

THE FIGHTING WORKER

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UNITE!

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CONGRESS IGNORES WORKERS NEEDS

U.S. Trade Blow Causes Crisis in Japan

January 18 — Pressure of American Imperialism in Japan was a powerful force in the resignation of the Abe cabinet and the installation of the new Mitsumasa Yonai cabinet.

The cabinet crises in Japan reveals most clearly the role of the United States in the present war crisis. If the other imperialist powers are forced to take military action to gain new markets, it is only because the U. S. is so powerful that it is constantly taking away markets from the other powers.

On January 26 the long standing trade agreement with Japan will expire. Unless Japan can gain a new agreement it will mean that all her exports into the United States will be taxed much higher, and she will lose a vital market for her goods. What is worse, she will not be able to pay for the munitions and various materials she has been buying from the U. S. to conduct her military campaign in China. In fact more than half of her war imports come from Uncle Sam — even though the good uncle is so outraged over the "bombing of innocent children in China".

DOLLAR IN CHINA

In addition the strain of a naval race with the U. S. and British Navies to build bigger and better murder boats, together with the cost of war in China, is creating a severe economic crisis. The new cabinet is trying to achieve what the old could not — try to call off the armament race and save Japanese economy.

In return for the continuation of the old treaty the United States is demanding greater rights for the American dollar in China. The bargaining between the two pow-

ers over this point is now in full swing, and the new cabinet, just like the old, is willing to make great concessions to the U. S.

PREDICTED U. S. ROLE

If a new trade treaty is signed with Japan it will be a big victory for American Imperialism. This is what the State Department demands. Otherwise trade with Japan, although continuing at a high level will be handled by United States in such a way as to create further pressure against

Japan.

More than a year ago the FIGHTING WORKER predicted that despite the military victory of Japan in China, it will be either the dollar of Uncle Sam or the pound sterling of John Bull which will have the last word. Events are now proving this point most conclusively. The pressure of the United States in the ECONOMIC sphere is more powerful than many good-sized armies. Because of her economic strength the U. S. can gain new territories and spheres of influence, can oppress colonial peoples, without recourse to war just yet — as Japan and others must.

This does not mean, of course, that Uncle Sam will not go to war, or is averse to the same things that Japan is now doing in Asia.

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War Raises Production Above 1929 Level, but 12 Million Still Jobless

The gentlemen of both Houses have accepted in principle Roosevelt's plans for a big boost in war appropriations and "economy" in the rest of the budget — cuts in relief for farmers, youth, and especially the unemployed.

For the rest of the session we will be treated in a large measure to manouvers and record-building in order to put before the people the "issues" of the 1940 presidential elections. And for this 22 million dollars will be mulcted from the treasury to keep Congress in session.

The main problem before the

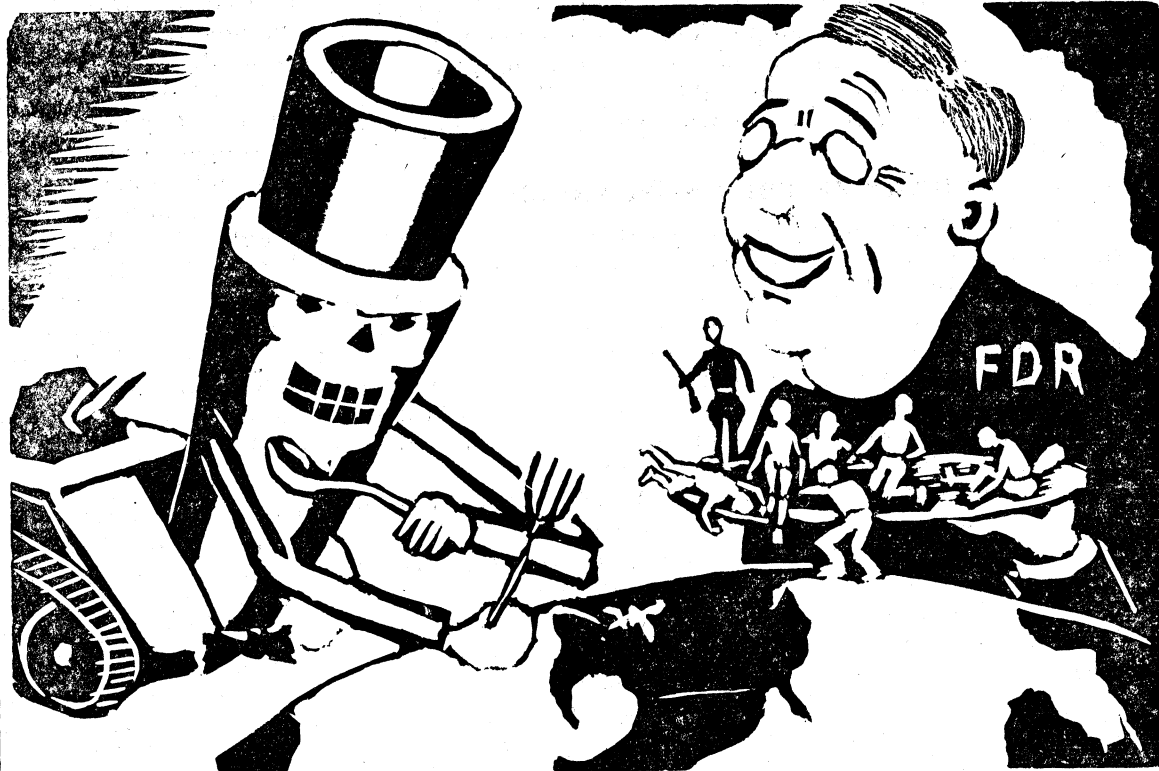
American masses is not even being voiced in Congress. It is being hidden in the newspapers on back pages in three inch stories. The fact is, however, that production in the United States in the latter part of 1939 and now 1940 WAS HIGHER THAN EVER BEFORE IN HISTORY, including 1929. Nevertheless at least 10 or 12 million people were still unemployed. Millions were only working part time. The worst year of starvation in postwar history is just over and we are entering a new year which, from all indications, will be no better than the last one.

CONGRESS DOESN'T CARE

But this doesn't interest the gentlemen in the White House or in Congress. THEIR problems are for the time being solved. THEIR needs, the needs of big business, the need for war preparations and the billions of dollars in subsidies to the shipowners, airplane builders, banks, etc., have been taken care of.

The fight now is "who shall be the leading puppet for Messrs. Morgan, Rockefeller, Ford and Du Pont, for the coming 4 years." The various groups that aspire to this task are "exposing" each other. Congress is for them today only a forum to push their political ambitions. On most

(Continued page 3)



MR. ROOSEVELT FINDS A USE FOR THE "FORGOTTEN MAN."

Browder Trial Cover for anti-Labor Drive

Earl Browder, head of the Stalinites in America, is on trial as we go to press, on charges of travelling around the world on a false passport. Many so-called radicals state they have no interest in the case because Browder supports the Stalin-Hitler pact and the "invasion of Finland."

Browder's crimes against the working class, it is true, would fill volumes of books. But the fact is that the present capitalist attack is directed not only against Browder and Stalinism but against the whole labor movement. The public hysteria against Stalinism which they label Communism is intended to divide the working class and to act as a smokescreen for war preparations, WPA cuts and a lowered standard of living.

The trial of Browder is part of this campaign. It must be smashed if the drive against labor that is behind it is to be smashed too. The Revolutionary Workers League will help fight all such cases on a class struggle basis.

Free Hams to Atone 91 Murders

Ninety-one miners are dead. The attempt to rescue them was plastered all over the front pages. Their death is announced in a short four paragraph note on the inside pages. One hundred and fifty children have been left fatherless. The explosion in the Bartley, W. Va., mine of the Pond Creek Pocahontas Coal corporation killed most of the men in their tracks, didn't even give them a chance.

As a gesture of its sympathy the company "distributed pay envelopes to families of the dead... and sent them hams from the company commissary". How touching! The company gave the widows and orphans a FREE ham! Every year dozens of miners die in similar accid-

ents. Every year the coal companies presumably give the widows FREE hams to compensate for the death, and then go right on refusing to install safety devices in their mines, refusing to take necessary precautions to safeguard the lives of the miners.

Every year dozens of miners die of "miner's" asthma — silicosis — from breathing the coal dust year after year. But do the companies do anything about it? No, they wait till the miners are dead — and then send their families FREE hams.

COLD BLOODED MURDER

The death of the 91 miners is no accident. The death

(Continued on page 4)

NEW «UNITY» OFFER

A proposal for still another "unity" conference by the Stamm Revolt Group has again been turned down by the R. W. L. The League replied to Stamm reiterating that it was willing to negotiate for unity with any organization willing to accept the 14 Point Programmatic Declaration of the International Contact Commission as the basis for such a unity.

This is the fourth proposal made by Stamm to various groups in the United States to "forget" their fundamental differences and "unite", in view of the war danger. While the RWL is anxious to unite more forces on a Marxist basis into one strong organization, it recognizes that unity on the basis that Stamm proposes must lead inevitably either to further splits, or what is worse, the establishment of a new center for demoralization and defeats, a new centrist grouping.

NEW HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK

The New York comrades of the League report that they have acquired a new headquarters at 108 E. 14 St.

Among the activities arranged at the new quarters are: a lecture — class to be held every Friday at 8 P. M. on the present imperialist war; and a housewarming party on Saturday February 10th.

The class schedule includes:

January 26—Lenin, Liebknecht, Luxemburg — speaker, Esther Roland.

February 2—The U. S. prepares for War — speaker, J. Bertman.

February 9 — the centrists ponder over the character of the Soviet Union — speaker Jim Strong.

February 16 — Culture in the Service of the War-Mongers — speaker, Esther Roland.

February 23 — The prospects for Trade Union Unity — speaker, J. Bertman.

TWO NEW CLASSES

Two new classes under the auspices of the Current Events Circle, a group sympathetic to the principles of the R. W. L., have been organized in Chicago. The subject for both classes will be: "The History of the Three Internationals", and they will be led by comrades Hugo Oehler and Sid Okun.

Comrades who wish to attend the classes should get in touch with Karl Heller, 1904 Division St., organizer of the C.E.C.

PLENUM IN APRIL

The eighth plenum of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Workers League will take place in Cleveland during the month of April. On the agenda are: "Imperialist War and Revolutionary Defeatism", "Defense of the Soviet Union and the struggle against Stalinism", "Toward mass work in the U. S.", "organization", and a number of sub-reports.

HAVE YOU READ?

STALIN-HITLER PACT AND THE IMPERIALIST WAR

5 cents each

A PROGRAM FOR THE TRADE UNIONS

(Continued from last issue.)

TRADE UNION UNITY

Ever since the split in the A. F. of L. the New Deal has been working ceaselessly for re-unification. No one recognized better than the leader of the New Deal that there is no difference in principle that separates the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. Of course Roosevelt has his eye on the 1940 elections; he wants the whole labor vote for his particular candidate.

But more important than the election, Roosevelt is thinking of the role of American Imperialism in the present war. No country can fight an imperialist war effectively with labor divided at home. In order to get the most out of the war for the Wall Street crowd the New Deal must see to it that the class struggle is squelched. In that it is assured of the help of both the AFL and CIO leaderships. But, jurisdictional fights between these two agents of imperialism, Lewis and Green, can prove very costly. Roosevelt must eliminate this danger.

The New Deal wants unity in order to check the trade unions and line them up behind the Wall Street war plans. But the militants in the unions must reject this type of unity. They must demand and fight for a different type of unity; unity based on an INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE and a CLASS STRUGGLE POLICY; unity based on rank and file control, with a leadership that will lead the militant battles of the working class, instead of collaborating and selling out to the bosses.

There can be no compromise with the class collaborationist, reactionary or racketeer leaders. To build a union to win a strike, to fight the boss, means to fight the agents of the boss in our ranks, the class collaborationists, at the same time. Any trade union functionary who does not understand this cannot serve the interests of the union members.

To achieve this type of unity, the progressives in each union, regardless of their present political affiliations, must organize themselves in each local, in each union locally and nationally — regardless of whether A. F. L., C. I. O., or independent — on a common class struggle program. Unification must be accomplished on the general program outlined above as well as on the concrete tasks that confront the workers in each shop, mine and mill.

ORGANIZE THE UNORGANIZED

The job of organizing the unorganized will depend in the main on the progressives. That must be a pivot in their agitation within the union. People like Bill Green refuse to organize millions of workers who are not skilled craftsmen. Lewis refuses to organize the millions of unemployed workers because that means a fight against the New Deal, — because there's not enough dues in it for him. Only the progressives can really do the job of organizing the 30 million unorganized American workers.

All attempts to create a cleavage within the union, to divide one worker from another, must be fought viciously by the progressives. Such things as Jim Crowism must be smashed if the union is to have real democracy. Discrimination against the Negro worker can only weaken the working class as a whole, can only serve to divide its ranks and create a fertile ground for scabbing.

Special attention, too, must be given to problems of

R. W. L. TO DEBATE S. U. P.

The New York comrades of the Revolutionary Workers League have accepted the proposal of the Socialist Union Party, De Leonist organization, to debate on the subject: "Dictatorship of the Proletariat." Comrade Bertman will defend the need for the Dictatorship of the Proletariat against the concepts of the De Leonists.

The exact date of the debate will be announced later.

Just Out

SECOND EDITION

THE WORKERS ANSWER TO BOSS WAR

PRICE 5 CENTS

FOR A NEW COMMUNIST

(4th) INTERNATIONAL

the youth, women workers, foreign-born workers, etc.

With permanent mass unemployment, the role of the youth, when they do enter industry, is of vital importance. The youth will make the best fighting union members once they are taught their class interests.

Under present conditions young workers, Negroes, female workers and others are used to batter down the living standards of the rest of the working class. All the more reason why the progressives must take up the fight for these sections of the class and win them to working class solidarity.

One of the main tricks of the boss agents is to divide the Negro and white workers, the foreign-born and native workers, the male and female workers, youth and "oldsters", Jew and Gentile, etc. All these forms of discrimination and race hatred must be burned out of the trade union movement wherever they rear their heads. Most likely we will find them behind the American flag — under such slogan, for instance, as "America for the Americans."

With 14 or 15 million unemployed and with part time work (starvation) so widespread, the unemployed problem constitutes today a special and extremely vital problem. The trade unions in fighting for less hours of work and increased wages can win only if they have unity with the unemployed. The low relief and WPA standards for the unemployed tends to lower the wages of the whole working class. Unity with the unemployed is therefore much more than just an attempt to use the jobless so they will not scab for the boss. The unions must open the books to the unemployed, must exempt them from dues, must organize central bodies of unions and unemployed organizations to work out joint action for their common ends in every city.

WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION FOR USE.

Above all the progressive elements must take into account the special situation confronting the working class TODAY, the condition of capitalist decay, unemployment, war. The struggle merely for day to day demands by themselves is today worse than valueless. The day to day struggle for class gains can be of value only on the basis of connecting these demands with the ultimate demands through a broad fundamental issue that touches the very heart of exploitation and unemployment and imperialist war. The connecting link of the immediate demands with the class objective must be the struggle TOWARDS WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION FOR USE under a workers government. He who does not point out that the struggle for immediate demands is necessarily limited and narrow at the present time is only deluding the workers. The struggle must be given a much broader perspective. That is what the concept of Workers Control of Production for Use attempts to achieve.

Concretely, the struggle for Workers Control of Production for Use will take on many forms, forms which can not be predicted or "blue-printed". But as a key part of the process the Progressives must work to establish working class organs that will lay the basis for Workers Control of Production in the future — workers defense squads, democratically elected shop committees, councils, etc. The real solution along this line will only be realized when the workers establish a WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT, a government of the workers and oppressed masses against the exploiter's rule; that will spring out of the shop and factory committees, by their duly elected representatives. Only under their own government can the workers really control production. It is impossible to talk of the solution of the problems that confront the trade union movement without taking steps to abolish the exploitation of man by man, steps toward a system of production for use instead of production for profit.

(Next issue: "The Shop Committees and the Revolutionists")

THE BATTLE CRY TO UNITE REACTION IS THE DEFENSE OF FINLAND AND DEFEAT OF THE RED ARMY

FOR THE DEFEAT OF THE FINNISH BOURGEOISIE AND FOR THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION IN FINLAND!

FOR A POLITICAL REVOLUTION AGAINST STALINISM AND OTHER COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ELEMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION!

Russian Question Creates Havoc in Trotskyites

Shachtman Position Rests On Trotsky Centrist Line

Pressure of the second imperialist war and especially the Stalinist invasion of Poland, has hit hard the United States Trotskyites: the Socialist Workers Party is now in the midst of a sharp struggle on the Russian question, together with a vicious organizational fight between the major factions.

There are three main positions among the leadership. First, the position of Trotsky, endorsed on faith by the Cannon group; second, the Burnham position, which although "withdrawn" is now held by many Trotskyites, and which holds that the Soviet Union is not a workers state and calls for revolutionary defeatism against the USSR. The third position is half-way between these two. It is neither fish nor fowl; it does not state what the Soviet Union is or is not, but speaks of "imperialism", and calls for "defeat" of the Red Army in its invasions of Poland and Finland. Its leader is Shachtman.

In a letter dated December 15, Trotsky characterizes the Shachtman-Burnham-Abern opposition as a "typical petty-bourgeois tendency". In this he is undoubtedly 100% correct. The seemingly "left words of Shachtman are only a cover for his move to the right. The position for the defeat of the Soviet Union places these sterling Bolsheviks in the camp of the social-democrats, "liberals", Kerensky, etc., who have been working for twenty-two years for the defeat of the Soviet Union.

TROTSKY THE MAIN REVISIONIST

But the unfortunate part of the whole fight, however, is that the unprincipled character of Shachtman's group and his amateurish attempts at writing political documents, only serve to cover up the basic errors of Trotsky's position.

Trotsky states that the Soviet Union is a "degenerated Workers State". In that statement against Burnham's he is 100% correct. The question, however, is HOW to defend that degenerated Workers State. On this question there isn't as much deference between Trotsky and Shachtman as there seems to be on the surface.

The Trotskyite line is vicious IN WORDS against Stalinism, but actually IN DEEDS it gives Stalinism support. If the Soviet Union were involved in war, Trotsky stated in his "trial" before the Dewey Commission, "I would try to be a good soldier, win the sympathy of the soldiers and fight well. Then AT A GOOD MOMENT, WHEN VICTORY IS ASSURED, I would say: 'Now we must finish with the bureaucracy'". The Trotskyite "Appeal" comes out for "material aid" with some political criticism" to the Stalinist bureaucracy which is at the head of the government and the army.

According to Trotskyism, the Stalinist bureaucracy plays a DUAL role, both progressive and reactionary. Insofar as Stalin plays a "progressive" role Trotsky calls for his support. This whole concept of Stalinism is 100% false.

The sum and substance of this position is: we will talk loud and furious against Stalinism, but instead of working independently for the re-establishment of Workers Militia, Soviets and Workers Democracy during war, we will subordinate ourselves to the AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM WITHIN RUSSIA; we will have to be good soldiers UNDER THE RULE OF THE SAME AGENTS; we will give the STALINIST COUNTER-REVOLUTIONISTS our material aid.

TROTSKY THE SOURCE OF SHACHTMAN

Is it so strange that where Trotsky is willing to give concrete support to these AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM, Shachtman has accepted the PROGRAM of the "democratic" Imperialists in regard to Russia?

Trotsky calls for the "defense" of the Soviet Union by supporting the nationalist movements within the Ukraine — and other national minorities of Russia "if they wish" — to break away from the Soviet Union because of its leadership. What is so strange then in Shachtman's calling for the defeat of the Soviet Union in Finland also because of the reactionary leadership of the Workers

State?

Where yesterday Trotsky and Cannon came out for support of "even rotten bourgeois democracy" in Spain, the support of the lesser evil of two capitalist groups (Blum-Cachin, Caballero-CNT, Labor Party, Cardenas in Mexico, Chiang Kai-Shek), the support of bourgeois bills like the Ludlow amendments, Ham and Eggs, etc.—where Trotsky comes out for the "better" capitalists, what is so strange that now Shachtman has embraced the reactionary program of "rotten bourgeois democracy" in relation to Russia?

Where yesterday Trotsky could say that if France were allied with the Soviet Union in a war against Germany he would be for defeatism in Germany but only for "political opposition in France", refusal, in other words, to work for revolutionary defeatism of an imperialist power,—what is so strange that many of his followers have now gone to the opposite extreme, and have used Trotsky's petty-bourgeois ideas as a springboard to call for the defeat of the Workers State?

LEFT TAIL TO STALINISM

The anti-Stalinist instead of anti-capitalist orientation of Trotskyism prevents them from correctly fighting Stalinism, let alone capitalism. They can only be a tail to the Stalinist movement. Every Stalinist turn sees the Trotskyites turning with them — every Stalinist turn has produced a crisis in the Trotsky ranks. Shachtman and Burnham have carried this anti-Stalinism to the point where they identify Stalinism and the Soviet Union. Thus Shachtman can say "Produced by the same cause, German fascism and Stalinist bureaucracy are now engaged in a joint campaign of imperialist expansion". Stalinism, a cancer on the warped workers state, is identified with fascism, the product of German imperialism in decay.

The fact of the matter is that the whole Trotsky Party is centrist to the core, that it represents within the working class a petty-bourgeois tendency.

It is upon the centrist policy of Trotsky that Shachtman feeds. And it is upon Shachtman that people like Burnham feed. Two years ago when Burnham was first developing his position, Shachtman ranted that "Burnham's position is a bridge to Menshevism". Events have moved on. Shachtman is now a bridge to Burnham.

BUROCRACY AND BANKRUPTCY

The petty-bourgeois character of the Trotsky party and leadership can be gauged by its organizational behavior, its inability to keep up with events, its bureaucracy. According to a leader of the Cannon group, Goldman: "No one, to my knowledge prior to the outbreak of the war, raised the question: does the slogan (unconditional defense of the S. U.) mean defending the Red Army if it should be involved in any attempt to crush revolution". The invasion of Poland caught the Trotskyites without an analysis. The Cannon group refused to take a position on this question for weeks and weeks until they heard from Trotsky.

And when they finally did hear from Trotsky they accepted his position ON FAITH; they voted for a document of his without reading it and even though one of the pages of the material had been lost in the mail. (See Internal Bulletin, Nov. 4, 1939).

The same bureaucratic procedure that BOTH Cannon and Shachtman used in suppressing the left wing of the Workers Party (now the R.W.L.), is now being used against Shachtman. Cannon has maneuvered many of his men off the leading committees and refuses to publish any of his material in the press even though this is a pre-convention period.

The dispute over the Russian question merely again reveals the bankruptcy of the Trotsky centrists.

Against the centrist position of Trotsky-Cannon and the right wing stand of Shachtman-Burnham the revolutionary minded workers in the SWP can take only one course: get out of the swamp before you too are engulfed within it. Join with the Revolutionary Workers League to build a Marxist Party in the US and a New Communist (4th) International.

CONGRESS IGNORES NEEDS OF WORKERS

(Continued from page 1)

things there is singular unanimity.

AGREE ON REAL ISSUES

The transfer of 8 American ships — THE BUILDING OF WHICH WAS SUBSIDIZED BY THE U. S. GOVERNMENT — to Norwegian registry so that they can ship goods to the war zones, despite the new "neutrality" laws, seems to have strong approval in Congress.

The anti-lynching law re-introduced in the House of Representatives, was merely a shyster maneuver by the New Dealers and the Republicans to put the Southerners on the spot. The bill itself has now been amended so that it will be used, if it is ever passed only against trade unions. A new bill against foreign workers has already been passed — to deport "undesirable aliens". What a club this will be over the head of militant workers who are not citizens! Dozens of other bills of this kind are in preparation, bills even more reactionary.

A SHYSTER FIGHT

There is general agreement by both "old dealers" and "new dealers" that a campaign must be organized to weaken the labor movement and to smash the most radical elements of it. — Mr. Murphy and Mr. Arnold of the New Deal have gone a long way in the campaign against "subversive" activity.

There is full agreement on disregarding the lowered standard of living and the great unemployment despite the record production levels. Congress and the President will confine themselves merely to lowering these standards further so that the capitalists can grow fat on the big war appropriations "for defense."

WORKERS TOO NEED UNITY

The full agreement on FUNDAMENTALS by the agents of the capitalists, is only an obverse side of the great disagreement in the ranks of the working class, of the demoralization and confusion in their ranks. To smash the new onslaught on living standards a UNITED working class must again rouse itself to militant battles at the point of production, strikes, demonstrations and propaganda to expose Congress and the agents of the capitalist in labor's ranks itself.

U.S., JAPAN RELATIONS

(Continued from page 1)

All the criticism of the American press of Japan is mere hypocrisy. Mr. Roosevelt when he talked of "quarantining" the aggressor "forgot" to mention that the U.S. capitalists stole one-half of the territory of Mexico; that they stole Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines; that they murdered innocent children in the Philippines during the nationalist uprising there following the Spanish-American war; that they murdered thousands of innocent children in Mexico, Nicaragua, San Domingo, Haiti and other places in pursuing their imperialist policy during the 20th century.

If the Japanese imperialists are now at war in China it is not because they are any more bloody or greedy than Uncle Sam. Both their war and their cabinet crises are the result of Japanese economic needs and weakness, and the great economic pressure of the Colossus of the Western Hemisphere.

ANTI-LYNCH BILL TURNS INTO ANTI LABOR BILL

Kelly Budget Savings Condemns Thousands To Hunger

Relief Is Cut, But Garbage Racket Continues

Chicago, Jan. 16 — With much fanfare the City Council of Chicago lopped off almost one and a half million dollars from the budget of last year and passed a 1940 budget of fifty-six million dollars for the coming year.

The joker in the whole thing, however, is that Mr. Kelly — the Mayor — is taking the savings out of the hides of the unemployed. Last year's allotment for relief was almost 7 1/2 million dollars. This year the allotment is exactly six million. The 108,000 families who lived on worse than a starvation budget last year are going to be cut still further. This New Deal mayor, just like his big boss in Washington, is proving his worth to McCormick, Dawes and the First National Bank by economizing at the expense of starving children.

THE GARBAGE RACKET

But along with this cut for relief the old garbage racket — for which someone is getting a big

shakedown — is to be continued. One of the amounts passed was \$835,000 for garbage disposal. The city disposes of its garbage by dumping it into a worked out stone quarry which is owned by the Chicago Union Lime Co., who have collected from the city, for the privilege of allowing garbage to be dumped on their property, \$1,078,000.

This hole in the ground was valueless in 1931 when the City signed the contract with the owners. It is estimated that the seven acres of land will be worth about \$50,000 when it will be completely filled. The City will then have paid to the Company approximately \$1,300,000 for improving the Company's land. All of this despite the fact that in 1935, the company seeking a tax reduction before the State Supreme Court, stated that the property was worth only \$12,800.

RELIEF HIT HARD

Following the usual practice of making cuts where it is felt the worst, there was a \$6,000,000

granted for relief, thus making sure of continuing the misery of the past year, which was for the workers on relief one of the severest years since the breakdown in 1929.

Only 200 of the political pay-rollers were cut off of the city payroll, while the 108,000 families on relief are faced with the necessity of starving on a 70% budget until June when the relief stations may have to close up completely. In 1939 the social costs of the city were cut down by starving these workers on a 15% relief cut for three months, a 25% cut for three more, and a 35% cut the five months.

Others jokers in the 1940 appropriation for Chicago will be exposed in future issues.

NEW DEALERS AND REPUBLICANS USE PETTY TRICK FOR NEGRO VOTE

A coalition of Democrats and Republicans forced through the House of Representatives the Gavagan-Fish anti-lynching bill after a labor clause was written into it. The bill as it stands now provides a penalty not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$10,000 to be paid by the county in which the lynching occurred to the victim's family if it can be proven that the peace officer was negligent in performing his duty.

Every serious thinking Negro worker should ask himself two

questions: (1) can this bill stop lynching in light of what has happened to the 14th and 15th amendments and similar laws passed ostensibly to protect the Negro minority; and (2) What are the political implications behind this bill.

Lynching is an American phenomena that has its roots in the economics of American capitalism. The Negro is not lynched because he is a Negro or to protect some mysterious abstraction known as white womanhood; but because he is a worker and this method of terrorism is just as useful to southern bosses as is the brutal beating-up and killing of white workers in the north under the disguise of patriotism, Americanism, etc.

This fact has been amply proven by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, a white organization. Out of the 5,000 cases of lynching since 1880 only 21 people were lynched for alleged rape, while the majority of the cases were for disputes over rent, wages etc.

A DUAL POLITICAL ROLE

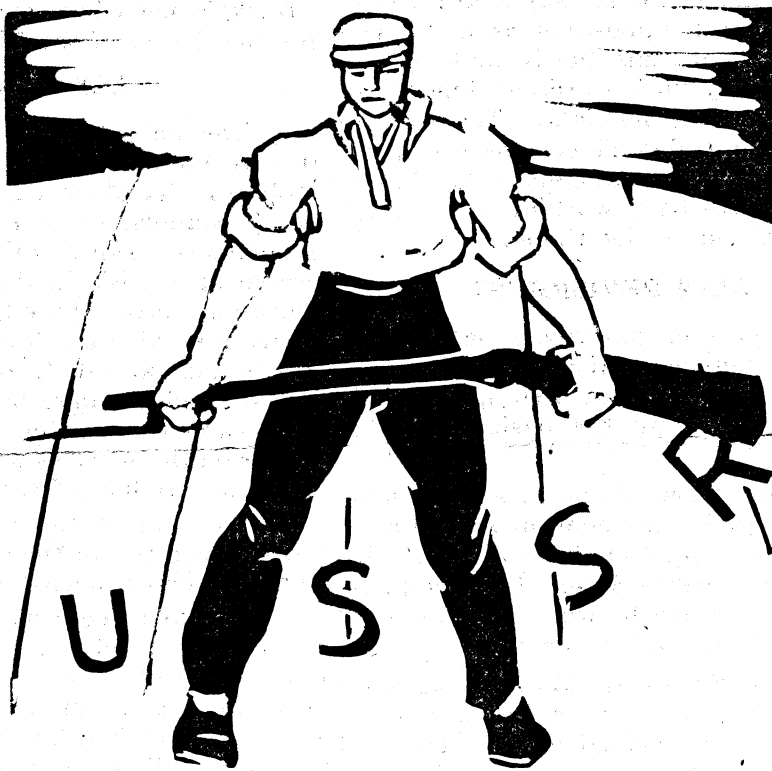
To the Roosevelt administration and its supporters in Congress this bill serves two political purposes. First, to show up the southern congressmen as ultra-reactionaries and magnify Roosevelt's fast diminishing role as a progressive. Second a net to catch Negro votes in the North. The Negro Democratic congressman from Illinois spilled the beans when he accused the Republicans of supporting the bill to get Negro votes.

TROTSKYITES HELP NEW DEAL

The Trotskyites are proving to be invaluable to Roosevelt and his fakers by giving this bill a left covering. They are agitating for its passage in spite of its inadequacies, as the writer in the Socialist Appeal so mildly put it. This is nothing more than the extension of the centrist line of the Trotskyist movement to the Negro question.

It is significant for workers both black and white to note that the anti-lynching bill originally designed to protect the Negro people now contains a clause that can be used against strikes and picketing. The extension of the anti-lynching bill to include "violence occurring during the course of picketing or boycotting or any incident in connection with any labor dispute" is a retaliation against the bill by the right wing of the Democrats. This is a disguised attack against labor and the Negro people as well. To this anti-labor clause the New Deal meekly submitted.

In the final analysis lynching can only be abolished by the joint action of the entire working class irrespective of race, only by independent working class action and a fight against Jim Crowism in the unions as well as elsewhere.



Defend the Soviet Union AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND ITS STALIN AGENTS

PHILLY NEW YEAR'S PRESENT -- WAGE TAX

Philadelphia, Jan. 19.—The city of Philadelphia has offered the bosses a new solution to burdensome taxation. The workers in the city of brotherly love received a New Year greeting that is making them plenty mad.

On January 1, the new wage tax "experiment", as Mayor Lambertson characterized it in his inaugural speech, went into effect. Every worker employed by a company within the city limits, regardless of where the worker lives, is taxed one and one-half per cent of his wages over and above the Federal "security" taxes. This makes it possible, as the new Republican boss pointed out, to encourage the growth of in-perty can be reduced, and thus new manufacturers will be attracted to Philadelphia.

No apology is offered — Lambertson contents himself with the hypocritical smug statement: It is "better for a man to pay a tax and have a job than to be tax-free but out of work."

Meanwhile Philadelphia has found it possible to offer more good news for the capitalists. The

huge banks which went under in recent years are effecting reorganization which will give dollar for dollar protection to all deposits — again at the expense of the working class. The \$7,000,000 "loaned" by the RFC can not be repaid, say the banks, but "we are guaranteeing all deposits, no matter how large."

Philadelphia's working class must react swiftly to the blows which are weakening it. No city, not even Hague's sanctuary for capitalism, has passed such reactionary anti-working class laws as have originated here in the past year. The reformists are taking the wage tax to the courts, with no success. This is an attempt to prevent genuine mass protest against the law. Only united mass action by the workers can defeat this ruthless blow at labor.

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HAMS ATONE FOR 91 MURDERS

(Continued from Page 1)

of hundreds of other miners is no accident. It is pure and simple cold-blooded murder by the greedy coal companies who are more interested in profits than in the lives of miners or the orphaning of innocent children. That these murderers never go to prison is only the result of the rotten capitalist government and the traitors in the ranks of labor like John L. Lewis who sell out to the companies.

The press has already forgotten the murder of these 91 miners. After all they were only workers. The whole capitalist world has forgotten them. The FREE hams wiped the matter from the capitalist conscience.

The 150 orphans, however, will never forget this murder. Even if they never hear of the word Marxism, the cruel callousness of the profit system will cut deeply into their hearts as the years go by and make these workers' children the Red Soldiers of tomorrow who will deal with the murderers of these and other miners as they should be dealt with.

PEACE IS POSSIBLE ONLY THROUGH THE REVOLUTIONARY OVERTHROW OF CAPITALISM!

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