

Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

Vol. 6, No. 12.

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Madrid Checks Italian Drive

Caballero Seeks French British Aid To Exploit Moroccan Resources

THE Spring Drive against Madrid has begun with two new features distinguishing it from its predecessors. It is, first of all, a brazenly unconcealed Italian offensive, as to troops, armaments, and strategy. Non intervention, plus the Anglo-Italian agreement, mean absolutely nothing, so long as international imperialism, democratic and fascist, sees the workers armed. On the government side, the military experiences of the past eight months have aided in holding off the attack and even succeeded in the preparation of a counter-offensive.

Largo Caballero announced in an interview with the Daily Mail that Spain will always be a bourgeois democracy, and that the real aim of the people's front government, which he heads, is to reach an agreement with Great Britain and France for financial and other help in the "exploitation of the rich resources of Morocco."

No longer does this bourgeois government make any pretenses at its imperialist aspirations. Its sole hope and goal is to convince the reactionary imperialisms of Britain and France that it hasn't the slightest intention of breaking the world capitalist front, and thereby foolishly thinks that England will cease its tacit and not so tacit aid to Franco. In this declaration are involved the Socialist and Communist Parties of Spain, who support and participate in the people's front government, and thus prepare themselves to support and participate in the imperialist exploitation of colonial Morocco!

LEON BLUM, no longer even making pretenses at carrying out a program of social reform, put thru his bill for financing national defense—voted for by both the Communist and Socialist Parties.

Typical of the methods by which French capitalism has always financed its military budget, the "defense loan," totalling some 10 billion francs, will be issued in the form of small bonds. A new twist was given in that the loan is subscribable in pounds, dollars, or francs. Thus not only can the French peasantry, urban middle-class and even some sections of the workers dig deeply into their well-worn jeans and aid French finance-capital in its plans for plunder, but American and English suckers are invited as well.

The only opposition to the government's plans came from the extreme right, which could not miss the opportunity to make political capital out of the shift in the government's financial policy.

Lacking completely in the picture was any sign of proletarian anti-militarism. Bound and gagged by the people's front policy, the socialist and communist deputies voted for the measure without speaking. The N. Y. Times Correspondent remarks: "There is little enthusiasm among them for the proposed measures, but there is no alternative for them but to support the projects their representatives in the Leftist People's Front have proposed." "Its 'leftness' was at best a mirage, but today even that mirage is evaporating. The workers' parties without goal, without understand-

TRYING TO HOLD THEM IN



William Green meets with W. Schoenberg of the United Cement Workers, and D. Williams of the Aluminum Workers. Green hopes to keep the C.I.O. out of these fields hence the sudden interest in "drives."

Vote Mooney Pardon Subway Clerks Win Strike

California Assembly By 45-28 Vote Supports Union's Resolution

The splendid campaign to free Tom Mooney, conducted by the California State Federation of Labor and the San Francisco Labor Council, has resulted in the passage of a resolution granting pardon by the Assembly of the California Legislature. The vote was 45 to 28.

While the reactionary forces of the State presented long opinions on the unconstitutionality of the action, Rena Mooney, wife of the great labor martyr, sat in a cheering and packed gallery. The debate lasted two hours, being mostly taken up with the question of constitutionality. Representative Ritchie, introducer of the resolution, maintained that the Legislature has all powers not expressly denied. Decrying the bombing which took place at the now famous preparedness parade, he also considered that another atrocity had occurred at that time: "the arrest, frame-up, conviction, and imprisonment of Tom Mooney." He pointed out the established falsehood of the "evidence" against Mooney. "We go beyond the contention that Mooney was never proved guilty," he stated. "We contend he has been proved innocent."

The resolution must also be adopted by the Senate to be effective.

ing, unwillingly and grumblingly, are voting away their class rights, relinquishing their revolutionary duties for the sake of the myth of the people's front.

REVOLT IN INDIA was buried in the pages of the capitalist press this week. A dissident religious leader in Northwest India, for thirty years an opponent of British Imperialism, roused his followers, once again to throw off the British yoke. He seemed to be unimpressed by the fact that Britain was a "democratic nation," or that a new constitution for India had just been published. "British troops," the press remarks drily, "were hurried to the region and suppressed the revolt."

Wage and Hour Demands Won In Strike On Independent Line

A short but very effective strike was settled last Friday by a grant of pay increases and shorter hours to 300 news-stand clerks employed on stations of the city-operated Independent Subway System. The strike was called on Thursday by Local 906 of the Retail Clerks International Union to which the majority of clerks belong, and in one day spread to nearly all stands thruout the system.

Several workers locked themselves in their stands and remained there until they were forcibly ejected by inspectors from the Interborough News Co., operators of the stands.

Trouble between the clerks and the Interborough News Co. had been brewing for some time. The clerks received as little as 28 cents an hour and from this pittance was deducted the cost of any papers, magazines and other merchandise that might either be lost or stolen.

The settlement provides for a wage increase of 5 cents an hour and a maximum of 2 hours overtime at 44 cents an hour. It likewise gives the workers an 8-hour day, 48 hour week, an hour lunch period, and union recognition. Employees who were discharged for organization activities will be reinstated and will receive half pay for time lost.

COMING IN THE WORKERS AGE

ARE SIT-DOWNS LEGAL, a discussion of one of the burning issues of today, will appear in next week's Workers Age. C.P.O. Units are urged to order their increased bundles immediately.

GEORGE STREATOR, widely known journalist, labor organizer, and authority on problems of the South, will write a series of articles on the New South. To appear shortly.

Chrysler Fights Union; GM Signs

Steel Company Unions Reject Frey's Craft Plan; Pose as "Independent" Organization; CIO Plans to Counter A. F. L. Splits.

A SIGNED AGREEMENT between The United Automobile Workers of America and General Motors, was completed after four weeks of negotiations. Ratification by the union came after a long debate in a meeting of 220 delegates. William Knudsen signed for the corporation. Details of the pact are not available as we go to press, but it is understood that a minimum wage, and shorter work week have not yet been achieved.

The biggest sit-down to occur so far is still effectively holding up production in the Chrysler plants—60,000 workers are directly involved, while an additional 20,000 were laid off in Briggs. The latter is entering negotiations with the union this week. 100,000 workers, including 11,000 from the struck Hudson plants, are on strike in Detroit. Chrysler, who sailed along easily on his reputation for having actually dealt with the union in the past year, now arrogantly opposes the demands of the union for recognition as sole bargaining agent, altho it is well known, and proven by the strike action, that the UAWA has at least 90% of the workers in its ranks. The injunction proceedings are being answered by the most militant picket demonstrations in front of the court, and the refusal to cease in the slightest the vigilance of the strikers.

1500 Reo Men In Sit-Down

LANSING, Mich.—Almost the entire working force of the Reo auto factory here is engaged in a sit-down strike demanding improvements in wages and conditions and recognition of the union.

The 1500 workers engaged in the sit-down are under strict discipline, smoking only in smoking rooms and sweeping the plant twice a day. Liquor is being strictly kept out.

The large number of sit-downers has taxed the resources of the organization, but the Lansing Emergency Brigade, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Lester Washburn, is measuring up to all requirements. The men are being well fed from a restaurant set up across the street and manned by the Emergency Brigaders.

According to Lester Washburn, president of the Lansing union, the men hailed and approved the settlement in GM and were sure that Reo would capitulate soon. Telegrams of greetings are coming in from all sides. On Saturday came one from vice-president Ch. Zimmerman of the I.L.G.W.U.

AUTO TYCOONS WEEP — AT OWN TEAR GAS

DETROIT—The debts and subdebts, the sporting young blades, the matrons and patriarchs, of Detroit's finest families got a whiff last Friday night of the tear gas intended for the workers they exploit.

It all happened at a very ritzy polo game. Everybody was there, my dear! But the Sunday before the UAWA had held a victory mass meeting in the same place—the State Fair Coliseum. Somebody had brought tear gas in the form of crystals that evaporated and spread when the building was heated. Well, it seems that some of the crystals were left over and when the building was heated for the polo game there was some more tear gas and all the society folk and the players and even the ponies had a very weepy evening.

Developments in the CIO organization drive and consequently in the controversy with the A. F. of L., were intensified to new levels this week.

The Washington conference of leaders and organizers of the Committee for Industrial Organization reacted sharply to the splitting expulsion moves of the craft Executive Council of the A. F. of L. Green ordered the ousting of the CIO locals and unions from all state and city labor bodies in his blind and malicious drive to thwart organization of the millions of unorganized workers—for that is what opposition to industrial unionism means.

The conference decided to establish city and state units of the CIO in such places where conditions warrant. Altho the capitalist press was quick to seize on this move as a final and irrevocable split, interpretations of leaders of the CIO proved this to be premature. Lewis, in a statement to reporters, indicated that no rash moves would be made to erect these bodies wholesale. Rather would action be taken only in such cases where the A. F. of L. had taken action first.

Additional firms granted wage increases and hour changes equivalent to those in the agreement signed between the S. W. O. C. and Carnegie-Illinois, altho Republic refuses to sign with the union.

However, Carnegie-Illinois is not at all thru with its company union organization, and has made it "independent." Steps were first taken to interest the A. F. of L. thru John Frey in these weapons against the C.I.O. But Frey was too reactionary, wanting a craft form as he did, for even company unions!

DISCRIMINATE AGAINST NEGRO STRIKERS

Striking workers of the National Pants Manufacturing Company, led by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, have run into difficulties in securing a hall for their strike meetings. The Workmen's Circle in Washington, D. C. refused to rent its hall because there were Negroes among the strikers.

WORKERS AGE

Organ of the National Committee, Communist Party U. S. A. (Opposition), 131 West 33rd St., New York City.

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ROOSEVELT'S FIRESIDE CHAT

WHAT is the Supreme Court? Is it merely a judicial agglomerate of nine old men whose age and personal predilections make impossible the passage of social and labor legislation?

Alexander Hamilton, who, perhaps, of all the founding fathers most clearly understood and expressed the reactionary nature of the Constitution and its implements, saw the court as the final, stalwart and incorruptible defender of the rights of the "rich and the well-born" against "the Great Beast, the people."

In the face of the reactionary history of the Supreme Court, its role as the ever-faithful class instrument of reaction, the meagerness of the President's proposal become patent.

Just because the passage of an amendment may take a long time to achieve, labor must now formulate its demands and build its movement, not halting at Roosevelt's stop-gap measure.

LESSON FOR LABOR

THE Child Labor Amendment has been decisively defeated in the New York Assembly. The Democratic Party members in the Assembly, cast a majority against the Amendment, while the Republican Party, true to its reactionary role, cast an almost unanimous bloc of votes against it.

As against the actual and real slavery of children in industry the opposition could do no better than trot out mythical and fantastic dangers of child enslavement allegedly inherent in the Child Labor Amendment.

The adoption of the Child Labor Amendment cannot by any stretch of the imagination be considered as a step in the direction of a fascist dictatorship.

The sham cry against the danger of fascism by the 102 Assemblymen is best exposed by the fact that at least 80% of the people of New York State expressed themselves in favor of the Amendment.

PARTY DEMOCRACY AND THE C. P. S. U.

HEADLINES in the press, lightly touched by the hand of irony, announce to the world that democracy has been ordered introduced into the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Any decision which extends the rights and privileges of membership in the Soviet Party is both welcome and long overdue. But this decision must be examined not uncritically. First and foremost it must be stated that this decision returns to the party membership a right which was theirs to begin with.

The central problem involved in inner-party democracy is the right to express one's disagreements with, or doubts of, the correctness of this or that party policy or even the general line of the party, during the period prescribed for party discussion by the very same statutes which the Soviet party has now rediscovered.

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"democratic" system supposedly expresses? In this sense, does not the action of the 102 Assemblymen, who shout against dictatorship, seem dictatorial?

The defeat of the Amendment also casts an interesting light on the Democratic Party. The loud in its promise of reform it has seen fit to align itself with the most reactionary forces in the state against such elementary and humanitarian legislation as the Child Labor Amendment.

In the defeat of the Amendment there is a lesson for labor in the state. The American Labor Party must cut itself loose from any and all ties with the two parties of capitalism. Even the "more liberal" of the two capitalist parties in the president's own state has shown its true colors.

Why Now? Why are these formal concessions to inner-party democracy made now? Many ridiculous reasons are being advanced.

Others insist that the party is seething with dissatisfaction over the Trotskyist Trials and this extension of democracy is a sort of bone thrown to the discontented. Both are wrong in point of fact and on the basis of reliable eyewitness reports.

There is hardly a doubt that the recent trials were a factor in the situation in a sense quite different than the friends of Trotsky would have us believe. It seems reasonable that the two trials involving as they did, leaders which in the past had held the highest positions in the party and the state, some of whom had retained their membership in the party up to their indictment, should have caused considerable uneasiness and even distrust.

The reported facts encourage us to say that the bad effect of the People's Front policy may yet be overcome and the Spanish working class proceed on the road of proletarian revolution which alone leads to victory.

BRITISH ARMAMENTS CONTRARY TO official reports, Great Britain did not increase her armaments so enormously for the sake of collective security, but in order to be able to defend her interests successfully against any claims that Italy, Germany and Japan might raise.

THE NEW WORKERS SCHOOL BOOKSHOP 131 W. 33rd St., New York City ROAD TO EXILE by Emilio Lussu lists at \$2.50; our price \$1.50

CRISIS OF THE MIDDLE CLASS by Lewis Corey lists at \$2.50; our price \$1.50 and DECLINE OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM by the same author lists at \$4.00; our price \$2.75 Both for \$4.00

BIOGRAPHY OF MARX by Franz Mehring lists at \$5.00; our price \$2.50 INTRODUCTION TO DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM by August Thalheimer list price \$2.00; our price \$1.50 out of town orders add 10 cents per book to cover postage.

Lambda EUROPE TODAY

Trotsky Manifesto Attacks POUM—Blum Moves Further to the Right.

London, February 24th, 1937 NOT even the bourgeois press tries any more to conceal the fact that the new phase of the old game of international politics in Spain is just another swindle. It reached its climax with the decision that Portugal should, under British "supervision," enforce the "control."

The fact that the Soviet ambassador to Madrid was suddenly recalled indicates the complete failure of the Soviet Union's attempt to direct Inner-Spanish policy along people's front lines, and the failure of the slander campaign against the POUM, the CNT, and the FAI.

The other hand, he has favored the labor movement in strikes like that of the electrical workers not directed against American capital, has distributed more land than any of his predecessors, and has given help to Spain within certain limits prescribed to him by the United States.

THE MEXICAN PEOPLE'S FRONT salutes the glorious national army in connection with the 126th anniversary of our independence. Hernan Laborde in October 1936 made a speech in the Central Square in which he declared:

"The Mexican army is a son of the people; it came out of the people and is bound to it; it was formed in the revolutionary struggles of 1910 and 1917 (How many of our Comrades, workers and peasants has it slaughtered since then, Comrade Laborde?) It liquidated and replaced the old and demoralized army of the pretorian Porfirians—of the militias of Franco and Mola. . . In Mexico ought not and will not occur what is happening in Spain. . . It is necessary that here, when the time comes, the counter revolution will have to deal with a single front including the Government, the proletariat, the great masses of the people, and the National Army in the front ranks. (Great applause. Cries: "Long Live the National Army.")"—From report in El Machete, Oct. 12, 1936.

LEON BLUM'S "RECESS" IN A speech Leon Blum made at Saint Nazare he mentioned again that there will be a "recess" in the government's social program. This recess, he said this time, was necessary because a rise of the wage scale must, at times, be prevented, in order to enable the government to stop the rise of prices.

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CARDENAS AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE (Comrade Wolfe has been writing a series of articles in the Workers Age based upon the last chapter in his book "Portrait of Mexico." The present article, however, introduces material not contained in that work. The final article of his series on Present-Day Mexico will appear next week under the title: "Whither Mexico?")

When Cardenas delivered his annual message for 1936, El Machete, Communist official organ, called for a demonstration in front of the demonstration was reported in the next issue as "the festival of the oppressed."

SINCE Cardenas has been in power a great railroad strike has broken by him at the behest of American interests, the Calles group of native capitalists has continued to grow with the addition of some of Cardenas's closest associates, reactionary governors have been imposed in a number of states, peasant villages have been raided by wealthy landowners and even armed forces and agrarian leaders shot, the labor and peasant movements have been kept firmly, more firmly than ever, under the direct and open control of government agents, the President has dissolved the "left wing" of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, continues to rule the government of the nation as a personal boss, and carries out the financial provisions arranged by Lamont and Morrow.

The Equilibrium Policy On the other hand, he has favored the labor movement in strikes like that of the electrical workers not directed against American capital, has distributed more land than any of his predecessors, and has given help to Spain within certain limits prescribed to him by the United States.

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TRADE UNION NOTES

By George F. Miles

THE A. F. of L. went in for some heavy master-minding last week and all it can show for it is a severe headache. It's a well known fact to all trade unionists that Carnegie-Illinois made desperate efforts to utilize the company unions which it still controls to curb the growth of the CIO and to run interference for it in blocking out the CIO's attempt to become the sole bargaining agency at some later moment.

In due course of time therefore an invitation to a conference was extended by the Carnegie-Illinois company unions to William Green. And right here is where the master-minding began. The council leaders were divided. Some argued, Green among them, that to confer with the company unions is phrase demagoguery, which perforce deposits a growing sediment of actual though meager concessions and reforms: government-controlled but ever more inclusive organization, intermittent and limited distribution of lands, support of labor struggles when the rising governmental native capitalist and American interests are not involved. Supplementary measures for control are government subsidies and appointments which strengthen the hand of the government agents in the labor and peasant movements, and corruption or elimination (assassination and deportation) of "incurable" opposition elements. Thanks to the present attitude of the Communist Party, Cardenas has not needed to have recourse to those severer measures.

And here is where the story ends. The A. F. of L. is seriously compromised by wooing these company unions and has suffered a severe setback. Oh, yes, we almost forgot. Mr. Frey it appears did accomplish something. The company union spokesman said: "Our meeting with Mr. Frey was very useful and he gave us a lot of good advice." He did not say whether this advice related to the fight of the company unions against the CIO.

"Grandchildren cheer Green on birthday," says a headline in the press. And that's about all the cheering Green will hear for a long time to come. Green's letter aiming to lift the charter of the Columbus Federation of Labor charged that some of its members held radical political opinions. Green, like Franco in Spain, probably means that some of these members believe in strikes—perhaps even in the sit-down!

The Cleveland Citizen hands Bill Green a left-handed compliment when it says: "Bill Green is not a Judas Iscariot for daring to question the Detroit (General Motors) agreement. . . Like most humans, he doubtless has made mistakes, and perhaps—considering the position that he occupies—he talked out of turn."

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Under the date of February 15th, the Moscow "Deutsche Zentral-Zeitung" published an article on "The Necessity of Bolshevik Self-Criticism," from which we quote the following: "It is only due to a complete or almost complete lack of self-criticism that the Trotskyite scum succeeded in doing damage to the work of socialist construction." The article also talks about the necessity of eradicating "arrogance," "omniscience," and "syco-phancy," and advocates practicing self-criticism in factory meetings, the press, etc.

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Blind Workers Sit Down

By MAX DUBROW

The press recently reported a sit-down strike of more than 100 blind men and women shop workers in Pittsburgh, having the support of CIO and its leader John L. Lewis. The article printed below will shed some light on the conditions and needs of the institutionalized blind.—Editor.

AMONG the blind there are today two fundamentally different tactical lines fighting for recognition. The fermentation now going on and the movement that has grown out of it is a struggle to transform the existing organizations of the blind into effective weapons for independent action of the blind themselves in every field, be they economic, social or political. It is necessary for every wide awake blind to be quite clear as to what each tactical line leads to, what results may be expected if one or the other is adopted.

The actual achievement of a United Front, the formation and appearance of the Joint Action Committee constitutes the most important step ever taken by the blind: it is both a challenge and a blow to the "Institutions."

The important thing about the Joint Action Committee is that it grew out of the actual needs of the independent organizations, instead of the usual attempt to create a brand new organization to take the place of and kill the old and tried organizations in existence for many years. It is in fact the only realistic approach to the question of guaranteeing at one and the same time full freedom of autonomy for all while uniting them into one common organization. This is the secret of its strength and popularity.

Its weakness lies in the complete absence of any program beyond the bill, around which in the first stage of its existence it successfully rallied all anti-institution sentiment. But, it will take more than mere opposition to the "Institutions" to negotiate safely the coming period of struggle. This neglect of program, during the first phase of its existence as an organization, is the direct result of the hesitancy and fear of facing facts, of perceiving the logic of its own position and role.

Role Of Action Committee

What are the facts, what has been and must be in the future the role of the Joint Action Committee of the blind? Without for a moment losing sight of the real

roots of the question, let, for once, the hated "Institutions" serve a useful purpose by furnishing us with our point of departure. The "Institutions," which for more than half a century have controlled the lives and thinking of the blind, operate upon the principle of segregation. A principle condemned by modern scientists as unsound both in theory and practice. Here, however, our concern is solely with the application of this principle to the field of practical political organization and action. It is here that the role of the Joint Action Committee has been that of leading the blind to take the first steps in the direction of breaking away from their segregated existence, dominated from top to bottom by the "Institutions"; from their own little world isolated from their natural allies in the big world. But some, even of the best, seem unable to make a complete break with the past, still thinking in terms of the blind for and by themselves, they merely give a new coat of paint to the same old "Institution" plan of segregation.

Concretely there are but two roads leading out of this political no man's land. Either the Joint Action Committee fights for recognition from the Greater New York Council of Agencies for the Blind and the State Federation for the Blind, or else it fights for recognition by the organized labor movement.

Tie-Up With Labor Proposed

Recognition from the Council of Agencies and the State Federation for the Blind can mean only one thing namely: that the Joint Committee becomes a member of these organizations by open affiliation and with the right of both voice and vote. A voice and vote that will be snowed under at all times, by the united block of the silk-stocking-vote—the Agencies. (In the case of the "Brooklyn Industrial Workers" experience it proved to be seventeen to one). This would be a step backward and a betrayal of the interests of the blind. Moreover, no Joint Committee is needed to lead the blind back to the sheepfold, to segregation even in this form.

Recognition from the labor movement is the only way in which the Joint Action Committee can guarantee to the blind that their newborn independent movement will remain truly independent. It will instantly enroll millions on the side of the blind where now only a handful can be found. It will at the

NEGRO LABOR ASSEMBLY IS ORGANIZED

About 200 delegates representing the largest and most important unions with substantial Negro membership attended the first session of the Negro Labor Assembly, March 12, at the Harlem Labor Center, 312 West 125th St. Frank B. Crosswaith, chairman of the Negro Labor Committee presided.

Speakers who pledged the support of their unions to the building up of the N.L.A. included Bro. McLaurin of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Murray Baron, Suitcase and Bagmakers Union; Noah Walters, Int. Laundry Workers; Ted Poston, Newspaper Guild; Weinstein, United Hebrew Trades and Louis Weinstock, Dist. Council No. 9 of the Painters.

The chairman in opening the meeting traced the development of the Negro Labor Committee, organized almost two years ago for the purpose of bringing the message of trade unionism to the masses of unorganized Negro workers, and, at the same time, to attempt to destroy any barriers which are preventing Negroes from taking their places in the organized labor movement. He drew an analogy between objectives of the N.L.C. with those of the United Hebrew Trades, the Italian Chamber of Labor and the Women's Trade Union League.

Crosswaith spoke of the increasing demand for assistance in organization coming from Negro workers in all branches of industry. The activities of certain racketeers who are operating among workers in Harlem were brought to the attention of the gathering by Crosswaith and other delegates from the floor. These elements were charged with attempting to undermine union standards with a view towards destroying the influence of the bona-fide trade unions and to build up organizations under their own domination. An effective campaign will be launched immediately by the N.L.A. to rid the community of these elements.

Meetings of the N.L.A. will be held on the second Friday of each month.

same time lead to the smashing; once and for all, of the policy of segregation and to the full and democratic participation of the blind themselves in the shaping of their own future and destiny. This would be a forward step. This way lies the hope of the blind and the future of the Joint Action Committee.

Never before has there existed a genuine basis for tying up, organizationally, the struggle of the blind with the main stream of organized labor. Now for the first time both basis and form is present. The American Labor Party, as the expression of the trade unions on the political field, has already, in principle, pledged itself to the protection of all handicapped, or as its program puts it, the "incapacitated." Clearly the Joint Action Committee must win the confidence of the American Labor Party and jointly with it write into the program the practical details of the best method by which this protection can be realized. The Joint Committee must go much farther than that: it must seek and obtain open affiliation with the American Labor Party; taking its rightful place as a part of the labor movement, with all rights accorded every other affiliated body, in compliance with the party's constitution. The case of the Joint Action Committee of the Blind should be placed immediately before the State Executive Committee. Individual blind should in the meantime familiarize themselves with this party's program.

Caballero and the POUM

THE Socialist Call of March 6, 1937 continues the discussion on the attempt to suppress the Workers Party of Marxist Unification by the Madrid Defense Committee. To the extent that these articles speak up against the suppression of the POUM they are welcome but we must again* point to certain discrepancies in the deliberate attempt to whitewash socialist premier Caballero and the Socialist Party of Spain of all responsibility in this matter.

The Socialist Call reports that "Largo Caballero, Socialist premier of Spain's anti-Fascist forces, has repudiated actions of the Madrid Government in attacking the Party of Marxist Unity as unauthorized by him. . . ."

Leaving aside for the moment the remark about Caballero's premiership of the anti-fascist forces—an attempt to becloud the fact that Caballero heads a people's front or bourgeois government—we come to the main question at issue. Is it true that the statement in reference to Caballero absolves him of all guilt in the blood-thirsty campaign against the POUM? Those who accept as plausible the statement that Caballero knew nothing of the decision of Madrid to suppress the POUM must indeed be naive. Did not the socialist forces represented in the Madrid Defense Junta vote for the proposal to suppress the POUM? Did they do so without the knowledge of the socialist premier? Is the crime less serious even if they did not consult Caballero?

Besides, if we are to believe that Caballero knew nothing of the decision then we must also believe that he was not informed about an editorial that appeared in *Claridad*, of which he is the editor, on Feb. 1. Here is what the editorial said:

"How would we designate a person who daily, through the press, over the radio, in meetings and in the military organizations, strove for the application of the policy held correct by General Franco, Hitler and Mussolini, in order to come to power? We would say that

* See *Workers Age* of March 13, 1937.

Local 10 League Issues Program

At a regular and special meeting of Local 10, called for the purpose of nominating officers and convention delegates, held on March 1st at Arlington Hall, the Cutters Welfare League nominated its candidates for the various offices and convention delegates.

The problems confronting the cutters at the present time in the Union, are in general similar to those on the other locals, with some specific and peculiar cutters problems. The Cutters Welfare League puts forth in the present election campaign the following platform:

1. When the current agreement in the dress and miscellaneous industries expires, to fight for the elimination of the three and four scales of wages respectively;
2. To abolish the practice of temporary jobs;
3. For democratic conduct of the affairs of our Union;
2. To demand the establishment of a labor bureau on the expiration of the agreements in the Cloak, Dress and Misc. industries, and impartial distribution of jobs;
5. For increase in pay to offset the rising cost of living;
6. For the organization of the remaining open shops;
7. To wipe out the remnants of racketeering in our industry;
9. For the amalgamation of all the needle trade unions into one industrial union;
10. For the full hearted support of the C.I.O.;
11. For a Labor Party.

those who work thus are agents of fascism. If they appear under the Red Flag, then they are traitors. There is only one party in Spain now that does these two things unabashed. This party is the POUM. The Turin and Berlin broadcasting stations are completely in accord with *La Batalla* (official organ of the POUM) and the POUM radio station. And all this takes place with the knowledge and permission of the officials. The demoralizing effect of their propaganda cannot be measured by the number of their membership, but by their ill-will. The POUM—whether it calls itself Trotskyist or arch-revolutionary—acts as the best agent of our foe and must be treated as a foe."

Why did not Caballero denounce this editorial? Because it represents his point of view and was not printed without his knowledge. Furthermore the opinion expressed in *Claridad* appears to be the official policy of the Second (Socialist) International. We quote the following from an article by Pietro Nenni, a member of the executive committee of the Second International. The article appeared in the official organ of the French Socialist Party, *Le Peuple* of February 23, 1937:

"... In a war like Spain's, in which the very existence of the nation is at stake, he who divides the people accomplishes the task of provocation and treason exactly as he who weakens production.

"With the speech of Caballero we have entered a phase of the struggle in which the splitters of the people, the saboteurs of production, the "ultras" or the fascists disguised as "ultras" will see rise up against them a people already sorely tested, but ready for every sacrifice against the provocateurs, against the fascists by winning the war forced upon it and from which it will arise strengthened and reborn."

Thus, regardless of all pleas of ignorance, which our extremely uncritical (where socialist opportunism is involved) *Socialist Call* is so ready to accept Caballero's own paper and the policy of the Second International place the responsibility for the attempted war of extermination against the most revolutionary elements in Spain, on socialist as well as official communist shoulders.

Once again we ask: How long will the so-called revolutionary Socialist Party of the U.S.A. continue to whitewash and defend the very acts which it condemns with such poor grace in the case of the official communists?

Those who do not see or will not see the need for a struggle against opportunism in their own party, in their own international, cannot be taken seriously when they fulminate against the same disease in other working class parties.

G.F.M.

Phila. C.I.O. Hits Finger-Printing

At its regular meeting on Feb. 25, 1937, at Mercantile Hall in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia CIO Council sharply criticized the anti-labor practices of Mayer Wilson and the City Administration of Philadelphia. An investigation of the practice of finger-printing and photographing of labor organizers by the Philadelphia Police Department was voted.

It was reported to the Council that an ILGWU organizer had been arrested while involved in a strike, and had been held incommunicado and treated like a common criminal even before a hearing of the charges before a magistrate was allowed. The accused was not even allowed to see a copy of the charges on which he was being held.

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