few days after negotiations with employers for a revision of the present agreement bogged down, strikers went into action and tied up the city's traffic tighter than a drum. The strike has been called "wild cat" because it was called into being by a ground-swell of rank and file pressure.

This description of the strike is entirely misleading and calculated only to break it up. The overwhelming majority of Locals 807, 282 and 816 have voted for the strike. The unanimity of the walkout has compelled city officials to formally request of the union that it allow delivery of newsprint. Few if any cases of scabbing by union men have thus far been reported.

Only the failure of Cashal, International Vice-President, and Devery, president of Local 807, to give formal sanction is used by enemies of the drivers in declaring the strike "wild-cat." Yet neither Cashal nor Devery have dared to "outlaw" the walkout, despite their known opposition. That fact alone should prove that the strike is genuinely representative of the sentiment of New York's teamsters.

If ever there was a bona fide strike—this is it! The principal demand of the strikers is justified beyond the question of a doubt. The drivers want a reduction of hours from 48 to 40 at the prevailing basic wage. The shortening of the work week will mean an increase in wages for the men now employed. Above all it will mean work, badly needed work, for some if not all of the 4,000 drivers now unemployed.

Unemployment is the obsession problem of the American labor movement today. One of the few effective solutions to cope with this problem, under the present system, is a division of work through reduction of hours without reduction of wages. The drivers are to be congratulated and supported for taking the bull by the horns. Their strike is therefore not only legitimate; it is progressive in every sense of the word and deserves the backing of every good union man.

Up to the present there has been little violence attending the walkout. New York's police force, usually rough and vicious with strikers, have not attempted to interfere with pickets or attack strikers. For one thing, they have been overwhelmed by the scope of the walkout and the grim determination of the men to see that no freight moves without authorization of the strike committee.

For another, LaGuardia and Acting Mayor Newbold Morris have been attempting to talk the men back to work. They have palvered about "disunity" in the ranks of the workers as the cause of the strike. But anyone who has seen the wonderful solidarity of the striking drivers knows that talk of disunity in the ranks is so much hogwash. These "friends" are hanging their hat on the fact that the strike has not yet been "authorized."

But the bosses now say that they will refuse to negotiate even if the strike had legal sanction. If LaGuardia and Morris are really serious about wanting to help the drivers, let them prove it by forcing the bosses to resume immediate negotiations with the union!

The drivers have confidence in the LaGuardia administration. We don't. We have seen LaGuardia smash relief demonstrations and strikes too many times to have any confidence in his "friendship for labor." We take this occasion to warn the drivers not to relax their vigilance because of confidence in the "Little Flower." Already you can hear Newbold Morris talking about "protecting" the "public," about not causing the city any "embarrassment," etc., etc.

Judging by past experience, talk of this kind is usually a prelude to hostile, strikebreaking action. Unless we are badly mistaken, if the strike continues, it will not be many days before hell begins to pop on the streets of New York with cops and strikebreakers manning scab trucks. It is the strikers' right to believe as they will, but they will do well to watch Mr. LaGuardia's every motion and to rely solely on their own strength.

The strike is spreading rapidly now. That is good. The only chance the workers have for victory is in the tie-up of everything on wheels in the trucking industry with the exception of trucks authorized by the committee for hospitals and sanitation. The tighter the stranglehold the sooner the settlement. The Minneapolis drivers, famed for their success throughout the Teamsters International—won their strikes precisely that way.

The strike committee was prevailed upon to service the big city dailies with newsprint. The reward for this leniency, with the possible exception of one or two papers, was a slashing,

reactionary attack on the strike branding it as "rebel," "outlaw," "illegal." The papers received a special dispensation from the committee and in return they spat out their full venom upon the strike. This is a fact the strikers should bear in mind for future reference.

"Perishables" are still moving with the permission of the committee. But as long as they move, the strike has a big dent in its armor. No doubt a big howl will go up about "starving the public." The strikers will let the gentlemen, who don't give a hoot whether the "public" starves the year around, keep howling while they go about their business winning the strike.

Who said the public will starve? The union can very well go to the farm organizations and cooperatives up-state, who are being ground down by the milk trust and a half dozen other monopolies and make an arrangement with them. They will supply the city with all the perishables it requires and at the same time, the strikers will be building up the confidence and support of the farmers. Such an arrangement is operative at this very moment in the strike of General Drivers' Local 554 of Omaha, Nebraska (reported elsewhere in this issue). The same kind of cooperation was an outstanding factor in feeding the men during the long drawn out 1934 strike in Minneapolis and in helping them win. New York's drivers can profit by this example.

The rank and file committee appears to enjoy the complete confidence of the men and to be wide awake as to its job. A good omen for the strike! Now it is necessary for every union man to exert the utmost vigilance in guarding the pitfalls that lie in the path. Phoney "labor leaders" and smooth-talking, politician "friends of labor" will not miss a trick to break the strike. Watch their fingers! A good eye is as necessary as a strong hand to win a strike.

Patriot's Progress

The patriotic bandwagon of the Communist Party is swinging into high gear. Throughout the United States the loyal followers of Stalin are lustily singing the Star Spangled Banner at a hundred mass meetings; a hundred speakers proclaim their willingness to lick the boots of their capitalist masters.

On the Pacific Coast the tour of Earl Browder and William Z. Foster became a veritable orgy of flag-waving, unprecedented in the history of the Communist movement and comparable only to one of Wilson's Liberty Loan drives.

This national campaign is not a haphazard affair but a vigorous reply by the "Twentieth Century Americans" to those who would sully the reputation of the Communist Party as the ace defender of American capitalist institutions. From the Dies Committee hearings have come weird tales of "plots" and "revolutionary strategy" which, though laughed at by the nation's press, disturb the patriotic sensibilities of Browder and his minions.

True, Mr. Dies is somewhat of a patriot himself, and hasn't a disagreeable "third period" lurking in his closet, but Mr. Browder and his party are willing to give him cards and spades and still beat him in the game of ferreting out "enemies of the people."

They are even willing to give Mr. Dies lessons in uncovering subversive activities, as a current series of articles in the *Daily Worker* by John L. Spivak demonstrates. Mr. Spivak, who may not be a full-blooded ferret, but surely qualifies as a member of the rodent species, in his first article takes the Senate committee to task for not protecting "our" Brooklyn Navy Yard. Nazi spies, Mr. Spivak infers, are stealing "our" naval secrets, are copying "our" blueprints and are hindering the building of "our" navy, yet "our" Dies Committee does nothing to prevent it.

At this writing, Mr. Spivak has not yet exposed the subversive activities of working-class revolutionists, but that is certain to come. Already his leader, Mr. Browder, speaking in Oakland on August 25, publicly called on the Dies Committee to investigate "Trotskyites." The zealous Browder knows full well that from the ranks of the working class comes the real danger to American capitalism, and that the true patriot must not shirk the duties of an informer.

The Communist Party will make capital of the ludicrous blunders of the Dies Committee. There will yet be a place for Browder, along with McDonald in England and Thomas in France, on the roster of eminent "defenders of democracy."

The bosses can always use a smart stoolpigeon.

None So Blind

Komsomol Pravda, organ of the Russian Young Communist League, complained last week that the British Conservatives, blinded by their class interests, are paving the way for German Fascist aggression in Europe.

Stalin's young gentlemen so long ago abandoned the class interests of the proletariat that it is difficult for them now to grasp the fact that the class struggle does exist and that class interests do now—as always—determine the action of the capitalist class in every country.

Confronted with this in the action of the British last week in giving way before Hitler, the young worthies at Stalin's coat tails could do no better than attribute it to some sudden stroke of blindness assailing the British bosses.

What they refuse to admit is that the British bourgeoisie, and the French bourgeoisie likewise, fears not the war itself but the specter of revolutionary upheavals that will inevitably come in the wake of a new imperialist war. That is why, in full accordance with their class interests, the Anglo-French bourgeoisie is indeed "paving the way for German Fascist aggression in Europe"—but aggression which shall be directed against the Soviet Union!

Imperialist Smokescreen At Latin American Congress

By **GARCIA CESTERO**
MEXICO, D. F. — The Pan-American Trade Union Congress, called by the Mexican Workers' Confederation (C. T. M.) took place here from Sept. 6 to Sept. 8. The Congress was attended by delegates from most of the Latin American countries, by John L. Lewis, representing the C. I. O., Leon Jouhaux, of the French General Confederation of Labor (C. G. T.), and Gonzales Pena, the Spanish Minister of Justice (the "Justice" so well known to revolutionists in Catalonia).

With its pompous and empty speeches, the Congress was scarcely distinguishable from the parade-like demonstrations of recent years. It concluded with the creation of a Latin American Workers Confederation, with headquarters in Mexico City, and the presidency in the hands of Lombardo Toledano. The only concrete product of the Congress was a declaration of principles forming the basis of the newly-created confederation.

This declaration of principles consists exclusively of vague and hollow phrases, bombastic circumlocutions, all covering the crassest of reformist ideas.

Pious Hopes
1. The declaration avoids the use of even the word proletariat and speaks of "manual and intellectual workers." It proclaims the necessity for changing "the social regime which now governs the majority of the countries of the earth." This regime is capitalism. Why not call it by its name? For the quite simple reason that the regime that the declaration proposes to substitute for it is also capitalism, only a capitalism arranged and sweetened according to pious hopes. The world in 1938 gives us some idea of the extent to which these hopes can be realized.)

The lines that follow define the system that must prevail in Latin America. We are told that it must be based on "the abolition of exploitation of man by man." This is the only "socialist" sentence in the declaration. It comes first and is followed by details on the regime that is desired, which is disclosed as capitalism pure and simple, an ideal capitalism, serenely democratic and from which all wars of aggression are proscribed. To spread such pipe-dreams today, in September, 1938, can only be a conscious, shameful, arrant fraud.

Unity for What?
2. The second paragraph of the declaration speaks, or means to speak, of the means to be employed in arriving at the desired end. In one word, it is "unity," national, international, and in

every other sense. Unity for what? The unity of forces finds its justification only in the action of these forces. Of that there is not the slightest question. For the revolutionary and real means for the emancipation of the Latin American workers through the taking of political power by the proletariat, the declaration does not even substitute any defined and consequent reformist perspective. Abstract "unity" becomes an end in itself. Beyond that there is no perspective at all.

Reduced to Absurdity
Let us note in passing how the anxiety to remain vague leads to absurdities. The resolution speaks of the "economic autonomy" of the Latin American nations. Does this mean seeking some kind of autarchy ala Hitler? No, it is a question of defeating foreign imperialism. But that the resolution does not want to say. It covers itself with a formula that is vague—and absurd.

Avoid All Problems
Theoretically, the declaration of "principles" is beyond all criticism. Not a single one of the real problems of Latin America is dealt with in it. These gentlemen thought that the jeremiads of European reformism, made still more affected and stupid, were good enough for the Latin American masses. That is the only adaptation they have made for the specific problems of this continent.

Silence on Imperialism
6. Let us note that we are told nothing about imperialism. To

judge from the declaration, it is a thing that scarcely exists for Latin America. The word is mentioned once, in the appendix, with out explanation. Actually, it is around the struggle against imperialism that all the fundamental problems of Latin America revolve. Behind the theoretical void of the declaration, it is in this that its consciously fraudulent character emerges most clearly: The new Confederation is not a weapon for the struggle of the Latin American workers for emancipation, but an instrument to chain these workers to an imperialist imperialism — what irony that this resolution was voted on in Mexico!!) against another grouping ("Fascism").

If one leaves the written text aside for a moment to consider the discussions at the congress, no doubt remains. Lewis acted solely as an instrument of Roosevelt in furthering North American penetration into the rest of the continent. Leon Jouhaux, who played an important role in the discussions and in the lobbies of the congress, is the conscious and cynical agent of French imperialism — Lenin denounced him for it nearly 25 years ago.

The aim of the operation was clear: to make the new Confederation an instrument for the penetration and strengthening of the "democratic" imperialism in Latin America against Italian and German influence. This struggle is assuming, moreover, an urgent character with the approach of war, for the central and southern Americas are rich reservoirs of raw materials far from the great battlefields. The phrases about "democracy" and "Fascism" serve only to cover the fraud, to direct the workers' will to struggle toward the end of submission to the policies of so-called democratic imperialism.

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Practically, the new Confederation is an instrument in the hands of the "democratic" imperialisms. All the theoretical smoke is nothing but a screen to hide this quite real fact. It cannot win the Latin American workers liberation but only new forms of servitude.

Rubber Union Hits Hull Notes On Mexican Oil

AKRON.—Evince greater interest in the problems of Latin American workers because of the recent visit to Mexico of John L. Lewis, the Akron Industrial Union Council and Goodrich Local 5 of the United Rubber Workers have passed unanimously the following resolution of support to the Mexican workers and warning to the U. S. State Department to keep its hands off Mexico:

Whereas, C.I.O. Chairman John L. Lewis, pledged cooperation in Mexico last week to the newly-formed Workers Confederation of Latin America in its fight against "miserable wage structures and degrading working and social conditions of the workers" imposed by large foreign corporations, and

Whereas, The open shop Standard Oil Co. of the Rockefeller interests was expropriated by the Cardenas government in Mexico to end its exploitation of the Mexican people, and

Whereas, This progressive step of the Mexican government has been vigorously supported by the labor movement and bitterly fought by reactionaries, and

Whereas, Secretary of State Cordell Hull has sought to nullify the action of Mexico by means of threatening diplomatic notes defending the oil companies, therefore be it

Resolved, That we go on record

1. Hailing the C.I.O.'s stand for cooperation with the workers of Latin America in bettering their hours, wages and working conditions as a fine exhibition of international labor solidarity, and

2. Condemning the State Department for its unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of Mexico thereby jeopardizing the labor gains made up to now, and

3. Demanding that America and other imperialistic nations keep their hands off Mexico, and all other colonial or semi-colonial lands.

ASK FOR THE APPEAL AT YOUR NEWSSTAND

New Deal Candidates Lose, But F.D.R. Holds Prestige

By **JAMES BURNHAM**
The Presidential Purge, on the surface at any rate, has taken the worst beating of any Rooseveltian enterprise of the past decade. For the first time in these Six Lean Years, there is rejoicing in the camp of the Republican National Committee.

There is no doubt, moreover, that Roosevelt's prestige has genuinely suffered by the severity of the defeats of his candidates in the primaries. Like all demagogues, he thrives on victory, and shrinks rapidly when he loses. He relies on the all-powerful magic of his name; but in this instance the spell of his magic proved ineffectual.

Nevertheless, surface appearances are, as so often, at least partly deceiving.

Defeats Expected
In the first place, it should be noted that Roosevelt, in most of the primaries where he intervened, expected his favored candidate to be defeated. This is established by fully authentic reports.

Secondly, a sharp distinction was made by many voters between their feeling for Roosevelt himself and their action on the local candidate for whom he had declared. This was strikingly shown in, for example, Maryland. On the eve of the election, the Gallup survey—which has been functioning with great accuracy during the past year—made an estimate. Their returns showed Tydings with 60 per cent of the vote, which was exactly what he got.

But at the same time they tested Roosevelt's personal popularity, and found him with a clear 55 per cent support. Though this percentage is lower than that in the 1936 election, it had not dropped as a result of his intervention in the Maryland primary. There is every reason to believe that this paradox is typical of the other States involved in the purge.

Personal Prestige High
The recently conducted Fortune poll indicated a somewhat similar phenomenon: it showed a decisive continuing majority in popular support for Roosevelt personally, but much lower support, or, even opposition to, a

number of specific plans and policies.

These facts serve to indicate the underlying meaning of the purge. Its chief purpose was not to win the nomination of the given candidates in question — though that would also, no doubt, have been a pleasing outcome. First and foremost, it was a gesture to bolster up Roosevelt's mass standing in the country as a whole, especially in the heavily populated northern States.

It is Roosevelt's "left face" that keeps for him the support of the workers and the unemployed and the masses generally. In the purge he put this face forward. His mouthpieces in the labor movements of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, etc., could thus point proudly to him as still the great champion of the masses against the Tories.

Farm-Labor Union
Roosevelt's speech at Denton, Maryland, where he called for a union of farm and labor behind the ostensible aims of the New Deal, fitted in perfectly. He was obviously talking not to the small and unimportant State where the speech was delivered, but to the broader reaches of the towns and plains of North and West.

But in spite of these compensating considerations, the extent of the failure of the purge remains a sign of a certain weakening of Roosevelt's position. The abysmal collapse of the New Deal, the blows of the renewed economic slump, are beginning to stir the consciousness of the masses, to puncture the myth of Roosevelt, the Savior.

Under present conditions, the normal movement for such a process, on the part of the workers and unemployed and poor farmers, would be to the left. But, tragically, the policy of the Lewises and Greens and reformists and Stalinists provides no organized outlet to such a movement to the left. Through Labor's Non-Partisan League they try to whip the gradually rising discontent back into the line for New Deal class collaborationism.

Discontent Flares
The discontent and disillusion are thus in part vainly dissipated. Some is finding its way, in-

Pinning 'em Down

By **JAMES CASEY**

GOLD RUSH ON WALL STREET

The stampede for war gold is on! At the cost of a new maelstrom that beclouds Europe's horizon and the sweat of labor at home, Wall Street's bourgeois are filling their depositories with freshly-plucked riches.

Statistics on the pre-war wave of profits for the large corporations offer an astounding contrast to the plight of more than 13,000,000 American families, whose average income last year was equal to \$471, and are another sad commentary on the vaunted beneficence of the New Deal administration. And, of course, the daily newspapers, without exception, have failed by oversight or other convenient reasons to print a single line regarding the new floods of yellow metal into the coffers of the Morgans, Rockefellers, du Ponts, et al.

It is a fact that more than one hundred companies with securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange or the New York Curb Exchange enjoyed bigger "earnings," as the moneybags are wont to call it, in 1937 than in America's fattest boom year. The profits of 29 companies alone have totaled \$507,000,000 more than in 1929.

What is most portentous about the figures is that the largest profits have come to those corporations dealing in war supplies. Statistics are excessively dull reading for the laymen, but their perusal provides damning proof of who has been paying the bill for the last two capitalist crises and all the preceding ones.

Accordingly I am listing a few examples of the returned prosperity that is being confined solely and secretly to those who do a bulging business out of human slaughter.

Monsanto Chemical Corporation, a du Pont war supplies concern, increased its profits by 354 per cent over those of 1929 with sales of \$33,202,000.

Douglas Aircraft, which builds war planes and is controlled by the Morgan-du Pont interests, boosted its profits by 175 per cent over 1929 with sales of \$20,950,000.

Mesta Machine Corporation, a subsidiary of the House of Morgan's U. S. Steel, had profits of 161 per cent over the 1929 record.

Phillips Petroleum, of the Rockefeller-Mellon Estate interests, enjoyed profits 60 per cent higher than in 1929 with sales aggregating \$145,933,000.

Union Carbide, another Rockefeller-Mellon institution, had profits of \$42,782,000 more than in 1929.

E. I. du Pont-Nemours of Delaware swelled their profits in 1937 by \$88,081,000 over the previous top year in peacetime "prosperity." (These profits are exclusive of many hundred millions more by du Pont subsidiaries.)

Hercules Powder Corporation, another du Pont-Morgan war supplies unit, showed a 4 per cent gain over 1929 with sales of \$44,558,000.

Thus one can go on and on through the Wall Street groups, showing how these corporations have been amassing millions at an unprecedented pace in the face of widespread unemployment and with more than 20,000,000 persons on the relief rolls deprived of adequate food, shelter and clothing.

BULL MARKET COMING

Financiers and high government officials, while maintaining a strange silence on the reaping of record pre-war revenues, have been issuing innocuous statements with respect to the recent dips of the stock market. This downward trend is a temporary movement, motivated by a series of causes, including the usual manipulations for catching suckers, but it is certain to be followed, in the event of war, by a sweep upward such as has not been seen in years. Nor is Wall Street much concerned over the talk of so-called regulatory legislation to curb speculation.

Instead, the Wall Street leaders are focusing greedy eyes at the huge sums of European moneys shipped to these shores in late months to escape the effects of native currency depreciation, due to conditions at home.

France, for example, has millions upon millions of dollars held here and an outbreak of hostilities would almost immediately generate the flow of gold into the hands of American industrialists and manufacturers for all kinds of products needed by a warring power.

Assuredly there will be many cries for tightening of the Neutrality Act, as a means of keeping this country out of the war, but any enacted legislation is bound to be interlaced with loopholes so as not to interfere with the bloody harvests of American imperialists.

PROFITS, PRICES UP—WAGES DOWN

Assuming the remote possibility that Congress passes measures "to take the profits out of war," such action would, in the final analysis, simply constitute a division of revenue between the war industries' magnates and their government. A subsequent speeding up of production would leave the basic profits structure intact, with the incomes of the Morgans and du Ponts soaring to ever higher levels.

The new war orders from abroad along with the New Deal's own rearmament program will open up new jobs, to be sure, but there will also be ushered in a new era of price-boosting and general profiteering on life's general necessities. Workers face the dangers of wide slashes in "real" wages through the inflation of living costs and farmers, too, will be plagued anew by rising prices of seed, feed, machinery, clothing, etc.

In this rapidly-evolving situation America's masses cannot expect any assistance or consideration from Democrats or Republicans, "right" or "left." To meet the wage-slashing and other attacks of Big Business, they must strengthen the trade unions and tenant farmers' groups and organize on the political field under militant working-class leadership. In these efforts, the Socialist Workers Party leads the way.

creditable as it might seem, temporarily back toward the Republican Party. Another part flares up in the pension movement of the Far West. Still another section listens more eagerly than would have been the case five years ago to the ravings of Senators Smith and George, whose campaigns boiled down to "white supremacy."

The danger is thus clearly pointed: as the break with Roosevelt begins, unless the vacuum to the left is filled, unless a new political instrument is forged whereby the independent class strength of the workers can be mobilized for advance, then the break will lead either to disipation and disorientation, or to war reaction.

MASS MEETING
'WAR CRISIS IN EUROPE'
PROMINENT SPEAKERS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 — 8 P. M.
Beethoven Hall, 5th St. and 3rd Avenue
Auspices: Socialist Workers Party Local New York