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# LEND-LEASE CLEARS WAY FOR A. E. F.

## Ford And Negroes

### The UAW-CIO Can Smash Ford's Scheme To Divide Black And White

The Ford Motor Company is the greatest single enemy of trade unionism in the United States. To force it to sign a contract with the UAW-CIO would constitute the greatest victory of the labor movement in years.

Obstacles there are, and we want to speak about one of them quite plainly. We refer to Ford's shrewd handling of the 11,000 Negro workers in the River Rouge plant and those in Ford's other plants. Ford employs more Negroes than any other automobile corporation. In this respect Ford has been more far-sighted than other manufacturers. By his policy he has won a certain esteem in the Negro community which he has always planned to use against the trade unions, and which he is now openly attempting to use against the UAW-CIO's Ford drive.

Unfortunately for Ford, it is the CIO that he is fighting against. And the CIO from its very beginning has had a very different attitude toward the Negro than the narrow and reactionary policy pursued by the AFL. From the first the CIO has welcomed the Negro into its ranks on the same basis as white workers. And not only into membership, but also into positions of leadership. One of the most inspiring sights in the labor movement during this past year was the CIO national convention at Atlantic City in November, where a considerable number of the delegates were Negroes, who took the floor and spoke with the ease and assurance of speaking in their own house.

Thanks to that CIO policy, the Negro workers have played a great part in building the CIO. They have shown a militancy not exceeded, if indeed equalled, by any other group of workers. The deep indignation of their oppressed race has held many a CIO picket line firm against cops and company thugs. The very latest strike victory—at the Lackawanna plant of Bethlehem Steel—brought reports of the especially noteworthy role of the Negro steel workers.

Even in the South, where for centuries white workers have been poisoned by white-supremacy bunk propagated by the ruling class, the CIO has brought about a new situation. How black and white can unite and fight even in the South has just been demonstrated in the CIO shipyard strike victory at Mobile, Alabama.

This national situation of the CIO can and will destroy whatever hold Ford has managed to get on a section of the Negro population in Detroit. Ford's lies may delude this group of Negroes but not for long. Ford is, for example making a desperate attempt to get these Negroes to believe that the UAW-CIO is responsible for the fact that other auto plants don't hire as many Negroes as does Ford. And Ford has found tools among the Negro lawyers, doctors and businessmen in Detroit who are helping him spread these lies among the Negro workers in the Ford plants.

The main responsibility for solving this problem rests with the UAW-CIO and the white workers of the CIO. They must demonstrate to the complete satisfaction of the Negro workers that they mean fully to unite black and white. The union must not be satisfied merely with the fact that it is wide open to Negro members. The union must take the lead in the struggle against any form of discrimination by any of the bosses in the hiring of Negro workers.

While the union is seeking to prove this to the satisfaction of the Negro workers involved, the union must have the greatest patience and tolerance. For at the bottom of this situation are the justified grievances of the Negro workers against the AFL unions, and against the attitude of many white workers, which Ford has been able to use for his reactionary purposes. The union can clear up this situation thanks to the splendid record of the CIO toward Negroes, but the record of the CIO must be added to now by bold union demands upon the employers in auto and elsewhere for the hiring of Negroes.

Whatever grievances the Negroes have against the way certain unions and many white workers have treated them—and these grievances are many and justified—the class-conscious Negro workers will understand the necessity of making common cause with the white workers of the CIO. They will understand Ford's game and not fall for it. Given a correct approach by the UAW-CIO, we are confident that the Negro workers at Ford's will do what the Negro workers have done in Bethlehem, at Mobile, in the Chicago stockyards and elsewhere. The Negro workers at Ford's will become the most militant fighters for the union!

## Union Can Win N. Y. Bus Strike

### Unbeatable Power of Transport Workers Shown in First Three Days of Strike

On the third day of the bus strike, which has successfully tied up all struck lines, Mayor La Guardia and the bus companies got the help of a "red scare", when Congressman Dies attempted to label the union as "Communist."

This move can only be termed a last-ditch piece of desperation against the powerful Transport Workers Union.

NEW YORK CITY, May 11—A bus strike was forced on the Transport Workers Union yesterday when the two companies controlling 95 per cent of the surface transportation in Manhattan refused, after expiration of the old contract, to submit reasonable counter-proposals to the union's demand for a 25 per cent increase in pay for drivers, conductors, mechanics and garage men and a uniform eight hour day.

The present pay rates on the Fifth Avenue Coach Company lines range from 75 cents an hour to a top of 81 cents after four years. Wages under the contract which expired March 1 with the

## GRACE CARLSON TOUR THIS WEEK

Grace Carlson has reached the Pacific in her national speaking tour for the Socialist Workers Party. Her next talks are:

LOS ANGELES: Sunday, March 16, 8 p.m. "The Right to Life." At Embassy Auditorium, 517 West 9th Street.

SAN FRANCISCO: Sunday, March 23rd, 8 p.m. "The War Today." At 421 Kearny Street. Complete schedule of Carlson tour on page 2.

New York City Omnibus Corp. range from 61 cents to 90 cents an hour after four years. When the strike vote was taken on March 7, the bus workers constantly interrupted speakers with the cry, "Strike! Strike! Strike now!"

At 5 A. M. yesterday 400 strike (Continued on page 6)

## 2 Auto Strikes On In Detroit

### Federal Truck, Midland Steel, Shut Down; GM Negotiations May Produce Fireworks

DETROIT, March 11—A wave of militancy is surging through the ranks of the UAW-CIO.

Over 600 workers continue their strike at the Federal Motor Truck Company, holder of a \$5 million defense order for Army Signal Corps trucks. The union is demanding wage increases and a union shop. The plant is closed down tight and the union men state that it will continue that way until the company signs on the dotted line.

At 9 A.M. yesterday 1700 workers of the Midland Steel Products Company, manufacturer of steel frames for most of Detroit's automobile companies, went out on strike. Federal conciliators, mediators, state labor board officials and sundry labor "trouble shooters" from the U. S. Department of Labor have been running around the Midland situation for the past week like chickens with their heads cut off, trying to kid the workers out of striking.

But the Midland Steel men couldn't be put off with "soft-soap." The Midland Steel men staged the first sit-down strike in the city of Detroit in 1936, the strike which set the ball rolling to establish unionism in the auto industry. Now these men want wage increases to meet the rising cost of living and a union shop to ensure security on the job.

## GM PARLEYS BEGIN

Negotiations begin this morning with the General Motors Corporation on the demands drawn up by the GM Conference representing the membership of 70 GM locals. The union is demanding a union shop, recognition of the shop-steward system, a flat 10c hourly wage increase and a 90c minimum rate.

The GM workers are watching these negotiations very carefully, determined that no poor agree-

## Fight Against War Goes On!

### Passage Of Lend-Lease Law Cannot and Will Not Halt Fight On Next War Moves

AN EDITORIAL

For most of the "isolationist" Congressmen who originally opposed the lend-lease bill, the fight is over. In the final vote in the House on Tuesday, 94 of the 165 Congressmen who had originally voted against the bill, switched sides. One "isolationist" leader after another jumped on the bandwagon and promised full support to the President in the name of "national unity." In the Senate, the great show of handshaking and camaraderie between opponents and proponents, after the Senate voted in favor of the bill, is a clue to the lack of seriousness in the forces of the opposition.

As a matter of fact, as Senator Vandenberg, one of the opposition leaders pointed out, 95% of the Senators had voted for the principle of aid to Great Britain. Practically all of the oppositionists had voted for the Taft amendment, which would give Britain two billion dollars outright.

In a word, the opposition was not a real opposition at all at any time. It was, at bottom, a sham battle.

For our part, we never put a moment's faith in the Vandenberg and Wheelers. We left that kind of "united front" to the Stalinists and Norman Thomas. We have been just as much interested in warning the workers against the falsity and fakery of "isolationism" as we have in the fight against the interventionists.

Hence, so far as we are concerned, we look upon the defection of the "isolationists" to Roosevelt as no defection at all. We want to have every worker see and understand the underlying unity between the "isolationists" and the interventionists. When a worker sees that, he will begin to comprehend the real basis of our opposition to this war.

It is *this* war we oppose. As horrible as war is, we would not hesitate to urge Roosevelt to enter the war, if it were really to be a war for democracy against fascism. We are not pacifists. He who opposes war simply because war is horrible, is doing no service to the working masses. For to liberate themselves from the clutches of war and fascism, the workers must be prepared to use the same weapons that the enemy is using.

But *this* war is not our war. It is an imperialist war. Roosevelt is now given a free hand to do anything he sees fit to help British imperialism defeat German imperialism—to protect the interests of American imperialism. That's what the lend-lease law means. That's why we opposed it, that's why we shall oppose any and all further war moves by the Roosevelt government.

Our opposition to the Roosevelt war program does not blind us to the fact that, by and large, it has been accepted by the workers. The major steps of the war program—armament, conscription, aid to Britain—have received the passive support of the people.

They have accepted these steps, however, for reasons profoundly different than those which motivate Roosevelt, the Congressmen and Wall Street. The workers have accepted these steps because they hate fascism and because they have as yet seen no other way to struggle against fascism than by accepting Roosevelt's war program.

It is important to make these workers realize that Roosevelt's war is not a war against fascism. But that is not enough. Only pacifist fools can think of returning to the status quo existing before the armament and conscription program. The real solution lies in an altogether different direction. The real solution is to transform this imperialist war into a war against fascism. That can only be done by taking all power out of the hands of the capitalist class. The workers can fight and conquer fascism only by taking control of the country into their own hands.

We shall oppose every further step which the Roosevelt administration will take to further the interests of American imperialism. Every step that Roosevelt takes in his war moves represents the interests of American capitalism and not the interests of the American working masses.

But we know, in advance: the workers will not be able to avoid war, and they will not be able to defeat fascism; they will be dragged into war, they will suffer all its horrors without the compensation that the war is for the interests of the working class—all this must happen so long as the workers do not accept the idea that the way to destroy fascism altogether is to have the working class take control of this country, its resources, its armed forces.

It is because we want a real fight against fascism that our party has called for trade union control of military training, for the training of worker-officers and, in a word, for the complete control of the armed forces of this country by the working class. That is the only road to victory against Hitler and against all the fascists wherever they are.

## ROOSEVELT CAN TAKE US TO WAR

### Refusal To Accept Amendments Shows He'll Go The Limit

With the signing of the lend-lease law Tuesday, Roosevelt is now in a position to plunge the people of this country into actual warfare any time he decides that such a step is necessary to remove Hitler's threat to American capitalism's domination of the world.

More than the provisions of the law, the amendments that failed to pass offer an indication that Roosevelt is prepared to go the limit.

In spite of his many promises previously that no American soldier would fight on foreign soil, an amendment providing that no American Expeditionary Force would be sent was defeated by Roosevelt's forces.

The same fate was given to an amendment against the use of U.S. warships for convoy purposes.

The defeat of these amendments show which way Roosevelt is heading the country—toward total involvement in the war.

It is a foregone conclusion that, having committed themselves to this policy, the Congressmen will grant any appropriation requested by Roosevelt to carry it out.

## CONVOYS ARE NEXT

Scarcely was the ink of his signature dry, when Roosevelt began to turn over naval equipment to Britain. Destroyers, mosquito boats, etc., will be rushed across. All that is needed now is for a German submarine to sink a boatload of American war material, and then will begin a hue and cry about the absurdity of spending money on material without taking steps to prevent the Germans from sinking it.

Then will come the demand for convoys, and it will be readily granted. The first convoy guarding material that runs into German submarines will fire the first direct U. S. shot in the war.

## HYPOCRISY REIGNS

Hypocrisy ran riot in Congress during the debate. The representatives of the Jim Crow, poll tax South undertook the defense of democracy on the foreign field. The ultra-reactionary Republicans became the defenders of internal democracy against dictatorship powers. And there was no one in the halls of Congress to laugh these hypocrites to shame.

No one arose to a point of order to point out that the Southern Bourbons have no right to speak of defending democracy against fascism. Nor did the Southern representatives, vulnerable as they are, rise to point to Taft, Vandenberg and their crowd of "isolationists" as the group that, more than any other, is likely to destroy democracy altogether.

But even had a revolutionary representative been present to point these things out, the hypocritical lies would have been repeated—that is all that the American capitalist class has with which to cover its nakedness. It cannot even find new slogans under which to fight this war, but must repeat its worn-out formulas of 1914-1918.

## ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

A U. S. Department of Commerce official has estimated that Germany's war expenditures are now being made at the rate of 72 per cent of the entire German national income, or about 72 billion marks a year. The figure is based upon sketchy German reports supplemented by some shrewd guess work.

The same official report points out that this year the United States expects to spend \$17,500,000,000 for all purposes, including the arms drive. If the U. S. were spending at the same rate as the German, it would be spending \$57,600,000,000 per year.

The implication here is plain enough. The Department of Commerce issues this report precisely for the purpose of advising business men of the necessary and inevitable trend.

What the report does not go into is the meaning of these figures for the people generally. The rate of expenditure for armaments naturally far exceeds the rate of increase of the national income. To say that Nazi Germany is

spending 72 per cent of its national income for the war is another way of saying that the German people are being beaten down to an ever declining level of living standards.

We already have heard from various of our "leaders" that the American people are going to have to do without a lot of things because of the war drive. In reality an important proportion of the American people are already doing without a lot of things they need. In the times that are coming they will have to do with still less.

This is what is happening every time the OPM announces new "priorities" in vital lines for the arms program.

Finally there is the question of inflation as an inevitable corollary of the arms program. The Department of Commerce report took pains to show not only that in the war period German national indebtedness increased but that this rise was accentuated by an inflationary increase in currency circulation during the same period.

## ALP VOTE NEAR 4,000 IN N. Y. CONGRESS POLL

Final returns in New York City's 17th Congressional district special election show that the votes cast for Eugene P. Connolly, candidate of the American Labor Party, nearly doubled the percentage of votes cast for the ALP candidate in the last general election.

The vote was: Baldwin (Republican) 23,252; Alfange, (Democrat) 16,690; Connolly, (ALP) 3,985.

Alfange was defeated despite endorsement by Roosevelt and the war-mongering right wing of the ALP. His vote was a far smaller percentage than the Democrats got in the last election.

Since last November the vote for the ALP in this silk stocking district increased from slightly more than 5 percent of the total vote to 9 per cent.

Connolly was the only independent labor candidate running in this special election. When his nomination by the ALP was announced, the Socialist Workers Party withdrew its candidate.









