

The Negro's Fight For Jobs In Industry

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MEDIATION IS BLOW AGAINST WORKERS

Stalin's Fear Of Hitler Shown In Ankara Pledge

Kremlin's Policy Is Determined By Its Fear Of Involvement
In The War; Will Make New Deal With Hitler If Threatened

With the publication, in Moscow and Ankara, of a declaration pledging "full neutrality and understanding" on the part of Moscow towards Turkey in case of an attack by Hitler against Turkey, Stalin, for the second time in the period of one month, has openly indicated fear of and hostility to Hitler's activities in the Balkans.

Stalin's previous move came in the form of a note to Bulgaria in which the Kremlin chided the Bulgarian government for permitting German occupation, and predicted it would lead to extension of the war and not, as claimed by the German and Bulgarian governments, lead to peace in the Balkans.

GERMANY NOT ADDRESSED

Neither in the case of the note to Bulgaria nor in the declaration made to Turkey was there any direct indication that Germany was being warned. But the circumstances under which the note and now the declaration were issued led the whole world to conclude that Stalin was talking to Hitler. These are devious methods of diplomacy but they are also Stalin's methods of diplomacy.

A difference between the note to Bulgaria and the declaration to Turkey is in the fact that the former was sent after Hitler's armies had occupied Bulgaria while the latter was made before Hitler's armies are moving against Turkey.

That Stalin is fearful of a Hitler victory has been plain to every intelligent observer. Every move that Stalin has made since his pact with Hitler in August 1939 can be interpreted only as indicating Stalin's anxiety to avoid a major conflict and his desire to obtain strategic defensive positions against Hitler.

It was not, however, until Hitler conquered France and began his march into the Balkans that the danger to the Soviet Union became an immediate one. Hitler's occupation of Rumania and then

Germany? A safe prediction to make is that if Turkey is defeated by Hitler, Stalin will try to get as much booty as he can regardless of any pact. One thing is certain. In Stalin's plans the fate of the workers of the world plays no role whatever. In his diplomacy he does not take the workers into his confidence or into consideration. The necessity of a life-and-death struggle against Hitler, the greatest enemy of the working masses, and the methods to be used in such a struggle, are of no interest to him except insofar as Hitler threatens the position of the Soviet bureaucracy which he represents.

DARDANELLES THE KEY

Should Hitler's armies succeed in gaining control of the Dardanelles, the only all-year-round outlet of the Soviet Union to the outside world would be in the hands of a powerful enemy. Nazi control of the Dardanelles would signify the completion of a wall of steel along the Soviet western frontier along thousands of miles from the Baltic to the Black Sea. And this wall extends from the Baltic to the Arctic, through Hitler's control of Norway, Finland and Sweden.

What can Stalin do to stop Hitler? To go to war is out of the question for Stalin, for his regime is too shaky. His fear of war is the greatest single factor determining his policy. Only when it becomes certain that Hitler will be defeated or if Hitler invades the Soviet Union might Stalin set the Red Army into motion against him.

POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES

Will Stalin send Turkey material aid in case of an attack by Germany? If he thinks that doing this will not involve him in a war with a victorious Hitler he will in all probability do so.

Will he abide by his promise not to move against Turkey if the latter is involved in a war against

Germany? A safe prediction to make is that if Turkey is defeated by Hitler, Stalin will try to get as much booty as he can regardless of any pact.

One thing is certain. In Stalin's plans the fate of the workers of the world plays no role whatever. In his diplomacy he does not take the workers into his confidence or into consideration. The necessity of a life-and-death struggle against Hitler, the greatest enemy of the working masses, and the methods to be used in such a struggle, are of no interest to him except insofar as Hitler threatens the position of the Soviet bureaucracy which he represents.

As time goes on it will become clear to more and more of his followers that all of Stalin's so-called clever moves, like the pact with Hitler and his invasion of Poland and Finland, have only increased the danger to the Soviet Union—not only because he has permitted Hitler a free hand, but because by his devious and secret diplomacy he has estranged the only reliable ally of the Soviet Union, the workers of the whole world.

UAW-CIO SHOWS POWER AT FORD IN 3 STOPPAGES

Ford Backing Down
For the Moment, But
Fight Isn't Over

DETROIT, Mich. — The Ford workers themselves took charge of the Ford drive last week.

They got tired of waiting for the NLRB to call for an election at the Ford plants.

They got tired of waiting for Dewey, the government's "trouble shooter" to make good on his windy promises.

With unerring instinct, the Ford workers realized that they could depend on nobody but themselves and their union strength.

On March 13, a day destined to go down in labor history, the Ford workers revived the historic weapon of the CIO, the SIT-DOWN STRIKE.

3,000 workers downed tools on the huge assembly lines in the rolling mill. In less than an hour, 15 fired union men were reinstated.

On March 18, 6,000 workers struck in the Axle Building. At the invitation of the management, the Union Committee met with Ford's representatives, and secured reinstatement of twelve discharged union men.

The next day, March 19, the B Building struck. The management agreed on the spot to all the union demands. A company bus was dispatched at once to the union office and brought back the fired union men to their jobs.

Old, senile Hank decided then that he had better give in to some extent or else his whole top-heavy structure would collapse like a house of cards. On March 21 Ford's representative

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AFL Leaders Aid Cops In Scabherding At Harvester

CIO Warns It Will
Answer By All-City
Protest Strike

CHICAGO, March 25—The CIO today declared it was preparing to call a city-wide CIO strike here, after 1,400 Chicago police, this morning for the second day, escorted some 2,000 scabs into the McCormick plant of the International Harvester Company. The scabs were mobilized by AFL officials acting in collusion with the company to break the strike which had closed the plant on February 28.

Robert Travis, CIO representative, declared this morning at a mass meeting of strikers and sympathizers: "Preparations are being made to organize an all-city CIO strike in Chicago if necessary to support this strike."

Thousands of strikers and CIO sympathizers massed in the streets leading to the plant this morning in an effort to halt the "back-to-work" movement, but they were unable to penetrate the greatest strike breaking police mobilization in Chicago history.

The first move to open the plant started at 7 A. M. yesterday morning, when some 2,000 men and a few women, guarded by 1,400 armed cops, marched at a given signal through the massed strikers on the sidewalks into the plant.

OTHER PLANTS SHUT

Although the company and police, aided by AFL officials, have thus far succeeded in herding some 2,000 scabs into the McCormick plant, which normally employs 6,100 workers, still shut down is the main Harvester plant here—the tractor works employing 6,500 men—as well as the two plants in Rock Falls, Illinois, and Richmond, Indiana.

After the strike at the McCormick plant had been called by the CIO on February 28, the AFL officials in connivance with Fowler McCormick, issued a charter to the company union set-up which McCormick had been using to fight the CIO and which the NLRB had ordered disbanded.

Backed by daily publicity in the local capitalist press, the AFL officials held meetings to organize scabs, put pressure on workers in their homes, and provided the basis for some weak elements to crawl back to work under a "union" cover.

INJUNCTION HELPED SCABS

Proceeding the opening of the McCormick plant yesterday, the boss courts last Saturday slapped an injunction on the CIO "enjoining the CIO against the use of violence" and limiting the CIO pickets to no more than ten at each gate.

The situation is tense and critical. The CIO can give the McCormick-AFL-Chicago Police strikebreaking conspiracy only one answer—a militant demonstration of all-out CIO strength, so that scabs and cops will forever after fear to put forth their heads against striking workers in Chicago.

Bethlehem Pickets In Action



"Plant's closed! Get going and keep going!" these militant strikers at the Bethlehem Steel plant in Bethlehem, Pa., are telling scared scabs who attempted to drive into the strike-bound plant last Monday evening. Few scabs were able to sneak past these scrapping union men, even with a flock of city cops, county deputies and company police on hand.

Main Bethlehem Plant Shut Down By Strike

Union Protest Against Company Union
Develops Into Full-Fledged Strike Battle

BETHLEHEM, Pa., March 25—Operations of the parent plant here of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation were at a virtual standstill this afternoon as thousands of militant strikers picketed the gates and halted all attempts of scabs to enter the plant.

For the first time in years, the black pall of smoke over the Lehigh River Valley is gone. Strike leaders of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (CIO) declared that no more than 2,000 men were in the plant, which employs 21,000 men and is the largest steel plant in the Bethlehem system. Most of the scabs now in the plant had slept there overnight after the strike was called yesterday evening.

City police, who are considered the same as company police in

ing full speed through the pickets and into the plant gates.

UNIONS DEMANDS

The strike has effectively terminated the company union election which the management was sponsoring on its property, and which was the immediate cause of the strike. The demands of the strikers have broadened since the strike began.

Howard Curtiss, district SWOC leader, has announced the following demands of the strikers:

1. That all strikers be returned to work without loss of seniority.
2. That the company withdraw its permission to the company union to hold its elections on company property.
3. That the company disestablish the "Employees' Representation Plan" in accordance with the order of the NLRB.
4. That the company agree to negotiations leading up to an NLRB election to determine the sole bargaining agency for the plant's 18,000 production workers.

The strikers are in high spirits as word arrives from Johnstown, Pa., that the 15,000 workers in the Bethlehem Steel Mills there, where a previous 24-hour stoppage had been held recently, may join the strike if Eugene Grace attempts to go through with a threatened company union election similar to the one he had planned for the plant here.

Despite a double load of company police, city police and county deputies, the county sheriff has already wired an urgent plea for state troops to Governor James, who provided state police two weeks ago in an attempt to break the Vanadium strike in Bridgeville.

"See the committee as elected by the workers or we'll strike again," the company was flatly informed.

A government conciliator was rushed to the scene. The management began to sweat.

Final result: Baker has met with the committee and the two fired men.

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Board's Aim Is To Stifle All Demands Of Workers

Roosevelt's War Mediation Board will not only seek to settle strikes but will primarily seek to stifle the demands of the workers, thus preventing strikes by the method of bamboozling the workers to drop their demands upon the corporations.

If this was not made clear by Roosevelt's executive order of March 19, setting up the 11-man board, it became clear enough Tuesday, after the first meeting of the board.

Chairman Clarence A. Dykstra called in reporters at the conclusion of the meeting—the meeting itself was behind closed doors—and underlined to them his interpretation of the last paragraph of Roosevelt's executive order. A "cooling off" period was established by that paragraph, declared Dykstra.

That paragraph had declared it a "duty" of the workers to give government bodies "notice in writing of any desired change in existing agreements, wages, or working conditions... and such sufficient advance notice of any threatened interruptions to continuous production as will permit exploration of all avenues of possible settlement of such controversies so as to avoid strikes, stoppages or lockouts."

This, declared Dykstra, establishes a "must" waiting period during which the workers may not strike.

Under "cooling off," all a boss has to do is to stand pat against the workers' demands, while the Mediation Board and other governmental bodies exert all their pressure to keep the workers from striking, i.e., from enforcing their demands. Mediation resolves itself down to the task of persuading, urging, and threatening the workers to drop some or all of their demands and thus maintain "peace."

If the workers finally insist on trying to win their demands, and do go out on strike, the board's primary function then becomes to "place the blame for the continuation of a dispute," as Dykstra put it. In 99 out of 100 cases, we can be sure, this will mean placing the blame on a striking union for the continuation of the strike, and not in any way blaming the boss for having made the strike necessary.

BOSS GAINS MUCH

Meanwhile, in the "cooling off" period, the boss will have all the advantages of a general who has learned of the plans of the enemy. At his leisure he will prepare his counter-strike measures, hire scabs and thugs, and entrench himself for a battle. Thus some of the most effective elements of some strikes—surprise, the element of boss uncertainty over the workers' plans, the boss' lack of counter-preparation—will be lost to the trade unions, if they submit to the arbitrary decree of Roosevelt and his "impartial" board chairman.

Fortunately, the present strike struggles show the growing militancy of the labor movement. To ram the "cooling off" period down the throats of the workers, and to keep it there, will tax the ingenuity of more than one Dykstra.

(See other articles and editorial on the Mediation Board, pages 5 and 6.)

ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

The opening of the "Battle of the Atlantic" raises to the forefront the next step in U. S. war participation. Passage of the Lend-Lease Law and the seven billion dollar appropriations to give it effect brought this country to the point where the next step could easily be active involvement of its armed forces in the conflict. That next step may lie just ahead.

The newspapers are already preparing the ground and so is the Gallup poll. There is obvious logic in the argument that if the country is going to spend seven billion dollars for war supplies it is not going to permit those supplies to be sent to the bottom by Hitler's sea raiders. This is simply the "logic" of the involvement of U. S. imperialism in the war.

What we are supposed to help "decide" now is whether U. S. warships should act as convoys a quarter, a third, or two-thirds of the way across the Atlantic. At the outer limit, British warships would take up the guard. The idea is already strongly advanced that U. S. convoys should extend as far as the Azores.

Actually this is like asking whether we should dip our hands

into the boiling oil only as far as the wrist or as far as the elbow. It doesn't really matter. We're going to get badly burned either way.

We don't hear anymore about "acts short of war" because there is no sense in that phrase and there never was. Every conscious act of the Roosevelt administration has been an act of war and U. S. war participation has been increasing gradually under the banner of "acts short of war." The only thing lacking has been actual military acts and the establishment of convoys for the aid-to-Britain ships is apparently to be the first of these.

We may be sure that Hitler has already discounted U. S. war entry. He is not going to abandon the Battle of the Atlantic to avoid a clash with the U. S.

If the rate of loss of British tonnage in the Battle of the Atlantic continues as at present—more than 100,000 tons a week—the question of U. S. warship convoys is certain to become more and more pressing. We're already in the war up to our armpits. When those convoys start, we'll be in up to our necks.

