

The Fighting Worker

Workers of
The World
Unite!

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FDR & CHURCHILL CAUCUS AGAINST WORKERS

While the bourgeois press speculates nonsensically over the meaning of the Roosevelt-Churchill plotting at Quebec, it becomes perfectly apparent to the working-class that the real meaning of the newest conference between the leaders of the two great imperialist powers is one of danger to the world proletariat.

What is there for these bandits to decide now? Merely the question makes the answer obvious. With the United Imperialist Nations' Armies already on the fringes of western Germany, with daily reports of peace riots in Berlin and throughout Germany, with the Red Army on Germany's eastern borders — it is apparent that the German working class is drawing the necessary conclusions from the defeat of its imperialist masters. The German workers are preparing to settle this war in a proletarian way — by ousting ALL FORMS OF IMPERIALIST RULE, NAZI OR "DEMOCRATIC," GERMAN OR ALLIED.

New Plots Against Masses

It is perfectly plain that peace negotiations between the German general staff and the Allied imperialists have been going on for some time and that both sides are only seeking a favorable moment for declaring an armistice, an armistice timed so both gangs of imperialist can turn their guns on the insurgent workers of Europe and quench the incipient uprisings in a blood-bath. Plans for this betrayal of the European workers must be consummated by the top men of the two greatest rival imperialist powers.

A second phase of the conference is pointed up by the absence of Stalin. Despite the role of Stalinism in world history, the imperialists cannot trust the regime in control of the Workers State in the task of quelling the workers. Moreover, one of the ultimate aims of imperialism, the total crushing of that Workers State, must now or very soon come on the order of the day, especially in view of the military

gains by the Red Army and the political gains of Stalinism in the Balkans and south central Europe. Churchill and Roosevelt have to face these facts and come to an understanding on what compromises to make with Stalinism and what to extract in return.

What About Asia?

The third phase of the talks deals with the war in Asia — the war on two fronts: against the rival Nipponese imperialists and their followers, and against the masses of Asia. The first problem is complicated by the growing evidence of General Chiang's defection, the indication that the bourgeoisie of China prefer war against the Chinese masses to war against Japanese imperialism. In China itself the class lines of the conflict are becoming sharply demarcated. The northern Chinese army, under complete Kuomintang domination, is giving way everywhere to the Japanese forces. Only in the southwest, where the Kuomintang must make compromises with the confused revolutionary demands of the masses, is serious opposition being offered to the invaders — opposition which is hampered at every turn by the command of Stilwell. At a moment when the Chinese forces are threatened with a death blow, Stilwell turns his forces southwestward through Burma, that is, he turns his face away from the besieged Chinese forces.

The Workers Answer

In the face of this situation, Churchill and Roosevelt need desperately to plot new ways of black-jacking the masses at home, as well as the oppressed colonial masses of the world, into acquiescence in their plans for the new division of the world. At this stage it is too late for them to organize mass support — all they want is mass lethargy.

It is the task of the world working class to expose these plans in ACTION, by open struggle against ALL imperialists everywhere.

UAW CONVENTION ANALYSIS

Hanging over the head of the Ninth Convention of the United Auto Workers CIO last month was the threat of 300,000 lay-offs, loss of take-home pay, and the one year War Labor Board stalling on wage increases. What was needed was a program of militancy and offensive. But the Thomas-Reuther-Adde-Frankensteen-Stalinist leadership was able to fight the rank and file to a standstill on the question of effective opposition to the employers.

That the rank and file could have put across a class struggle program is obvious by the fact that they won small victories every day of the convention. The leadership was checked at every point in its attempt to build a stronger machine. The delegates refused to permit a vote for officers on the fourth day — before the major issues were settled; instead they made it the last point on the agenda. Attempts to increase the officers' terms to two years instead of one was beaten down. Another try to raise dues was also thrust into the waste-basket. The proposal to raise expense money for the UAW-CIO bigwigs to \$15 per day and an attempt to bludgeon a vote on the no-strike pledge immediately after CIO President Phil Murray spoke were both beaten.

Keep No-Strike Pledge

But on the big issue: maintenance or rescinding of the no-strike pledge, the leadership was able to win a temporary victory. The no-strike pledge was reaffirmed for 90 days while a referendum takes place. A motion to rescind the pledge lost by 2 to 1. A motion to maintain it lost by only 250 votes. The Reuther motion, to maintain the pledge in war plants but not maintain it in plants with no war contracts — was badly beaten. After much jockeying there was a final agreement on the referendum; but the no-strike leadership will control the machinery for that referendum and will count the votes. Possibility for rescinding the no-strike pledge, for regaining the only weapon that could fight lay-offs, loss of take-home pay, and could smash the little STEAL formula — the possibility of such rescinding is rather small.

The members of the convention had no faith at all in their leadership. They booed not only Thomas & Co. but even Phil Murray himself. When Thomas attempted to talk more than five minutes on the question of the no-strike pledge the delegates shouted and booed til he was forced to give up. The rank and file of the convention was ever-

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Vote for Workers Candidates

If you're against the imperialist war —

If you're for Communism and the proletarian Revolution —

If you're against capitalism and its wars and unemployment —

If you're for production for use under a Workers Council Government —

If you're for class struggle action at the point of production —

If you don't want to waste your vote by voting for either the out and out capitalists or their direct and indirect agents, the reformists and centrists,

THEN WRITE IN THE NAMES OF

C. B. COWAN — FOR PRESIDENT
ALLEN WILLIS — FOR V. PRES.

CANDIDATES ON THE R. W. L.
WORKERS VOTE TICKET

(For the full Worker Vote Program see the August issue of the Fighting Worker)

SPECIAL SUB CAMPAIGN

For the months of October and November you can get the "FIGHTING WORKER" and "THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS", both for \$1.00 for one year.

To anyone sending in 50 subs in this period we offer a prize of the ten volumes of the collected works of Lenin. For 25 subs Volume 1 of "Das Capital." For 10 subs the choice of TWO of any of the following: "State and Revolution." "The Communist Manifesto." "Imperialism." "What Is To Be Done." "Wage, Labor and Capital." "Critique of the Gotha Program." — for five subs a choice of ONE of these revolutionary classics.

Send in the name and address of the subscriber immediately — send in the money when you have finished YOUR campaign: prize will be forwarded immediately upon receipt of total subscriptions you have sold.

MR. BULLITT POINTS THE WAY

Those people who were naive enough to believe that the imperialist war would end and millions of boys come home after the defeat of Germany, should read carefully the diatribe of Wm. C. Bullitt against the Soviet Union in the September 4th issue of Life.

In his customary weasel words Bullitt calls for nothing less than WAR AGAINST AMERICA'S PRESENT ALLY! According to this gentleman the Soviet Union represents "an evil of which the Nazis are but an embodiment." The big danger he says is Communism and the only question is WHEN the war against the Soviet Union will be fought.

As a former ambassador to Russia and France and as a close friend of the Administration, Bullitt is of course careful to put his own opinions in parables, allegories, and as the view of mythical figures called "Italians." It is undoubtedly part of a capitalist preparation of the American people for the inevitable struggle against the degenerated Work-

ALLIES MARCH FASTER AS MASSES REVOLT

September 14, 1944

From the snail's pace of the Normandy campaign the Allied military machine is now moving along with lightning strokes. Where yesterday the campaign was far behind the official timetable, today it is moving so fast that the newspapers are unable to record all the gains made.

In a recent issue of the FIGHTING WORKER we pointed out that Allied disunity and distrust of each other is hindering the military campaign. On the surface that statement appears to be erroneous today. But let us see. Let us put a few threads together and give an estimate to the Allied "blitzkrieg."

The ticker tape for the stock exchange has announced rumors, some listed as confirmed and some as unconfirmed, that a German general is sitting with Allied generals somewhere in Europe to work out peace terms. Hundreds of rumors, many of them undoubtedly true, have emanated from Germany in recent weeks about desertions, riots, etc. In Paris the French proletariat was able by itself to route the German imperialist army.

The facts are not all in. Censorship is preventing the truth from being told, particularly about the proletariat of Europe. When the curtain lifts we will undoubtedly hear of many Soviets in Europe in 1944 and even in 1943. We will hear of thousand of mutinies in the German army (and quite a few in other armies as well). We will learn that Germany in 1944 went through a similar period to France of 1940 — defeatism, desertion, mass revolt.

Now put to the whole stew another fact, long ago pointed out by the FIGHTING WORKER, and the picture is complete: THE ALLIES LANDED IN EUROPE ONLY WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED THAT A PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION WAS IMMINENT. The Second Front was timed to coincide with the European Revolution.

What makes the Allied armies click, therefore? Nothing less than a combination of defeatism and desertion on the part of the German forces, and proletarian uprisings on the part of the home population. German military might is being dissipated in a welter of proletarian mass action. It is not that the Allied armies are winning big victories but that the German armies are disintegrating and that the whole social and political structure of Europe is disintegrating. The relatively small casualties of the armies on the offensive tends to confirm this view.

Europe is in the midst of a developing revolution. The Germans as well as the Allies are in mortal fear of this contingency. Is it possible that the Germans are also helping along by opening up sections of the front to the Allied armies? Is it possible that they prefer Allied CAPITALIST occupation, to Soviet occupation? Is it possible that the three generals are arriving at peace terms which grants the German imperialists a little more life in return for UNITED efforts against the impending class war?

Yes, these things are not only possible but most probable. Temporarily the Allies will be able to fool the masses of Paris and elsewhere that they intend to really bring about "freedom from want." But this sweet illusion will last for only a few months. The workers in Paris are refusing to be disarmed. Workers elsewhere are hiding their guns. Underground organizations are being tightened. Disillusionment with capitalism is growing. We doubt very much if the workers in the Allied armies will permit themselves for long to be used to smash their class brothers in other nations.

The very movement of the Allied armies indicates that the explosion of the proletariat is close at hand, that world capitalism is again preparing to unite against this danger. The proletariat too must unite. A new and virile internationalism must be fostered. A new Fourth Communist International must be built to give guidance to the impending events. A new wave of Social Revolutions is the only answer to Fascism.

ers' State. Similar things happened in Germany prior to the invasion of Russia — during the Stalin-Hitler pact.

The FIGHTING WORKER has predicted ever since June 1941 that the Allies and the Soviet Union would eventually "get a divorce," that the two antagonistic forms of society can not live in peace. We pointed out that the Allied-Stalin pact was just as phoney and worthless a piece of paper as the former Franco-Soviet pact and the Stalin-Hitler pact. Bullitt's article confirms this position.

A Bitter Joke

There is a joke going around Rome, says Bullitt. "What is an optimist? A man who believes that the third world war will begin in about 15 years between the Soviet Union and western Europe backed by Great Britain and the U. S. What is a pessimist? A man who believes that western Europe, Great Britain and the U. S. will not dare to fight." And, concludes this agent of American finance capital, "that is as

far as Roman optimism dare to go, since the Italians feel that failure of the U. S. and Great Britain to stand strongly for independence for all states of Europe has made certain a new world war."

Out of the horse's own mouth: the new world war is inevitable!

Communism is sweeping Europe, says Bullitt. It is biting off Poland, the Baltics, the Balkans and is fighting for power in Italy. The promises of Stalinism to respect private property are worthless. After all they originally promised that in the Baltic states and then expropriated the capitalists and landowners. We — meaning American capitalism — must defend ourselves against this "plague." We must prepare for the new war. Shorn of all its circumlocution, that is the meaning of Bullitt's long article.

No Room for Capitalism and Socialism

From his own class point of view Bullitt is undoubtedly correct. Capitalism and Socialism can not live (Continued on Page 2)

UAW CONVENTION ANALYSIS

(Continued from Page 1)
suspicious of the leadership. They were called "porkchoppers." A motion to remove all paid organizers of the international from the floor carried overwhelmingly.

Need Progressive Group

Yet, despite all this, the rank and file did not get what it wanted. The reason is obvious. It was not organized. Murray sent in dozens of organizers and officials to line people up for the no-strike pledge. Thomas had hundreds of payrollers wining and dining people. Dozens of jobs were promised and given out in return for support.

But the rank and file was represented by practically no organization at all. A small rank and file caucus revolving around the Briggs Local in Detroit, the Flint militants, a few people from Local 600 (Ford), were never very effective. Only about 100 delegates attended their meetings, but the organization of this caucus prior to the convention was very poor; their perspectives were poorly defined; their program very limited, although correct on the question of rescinding the no-strike pledge. They failed to select candidates to run against the fakers, except one for president.

Another group, the Trade Union Educational League with headquarters in Cleveland, put out a series of excellent leaflets. They called for rescinding the no-strike pledge, smashing the Little Steel formula, withdrawing from the WLB, union democracy, the 30 hour week with 48 hours pay, union wages for unemployed during reconversion — to be paid for by the Company. They opposed the war as "imperialist" and called for internationalism and workers control of production. Unfortunately, however, this group had even less organization than the rank and file caucus.

Support Capitalist Government

The leadership position carried on the question of support of Roosevelt and the Political Action Committee. The rank and file, unfortunately, was unable to see the connection between support of the New Deal capitalists and loss in take-home pay, or other losses suffered by the working class. The level of political development was relatively low. Without leadership to show the connection between the imperialist war and the imperialist war government, on the one hand, and the defeats suffered by the workers on the other — without such leadership the rank and file of the convention swam in a sea of confusion and hesitancy.

To muddy the waters, Walter Reuther, International vice-president, introduced the proposal for re-

scinding the pledge only in non-war plants. This position by the UAW's outstanding "thinker" (social-patriotic thinker) divided the forces against the no-strike pledge. It was a clever maneuver — probably planned, by Thomas and Reuther to save their skins. As a reward Thomas supported Reuther for the vice-presidency against Dick Leonard.

Militants Against Leadership

The base of the leadership was not in the old locals. GM locals, for instance, voted over 90% against the no-strike pledge. They seemed to remember the experiences of the sit-downs. But the newer locals in the South and West, not yet steeled in strike struggles or educated to the importance of militancy, were the base of the Thomas machine. The promise of Phil Murray that the Little Steel formula would be broken and the carefully planted rumors of a 12c per hour raise, served to confuse some of these people and push them into the machine fold.

For the fourth or fifth time in a row now the leadership has fought the rank and file to a standstill. The only victor of the convention has been the employers, and the labor fakers, who in reality serve the interests of the employers. The rank and file felt serious hostility to the leadership program, but not yet serious enough or clear enough to ORGANIZE A STRONG RANK AND FILE GROUP ON A CLASS STRUGGLE PROGRAM.

For Strike Action Now

Until that is done the leadership will continue to gain these yearly victories. The time to build such a group is NOW. The two existing groups, particularly the clear-headed T.U.E.L., should be supported and developed now. In the coming year the auto workers will get higher prices, higher taxes, loss of take-home pay, lay-offs and abuse. They will be more ready than ever to follow militant guidance.

THE AUTO MILITANTS AND REVOLUTIONISTS SHOULD START ORGANIZING FOR THAT NOW. THE NO-STRIKE PLEDGE MUST NOT ONLY BE RESCINDED IN WORDS BUT IN LIFE ITSELF. REGARDLESS OF THE WISHES OF THE LEADERSHIP THE AUTO WORKERS MUST TAKE STRIKE ACTION NOW TO GAIN THEIR JUST ECONOMIC DEMANDS.

BUT ALL THIS DEMANDS A PROGRESSIVE GROUP TO FIGHT THE EMPLOYERS AND THE CLASS-COLLABORATION MACHINE! ALL HANDS SHOULD BE ADVANCED TOWARDS THAT EFFORT!

Lewis Machine Runs Convention

The miners convention in Cincinnati last month proved something for the thousandth time: without rank and file organization into militant and effective progressive groups the labor fakers can play havoc with the wishes and needs of hundreds of thousands of men.

The ace sell-out artist of the American labor movement, John L. Lewis, was able, through a combination of machine organization and old time demagoguery, to stymie any opposition. It was the same old game that Lewis has played for 25 years: get at the head of a working class movement, in order to BE-head it.

By viciously attacking the strike-breaking role of Roosevelt, and Wm. Davis of the War Labor Board last year, Lewis attempted to take the steam off the equally strike-breaking role he himself played. By attacking the operators and calling for a struggle NEXT YEAR for a 35 hour week with 40 hour pay, Lewis attempted to portray himself as a "progressive."

Veto Autonomy

But next year will be the same as last year — unless genuine rank and file organization and action develops in the ranks of the miners. Lewis will promise everything under the sun; he may even sanction a strike for a short period. But when the chips are all in it will be found that he gave up most or all of the demands to his friends, the operators.

The miners are one of the most militant sections of the working class. But they are one of the lowest paid groups of workers in heavy industry — worse paid, for instance, than the auto workers, even though the miners union is 6 or 7 times as old as the auto union. Lewis' machine control and his sell-outs are a major reason for this. At this convention Lewis was able to consolidate that machine. He overrode the "opposition" of one of his former cronies, Ray Edmundson of Illinois, and continued the policy of no-autonomy for 21 out of 31 dis-

War Boom Over Unemployment Here

The army has ordered huge slashes in plane output which will affect 20,000 workers immediately and an estimated 300,000 more workers in this industry will be laid off by the end of the year. These are figures released by the Office of War Information.

The Higgins Industry of New Orleans lost its Liberty Ship contract in 1942 before a single ship was built. Now the same plant has been cut entirely from the production of C-46 Commando transport planes before they completed even one plane. Higgins will continue with its subcontract work but they will release one-half of their 6,300 workers.

The laying off of workers is becoming general throughout the country. War industries have been dropping on the average of 100,000 workers a month this year. Non-war industries have been dropping 50,000 workers a month.

Insurance Payments Rise

The increase in unemployment during these so-called "war boom days" becomes evident when we note that the unemployment insurance payments have risen. These payments, however, are barely enough for subsistence. The general maximum payments are from \$15 to \$22 a week for a period of 14 to 24 weeks. However, the funds are so low that the average payments can cover only 61% of the workers entitled to the benefits. In fact, the magazine "U. S. NEWS" states that these funds may be depleted in the coming period before re-employment is general. Legislation has been pending to augment these funds with Federal loans. That is the condition on a nation-wide scale. For individual states the rates are something like this: Michigan pays up to \$20 a week and has funds to cover 39% of the workers. California pay up to \$24 a week covering nia pays up to \$24 a week covering up to \$20 a week covering 54.4% of the workers.

Despite these facts, we are told daily by the press and radio that shortages in goods will be more acute because of the manpower shortage. They give this as an excuse to import natives of the Barbados Islands (Argos Food Processing Plant in Chicago). What is the real reason behind this? It is evident that it is done for the sole purpose of getting cheap labor to reduce the standard of living of all the workers. These natives will be "used" as the Negroes, Mexicans, and other such groups have been used in the past.

Production for Use

What is the solution to this mass unemployment? What force can keep the descending hammer of lowered living standards from crushing the workers into dust?

Can our problems be solved by governmental projects such as the WPA, the CCC, etc? No, these projects can only vainly attempt to stave off the growing dissatisfaction of the workers. Temporary reforms cannot check capitalism as it rushes into its chaotic stages.

The workers must plan their own social order — a social order that will provide for the needs of the masses instead of providing profits for a parasitic class of exploiters.

Worse than that he made it impossible to challenge his decision for four years by passing a resolution to hold constitutional conventions only once every four, instead of the previous two, years.

The miners weren't really represented at this convention — only Lewis' machine (and in reality the INTERESTS of the mine-owners). If the struggle for better wages next year is not to fizzle out, a militant progressive group in all the mines, calling for autonomy, democracy, and class struggle action is an absolute necessity.

-- Workers of the World --

DEFEATISM IN GERMAN ARMY

The defeats of the German armies have their repercussions in the ranks of the German soldiers themselves. Active mass defeatism is spreading at the different levels of desertion, mutiny, and finally fraternization. The fronts of the imperialist war are beginning to be replaced by the front of the class war.

During the first few days of September, 700 German soldiers attempted to escape into Switzerland, where they were interned. In northern Italy, at Plaisance, a German detachment started open mutiny refusing to follow orders to assist in cleaning-up operations. At Sant Antonio Brava, German troops went over to the Maquis with arms and equipment.

"FREEDOM OF THE PRESS"

A resolution was presented to Congress for international freedom of the press. What is the factual situation in the world today and what would such a resolution, if adopted, mean?

In "liberated" France, one government controlled agency handles and censors all the news. In Holland Queen Wilhelmina's government will return with dictatorial powers including complete domination of the press. "Democratic" King Michael of Rumania's ministry has reestablished the press controls removed during the palace revolution which brought him to power. The English press is gagged; even the Daily Worker, although more patriotic and pro-ally than Churchill himself, cannot be sent to British troops in France. And in all countries, to the usual control is added wartime political censorship under pretext of military secrecy.

What is this "free press" Congress speaks about? It is to be an image of American "freedom of the press," where radical papers are being banned from the mails, printers intimidated by the F.B.I. Freedom to the bosses and their representatives to express their opinions and even their differences, and that side of the news which can do them no harm. Freedom to the workers, who have no means of competing with the capitalist newspaper concerns, to slave for a living and be fed lies.

"L'HUMANITE" INDIGNANT — WANTS "THEIR" INDO-CHINA

The French Stalinist daily newspaper "L'Humanité" protests because France was not represented at the Quebec conference. France has an interest in fighting the Japanese, a very great interest called Indo-China. "A French expeditionary corps is going to participate in the final campaign against the Japanese. The French ought to be the first to liberate Indo-China with the Indo-Chinese. Our Indo-Chinese troops will fight with the people against the despicable invader."

For the Humanité to speak of "our" Indo-Chinese troops is a poor joke. For them to expect the Indo-Chinese people to rise and fight so French capitalism can continue its ruthless oppression and exploitation is a completely erroneous calculation.

STOP THIEF! ETHIOPIA ON THE BLOCK

The Chicago Tribune is getting all hot and bothered about a trade agreement between his majesty the Emperor of Ethiopia and England, concluded in 1942, whereby Britain — in exchange for a promise of economic assistance and the restoration of the throne to Haile Selassie — obtained the exclusive rights to commercial flights over Ethiopia.

Is the "Trib" concerned about Ethiopia's loss of "independence?" Not at all! It is just complaining because U. S. imperialists didn't get there first!

FOOD FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM(!?)

The bourgeois press is full of contradictory reports as to whether the population of France and other European countries now invaded by the Allied armies is starving or has been adequately nourished under German occupation. These contradictions show well that while there is one part of the population, namely the bourgeoisie, who live in abundance, the great majority of the population of the cities, i.e. the industrial proletariat are absolutely undernourished. As a result diseases are widespread among them, 50% of the children in Belgium have rickets.

In this situation, the vast food stocks American capitalism prepared become a political weapon, of which it will make ample use against the proletarian revolution. First to try to delay it — The following quote is from Time magazine, Sept. 18: "The Belgian Children were not the worst off in Western Europe's unfolding malnutrition chart. The farther the Allied troops advanced, the hungrier they found the population. Reported food was a necessity. Food was also politics, for the lack of food could lead to unrest and delay in Europe's rehabilitation." — then to defeat it. The following A.P. dispatch, dated London, Aug. 2 is very significant: "Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden threatened today to withdraw supplies from the E. A. M. resistance movement in Greece if this communist-led guerrilla faction persists in a refusal to reach an agreement with the present Greek government-in-exile."

In short it is the working class which pays for the bosses war!

MR. BULLITT POINTS THE WAY

(Continued from Page 1)

together indefinitely side by side — even though the Soviet Union is now a DEGENERATED Workers State, and even though it represents merely a POTENTIAL (not necessarily an actual) aid to the World Revolution so long as Stalinism is at the helm. The only danger to World Capitalism is the proletarian revolution. The Soviet Union is part of that danger of proletarian revolution, despite Stalinism.

There can be little doubt that Bullitt's view will gain greater and greater influence. As the American armies roll on, the REAL objectives of American imperialism will be put forth with greater and greater arrogance. Economic domineering and bullying of small states (despite the promise of self-determination); oppression and exploitation of the un-

derprivileged (despite the nonsense of freedom from want); open counter-revolution against the proletariat and the degenerated Workers State; and preparations for the next series of wars against imperialist rivals such as Britain — these things will become more and more manifest as time goes on.

The Stalinist reliance on a tenuous alliance with the so-called allies, is leading to the same catastrophe as the former Stalin-Hitler pact — except that this time Stalin faces a far more formidable foe, with larger armies, more material, and a relative advantage in Russia's own great exhaustion.

The only force that can defeat fascism is the SOCIAL REVOLUTION OF THE WORKING MASSES IN ALL COUNTRIES. The only force that can defend the Soviet Union is that Social Revolution.

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P. A. C. Front for F. D. R.

By no stretching of the imagination can the PAC be conceived as a non-partisan political labor group, temporarily supporting Roosevelt. The PAC's debut into American politics is not an expression on the part of labor itself that it has to enter politics to safeguard its rights, but it bears all the earmarks of a political strategem dictated from the White House, thru Phil Murray and Sidney Hillman, in an effort to rally labor behind the tattered and discredited banner of the present administration this November.

The closeness with which the PAC works with the administration is a matter of public record. C. B. Baldwin the assistant chairman of the PAC is an old line New Dealer who stepped from his position as administrator on the Farm Security Administration to his present post. Baldwin has been considered as the actual director of the PAC.

The organization of the PAC as a front organization of the Democratic Party is not an entirely new political maneuver. The idea was originally perfected and nurtured in the form of the NY American Labor Party back in 1936, when a group of right wing leaders in the needle trades organized the ALP as a vote-getting Party for the New Deal when a large group of workers could no longer stomach the reaction of Tammany Hall or the Republican Party in NY and began moving to the left.

Nationally, today, the Democratic Party is caught in the same predicament that its New York section was caught in, in 1936. With each right shift in the administration large numbers of workers have deserted the Democratic Party and now view it with growing hostility.

The workingclass find themselves straightjacketed by the no-strike pledge made by the Union leadership and the rigid adherence of the Administration to the Little Steel Formula in face of the rise in the cost of living plus the strikebreaking tactic of using the Army, sees no reason why it should support Roosevelt. Combined with this has been the victories of the Republican Party in more than half the states, which all in all, makes it imperative for Roosevelt to court labor for its support. Any direct appeal on the part of the Administration as a "friend of labor" would sound ludicrous. This is where the bright red coat of the PAC comes into play.

The PAC has no program that differs much from the Democratic Party. It did not, at the Chicago Convention, raise or attempt to raise any of the pertinent problems facing the workers. It said nothing about the Little Steel Formula and only a few weasel words about the Negroes' problems. It acquiesced meekly when Wallace, as its vice-presidential Candidate, was dumped overboard by the Commander-in-Chief. Its program can be summed up thus: the re-election of Roosevelt and the winning of the war. For this purpose, and this purpose only was the PAC organized. The working class must not be fooled by the PAC; it is the same old capitalist politics dressed up in a new suit.

But the answer to PAC lies neither in a "labor" party or in going back to the old Republican Party. The GOP is as vicious an instrument of capitalism as the Democratic Party. It is merely a tweedledee for the New Deal tweedledee. Its so-called opposition to the Roosevelt machine is only a carnival put on for the populace. On fundamental class issues it has no basic differences.

No, the answer to PAC lies in stimulating independent working class action in the factories, mines, mills, and streets, and in organizing a Revolutionary Marxian Party.

The 2nd Imperialist War

FROM BOSS WAR TO WORKERS WAR

We are living in a period when all disputes are being settled by FORCE. We are still in the period characterized by Lenin as "The era of Wars and Revolutions." For five years the rival imperialist powers have been engaged in a mammoth game of mass murder unparalleled in all history. The "game" is being played with such intensity because the stakes involved include the riches of half the world. Before another year is out, the same guns, tanks, planes, bullets, of ALL the powers will be turned against Imperialism's MAIN enemy, the proletariat and oppressed colonial masses who will revolt against the social slavery imposed upon them by the very nature of the capitalist system.

For five years the proletariat, particularly in Europe, has been waiting for some of the promises of the Great Powers to be put into practice. Both the exponents of the "New Order" and the exponents of the "Four Freedoms" have been busily engaged in the greatest lying campaign of all history. Lies are weapons as potent as bullets in Imperialist war. And the imperialists have not overlooked this weapon.

STALINIST BUFFERS AGAINST REVOLUTION

September 16, 1944

The surrender of Rumania, Bulgaria and Finland to the Soviet Union and the imminent capture of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Greece by the Red Army is part of a pattern that has the utmost significance.

Stalinism today is defending itself and the Soviet Union by the same means it used against Hitler in 1940: it is building a buffer wall around itself. Despite the official crocodile tears about love for the Allies (similar to the apologies for Germany in 1939), the Russian bureaucracy understands full well its contradictory position. World imperialism is preparing for another intervention. Despite all the promises of Stalin to maintain the world status-quo and to fight the world revolution, the Allies are rightly skeptical. The Soviet Union has a motion all its own, different from that of Stalinism. Potentially it can lend the weight of 180 million people and 20 million soldiers to the warring European Revolution. THAT threat is just as dangerous (more so, in fact) to the Allies today as it was to Hitler yesterday.

THE FACT IS THAT THERE CAN BE NO REORGANIZATION OF EUROPE ON A CAPITALIST BASIS SO LONG AS A RED ARMY AND A WORKERS STATE (even though degenerated) STILL EXISTS! Stalin may or may not understand this point theoretically; but the actual practical preparations of the Allies to check-mate the Soviet Union must be known even to political children. Bullitt's article (dealt with elsewhere in this issue) calling for war against Russia is only part of this trend.

The Soviet Union thus has no alternative but to create buffers against the Capitalist incursions. Stalinism, of course, refuses to utilize the more important principle to stir up and develop proletarian sentiment EVERYWHERE for the Proletarian Revolution: revolution anywhere, if successful, would mean the end of Stalinism. It therefore continues to build what it hopes will be bigger and better buffers.

Finland, it is hoped, will protect Russia from the North. The Baltic States, plus Finland will give the Soviet Union control of the Baltic Sea and thus act as a brake to an in-

vasion by the Allied navies. Control of the Balkans and Poland will mean a large buffer of land territory in central Europe. Stalin hopes that this buffer will be extended to include Austria, Eastern Germany and Italy. And in the South, the control of Greece, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria, plus parts of Persia will eventually lead to complete encirclement of Turkey and control of the Dardanelle straits. Thus the Stalinist bureaucracy hopes to create a barrier to an Allied naval invasion through the Dardanelles into the Caucasus. The present stiffened attitude of Moscow to Turkey indicates that the immediate objective is control of those straits.

Incidentally the offensive in the South today is much cheaper in manpower and offers far greater results than even a move into Germany itself. America and Britain have shown that they can invade territory by sea from bases thousands of miles away. On land the Red Army feels relatively secure, but the sea threat is something different again; and Stalinism prepares against such dangers by its Southern drive.

The unfortunate thing about the whole Stalinism strategy is that, today as yesterday, war results are obtained not as a result of purely military measures, but primarily social and political measures. One good proletarian revolution in Germany or even in the Balkans is worth a thousand times more to the defense of the Soviet Union than all the buffer states in the world. From a military point of view London is closer to Moscow today than Berlin was in 1941. All the buffer states now being gained puts the Workers State in a worse position relative to the Allies than it was relative to Germany in 1941.

The Defense of the Soviet Union today demands as the first point on the agenda a return to Internationalist policy, to the policy of World Revolution. As a first step in that direction the Soviet workers must organize a Political Revolution to purge the Soviet Union of Stalinism and re-establish Workers Democracy in Russia.

Any other course, reliance on nationalism, can only lead to another intervention and to new counter-revolutions.

"ALL IS NOT GOLD THAT GLITTERS"

"As sure as I am alive," says Phil Murray, CIO head, "the Little Steel formula is about to be discarded." Rumor has it that the War Labor Board will recommend a 12c raise to the Auto, Steel and Electrical workers. Considering the fact that the CIO Unions representing these workers requested only a 17c per hour increase the concession — if granted — would seem to be substantial.

The War Labor Board will now begin some hearings on the CIO request and on similar AFL request for smashing the Little Steel formula. Hearings will last thru October and right up to election time. Present reports are that the industry members alone will testify thru October 5th. Thus Roosevelt may pigeonhole the whole business till after elections, at which time the workers will get the proverbial double-cross; but the New Deal will meanwhile have garnered the votes on the basis of cheap promises.

Assume, however, that the workers WILL get the 12c raise. Then what?

A number of things are obvious:

1— The raises will be given at a time when taken-home pay is taking a severe drop. Number of hours worked are falling each month. Thus the increase will not even take care of this loss.

2— There has been a 45% increase in prices, according to AFL-CIO figures, since 1941. But even with this increase the workers will have only a 25% raise since 1941. So American-workers are really suffering a 20% CUT in pay since 1941, any way you look at it.

3— OPA is preparing to loose the lid on prices. The retail lobby is demanding a new method of computing prices that will increase them by at least 20%. There can be little doubt that if the working class gets a small raise it will be more than eaten away by the rise in prices and taxes.

4— The present proposed raise covers only a small — although important — segment of American workers. What about the 56 million other workers? What about the 45 million who are unorganized? The smashing of the Little Steel formula does not make wage increases mandatory; it merely says MAYBE you'll get a raise, providing you FIGHT for it.

5— The proposed increases come at a time when unemployment is becoming a serious matter, with the auto

industry alone threatening to lay off 300,000 workers in the next few months. As the number of unemployed grows the bargaining power of labor, its ability to smash the Little Steel formula IN LIFE ITSELF, will go down.

6— Finally, there can be little question but that Murray and Company gave up some important POLITICAL concessions for this petty crumb. What they are we do not yet know. They may include such things as forced arbitration, continuance of the no-strike pledge in a modified form AFTER the war, legislation to control the working class, agreement to a permanent WLB, or other such propositions. Time will prove, however, that what Murray gave up politically is much more important than the very minor concession that may now be granted.

On the Defense of the Soviet Union

The Revolutionary Workers League takes this opportunity to correct a slogan which, while essentially correct, is nevertheless inadequate. For a number of years we have called for the "Defense of the Soviet Union Despite and Against Stalinism." This slogan gives a correct estimate of the relationship between the Soviet Union and the Stalinist bureaucracy. It makes it clear that without a struggle against Stalinism the Soviet Union can not be defended; that Stalinism can only betray the Workers State; and that, finally, Stalinism and the Soviet Union must not be confused as one.

The slogan, however, is lopsided in the sense that it does not deal with the MAIN enemy of the Workers State and the Proletarian Revolution: WORLD CAPITALISM. Stalinism is only an agent of the imperialists. Any slogan on the Soviet Union should show this relationship.

We propose therefore to change the slogan to read: "For the Defense of the Soviet Union against World Capitalism from without, and Stalinism from Within." This modification gives our position in correct perspective.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS
Theoretical Organ of the International Contact Commission for a new (4th) Communist International

OCTOBER ISSUE

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BEG PARDON

In the Sept. 1944 Fighting Worker Mark Hanna was quoted as saying: "We captains of industry cannot control labor with the help of our labor lieutenants." It should have read: "We captains of industry can control labor with the help of our labor lieutenants."

WHAT IS TO COME?

The proletariat has heard of "peace" and "freedom" and "plenty." It has heard of the glories and promises of "lebensraum" and the glories and promises of the Atlantic Charter. But not one indication has appeared where there has been an attempt to put them into practice. And each day that has gone by has brought one more doubt, one more question mark to the minds of the confused working masses. Is it really true that after the war we will have jobs? Or will we have breadlines, inflation, soup-kitchens, and relief again? Is it really true that this time there will be no more wars? Or will the Third Imperialist War begin before the bloodshed of this one has ended? Is it really true about "democracy," "freedom of speech," "freedom from want" and all the other "freedoms?" Or will we again come face to face with capitalism's Fascist advance before the war ends?

(To be continued in next issue)

(Editor's note — This is the introduction to an analysis of five years of the Imperialist War)

INTER-RACIAL COMMITTEE TO PURGE JIM-CROWISM FROM DANVILLE UNIONS

Danville, Va.—The old disunity in the South between the white workers and the Negro workers has again played into the hands of the bosses in a recent strike in Danville, Virginia, in which the white workers walked out of the Dan River Cotton Mills (CIO organized) because Negroes were employed. When the CIO first obtained its contract in these mills, the Negro membership in the union was as high as 80 to 85%. At that time the Negroes were receiving less than the 60c wage minimum. The company circulated information among the white workers that this was a "Negro union." Jim Crow locals were formed by the CIO. The Negro workers were "given their own local" to use the filthy phrase current at the time. They were graciously allowed to have one member present at the meeting of the "white" local to act as contact man. As a result of all this many Negro workers dropped out and the white membership increased proportionately. There are now 1900 Negroes working in these mills, and only 800 are members of the union.

OLD JIM CROW

Carrying out the old tradition of the "gallant South" the Negro workers at Dan River were segregated to the worst, the dirtiest, the lowest paid jobs. Further evidences of Jim Crowism are shown by the fact that the floor supervisor assigns certain work to Negroes, but when they presented themselves for payment they were informed that Negroes are not supposed to do this kind of work, and they were, therefore, paid a lesser wage even though they had been ordered to do the work. When lunch-time comes there is a pot-wagon section, or lunch counter, with a section marked off for Negroes to stand in and they must wait for the white workers to be served before being able to get a sandwich or drink. This is not always true in all departments. In some, where all men work, there is no such segregation. But it is universally true where women exclusively are employed. The virtue of women protected from women! "Brother" Peyton, the state director of the CIO, even went so far as to ask for separate buildings for the Negroes and whites but was met with opposition on this point by the Negro workers. Most significant in this connection is a paid advertisement appearing in the capitalist press on behalf of the Textile Workers Union of America, CIO, on June 4th, 1944. In this infamous ad "Brother" Paul E. Robinson, director of the joint board of the union said, "The union does not agree with the company in its violation of southern tradition and custom in job assignments."

The above referred to the fact that the company had attempted to place Negro workers in some of the better paying and more skilled jobs. Thereupon the same thing happened as subsequently occurred in Philly. The white workers went on strike, demanding the firing of the promoted Negro workers. The most ironical point in connection with this strike, which lasted twelve days, is the fact that these white strikers

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by Jim Walden

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were loaned money by a Negro bank to tide them over during the strike. In connection with this strike it is very important to note that no pressure was brought to bear on the strikers either by the bosses or any government agency. A short time previously when some girls in one department conducted a really militant strike for real working class aims the bosses, the WLB, the WPB and the union officialdom were very busy trying to smash the strike.

THE WORKERS ANSWER

Out of this whole mess there has come one very encouraging feature. The Negro workers did not turn against the cause of real trade unionism but instead several Negro workers formed a committee together with a few progressive white workers known as "The Inter-Racial Committee to Purge Jim-Crowism from Danville Unions." This is, of course, a local committee, but since similar conditions exist thru-out the South, it should be the aim of this committee to extend its activities and link them up with similar organizations in other localities. Already a similar committee is in pro-

KELLY REFUSES PAROLE: DEMANDS PARDON

Richmond, Va. — Readers of the "Fighting Worker" are familiar with the frame-up of Samuel Kelly, Richmond Negro militant, sentenced to three years in the Virginia State Penitentiary. It will be recalled that Kelly, who had long been a thorn in the side of the Virginia ruling class, was finally jailed on a trumped-up charge of stealing clothes, in spite of the fact that the owner of the store in question never made an identification of the allegedly stolen clothes, and several of the Commonwealth's own witnesses

completely vindicated Kelly.

After being turned down by both the Virginia and U. S. Supreme Court, the Samuel Kelly Defense Committee attempted to present a petition for unconditional pardon signed by hundreds of people to Governor Darden. In this petition Kelly stated his complete innocence, pointed out that he was being framed for his militancy and his opposition to the war, and filed a copy of the whole "trial" as the best proof of the groundlessness of the conviction.

Faced with the prospect of having to confront a delegation presenting facts that would pin him to the wall, Darden resorted to a maneuver. He replied to the request for an interview with a letter to the effect that Kelly had been offered and had refused parole.

A Landmark

This was true. Kelly had been offered and had refused parole, stating that he would accept nothing else than unconditional pardon. In this he followed the militant example of Tom Mooney, being the first class-war prisoner to take this course in the past ten years. It takes courage to turn down freedom and to stay in a prison road camp, but

this action is still more indicative of two other things. First, it constitutes to any unprejudiced mind conclusive proof of Kelly's innocence of the crime with which he is charged. Second, it is a refreshing breath of fresh air in the form of devotion to real labor defense principles.

The Fight Goes On

The SKDC will not permit Darden to sidetrack this matter. At the last meeting it was decided to request Kelly's attorney and to direct the secretary of the committee to write Darden insisting upon a definite date for a hearing. Workers and their organizations everywhere can aid by sending letters or wires to Colgate W. Darden, Governor of Va., State Capitol Building, Richmond, Va. demanding that the delegation be allowed to present the petition and state the reasons for its granting. Copies should be sent to Dorothy Thomason, Room 206, 815 E. Franklin St., Richmond, Va. As funds are urgently needed, all who possibly can, should send donations to the same address.

**KELLY HAS REFUSED TO
TRADE PRINCIPLE FOR
LIBERTY!
DEMAND UNCONDITIONAL
PARDON FOR SAMUEL KELLY!**

REVOLT IS THE RIGHT OF THE SLAVE

INDEPENDENT THINKING LEADS TO R. W. L.

Hello Comrades:

Your letter and generous assortment of literature reached me some months ago. I have purposely refrained writing you my reaction until I had studied your material pretty thoroughly.

Right off I should have you know that the RWL has set me straight on many theoretical problems and introduced to me the full-sidedness of Marxian application.

My excursions into Communism have taken me into the camps of Stalin and Trotsky. Trotsky himself was an education for me. He opened the window for a guy, it seemed, and I took deep breaths. Association with the followers of Holy Joe, it is better to forget. I was tramping about the country at the time of my invitation into his orbit. In the C.P. you were respected for your ignorance and unquickness. So we didn't get along. The Cannonites, on the other hand, invited discussion. I read a lot and got a little sharper on things, which inevitably leads to a lot of independent thinking.

Soon I was sucked into the war and I have managed to keep up with literature but not activity. The Independent Labor Party Line of the SWP went against the grain for me. Besides, the "Fourth International" it seemed, was not tackling the problems it should. The imprisonment of the 18 turned the organ into pure drip. By accident I saw the "International News" on a skidrow newsstand. It treated the Worker and the War. This was good and illuminating stuff. I wanted more of it and got it.

The enclosed buck is for an additional "International News" which you are sending along with the "Fighting Worker."

For your interest and generosity, many thanks,

I am,

A Revolutionary Worker,
E. G.

Seattle, Washington.

SAILOR RETURNS FROM INVASION, FINDS BONUS CUT

Dear Friends:

I was just at a meeting of my Union, the SIU. I returned from France a few days ago and I'm waiting to get paid; it was supposed to be today but is delayed. There is a dispute over how much bonus we will get. The bonus was cut April 1, and all the Unions are fighting it. It is a long story.

The S.U.P. (Sailors' Union of the Pacific) is threatening strike. My outfit, the S.I.U. (Seafarers Int'l Union) and the N.M.U. (Nat'l Maritime Union) abhor any such idea. But the rank and file is pressing hard for some action. The N.M.U. Stalin leadership were even ready to take the cut, until they saw the other unions might win a concession.

I've been away a damned long time but in very restricted circumstances and saw little of the cities. By the middle of April my ship was outfitted and ready for the invasion. We were sent to a quiet harbor where we lay at anchor for seven solid weeks without any shore leave. We received incoming mail but our outgoing mail was held up. From the point of view of secrecy it was a well done job, but what a time! No work, nothing to do, unable to go anywhere yet knowing you're headed straight for hell, speculating on what it would be like.

We were given the opportunity of increasing our insurance by \$10,000. We all did so, paying \$40 apiece for 2 months, which is plenty steep — but we paid.

The biggest surprise was that we reached the French beach, stayed 3 days, and lost no one of our crew. We got back to England and were restricted to a 10-mile area the next three weeks. It was one hell of a trip.

Merchant Seaman.

BOURGEOIS BUREAUCRATS TRY "THOUGHT CONTROL"

Editor of The Fighting Worker:

Did you know that Government employes can still be discharged for even the SUSPICION of a tinge of "pink" in their political consciousness?

The most flagrant example of this type of violation of worker's rights came in the discharge of an active and militant Union member. The only information as to why, after repeated requests, was that: 1. She

was suspected of having friends who had Communist ideas; 2. She was suspected of adhering to the CP "line"; 3. She was suspected of believing in Communist principles.

This woman now finds herself faced with the alternative of accepting the incredible dictum, or of disproving . . . the practically insurmountable task of proving a negative. As if the discharge were not sufficient she has been refused the very essential "certificate of availability" — and this she must have in order to secure employment — and she must have a job, she has a family dependent on her for support.

She is not even accused of Communist activities, but only of "ideas." It seems the U. S. Government is taking a leaf from the book of the Japanese Government which punishes "dangerous thoughts."

I hope the Fighting Worker will point out that the political and organizational sell-out of the Communist Party availed nothing for the rank and file workers, but results for them only in further suffering and oppression, as does every sell-out of the workers by their misleaders.

Comradely,

Government Worker,
Washington, D. C.

MEN WORK HARD; BOSSES GET RAISE

To the Fighting Worker,
Dear Friends:

I just have to drop you a few lines letting you know what has been going on in North American Aviation in Kansas City, Kansas.

One department has been talking about going out on strike as the company fired a foreman who was too much for labor and not enough for the company. The company had some letters showing how by changing the men around and calling some of them dead-wood they could save a lot of money. They have been pulling us down to Chinese coolie level and making fewer men do the same amount of work that more had done, and the bosses all got raises.

I wish I could tell you all about it but it would take a whole newspaper. The CIO made a mistake by pledging no strike during the war, and when I get thru explaining it to the men I work with they see thru it. It leaves a gap for the capitalists to drive a wedge and divide the workers, and when our conditions get so bad we can not do anything but strike it is declared illegal. They put the poison into the minds of our boys overseas that we are making good money here and still are not satisfied. They do this so if we fight for what we need they can use these boys to cause a counter revolution.

I have been doing a lot of talking and passing out literature for my fellow workers to read and it is coming more to my way of thinking every day. I wish some of your comrades were here in the plant to help me carry things out.

Wishing to hear from you soon,
Your friend,

J. E.

Kansas City, Kansas.

A GENERAL STRIKE FOR ECONOMIC GAINS

Dear Editor:

Enclosed you will find some clippings of local interest, of the strikes and actions of workers here. From what I hear in the way of reports from the people I work with, they are feeling the economic pinch badly, and management (and Union) are kicking them around enthusiastically, more than ever.

Many short strikes are occurring that do not get into the papers. Some of these are winning small concessions.

By and large the workers are getting nowhere rapidly, because of course, they have no program. What do you think of the idea of a general strike? Perhaps it isn't practical at present, but I can't think of anything else that offers possibilities of winning anything on the economic field.

The enclosed money is for your paper, I'll try and send more soon.
Fraternally,

J. L.

Detroit Auto Worker.