

The Fighting Worker

Official Organ of The Revolutionary Workers League, U. S.

Workers of
The World
Unite!

VOL. 8 — No. 2 — Whole No. 105

JANUARY 15, 1943

Price 5c

Taxes and Prices Give Lie To "Equality of Sacrifice"

Spectre of Revolution Determines War Strategy

Each winter of the imperialist war presents new military problems and possibilities. The question marks in the present winter of 1942-43 concern first of all Italy and France, and secondly Turkey and Spain. Given an insight into the internal class relations and contending forces, and the figures of Axis and Allied manpower and machinepower, it would be possible to predict with astonishing accuracy the next phases of the battle; but with all factors closely guarded military secrets it is only possible to point to a number of variants.

The present strategy of the Allies is to complete the three-quarter ring around Hitler's Europe and then start smashing into this enclosure from two or more points by Spring. At present the Allies surround the Axis on three sides—Russia on the East, the British Isles on the West, and North Africa on the South. Once Tripoli, Bizerte and Tunis are taken the Anglo-American forces can sweep into Europe either direct from England onto the French Coast, or from Africa through Sicily into Italy proper, or both. What they need now is a decisive victory in Tunisia and Libya. The Soviet armies are already on a limited offensive in the East. Whether this can become a major counter-offensive depends on the bulk of the Nazi armies being occupied elsewhere, and on the internal strength of the Soviet Union.

Thus, the Allied strategy appears to be simple and clear cut. The situation permits of only one other possible—but not likely—alternative: an invasion of Norway and Finland by the British in order to complete a circular ring around Europe. But if the strategy of the United Nations is transparent, that of the Axis is far more complicated.

The obvious aim of the Hitler generals is to break out of this European ring and to make contact with the enlarged Japanese empire in Asia. The onslaught against the Soviet Union had this as its goal, together with the vast industrial and natural riches of Russia.

But this campaign, while it was highly successful, fell far short of its objectives. The Axis now faces the alternative of waiting for still another Spring and still another offensive against the Red Armies, or new flanking movements. Which strategy will be adopted depends first of all on the ability of German imperialism (and the Allies as well) to prevent social revolution, and secondly on the military and economic strength still remaining to the Nazi legions.

The capitalist chain is weakening in a dozen different spots. The spectre of revolution, particularly behind Axis lines, but also behind Allies lines, is becoming ever more insistent. The Social Revolution has already bobbed its head in India, France, Italy and Yugoslavia, in Latvia, Estonia, Poland, and in a dozen minor revolts and rebellions. Will another hungry and cold winter bring forth one or more major Social Revolutions—proletarian revolutions? Only time will tell.

INVASION OF ITALY IMMINENT

But quite evidently the Italian alliance with Germany is being rocked to the roots by the social unrest. Shorn of empire, bled by years of Fascist extortions and sacrifices, the Italian nation is today one of the weakest links of the capitalist chains. What happens in Italy in the next few months will affect the whole outcome of both the war and history in general.

The United Nations have their

liberal and semi-fascist stooges in Italy, particularly in Sicily. When Italy is invaded—and all things point to it—the role of these elements like Darlan, DeGaulle, Sikorski and others will be to hem in the Italian Revolution within safe bourgeois bounds. If the imperialist stooges succeed in this task, the war will last much longer. If they fail, then no matter what the military outcome in Italy, the war will end much, much sooner.

The Italian question mark undoubtedly haunts Hitler—together of course with the difficult social relationships within Germany itself. Assuming that the Axis imperialists can keep this country quiet—or relatively so, what then?

CAN GERMAN MILITARY MACHINE TAKE OFFENSIVE?

The only alternatives for Hitler remain, either an invasion through or around Turkey, and a march

Cont. on Page 2 Col. 2

R. W. L. HOLDS SIXTH CONVENTION

The sixth convention of the Revolutionary Workers League was held over the New Years week end in Chicago, Illinois.

Major political reports included:

- 1—War and Revolution, a brief summary of the relationship of the two.
- 2—Internal Class Relations in the United States.
- 3—Organizational problems of the League.

Most of the documents of the Convention have already been published. Future issues of INTERNATIONAL NEWS, will contain additional material.

From a political, organization, and attendance point of view the Convention was the League's most successful since 1937.

democratic opportunity to choose their own government, to determine their own destiny. The excuse that "we must save the lives of American soldiers" no longer holds true, since fighting has ended in these two French colonies.

But Wall Street Imperialism has chosen a "leader" who not only will sustain American interests against the interests of Britain and ITS French puppet, DeGaulle; but will act as a ruthless barrier to the aspirations of the colonial masses for liberation.

Wall Street thus shows that it has two main interests in the present war:

- 1—A desire for profits and colonial control.
 - 2—An unbridled opposition not only to colonial liberation and working class revolution but even to bourgeois "democracy" itself.
- The actions of the profit moguls in French Africa are a thousand times more revealing than all the "liberal" speeches of Willkie and Wallace put together.

Roosevelt and his Economic Stabilization man, Byrnes, have given the American working class a terrific wage-cut. Not by cutting wages directly—that would cause too great resistance. They simply legalized higher food prices.

Everyone knows that in the last year food prices have practically doubled. But now the restrictions are lifted, and just watch them climb!

Byrnes idea of Economic Stabilization is to knock the workingman flat on his back and jump on him to make sure he is "stabilized" there.

Byrnes is for "equality of sacrifice" between labor and capital. He thinks labor has too much spending money. Sure, there's the defense bond sales, the 5% Victory Tax, and the income tax. But Byrnes isn't satisfied—so up with the food prices!

The price-raising, wage-cutting move is part of some behind-the-scenes maneuvering between Roosevelt and the new Congress forces. Roosevelt is playing ball with the big farm-business lobbyists. He is beating the anti-New Deal interests to the punch, but the main blows are against labor.

All this chicanery goes on under the slogans of "winning the war," "equal sacrifice," and "democracy!"

Just look at the "sacrifices" the bosses are making.

Bread, meat, vegetables, dairy products, will cost the same to the millionaire as to the worker. But a few cents more to a capitalist means nothing, to the worker and his family it means less to eat. Compare the wages and taxes of the worker to that of the bosses:

"Indications are," according to the United States Department of Commerce, "that corporate profits, before deductions for income taxes, rose nearly 40% in the first three quarters of this year." After paying taxes, U.S. corporations made

net profits of 4 billion 903 million dollars during this period. This profit is higher than the 1941 profit, which was 400% higher than the 1939 profit of the industrial magnates.

But even these figures are deceptive.

Thousands of smaller corporations have been forced out of business during the past year. This means that the remaining LARGE corporations made an even better showing.

LEGAL TRICKS FOR PROFITEERS

Bookkeeping fraud was probably never so advanced as it is this year. Millions of dollars of capital investment — profits invested in new machinery and buildings — are being written off the books as "rented" equipment. The Corporation pays for a machine in 12 months of "rentals." On the last payment, the full "purchase" price is listed. Thus eleven-twelfths of the real purchase price is hidden as expenses rather than what it actually is, profits.

Another favorite method of concealing profits—abused more today than ever before—is the "reserve fund." Fantastic sums are being put away as "reserves" against after-the-war depressions.

Still another method is to "write off" as depreciation the cost of a machine (that will last 20 years) as "useless" after two years, on the ground that after the war this machine will be out of style or unnecessary.

Even if you leave all these crooked schemes out of the picture, however, profits have mounted enormously. While the capitalist shed crocodile tears because they have to pay time and a half for overtime over 40 hours, and while they refuse to raise wages over 15% of the January 1941 figures, profits have skyrocketed 40% this year and probably 75% or more last year.

Cont. on Page 2 Col. 5

Wall Street "Democracy" In Africa

The assassination of Admiral Darlan came at a very convenient time for the Allied imperialists. The whole texture of demagoguery about "four freedoms," the "struggle against fascism" and other clichés, was in bad disrepute. Throughout England, France, the United States and Russia and all Asia, many people were (and are) questioning the "democratic" character of this war. How is it possible to "fight fascism" and at the same time place in charge of the French colonies a militarist collaborator of the Nazis?

But now that Darlan is dead, pressure has been slightly eased. The name of Henry Giraud, new High Commissioner of the French African colonies, does not have the same stigma as that of Darlan. The difference between the two gentlemen however is very meager indeed.

Giraud is a right wing monarchist, a vicious opponent of workers unions and democratic rights of the masses. In ideology the new Commissioner is as reactionary as his predecessor. He differs from

Darlan only in that he has been consistent in his opposition to Germany (and Britain), whereas Darlan played a more opportunist role.

To understand the real character of the new African regime, however, one should study for a moment, the next in command, General Nogues. Here is a brutal tyrant if ever there was one. His only claim to fame is his bloody murder of dozens of striking miners, in Morocco and elsewhere, who took literally the words of the French government that trade unions were legal. Nogues has been more consistently reactionary than Pierre Laval.

With Darlan out of the way, American capitalism had a real opportunity to prove its democratic character and its democratic war aim—had they really existed. The thousands of liberals and socialists in jail in French Africa, the 3,500 anti-fascist Spanish refugees still in concentration camps, should have been liberated. The Algerian and Moroccan masses should have been given a truly

Union "Leaders" Face Rank and File Revolt

The stillness in the Trade Union movement today is deceiving. Underneath the surface many fires are raging.

The powerful Flint Locals of the Auto Workers called a conference of Auto Unions to "save the Union." These Locals have consistently opposed the giving up of the right to strike and the loss of premium pay for Sunday work. President McGill of the Buick Local at Flint took a positive, although unorganized, stand against the recent retreat of labor when he spoke at the UAW-CIO convention a few months ago.

The Lewis forces—now independent of both the AFL and CIO—are bestirring themselves. John L. is tackling the railroad field and is beginning a concerted campaign amongst dining car, firemen, and yard workers. The whole Chicago CIO railroad division, formerly in the Utility Workers Organizing Committee, seceded last month from the CIO and joined with Lewis' District 50.

The Railroad Workers have asked for a 30 cent raise, over and above last year's raises.

In April the Miners must negotiate new contracts with the mine-owners. Lewis has already indicated that the United Mine Workers of America will request substantial increases and will pay little heed to the War Labor Board and its "Little Steel" formula.

In January the new Congress takes over. A vicious and powerful attack on the 40 hour week and on the closed shop is sure to come and come soon. Manpower decrees will probably result in the freezing of all jobs in war industry.

MURRAY, GREEN, LEWIS—LABOR SKATES IN POLITICS
Resentment boils beneath the surface, temporarily hidden from view, but it is bound to boil over very soon. The Murray and Green labor skates are aware of the dynamite in the rank and file back home, but they have cast their lot

Cont. on Page 2 Col. 4

Soviet Republic Attempted In Yugoslavia

Buried in the back pages of last months' capitalist press is a small news item that speaks volumes.

A representative of General Mikhailovitch, the Yugoslav guerilla leader, has a grievous complaint against "partisans" in the home country who are allegedly disrupting the good General's peace of mind.

"So-called partisans," says this spokesman of the Yugoslav government-in-exile, "wishing to profit by the sudden military collapse of Yugoslavia, made attempts to form Soviet republics in occupied Yugoslavia." This is evidently a terrible crime, because — the spokesman continues—the "Stalinists, Trotskyists and Anarchists" who compose the group are no doubt being financed by the Axis powers.

This old bugaboo about the social revolution being financed by the "enemy" should fool one. It was used in 1917 to "prove" that Lenin and Trotsky were German agents, and it will be used from now on to "prove" that every revolutionist, every proletarian internationalist is merely an agent of the opposing imperialist bloc.

It is more than likely, according to the press reports, that the Partisan Bands are under Stalinist leadership who are trying to subordinate the revolt to the military plans of the Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union. The Stalinist record of betrayal and defeat internationally leaves no room for hope that they will lead this movement to social revolution. From Stalinism the toiling masses can expect only treachery and sell outs to the imperialists.

REVOLTS MUST GO BEYOND STALINISM

But the Yugoslav masses, once in motion, will not easily allow themselves to be led into such a trap.

What is significant is the fact that the flame of proletarian revolution kindles behind the lines in Europe. It is heartening to note that the oppressed masses already have begun to see through the mockery of semi-fascist elements like Mikhailovitch defending "freedom."

This small news item is more important than a thousand stories of military victories and defeats. Many military events will yet occur before this war ends. But this insistent spark of proletarian revolution noted now in India, now in Yugoslavia, now elsewhere, must soon become a lashing flame that will extinguish the imperialist carnage. Slowly and hesitantly the masses are again moving to . . . SOVIET REPUBLICS. The lies of nationalism (even the left nationalism of the European Trotskyists) are being cast asunder. The imperious lesson of our times is being written in blood across the Bloody Continent — EITHER COMMUNISM OR FASCISM, there is no middle road.

Before the war, members of the International body to which the Revolutionary Workers league is affiliated—were present in Yugoslavia.

These comrades have not been heard from in a year or two, but we may rest assured that if they are still alive, they or their successors are participating in this movement for Soviet Republic. The fate of this upsurge will depend not only on developments elsewhere but above all on the ability of revolutionary Marxian elements to forge a new Marxian Party.

Revolt Is The Right of The Slave

Letters To The Editor:

Women at Warner & Swasey's To F. W. Editor:

Warner and Swasey, like any other shop in the country under war contracts, is bawling patriotism to the workers while it robs and betrays them.

In the last 4 months this plant found it necessary to hire women in a shop that has not employed women since the first world war. Its first trick is to promise them a raise after four weeks of employment, knowing full well that their agreement with the Union states specifically that such raises are given after 30 days of employment. (The company uses this method to get an extra week of work at the starting pay).

Once enticed and employed the women find themselves under the worst forms of shop conditions, without sufficient wash and rest rooms, and it was only after persistent fights and arguments that minimum facilities were placed at their disposal.

The laws in the state of Ohio state that a woman is not to lift more than 25 pounds and only after several women were forced to quit in protest because of the heaviness of the work did the company recognize this law. Now as a result, altho the women put out as much actual production, and sometimes more than the men, the Company is using this as a flimsy excuse to make a five cent an hour wage differential for the women.

Both the male and female workers at Warners are finding themselves working for the lowest evaluations on the proposition of merit and ability. If the foreman and the Company decide that a worker on a job is producing enough, he is supposed to be evaluated accordingly. But we have yet to see a Company, or a foreman for that matter, who ever thought or agreed that a worker was producing enough to suit them.

The Union is supposed to be another judge on the evaluation decisions, but it is only after a worker actually forces the shop committee that their individual problems are taken up. Even after such Company and Union decisions are reached the average worker still finds himself being paid far below his skill.

The workers of Warner and Swasey, just like the thousands in other shops, find themselves caught between the exploitation of the Company and the looseness of the Union. They find themselves confronted with the necessity of forming and building their own militant progressive shop ste-

ward movements to gain for themselves any real victories so far as wages and conditions are concerned.

—P. P. Cleveland.

Workmen's Compensation Fund Used As Political Capital

To The Editor of the Fighting Worker,

Here in Ohio a campaign to build up Governor Bricker as the G.O.P. Candidate for the White House is well under way. He is touted as an economical administrator who gets things done cheaper for the taxpayers and citizens. The citizens who are workers find out at whose expense, when they are injured while working in industry (where due to speedup and lack of safety precautions, accidents are at a new high and still increasing).

At the Fisher Chain Store Bakery, a woman employee got her arm scalded and broken in an accident that happened last June. She was under a doctor's care until her arm set and healed, which took 12 weeks. Under the Workmen's Compensation Law she was supposed to get 11 weeks compensation, as the first week of disability is at the worker's own expense. But there comes the lesson. She did not receive anything while convalescing. Further, she is now back at work for almost three months and still has not received a single check in spite of the fact that there is \$60,000,000.00 piled up in the Reserve fund of the Compensation Board.

Unless the Unions, including the Bakery Workers International, to which she pays \$1.75 a month dues, does something about it, she and many other workers who are suffering from the same policy will not get anything. Not to speak of workers who when disabled are broke after a month, or even earlier.

The disabled worker finds out that being entitled to Compensation is the technical barrier that is being used to even deny them local relief aid while they are forced to wait until they are well enough to go back to work. And if they are hurt again they can find solace in the fact that Governor Bricker stands guarding a fund that is the largest of its kind in any state, more than any 2 put together.

J. M. Ohio.

LONG WAR UNLESS WORKERS ACT

Continued from Page 1

into Iran, Iraq and toward the Japanese in Southeast Asia, or a smash through Spain at Gibraltar.

An offensive through Turkey undoubtedly would net the greatest advantages. But possibly the Axis no longer is capable of taking this step; possibly the strength of Britain and the Red Army that would be placed at this point would be too formidable. In that case the "best bet" would be to seal up the Allies in the Mediterranean by crushing Gibraltar.

Supposing, however, that the Axis does not invade either of these points by Springtime? The conclusion is obvious—the German military machine is not capable of taking the offensive on a world scale any longer, but must rest content to remain on the defensive in most places and on the offensive in a few. This would

not mean, of course, a complete defeat for Hitler. Without question the German army is well equipped for a long defensive struggle.

SOCIAL REVOLUTION IS SHORTEST ROAD TO PEACE

The only stumbling block then to a long war would be the Social Revolution—behind the Axis or behind the Allied lines, it does not matter.

Revolutionists can and should learn from this that the actions of the bourgeois generals on the battlefields (or more properly, in their safe headquarters) is important only in a minor sense. The actions of the proletariat in the Social arena is infinitely more important. The road to peace lies through the class struggle and the social revolution against capitalism and its wars.

International News

Theoretical Organ of the International Contact Commission.

November-December issue: The Constituent Assembly In India; Imperialism and the "Peoples" War, The Indian Revolution; Notes on the War in North Africa.

Price 10 cents each issue, or \$1 for a yearly subscription. Write to Demos Press for your copy. Ask for popular pamphlet list.

LABOR MOVEMENT

Cont. from Page 1

with the New Deal and intend to continue the present retreat policy. John L. Lewis, on the other hand, in 1943 as in 1935 has seen the threatening revolt and is moving ahead of the stream in order to capitalize on this revolt and to use it for his own ends. At least 50,000 steel workers and probably slightly more auto workers are still looking to Lewis for leadership. This is a powerful nucleus within the CIO. Within the AFL too there are many pro-Lewis men. If the bushy-eyed John L. plays his cards well he may again become a popularising force for the discontented militants just as he was in 1935.

But the lessons of 1935-1942 should not be wasted on the progressive elements. Lewis, like Murray and Green, is a class-colaborationist labor skate. His sole aim is to gain control of the labor movement to keep it safely within capitalist channels. At the moment Lewis is collaborating with an anti-New Deal group of capitalists. His cohorts in Illinois supported the arch-reactionary Brooks for the Senate.

RANK AND FILE MOVING LEFTWARD

But a movement to the left on the part of hundreds of thousands of American workers will face John L. Lewis and his giant machine. In order to avoid falling into the clutches of this reactionary labor leader a second time, progressives in the labor movement must point out Lewis' role in the past and organize independent of and against John L. Lewis, as well as Murray and Green.

Potentially Lewis is a greater danger than Murray and Green because he will use left wing phrases and will avail himself again of reformist and centrist mouthpieces (like the Socialists and Trotskyites).

A new national progressive movement similar to the old Trade Union Educational League of 1924, based on militant shop stewards, is the burning need of the hour—the answer to all the trade Union reformists and labor skates.

A NEW AND TIMELY PAMPHLET

JOHN DEWEY

A Marxian Critique. An analysis of the role of the Deweyan philosophy in bourgeois democracy. Issued by the R.W.L.

Price 10 cents each. 26 pages

NOW READY!

A Historic Review

Bound Volume of FIGHTING WORKER

From Aug 1941—Nov. 1942

PRICE 50c EACH

Postage paid.

NEW TAXES FORCE WORKING CLASS TO PAY FOR WAR

Cont. from Page 1

The burden of the new taxes falls mostly on the working class. The "Victory" Tax goes into effect this month—5% each week of a worker's wages over \$12.

Over and above this tax, which falls mainly on the working masses, the new income tax is a cleverly devised scheme to make the rich still richer.

A single worker earning \$15.38 a week paid \$3 income tax last year; this year he must pay \$52.20 or 1760% more than 1941. A worker earning \$23.08 a week paid \$40.20 in the high taxes of last year; this year he must pay \$125.80—more than 300% higher. A married worker earning \$34.62 paid \$22.80 in taxes last year; this year he pays \$103.20, five times as much.

On the other hand a single capitalist earning \$25,000 a year paid \$7,224 last year; this year he pays only \$2,400 more, or an increase of 35%. A capitalist earning \$50,000 paid \$21,000 last year; this year he must pay \$26,000, or about 25% more.

These figures are an indication of who runs the country and who is profiting and who is losing by the war.

ROOSEVELT TALKS SALARY LIMITATIONS BUT WORKERS GET JOB & WAGE

FREEZING

Even if the capitalist government in Washington were to freeze all salaries at \$25,000 a year NET (after all taxes)—as President Roosevelt demagogically proposed—what then?

Even if the capitalists limited their profits, which is not at all proposed, what does this alter? The American imperialists are fighting a life and death struggle for empire. They face not only the tribulations of war abroad but the wrath of the masses at home. They must make some concessions to this "equalizing" spirit at home. They must not only make "quart of milk" speeches such as the Wallace "century of the common man" talk, but they must also DO a little bit.

After the war is over those little things can easily and quickly be remedied.

Can a limitation of profits achieve any lasting benefits? No, very definitely not. So long as we have capitalism, so long as private individuals own or control the forces of production and exploit labor—just so long will we have the struggle for markets, overproduction, wars and oppression. The worker will still continue to create profits for his master, and the master will continue to try to undersell his foreign or local competitors.

A limitation on high salaries of managers and "executives," or a limitation of profits would only be for the purpose of conducting the war. But the capitalists would rather lose the war than give up their profits.

Furthermore, the workers needs cannot be satisfied because the bosses are making a little less. If the bosses makes less profits, the living standards of the workers will be forced down still more, (as in the days of the depression).

Equality of sacrifice is a lie and a fraud so long as we have one class who produces all and another class who takes the results of this production: a boss class and a working class.

The only solution for our needs lies in the seizure of the factories, mines, mills, railroads and banks from private control and utilize them for the needs of mankind under a system of workers control of production for use.

THE FIGHTING WORKER
REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE, U. S.
 (Affiliated to the Provisional International Contact
 Commission for a New Communist (4th) International)

Subscription \$1.00 per year

Published monthly by
DEMOS PRESS
 708 N. Clark Street, Chicago, Ill.

Editorials

7 Years of The R. W. L.

November 1942 marks seven years of the existence of the Revolutionary Workers League, U. S.

The seven years have been historic ones—the Franco-Soviet Pact, Popular Frontism, the New Deal, the Spanish Revolution, sit-down strikes, the growth of CIO, the second imperialist war, the Stalin-Hitler Pact, the murder of Leon Trotsky, the growing Indian Revolution.

Organizationally, we regret to report, we made little progress in seven years. America has been going through a period of bourgeois reformism which has sapped the energy from the revolutionary movement into class-collaboration channels. Furthermore the world working class has suffered many defeats.

MANY GROUPS DISAPPEAR

In seven years organization after organization has fallen by the wayside. The relatively large Lovestone Party has disappeared from the scene. Along with it went the small Field groups in the U.S. and Canada, the Stamm group, the Weisbord group, the Marxian Labor College, the Socialist Union Party and many others.

The big Socialist Party has been decimated from an organization of some 24,000 in 1935 to less than one-fifth that number today. The Trotsky organization has been split in two, neither of which is today half as large as the group of 1935.

Only the out and out reformist organizations have grown in influence and power, the Stalinists, the CIO bureaucracy, the Social-Democratic Federation. The social scene in America is in the glaring contradiction that while the working class has become increasingly class conscious the revolutionary movement has not only not made any headway but has retrogressed both organizationally and politically.

TROTSKYITES MOVE TO RIGHT

Any number of things might have turned the tide in these seven years, but the reformists and centrists have travelled with the tide, instead of against it.

Seven years ago when we split from the Trotskyites, the Cannon organization still opposed the Labor Party, still opposed such reformist clatrap as "Ham and Eggs" "Thirty Dollars Every Tuesday," the "Wagner Act," etc. Seven years ago the centrist Trotskyites were still far enough to the left to oppose such things as "trade union control of conscription," of the "March on Washington Committee," or left support of the Chiang-Kai-Shek government or the De Gaulle movement.

In seven years Trotskyism has only tailed after Stalinism in the rapid shift to the right, and the Socialists have merely drifted with the winds, in the same reformist swamp.

These have been bad years for the Marxists, a new and more terrifying 1907-1912. Whole groups of our comrades have been politically destroyed, the comrades in Brazil, Argentina, Cuba, Mexico, France, the left wing of the POUM in Spain, etc. New groups have sprung up in Underground but they do not yet compensate for the loss. The defeat of the Spanish Revolution has been the most damaging blow in seven years; victory would have turned the tide everywhere; defeat has merely accelerated the reactionary pressure.

POLITICAL CLARITY

But the seven years of the RWL have achieved, in our opinion, many positive results. We have clarified and developed a Marxian Program, fitted to the times. We have participated in the building of a small International Center, the International Contact Commission. Above all we have participated in the class struggle in America to the limit of our manpower resources. Our comrades have played leading roles in two dozen important strikes, in unemployed movements in five or six cities, in the sit-down strikes, the Cleveland unemployed demonstrations, the Waller case, and beyond everything else our comrades played a direct role through comrade Oehler and Negrete in the Spanish Revolution.

We have forecast correctly the trend of events and dozens of the actual individual occurrences. We predicted the imperialist war at the outset of our organization. We labeled the Roosevelt government a "War Government" back in 1935 and we correctly pointed out the CIO machine would be the bulwark of "civil peace" when the so-called left were hailing it as the epitome of progress. We predicted the Czech crisis months in advance, and we laid down the theoretical basis for the

Stalin-Hitler pact in 1936, and the Stalin-Churchill-Roosevelt rapprochement in 1940, a year and a half before it occurred.

The RWL has correctly analyzed the dual role of the Soviet Union and of Stalinism in world politics, the Anglo-American antagonism, the economic and political role of Fascism. We have propounded crystal clear Marxian positions on the Indian Revolution and the Constituent Assembly, on the events in China and dozens of other major problems. We have firmly upheld the Marxian position on the war.

MASS UPSURGE AHEAD

Seven years is but a short span, but in the cauldron of modern speed-history it feels like an epoch. The Revolutionary Workers League still has many great shortcomings, still is in dire need of capable cadres. But we are accustomed to struggling against the stream. We have been considerably hardened for the revolutionary days that are coming in Asia, Europe and America.

We have clung tenaciously to our most valuable weapon, a Marxian program, and we have always been confident, as we are today, that this qualitative asset will yet be converted into the quantitative mass that will transform American society into a production for use society under a Workers Council Government.

How Shall The Jewish People Fight-Back?

The Jewish masses have long, too long, suffered under the yoke of the different systems of exploitation. From the very beginning of so-called civilization, thru Slavery, Feudalism, and now in decay capitalism, the Jewish masses have been beaten from pillar to post by the "culture" of Occidental civilization.

In each case the "learned" leadership of the Jewish people tried to lead the people to "salvation." But in each case they have led their people into one blind alley or another. History is full of examples of such persecution and such religious "salvations"—only to find the crimes against the Jewish people keep being repeated on even a greater scale.

Take the case of the Zionists who "solved" the Jewish problem by leading a few hundred thousand Jews to a meager subsistence in Palestine. Not only is the lot of the Jews so "liberated" a very bad one under British Imperialism and the present war, but what of the millions of Jews left behind to suffer the tortures of Fascism in Europe and the growing anti-Semitism in the "democracies."

MINORITIES UNDER DECAY CAPITALISM

One of the most shameful pages in history is the present Axis persecution of the Jewish masses.

But history, scientific history, will reveal black pages not only against the Fascist murderers but also against the bourgeois-democrats and social-patriots and Stalinists. It was their policies which paved the way for Fascism. The facts prove that reformism and bourgeois "democracy" can not solve the problem of the oppression of the Jews. It is not a question of their desires; they may even desire equality for the Jewish masses.

Decay capitalism represents the twilight of bourgeois-democracy. The outlived profit system, in order to hold its own against the NEW CLASS, the rising proletariat must have new POLITICAL forms to meet the new situation. That is why the exploiting class in decay capitalism turns naturally to the political forms of FASCISM AND OPEN DICTATORSHIP—AGAINST the working class.

The opportunists who defend the profit system and its capitalist democracy invariably wake up only under the fascist heel.

Many bourgeois economists admit that capitalist productive relations create unemployment, crisis and imperialist war. They even recognize that this is inevitable under capitalism.

But few will draw the proper dynamic conclusions that capitalism inevitably creates FASCISM, as well as social revolutions.

As long as the leadership of the Jewish Masses and the "good" Christians who say they are for equal rights for the Jews, stand for the preservation of capitalism they are like the blind leading the blind. One cannot be for the preservation of the cause of the disease and at the same time effectively fight the results of the sickness. One cannot be for the preservation of capitalism and at the same time put up an effective fight against Fascism. Yes, you can support your own exploiters to fight German or Italian Fascism, but at the expense of getting your own native brand of Fascism, at home. You cannot fight Fascism as a product of decay capitalism without fighting capitalism itself.

THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND HITLER

A commonly held opinion is the superficial position of the columnist, Samuel Grafton, who says, "A people is being killed, to make a political point... the horror of what is now going on lies precisely in the fact that it is a maneuver." According to Grafton, this campaign to slaughter millions of Jewish people "is the decision of one man"—Hitler. Actually, a scientific explanation of this question of minority persecution opens the door to the understanding not only of the Jewish question, but of capitalism and the Imperialist war itself.

COMPETITION AND PERSECUTION

Let us consider the Jewish question in its proper economic setting. To the degree that capitalist decay sets in in one country after the other, to the degree that the market for capitalist investments and commodity sales decline, the competition between the exploiters is intensified. One of the many weapons used by the exploiters is to band together on a national basis to eliminate the other competitors. Nations at war are a part of this process. But where the nationalities have no separate country, and where they exist as minorities, Jewish or non-Jewish, within national states of capitalism, special means of persecution are meted out against them.

Jewish capitalist and business forces can be most easily eliminated by the big native capitalists in their struggle for survival. Since many German Jews owned small shops and factories they were an ideal scapegoat for the German Fascists, who were thus able to direct the anger and misery of the German masses against the crimes of capitalism upon the Jewish minority.

The historical development of the Jewish people, (due to the fact that they were denied the land and the right to learn trades in the earlier period) resulted in a large merchant and petty bourgeois element. Most people see this and ignore completely the increasing proletarian element within the Jewish people.

To the degree that other countries with Jewish minorities are brought into the orbit of capitalist decay and imperialist war, to that degree anti-semitic hatred will develop. This is true of the United States as well as other places. All minorities are subject to this, but the Negro in the United States and the Jews generally—for different reasons—receive the main blows.

The problems of the Negro masses and other minorities is an economic problem. A CLASS PROBLEM. A solution can be found only on this basis, and not on the national or regional basis. Only revolutionary Marxism points the road for freedom of the Jewish masses.

Who Will Defend Us Against Fascism?

President Batista of Cuba, who drowned the Cuban revolution in blood, as an agent of Machado?

President Vargas of Brazil, under whom not even a ghost of "democracy" exists?

Winston Churchill, who only four years ago heaped unstinted praise upon the Fascist Mussolini and envisioned a day when England might have to follow in those footsteps?

Lord Linlithgow, viceroy of India, under whom hundreds of British Indians have been killed because they wanted Freedom?

General Smuts, arrogant South African imperialist and defender of white supremacy?

Edward R. Stetinius, now official of the War Production Board whose firm, J. P. Morgan and Company was Mussolini's principle financier for a score of years?

Or Senator Byrd of Virginia, whose Byrd-Glass machine railroaded Odell Waller, Negro sharecropper to his death, and who is now agitating for an end of the 40 hour week?

Or the various fascist and semi-fascist puppets of the United Nations, like Darlan, Mikhalovitch, Vallin, the remnants of Metaxas, and others?

Yes, who will defend us from Fascism?

You can not fight Fascism by supporting Capitalism, any more than you can defeat Hitler by supporting Goering, or defeat Petain by supporting Darlan.

The fight against fascism must begin by striking at its roots—Capitalism.

The fight against capitalism begins by building a revolutionary Marxian Party.

Labor Must Defend Its Press

How much longer has the labor press to live? If labor doesn't awaken to organized resistance to what is going on, we will soon find that the Roosevelt government and the postal authorities will answer this question for us. And their answer won't be in labor's favor!

Signs are increasing that a drive against the working class press is under way. The newspapers report that plans are being considered to cut down on the amount of newsprint for working class papers.

In the last two months four different labor publications have reported difficulties with the postal authorities. A number of issues of the Militant (Socialist Workers Party) have been held from the mails. Their magazine has also had trouble with the postoffice. The Labor Action (Workers Party) has been similarly interfered with. The Fighting Worker (Revolutionary Workers League) has been ordered to submit copies of the last few months issues to the Postoffice. Just what this means we will soon learn.

In the past two years two Fighting Workers issues were banned from the mails, because of an article on conscription, and an open letter to F.D.R., and we were asked to submit copies of all material before mailing. This reactionary attack on the democratic right of working class criticism and free press was sharply protested. The request was not enforced, but other means of intimidation have been used.

There is no line of separation between the left wing press, the publication of the progressive union militants, and the papers of the AFL and CIO.

Continued on Page 4 Col. 3

"Land of the Free"

The local and national members of "our" government know a good thing when they see it, and as these poor "servants of the people" find it very hard to live in the style to which they want to get accustomed, it becomes necessary for them to supplement their income by methods which even they cannot legalize. Members of opposing parties work hand in hand and split the difference all year around, but at election time some of the dirt comes out.

BOURGEOIS POLITICIANS MAKE HAY

Here are some of the headlines from a Republican campaign paper in Illinois, substantiated with names, figures and places. "Crime has gone hand in hand with politics under Kelly-Nash rule".... "the unholy alliance of Crime and Politics has never flourished as openly and with such vehemence and intolerance as under the rule of the unholy two-Boss Kelly (Chicago Mayor) and his side-line partner, Pat Nash." "Truth about Pat Nash makes Stock Yards smell like bed of roses".... "Multi-millionaire boss pulls the strings and puppets Kelly, O'Brien, (county sheriff), Horan, etc. serve every whim, while taxpayers pay and pay".... "Nash, year after year, has further enriched himself at the expense of the people of Chicago and Cook county. He is the man who boasted that he owns the judges of all the courts in the city and county—and it is no idle boast."

"Nash made Kelly mayor. He made O'Brien sheriff. He has made and unmade office holders for many years past—all to his own advantage and to the disadvantage of the people who permitted him to rule."

Sheriff O'Brien has been involved in every racket flourishing in the city, from fixing bootleg raps to interests in bookie joints, slot machines, voting scandals, and accepting money from now indicted vice king Skidmore. O'Brien doesn't even play at being a "servant of the people"; he says "that Nash put him in office, Nash is going to send him back to Congress, he takes orders from Nash."

Kelly makes statements saying "there is no vice in Chicago"....

THE SMALL FRY GET INDICTED

Former Prosecutor McCrea and Sheriff Wilcox, of Detroit, were indicted with eight others, many suburban village presidents, for accepting bribes from vice interests taking in more than \$3,000,000 a year....

Nine out of ten members of school district 99's board of trustees in Cicero, Illinois, and four others, were indicted for defrauding the board of \$7,092.65 in the purchase of school equipment in July, 1941. They purchased supplies priced at \$6,003; but charged the schools (and the taxpayers) \$13,095.65....

Peter Lavorata filed a petition nominating a candidate for sheriff. An investigation revealed the petition contained 104,000 fraudulent signatures....

Village President Blameuser of Skokie Village testifies in a hearing on slot machine racket investigation "My police were told to ignore the machines. Who told them? I told them"....

PROFITS IN POLITICS—AND PATRIOTISM

Senator O'Mahoney, told a special senate investigating committee that "the voice of 'Big Steel' seems more powerful with the War Production Board than that of Congress"....

The chief area supervisor at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant and the former assistant chief have been found guilty of causing defective ammunition to be approved and certified for use by the armed forces....

The Anaconda Copper Mining Company (controlled by the Rockefeller dynasty) is owner of the Anaconda Wire and Cable Co. of Indiana, which with five of its local officers was indicted for "conspiracy to defraud the United States and presenting false claims in the production and sale of wire and cable used in the armed forces for combat communication purpose." Senator Wheeler is the darling of this Copper Co., in Montana.... The company has manufactured about 6 million dollars worth of useless wire for the government.... Russia has complained that practically 50% of the wire manufactured by Anaconda was defective. The Company officials had secretly installed a panel under the testing tables to permit passage of defective material.

Comr. S. E. Fridman charged that investigation of irregularities at the Mechanicsburg, Penna. naval supply depot was being hampered. Friedman said that there was "a solid basis in fact" for the reports of "wholesale irregularities" in the 40 million dollar project, and that the "curtain apparently dropped when the investigation (by the FBI) and naval intelligence began to disclose serious offenses which threatened to involve higher ups"....

WHO RUNS THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT?

Edwin A. Lahey, columnist for the conservative Chicago Daily News feels compelled to prove that there is no danger of Communism ever emanating from the officials of the National Government, as is charged by those on the wrong side of the political gravy fence, and hoped for by many timid "radicals" who indulge in too much wish-fulfillment dreaming. Says Lahey:

"Who are the men in Washington who are going to change our form of government while we're not looking? If it is done, it will of necessity have to be done by the men who are running the country. Will Secretary of War Stimson do it? Time Magazine would say of him, "No revolutionary firebrand, he." Or Secretary of the Navy Knox, a conservative publisher (owner of Chicago Daily News)? Or Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Bard,

Southern Workers Fight Against Jim Crow and Imperialist War

Some several weeks ago Major J. Fulmer Bright, local director of the OPA brought forward a proposal in Atlanta, Georgia at a meeting of OPA executives, for the establishment of a Jim-Crow rationing board in Richmond, Virginia.

He proposed this as a "feeler." If the thing worked out then he proposed that it be extended throughout the entire south. Upon his return to Richmond he proceeded to put his plan through.

Immediately there was tremendous resentment in all sections of the Negro people. A delegation went to see Bright and shortly afterwards an organization of some 75 organizations was established, known as the Richmond Civic Council. This organization is pledged to fight for economic, political, and social equality for the Negro people.

Among the organizations affiliating to the Richmond Civic Council was the Richmond Social Science Forum, which elected as one of its delegates Mr. Thomas H. Stone, senior counsel for the martyred Odell Waller, and one of counsel of Howard Carwile at the present time. At its last meeting the executive committee made preparations for the celebration of Emancipation Day. The rest of the story is best told in a statement submitted by the Richmond Social Science Forum, which follows:

STATEMENT OF DELEGATES OF THE RICHMOND SOCIAL SCIENCE FORUM TO THE RICHMOND CIVIC COUNCIL

A special, called meeting of the executive committee of the Richmond Social Science Forum authorized and directs the following statement to the Richmond Civic Council.

The Richmond Civic Council was formed with the express purpose of coordinating the efforts of various organizations in the struggle for economic, political, and social equality for the Negro people. Understanding this to be its object, the Richmond Social Science Forum joined, at its second meeting, and through its representatives, participated actively in the work. On Tuesday, December 15, the Executive Committee took what we are compelled to regard as two backward steps in principle. One, the Executive Committee of the Richmond Civic Council directed that the programs for the Emancipation Day celebration carry a slogan at the foot "Buy War Bonds and Stamps." The only vote against was that of Thomas H. Stone, member of the Executive Committee of the RCC, and a delegate to the RCC of our organization. Stone's motion to refer the matter to the meeting of the RCC, taking place only two nights later did not meet with a second.

The Richmond Social Science Forum realizes that there are bound to be difference of opinion on many matters within such a large organization as the RCC, and is of the opinion that only principled differences of grave importance should be referred to the general body. But it respectfully states that it can not but regard the present as such principled questions. For that reason, in order to make clear its attitude, to the Council, and to the entire people of Richmond, we find ourselves compelled to issue this statement.

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION A MILITARY MOVE

The primary significance of a celebration of Emancipation Day is as a preparation for the present and future struggle for Negro emancipation. We would call attention to the fact that the Emancipation Proclamation was not issued out of concern for the slaves, but as a military move on the part of the Northern factory owners against the Southern slave holders. This is shown by the well-known attitude of Lincoln giving priority to the preservation of the union over the question of slavery. It is further shown by the fact that the border state slaves were not originally freed. After the military power of the slave owners had been smashed, and their political subordination to the northern factory owners established, the government of the northern capitalists then left the former slaves to the tender mercies of the Ku Klux Klan, thus assisting the former slaveowners in stifling the developing unity of the Negroes and poor whites in an incipient democratic-agrarian revolution.

THIS WAR IS IMPERIALIST

The solution of these unsolved problems, and particularly the fight for complete equality on the part of the

Negro people, takes place on this Emancipation Day against the background of an imperialist war. With the exception of the Soviet Union, every power engaged in this war is imperialist. The Richmond Social Science Forum thoroughly agrees that the Axis powers are in this war for the sake of plunder. But it calls attention to the imperialist nature of the other group. Since August 8, 1942 "democratic" England has murdered, maimed, and jailed thousands of Indians for daring to demand the right of self-determination. Before that the same "democratic" Britain reintroduced flogging for the African troops in East Africa.

The record of American imperialism is equally odious. Today eight Puerto Rican nationalists rot in Atlanta for the "crime" of wanting independence for Puerto Rico. The examples of Odell Waller, the Mississippi lynchings, the Jim Crow rationing board in Richmond, the discriminations against and attacks upon Negro soldiers, were capped in this country by the contemptible sell out of the anti-poll tax bill in the last session of Congress. This is "democracy" for the Negroes at home. What about abroad? It is only necessary to call attention to one thing, the infamous and cynical promise of the White House to give back the people of Africa to the slavery and murder of French imperialism when the war is over. The hands of the French imperialists are still wet and red from the blood of the murdered tribesmen of the French Congo, but into these same hands are to be delivered our exploited and oppressed African brothers.

The Richmond Social Science Forum points out that all this is not accidental, and is not the result of the ill will or ignorance of any individuals, but of vast social forces. Capitalism in the big countries has arrived at the stage of monopoly, the whole earth has been divided up among the robber states, and the only way that the swag can be redivided is by war. To such war we can not give the slightest support. This is a matter of principle with us, and we regard the advocating of the purchase of war bonds and stamps as the furnishing of money for the further Jimcrowing and murder of the Negro people, both in the United States and in Africa. We therefore find ourselves compelled to sharply dissociate ourselves from such a phrase in the printed program.

IN THE INTEREST OF THE NEGRO MASSES

In all this we are confident that we represent not only the interest of the vast masses of Negroes in Richmond who toil for a living, but also their stifled and unexpressed sentiments. We realize, as has been said, that there are two schools of thought on this question. Without personalities, and in a calm, not invidious manner, we state that the "patriotic" position is based upon the Negro middle class, which is deriving some slight material advantages from the war, some crumbs from the imperialist table. The Negro worker, the Negro sharecropper, like his poor white brother, has neither country nor democracy to defend. Upon this class we base our hopes for such an awakening that will sweep away all exploitation and discrimination whether it bears the label of fascism or democracy.

We respectfully request that this statement be entered in the minutes of the Richmond Civic Council and resolve that copies be sent to the Negro, the labor, and the local press.

Executive Committee Richmond Social Science Forum.

The voting for the executive committee report was six, that for the position of the Social Science Forum was 3, with 11 abstaining from voting. Coming in the midst of war time this is very significant. Of course, there are certain deficiencies in the statement of the delegation, particularly an omission to point out clearly what is to be done, but it certainly must be said that the statement represents a healthy approach.

Of greatest importance, however, in Richmond as everywhere else, is the rallying of the Negro workers, as well as the white workers, around a program of revolutionary defeatism. Such a struggle will embrace specifically working class organizations. Such a struggle is the aim of the RWL unit in Richmond, which has consistently opposed the present imperialist war. Workers desiring further information should get in touch with this paper.

SAVE THE LABOR PRESS

Continued from Page 3

To curtail the democratic rights of one is to strike a blow at all. If the left wing press is suppressed, the precedent will be established and the way cleared for the restriction and suppression of any working class criticism and any working class publication on the ground of "interference with the war."

Now, while the issue is hot, is the time to fight back. Protest the drive against the working class press!

Protest the interferences and attempted censorship of labor's right of free speech and free press!

Protect the democratic rights of labor! We will need them desperately in the struggle to regain and defend the right to strike and the right to live!

a banker, or Undersecretary of the Navy, Forrestal, another banker? Or Nelson of the WPB, (Sears, Roebuck Co.)? Or Aberstadt of the WPB (Wall Street)? Or Wilson of the WPB (General Electric)? Or Jones of the R.F.C. (Banks, real estate, lumber, etc.)? Or Stetinius of Lend Lease (Big Steel)? Or Jeffers of the Rubber Administration (Union Pacific)? Or Byrnes of OES (trusted by the astute of the Senate reactionaries)?"

You may rest assured that none of the named gentlemen are interested in anything but the preservation of the capitalist system of production for profit. For them it is profitable indeed. For the working class it is drudgery, and slow death in time of peace. In time of war the degree of exploitation becomes multiplied on both fronts. Speed up in the factories, speedier death at the front.