

THE FIGHTING WORKER

1 Cent

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Organ of the Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S.

Vol. 5 No. 2

Whole No. 48

January 15, 1940

LABOR DONATED

Price: 1 Cent

FDR Demands Cuts for Unemployed, Farmers, Youth

THE INDEPENDENCE OF FINLAND AND HOW TO ACHIEVE IT

The question of the "independence" of small nations is again wracking the labor movement. Even some of those who consider the Soviet Union a Workers State are for the defense of capitalist Finland and the defeat of the Red Army of the Workers State merely because... the independence of Finland is involved.

In the epoch of imperialism no small nation can escape domination by one or another imperialist power. Independence can at best be only nominal. The six large imperialist powers control the government and economy of every other nation, outside of the Soviet Union. Real independence is possible only through the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism. As Marxists we consider the struggle for independence of small countries and the struggle for proletarian revolution as one and the same thing. One must not confuse the independence of colonial countries where the agrarian question is in the fore front, with the small capitalist nations such as Poland.

Nevertheless, as an AUXILIARY slogan to WIN ALLIES for the working class the Marxists fight for the RIGHT of self-determination and for the independence of the semi-colonial and colonial nations from IMPERIALIST POWERS. This auxiliary slogan serves two purposes: it tends to break the urban and rural petty-bourgeoisie and the masses under their influence from subservience to the imperialist masters and set them in motion, and it weakens world imperialism. But — and this is the nub of the question — the independence is impossible WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CAPITALISM.

When the use of this slogan does not run parallel to the interests of social progress and the proletarian revolution, the Marxists discard this purely auxiliary slogan. For instance, we do not support the demand of Hitler for a plebiscite in the Saar or in Austria; we do not support his fight for the right of self-determination of the Sudeteners. Neither did we support the League of nations' "self-determination."

And similarly today we refuse to subordinate the Defense of the Soviet Union to a struggle for a capitalist "independence"

MARCH SEPARATELY — STRIKE TOGETHER

Those people who make out of the purely auxiliary slogan "for the independence of Finland" a principle, a fundamental issue, end up invariably on the side of the capitalist counter-revolution. They are for the "independence" of Finland, and for the defeat of the Red Army of the Soviet Union, because the Red Army is invading Finland and upsetting its independence." Such people, Burnham, Stamm, and others, reflect the capitalist pressure, not the needs of the world revolution.

To achieve independence the Finnish Workers must fight first of all their own capitalist class, the Ryti-Man-

(Continued on page 3)

FDR, Pope Insure Against Revolt

Sending a special envoy to Pope Pius by Franklin Roosevelt is much more than a gesture of the "religious brotherhood of man". It has great significance for proletarian revolution.

After the last world war, when the authority of all bourgeois institutions was at its low point, the Catholic Church, because it was international in character, was the main capitalist propaganda agency justifying the counter-revolution in Russia, Hungary, Germany and other countries.

Mr. Roosevelt, who lived through the last War, recognizes clearly the important role the Catholic Church can play in counter-revolution. With uprising and revolts threatening in India, the Near East, and above all throughout Europe, Mr. Roosevelt is preparing well in advance for joint intervention by American capitalism and the Catholic Church against the proletarian revolution.

COLONIAL UNREST OFFERS FERTILE GROUND FOR STALINITE AND OTHER IMPERIALIST AGENTS

A sharp struggle is going on for domination of the colonies, a much sharper struggle than during the first war. Russian troops are reported on the border of Afghanistan. Prominent leaders of the national Congress Party in India, who are fighting Britain's domination, are under the influence of Stalinism. French imperialism is reported to have begun a campaign to break Azerbaijan from the Soviet Union and thus disrupt the flow of oil to Germany and to the Soviet war machine.

The masses in the colonies feel no sympathy for the war. The warring powers are sending in agents to each other's spheres of influence in order to take advantage of the hostility of the masses to the imperialist war.

INDIA — KEY TO THE FUTURE

In the forefront of these moves is Stalinism, acting in concert with German Imperialism, in an at-

Big Boost for War Machine and Plea For «National Unity» Indicate War Dictatorship Near

Shear Franklin Roosevelt's speech before the 76th Congress on January 3rd of all its demagoguery and wind, and it says just one thing: our main work in this coming period must be preparation for the imperialist war.

"We do not have to go to war with other nations", Mr. Roosevelt stated in one breath, and in another asked Congress "for army and navy increases which are based not on panic, but on common sense."

In one breath he condemned dictatorship abroad, and in another he proposed preparing one at home. "These words — national unity — must be made to have real meaning." He condemned doctrines which "set group against group, faith against faith, race against race, class against class." "We must combat them, as we would the plague."

"National unity" is precisely the phrase that Mussolini and Hitler use to describe their dictatorships. "National unity" is precisely the phrase that the French Government uses as an ex-

cuse to outlaw 242 working class organizations, including dozens of organizations, including dozens of trade unions.

A few days before the message was read Drew Pearson and Bob Allen, famous newspapermen who write "Washington Merry-go-round" predicted in their Sunday broadcast that Roosevelt would come out for sending all aliens who did not take out citizenship papers immediately, back to their home countries.

FRAME-UPS TO CONTINUE

Although Roosevelt did not include this point in his message, he made it clear that the government prosecution of labor unions and strikers will not only continue but be increased — for instance such frame-ups as the trials against 150 WPA strikers in Minneapolis; that the vast campaign against "aliens, spies, and reds", which was officially inaugurated last year will really be pushed in 1940 under the slogan of "national unity". The Roosevelt message makes the previous "limited emergency", decreed on the outbreak of war, a "permanent emergency".

Budget figures recommended by Roosevelt the next day, January 4th, were even more enlightening.

WPA will be cut by almost a half billion. Farm subsidies will be cut by 400 millions. Appropriations for youth will be cut by 72 million.

But — appropriations for national defense will go up by at least 750 million dollars — the biggest item on the budget; the bankers will get 50 million dollars more this year than last. One out of every four dollars will go for war.

The little handful of coupon clippers who own government bonds will get, it is interesting to note, one billion, one hundred million dollars this next year. But 15 million unemployed and their families will get only 150 million dollars more.

(continued on page 3)

FRENCH DEMOCRACY

Since September 26, 242 working class organizations have been dissolved by the French government, including just recently forty one trade unions.

tempt to disrupt the British Empire, especially the bulwark of that empire, India. The importance of this aid to Germany must not be underestimated. Hundreds of thousands of native and other British troops which might have been brought up to the front must be kept in India and other colonies to guard against possible

(Continued page 3)

STALINISTS AND BATISTA

February 19, 1940, there will be an election for Presidency in Cuba. The leading candidate is Fulgencio Batista, black-haired dictator of Cuba for many years, who seems to have the support of the American capitalist owners behind him.

Also supporting this brutal butcher are the Stalinites in Cuba, who have 80,000 votes behind them. Evidently this is the "new line" as applied to Cuba.

BUILDERS of the FUTURE

Never before has the youth of America been subjected to such high pressure war propaganda as they are today. Eagle-eye Roosevelt begins the parade when he sights German submarines off "our" coast line and throws the country into a war scare. Then there were and are the National Guards maneuvers at Mannassas, Va.; Plattsburg, N. Y. and other places that are played up in the boss press.

The movies are full of war propaganda. Super-patriotic pictures follow one after the other. "Twenty-Thousand Men A Year", "Thunder Afloat", "Nurse Edith Cavell", "Beasts of Berlin", "Torpedoed", "U-Boat 29", "Spirit of Culver", are just a few of the many that glorify some section of the armed services of American Imperialism. All this is part and parcel of an extensive and intensive recruiting drive that we exposed in detail in our December 1 column.

WAR MUSIC

The tentacles of American Imperialism spread even into the musical field. Taking advantage of their German and English rivals who are now fighting between themselves, the American bosses have grabbed the markets of these respective capitalist powers in South America. With this further extension of greedy Yankee Imperialism has come a wave of "Pan-American" unity propaganda under the leadership of Uncle Sam.

One way of popularizing this new grab is by getting the people in the U. S. to become Latin-America-conscious. Thus we see a veritable barrage of songs of dear old South America. "El Rancho Grande", "Down-Mexico Way", "South American Way" are songs that do the trick. And of course the radio programs all over the country are emphasizing Spanish music.

This must all sound so sweet to the leading members of the Puerto Rican National Revolutionary Party who are residing in the Alcatraz Federal Pen, convicted by a "good-neighbor" court of President Roosevelt of inciting the people of Puerto Rico to revolt against American rule.

And of course they — that is the powers that be — have a special task for the youth of America in connection with Latin America. They want us to die fighting against some other hijacker who may attempt to seize a bit of the South American market. They also want to use us as marines to make sure that the Wall Street interests — those who exploit us at home — retain their oppressive hold on the backward natives of the countries of the Western Hemisphere. This takes more than colossal nerve; it takes streamlined propaganda, which the bosses and their agents are using in substantial quantities nowadays.

Youth must ever be on the alert, ready to contest with every ounce of energy each attempt on the part of the bosses and their government to enlist them in a cause that is not theirs. At the same time youth must always be ready to fight for a cause that is to their interest, the cause of working class emancipation from capitalism and all the products that it vomits — unemployment, hunger, fascism and war. Let the voice of America's locked-cut generation challenge the propaganda of the bosses every inch of the way!

Was The CIO Progressive?

(Continued from last issue.)

Today the economic conditions for the class as a whole become worse; real wages decline, but political reforms mainly void of material concessions are replacing to an extent the economic reforms. These political reforms, which the social reformists call "political action", have nothing in common with **INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS POLITICAL ACTION** against the capitalists and their state. Capitalism in decline must use the state to grant the same reforms, to check the same type of independent working class action, that individual capitalists could grant yesterday. The effect of political, as well as economic, reforms, however, is the same — it ties the workers more firmly to capitalism.

THE UNIONS VS THE CLASS COLLABORATION LEADERS.

Because the reforms are being narrowed, are being limited in the United States, there are those who say that the trade unions have outlived their usefulness and are of no value, or that they are only reactionary instruments used against the class. This ultra-left and syndicalist position confuses changing class relations with the organization, the trade union.

Today the trade unions, in the hands of the class — collaboration leadership are reaching the dead-end as an instrument that can wrest further reforms and maintain a living condition for its members. Even the nice worded "political" reforms without material substances are becoming threadbare. Class relations have changed due to the crisis and decline. The imperialist war in the end will only aggravate this condition. To confuse this class collaboration and gangster leadership with the union, the organization, is fatal for our class interests. The unions, even reactionary controlled unions are instruments of the working class. A brief contrast between a Company Union and a trade union controlled by reactionaries reveals this. The Company Union must be destroyed. The trade union on the other hand must merely oust the reactionary leadership.

INTERNATIONALISM

Yesterday the bosses said that the trade union was the product of the damn foreigners and used this argument to line up many American born workers for the bosses American (open shop) Plan. Since the first world war conditions in the country have changed. Whole layers of the American born workers are up to their necks in the trade unions. Now they have a new argument to divide the workers. They say the "reds" are agents of foreign countries and we must have pure "American" unions. It is simple to answer these fake arguments if one will just stop and think.

Workers are above all opposed to their OWN exploiters. Don't let them talk about some danger overseas. The bosses at home are picking our pockets. We are opposed to the exploiters. And we are for driving ALL agents of the bosses out of the trade unions. Most of the bosses-agents are not foreign born; or have connections of any importance in other countries; most of them are 100% Americans; that is 100% for the boss.

WAS THE C. I. O. A PROGRESSIVE STEP?

After the 1929 crisis, with millions of unemployed, the OBJECTIVE conditions were responsible for a gigantic mass movement toward organization and for a great series of strikes. But the momentum for this movement came not from the craft workers. New labor saving machinery has been eliminating the skilled worker from his former importance. And the new mass production industries with their large numbers of semi-skilled and unskilled workers, have become the center of gravity of the labor movement. The workers, therefore, drove towards industrial unionism.

But where in 1905, when the original I. W. W. was in the field, workers and leaders who believed in class struggle were united in a powerful movement; in the thirties the class struggle elements were disunited and in confusion due to the many defeats on a world scale and the scourge of Stalinism in their ranks. The Trotskyites played their role of treachery by making a turn and liquidating into the Second International at this point, thus further weakening what few forces there were that could help answer the problem.

But the capitalists and their agents were not asleep. It is true that people like Bill Green and Matthew Woll did not understand or foresee the rumble of class storms. But the New Deal forces, and their office boy, John L. Lewis, clearly understood it. So, Lewis, the arch reactionary who broke more strikes than any other labor leader, "changed" his spots and became the leader of the movement for industrial unions. Under the domination of the New Deal state apparatus, an agent of the capitalists with plenty of money stole a march on the revolutionists and others who believed in the class struggle.

All the "labor leaders" who claim to stand for the class struggle immediately joined the Lewis bandwagon. They all, from the Trotskyite lefts to the Stalinite rights, covered up their sell-out with the argument that LEWIS WAS ORGANIZING INDUSTRIAL INSTEAD OF CRAFT UNIONS. They confused class relations and class motion with leaders and organizations. They didn't understand that it was the mass of workers themselves who were fighting and demanding industrial unions; that new conditions demanded new instruments; and that Lewis was jumping to the head of this giant movement in order to behead it, to see to it that it didn't jump the capitalist traces. These "lefts" made no distinction between the CIO leadership and Policies and the Union itself.

The movement of the working class beyond the confines of the narrow craft AFL unions into industrial unions was progressive. So was the big organization drive and the gigantic strike movement. But these developments occurred **despite** Lewis. The CONTROL of the movement by the agents of the "democratic" capitalists, Lewis and his friends, the canalizing of the movement into class collaboration channels, was reactionary.

It is quite true that the CIO has engaged in many strikes of a militant nature. But the A. F. L. in the past also engaged in many important strikes. This does not mean, however, that the CIO leadership is progressive, any more than the Gompers-Green leadership or program is progressive. It is the CLASS PRESSURE of the workers from below BREAKING THROUGH THE CONTROL OF THE BUROCRATS that is progressive. The class collaboration leaders are forced to go along with these class actions in order to sell out at the right moment, to stab the movement in the back. That is precisely what the Lewis leadership did. Note the auto strikes in 1936, '37, '39; the miners strike in 1939, etc.

Does this mean, then, that revolutionists should boycott the CIO, refuse to join it, or work within it? No. We are just as opposed to this policy, as the opportunist policy of giving support to Lewis and Co. We must work in reactionary trade unions, no matter who is at the head. We join and work within that union in which the majority of the organized workers are in, whether AFL, CIO, the Brotherhoods or an independent union.

Concretely in relation to the CIO, we advocate the following: Enter the movement of the masses. Help organize them and see to it that the workers in each local, in each industrial union retain RANK AND FILE CONTROL OF THE UNION. Fight all and sundry who present a CLASS COLLABORATION POLICY. That means in the CIO, fight against Lewis and Co.

The axis of the fight, however, must be a positive program of class struggle, a fight against the boss. But the fight against the boss is possible only by fighting on two fronts, against the boss on the one hand, and his agents **within** the labor movement on the other. When Lewis and his cronies support the class collaboration policy and fight the class struggle line, revolutionists must expose them. Organize a Progressive Group within the CIO on this basis.

That is precisely the program that the Stalinites, Trotskyites, Socialists and Lovestoneites rejected in the CIO.

(Next issue: A Positive Program in the Trade Unions)

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THE FIGHTING WORKER

Vol. 5 No. 2

Whole No. 48

Central Organ of the
Revolutionary Workers League, U. S.

(Affiliated to the provisional International Contact Commission
for a New Communist (4th) International).

published twice a month by
The Fighting Worker Publishing Company
1904 Division St., Chicago, Ill.
Subscriptions: Fifty cents per year

**THE INDEPENDENCE OF FINLAND
AND HOW TO ACHIEVE IT**

(Continued from page 1)

nerheim-Social Democratic agents of world imperialism. They must fight for the DEFEAT of "their own" capitalist army; they must strive to turn this war against the Soviet Union into a war first of all against their own bourgeoisie. They must fight to establish an Autonomous Finnish SOVIET Republic, WITHIN the broader federation, the U. S. S. R.

What about Stalinism, then, many people will ask. Shall the Finnish people submit to the yoke of the Stalinite bureaucracy? The Revolutionary Workers League answered this question long ago. The Finnish workers can and must depend only on their own independent working class action, building of their own soviets, their own workers militia, their own workers control of production. Submission to Stalinism, to the fake Kuusinen government, can mean only an immediate arrest of the further development of revolution. The Finnish workers must march separately from, but strike together with the stalinist-controlled Red Army, to defeat Finnish Capitalism and to use this new base to develop the political revolution against Stalinism within the Soviet Union itself.

Where Messrs. Burnham, Stamm et al are for marching separately and striking together with the Finnish capitalists, AGAINST the Workers State, we Marxists are for marching separately and striking together with the Red Army against the capitalists of Finland and elsewhere. Two opposite roads.

The experience of an independent Soviet in Finland stretching out its arms to the workers in the Red Army will be an impetus and incentive to start the rank and file of the Red Army and the Russian workers on the road to political revolution against Stalinism.

Despite all the lies of the bourgeois press about the Finnish workers support of Messrs. Ryti and Mannerheim and International Nickel, the truth is that these workers can be roused to building Soviets only on the basis of a struggle against their own bourgeoisie, for the defeat of their own capitalist army, overthrow of Stalinism and the extension of the October Revolution — not on any fake capitalist program of "independence."

TWO WARS IN ONE

The war in Europe, now in its fifth month, has slowed down to a walk on the military front. But behind the scenes in the business and political world there is feverish activity.

German capitalists and French capitalists are still doing business with each other. Four million tons of coal were sold by Germany to France and 6 million tons of steel were sold by French capitalists to Germany only recently via Belgium, which acted as intermediary for the deal. M. De Wendel, head of the Comite De Forges continues to collect profits on both sides of the trenches, from his investments in Germany as well as France. The Vickers-Krupp cartel in munitions is functioning today as yesterday, although more secretly. Just as in the first World War both warring sides have an agreement not to bomb the factories and mills in Alsace-Lorraine or in the Saar Basin.

The capitalists of France and Germany, who are willing to kill off millions of men for their profits are absolutely agreed not to harm a penny's worth of their big factories.

But all this is only one side of the war. The other side is more important. For if the war on the Siegfried and Maginot lines is only marking time, the war against

**Argentina Bans
«Marxist»**

Postal authorities of the Republic of Argentina have informed the Revolutionary Workers League that "The Marxist", former theoretical organ of the League, in the future, be banned from circulation or mail in that country. "The Marxist" is now combined with the "International News", organ of the International Contact Commission. A publication by the same name, however, is being put out by the Revolutionary Communists in central Europe, who are also affiliated to the I. C. C.

A letter of protest has been sent to the Argentina authorities. All working class organizations are asked to add their voice of protest to ours.

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proletarian and colonial revolution has taken on great momentum.

It is an actual fact that Great Britain has three times as many soldiers to check the revolution in India as she has on the Maginot line. And it is safe to say that just as the Loyalists in Spain kept their best equipment behind the lines to check any independent working class action, even though it was sorely needed at the front, so too in the present war, increasing amounts of men, munitions and money will be kept behind the lines to fight the real danger to Britain, France and Germany, the workers and oppressed colonials.

NOTES Of The RWL

N. Y. MEETING

A successful meeting on the Cleveland Relief Crisis was held by the New York comrades of the Revolutionary Workers League at Irving Plaza Hall. The speaker was Pearl Weiss, a member of the Cleveland Association of Unemployed on Direct and Work Relief.

K. C. FORUMS

The Kansas City "Workers Forum" is going bigger and better as the season progresses, according to reports received by the FIGHTING WORKER. Each Wednesday nite active and leading trade unionists address the Forum at 541 Minnesota Avenue on the Kansas side, on national and international problems.

PHILLY CLASS

A new class, meeting every Thursday nite at the Southwest corner of 5th and Monroe in Philadelphia, has been or-

**Roosevelt Asks Cuts
for Jobless; Big
Increase for War**

(Continued from page 1)

RAW DEAL

The New Deal gets rawer and rawer each year. When Roosevelt came to power, despite the severity of the depression, capitalism in the U. S. could still grant important reforms to the working class in order to stave off class-consciousness and revolution. Today after 7 short years, despite the fact that capitalism has again reached 1929 production levels in the U. S. because of war production, it is encumbered with a gigantic debt and is no longer able or willing to grant reforms.

The speeches by Roosevelt indicate also that the left pressure of the working class plays only a small role in the deliberations of the capitalist masters. Under the leadership of Green, Lewis, Thomas, Browder and Company, they have been able to safely canalize the pressure of the working class.

**WORKERS CONTROL OF
PRODUCTION**

The only effective answer to Roosevelt's plea for "national unity", is the independent working class struggle today for Workers Control of Production for Use.

Answer national unity with the demand for: All War Funds to the Unemployed, trade union wages for all unemployed on either

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direct or work relief.

Answer national unity with a giant movement for workers defense squads to fight vigilante groups and government elimination of civil liberties.

Answer national unity by creating the instruments today of WORKERS UNITY, organize progressive groups in all trade unions on a class struggle program; organize councils of worker delegates from factories, railroads, mines, mills, etc.

Above all, build a new Marxist Party in the United States. Refuse to support the two big capitalist parties or the new third party of capitalism, the Labor Party.

**COLONIAL
UNREST**

(Continued from Page 1)

revolts. Both recruitment and other material aid from the colonies must wait until the tide of opposition is stemmed.

German Imperialism and Stalinism go along with the unrest and stir it up. But they will fight like demons to stop the Indian and other masses from making a social revolution. They seek to have the masses throw off the yoke of British Imperialism and disrupt the British war plans. While Stalinism and Germany each has its own ends in mind, their present course in the long run serves the interests of American Imperialism, who will step in as the only power strong enough to replace British domination.

Within the British Empire Stalinism has taken the lead in working for the defeat of England in the present war; and within Germany the Social-Democrats are working for the defeat of Germany. But both forms of defeatism really have nothing in common with "revolutionary defeatism," which aims at the overthrow of capitalism. Both the Stalinites and the Social-Democrats are merely working for the overthrow of the present governments in England and Germany, to establish "friendly" capitalist governments, not for a new social order, not for an end to the capitalist system of wars and starvation.

and H. Robbins.

TRANSFERRED TO CHICAGO

Allan Willis, young Negro comrade from Washington, has been assigned to work in Chicago under the Political Committee. Following several trips of Johnson of the Trotskyites to Washington, this comrade joined the Trotsky group because he felt the need of doing Negro work, despite his basic political disagreements. After a few months he realized his error and re-applied for membership in the League. The comrade has quit his job and made a number of personal sacrifices to come to Chicago.

NEW YORK LECTURE

Following the successful meeting for comrade Weiss of Cleveland, the New York unit of the R. W. L. has organized a meeting for Comrade Jules Lorenz on January 14th, 8:30 P. M. at Irving Plaza Hall. The subject will be: "Stalin's Adventure in Finland."

Negro Ghetto Makes Owners Rich

Chicago, Jan. 5 — Work is finally well under way on the 8 million dollar Ida B. Wells South Side housing project, after four years of delay in which the agents of the South Side Chicago landlords used every possible legal trick, both in the City Council and the courts of Chicago, to prevent or halt its construction.

This step by the Chicago housing authority, in conjunction with the Federal housing authority, falls considerably short in alleviating conditions that the South Side Negro workers are forced to live under. The Ida B. Wells project will only accommodate 1,622 families in the low income brackets, while 75% of the 260,000 Negroes in Chicago receive less than \$1,000 a year in wages.

Because of this low income congestion is great. The average number of occupants for a Negro dwelling is twice that of the general population — or 70,000 Negroes per square mile to 32,500 whites per square mile.

RESTRICTIVE COVENANT

South Side absentee landlords

and their agents have circulated the insidious lie that if Negro people were allowed to live in other sections real estate values would depreciate. The real reason, of course, is to keep the Negro tenants at their mercy — high rents — by segregating them in ghettos.

A survey by the Chicago Defender revealed that the Negro people are paying up to 40% more rent for the same or inferior facilities. The press recently exposed the fact that C. A. Sahlberg advised prospective buyers of his property on the South Side to rent to Negro people, so it would be possible to double the rent and pay for the property in half the time.

The talk about depreciating real estate values is just a smoke screen to cover up the large rents exacted from Negro Workers by creating an artificial housing shortage.

The solution of the South Side housing problem is for the tenants, both Negro and White, to organize into a strong union and strike against the high rents and the poor living facilities and restrictive covenants.



Pacifist Youth Meet

Over Christmas vacation 180 delegates to the annual congress of the Youth Committee Against War met and wrote a milk and water program designed to put a halt to the onrush of the American Bosses toward involvement in the European war.

The Congress, an amalgam of Socialists and church-going pacifists, met on a program that has as much chance of stopping the U. S. from sending workers to be slaughtered for boss profits, as a snowball has of existing in hell.

The program fails to explain that war is necessary for the continuance of the profit system, and it neglects to point out that the only method of fighting against war is the class struggle and civil war to end the system.

International News

Central Organ

International Contact Commission

January Issue

Statement of the Revolutionary Communists of Germany endorsing 14 Points and supporting the Contact Commission.

Aspects of Marxist Strategy The Agrarian Question in Mexico

The struggle for Asia

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words, the sell-out is now legal.

The decision means just what it says, political freedom is only a phrase to be found in school books. The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks is more interested in the insurance business and dead members than protecting the rights of the living members. The capitalist state has rubber stamped the iron heel of the unions and the railroads, and the democratic fig-leaf has not been disturbed.

The far reaching effects of this decision are enormous. The labor movement will be quietly purged of all minority and progressive ideas by the "friends" and "leaders" of labor, if COLLECTIVE SELLOUT is not fought.

LENIN, LIEBKNECHT, LUXEMBURG MEETING

Sunday, January 21, 8:30 P. M. 1904 W. Division Street. Chicago.

Speakers Hugo Oehler, H. Robbins

For meetings in other cities get in touch with local comrades.

Starve Ohio Jobless to Further Political Ambitions

New Crisis Near in Cleveland

Cleveland Jan. 3. — A new relief crisis is expected sometime in January. It is safe to say that the new crisis, just like the old one which ended December 11th after 3 weeks, in a victory for the unemployed and their militant organization, the Association of Unemployed on Direct and Work Relief — will follow the pattern of the old. It will be just a three way political football between Mayor Burton, Governor Bricker, and President Roosevelt.

Roosevelt offered recently to set up soup kitchens in Ohio under army control, unless the crisis was met. This was obviously a direct blast at the presidential aspirations of Governor Bricker. What is really involved in the last and the coming crises is not any financial emergency, but the Presidential aspirations of Roosevelt and Bricker, and the Senatorial aspirations of Mayor Burton; with Roosevelt throwing

his support to Republican Burton, who is at loggerheads with Republican Bricker.

STARVATION RAMPANT

A recent survey of the conditions in Cleveland during the last crisis by the American Association of Social Workers gives the lie to Mayor Burton's and Governor Bricker's speeches that no one is going hungry. Ten people were so hungry they actually attempted suicide. Cases were reported of people trying to subsist on a couple of onions. Hundreds were threatened with eviction.

In the lull between crises Burton is now busy making cases against relief clients and grocery owners for not spending their relief money correctly. This is obviously a frame-up to direct the thoughts of the masses to "chiselers" instead of the real issue — the ever-recurring crisis in Cleveland and the starvation of thousands,

NEGROES LEAVING STALINITES

By Simon Williamson

Recently a sizeable group of Negro members of the Stalinist-controlled Negro People's Committee for Spanish Refugees, of which Paul Robeson is International chairman, revolted against the Stalinist bureaucracy. Immediately the party hierarchy replied with the big stick, threat of dissolution of the group. The white representatives of the parent organization (the committee for the care of Spanish Refugees, all Stalinist) told the Negro division that it would be broken up before its members would be allowed to condemn the Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact and trade alliance.

Prior to the beginning of the rift many Negro members of the committee had contended that their group was Stalinist controlled. They were assured by their leaders that the group was free of politics. So when the Stalinists took the bull by the horn, so to speak, and demanded that they stop criticizing Stalin and Hitler, the discontented faction said to their glib comrades, "We told you so."

Dr. Herman F. Reissig, executive secretary of the Spanish Refugee Campaign, which sponsored the Negro group, issued the order that the Negro members refrain from speaking unfavorably about Hitler's and Stalin's doings in Europe or face automatic expulsion from the main body.

LEADERS RESIGN

Mr. Lester B. Granger of the National Urban League, and Miss Murray, who once tried to force entry into the University of North Carolina, the two Negro leaders, resigned from the group in protest against the bureaucracy. Mr. Granger who is national chairman of the Negro People's Committee, and Miss Pauli Murray who was the national secretary of the Negro group were the only paid Negro officials. The resignations of the recalcitrant officials were brought to the attention of the executive board, upon which were such prominent Negro leaders and educators as A. Philip Randolph, Elmer Anderson Carter, Dr. Max Yergan, Mrs. Mary McLeod Beth-

une, Marian Cuthbert, Thyra J. Edwards, the Rev. William Lloyd Imes and a number of others of lesser influence.

Granger later reconsidered his resignation and agreed to accept the discipline of the parent group, but told reporters that he would resign again if the committee fails to make itself clear on the Nazi-Soviet issue. Lust for the wages given him by the group appears to have caused the withdrawal of his resignation. Mrs. Bethune, on the other hand, is perturbed over the fact that the Stalinists have been able to use her and other noted Negroes as fronts.

Meanwhile, there is a widespread whispering campaign going on in Negro Harlem about the "marriage of Hitler and Stalin" and the reaction is expected to be a large exodus of the two hundred remaining Negroes in the Harlem Branch of the Communist Party.

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Worker Fired for Political Views In «Collective Sell-Out»

Kansas City, January 5, 1940— Arthur Roberts of Kansas City, Kansas, Socialist candidate in 1934 for State Senator, in 1935 for Mayor, and in 1936 for U. S. Representative, was the victim of collective bargaining (collective sell-out) in a decision handed down by the National Railroad Adjustment Board recently. Roberts broke with the S. P. sometime ago because of its reformist policies.

He was formerly employed by the Missouri Pacific R. R. as a clerk for 18 years and was a member of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks for the same period. The Union and the company were in perfect agreement and struck a mutual bargain in pushing Roberts out of the job.

In April 1938 Roberts was approached by J. C. Wall, Local Chairman of the BRC and advised to get off a particular job and take another, because of his political views. Roberts refused. Pressure was then applied. He was brought before the Superintendent of the company, M. F. Weeks, and the same advice again given.

Still more pressure: the General Chairman of the BRC, Ira Thomas, was brought in from St. Louis, to give the same advice and received a still more firm refusal from Roberts. All this occurred before Roberts was granted a hearing. Coming events cast their shadows before them. Charges were rigged up and the trial date was set, May 2, 1938.

Roberts was charged with using company time for personal and private business. His record was ransacked, but the Railroad was unable to present one bit of evidence to sustain the charges. He was accused of giving some (unnamed) literature to the Superintendent, Weeks, on March 22, 1938. The evidence was conspicuous by its absence. Not as much as a scrap of paper was offered. It was a case of the "truthful" words of the superintendent against that of Roberts. Roberts was discharged.

From that time on, for over a year and a half, the Union gave Roberts the merry run around. Roberts appealed to Ira Thomas, chief bargainer of the Union, BRC. Thomas conferred with the General Manager of the Missouri Pacific in St. Louis. They made a bargain to let Roberts return to work on probation for a period of six months. If at the end of that time his conduct justified it, he would be reinstated with full seniority rights. (They would be the judge.)

The trap was baited. If Roberts returned to work it would be an admission of guilt and it would be easy to frame new and bigger charges against him. So he rejected this "settlement" and exerted his right of appeal to the General Board of Adjustment of the B. R. C.

A UNITED FRONT

This board, however, not only sustained the boss but added a new charge, that of "resigning" to the old charges. Then followed appeals to the executive board of the Grand Lodge of the BRC, then to George M. Harrison, Grand President of the BRC, with the same results. They refused to fight this case out, a case involving civil liberties. Roberts, they said, had resigned.

Francis Heisler, attorney in Chicago, became interested in the case and was successful in getting a hearing before the National Railroad Adjustment Board. They merely put their stamp of approval on the sell-out.

Their decision stated that "such officer of the carrier met in conference with the designated and authorized representative of the employees interested in the dispute, and such representatives of the carrier and the employees, respectively, proceeded to consider and decide the claim and dispute in conformity with the provisions of the Railway Labor Act; that as a result of such conference, the duly designated and authorized representatives of the carrier and of the employees, respectively, agreed upon a settlement and dispositions of said claim and dispute". In other