

Twin Cities MAY DAY MEETING

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ALL UNIONS CONDEMN VINSON BILL

Fascism Will Be Smashed--By A Workers-Farmers Government

May Day Manifesto Of The Socialist Workers Party

This May 1st is the 55th that class-conscious workers of the United States will celebrate as the day dedicated to the working class. The place of honor this May Day belongs to the Ford and Bethlehem strikers and to those loyal veterans, the coal miners. Hundreds of thousands, indeed millions of workers, have recently joined the organized working class. Despite their inexperience they have successfully stormed Bastilles hitherto impregnable to unionization. Despite all the "national defense" pressure of the capitalists and the political agents of capitalism, these new recruits have firmly fought on for labor's rights. These new evidences of the inexhaustible power and militancy of the working class give us new hope for the future. Harnessed to the correct program, that power can conquer and transform the world.

And transformation of the world is the task to which the working class must dedicate itself this May Day. The world that our capitalist masters have molded will destroy us all if it is permitted to continue. For the second time in a generation the ruling classes have precipitated World War. This war is a continuation of the last, fought like the last for the re-division of the earth among the grasping imperialists.

The ruling class of the United States is not at all interested in fighting a war against fascism. When the Nazi monster seized control of Germany in 1933, it was with the approval of both Washington and London, which considered Hitler the embodiment of "law and order" against the "anarchy" of a German proletarian revolution. Washington and London helped the Nazi monster to grow and arm itself: they considered it a bulwark against the Soviet Union and proletarian revolution in Europe. Only when German imperialism grew to the point of becoming a threat to the imperialist interests of the American and British ruling classes did the latter become piously indignant about fascism.

They lie who tell the workers that democracy versus dictatorship is the issue between Churchill and Hitler in Europe. The Greek dictatorship of Metaxas permitted as few democratic rights to the masses as the Italian dictatorship of Mussolini. The Yugoslav despotism was no more tolerable than that of Hungary or Bulgaria. We have seen how easily, as if changing a shirt, Petain and the other French "democrats" became dictators overnight.

They lie who tell the workers that democracy versus dictatorship is the issue between Germany and Britain in Africa and Asia. Ask the enslaved hundreds of millions who suffer in the colonies of British "democracy"! The "war for democracy" has brought even worse oppression to the 375 millions of India who are in the war by Britain's decree but against their will. Try to tell the black masses of Africa that they must fight against the Nuremberg racial laws—they who have lived under the same kind of racial laws for as long as Britain has ruled over them.

You want them to fight against fascism, including Hitler fascism? The peoples of Asia and Africa will do so gladly—just as soon as they have torn from their necks the yoke of British oppression.

Not the least of the reasons for emphasizing Britain's reactionary role is that everyone who understands what is happening takes it for granted that the United States will, if successful in this war, fall heir to most of the power of the British Empire. Is that what America's young workers shall die for? That American, instead of British policemen and soldiers, shall beat and maim and kill fighters for freedom in India and West Africa? Yes, that is the concrete reality that lies behind Roosevelt's glittering words.

And after the war? What can we expect then, if as a result of the last war for "democracy" the toilers of America reaped only the "right" to two and a half decades of increasing impoverishment, unemployment and insecurity? At the end of the last war for democracy half the countries of Europe succumbed to dictatorships. How many at the end of this war, no matter whether Hitler or Churchill wins?

This war is not our war, any more than the war of 1917 was the workers' war. This one is conducted under the same slogans, with the same ruling classes at the helm. Under those rulers we shall gain as little in this war as in the last.

We Trotskysts, like the workers everywhere, are infinitely more interested in destroying fascism than is Roosevelt or Churchill. We never praised Hitler as Churchill did and as many an associate of Roosevelt did! We were fighting the fascist menace during years when Washington and London were wooing Hitler. Tomorrow London may decide on a negotiated peace with Hitler. The capitalists of Britain and the United States can make their peace with fascism, just as did the capitalists of Germany whom Hitler serves. But between the workers and fascism, there can never be peace.

The spectacle of the French capitalists collaborating with Hitler is a final warning to us. No capitalist class can be depended upon in the struggle against fascism.

The workers must take charge of the struggle against fascism, and cannot delegate that task to any Roosevelt or Churchill. Only if the workers are in full control, can there be a guarantee against the betrayals that were perpetrated by the bourgeoisie in Spain, France, Norway.

How shall the workers move toward taking charge? By increasing the power of the workers' organizations until they can wrest all power from the bourgeoisie.

That is why the workers are profoundly correct in striking against the bosses despite all the "national defense" ballyhoo. Our only criticism is that the insufficient program under which the strikes are carried on renders the strikes less effective than they can be.

No union fig-leaves for government strikebreaking—demand that trade union officials resign from all appointive posts in the government. Organize the picket lines for all-out militant defense against the thuggery of company hoodlums and government cops.

Demand the unification of the AFL and CIO on the basis of preserving and extending the industrial form of organization.

End company unionism in politics—build an Independent Labor Party.

Ten out of eleven of the men in the "national defense" forces are the workers in the war industries, owned by fascist-minded Fords and Graces. Expropriate the war industries and operate them under workers' control!

These are some of the demands that the workers must raise.

But if the workers are to take charge of the fight against fascism they must prepare militarily to defend themselves against the fascists everywhere. We are no pacifists, whether of the "sincere" Norman Thomas variety or the Stalinist variety in the service of the Kremlin's foreign policy.

That is why we call upon the workers to demand:

Military training of workers, financed by the government, under control of the trade unions!

The establishment of special officers' training camps, financed by the government and controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers!

Full equality for Negroes in the armed forces—down with Jim Crowism!

Yes, we want the workers to become expert in all the military arts. We don't want the bourgeois officer-caste to have life-and-death control over the men, any more than we want the boss to have that in the factory. If the workers must fight, then they shall fight under the leadership of men whom they can trust—their own fellow-workers, chosen by them as their officers.

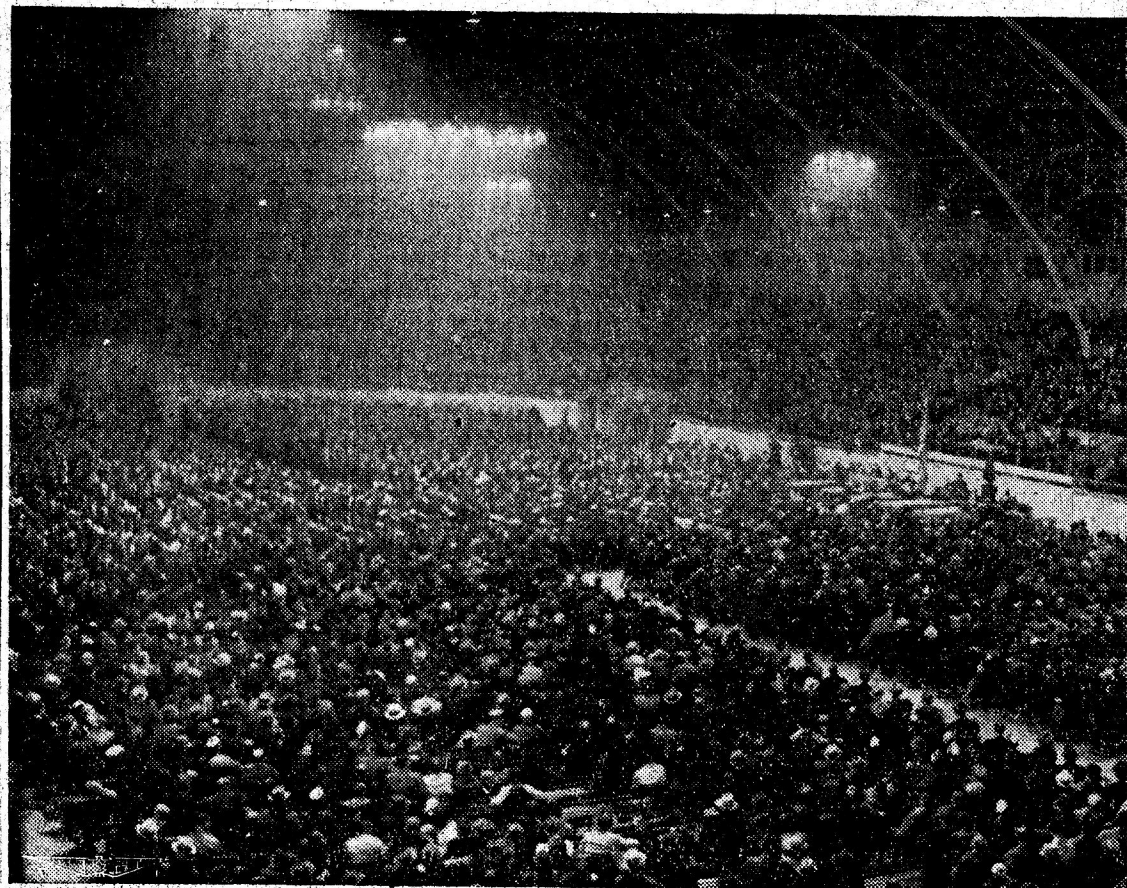
Carry out these steps, crown them with the formation of a Workers and Farmers Government—and the real war against fascism can be waged to a successful and speedy conclusion.

Against a Workers and Farmers Government in the United States, Hitler would soon be rendered powerless. His weapons would be of no avail against revolutionary war. He would no longer be able to frighten the German people with the spectre of another Versailles—for the American workers could then guarantee that there would be no second Versailles oppression. He could no longer demagogically pretend that he was fighting "international capitalism," and would stand revealed for what he is—agent of German capitalism.

All the oppressed peoples of Asia and Africa, now conceded their independence and freedom, would join the American workers to destroy fascism. Hitler and Mussolini would fall—toppled by the German and Italian workers, now assured of the international solidarity of the workers of the world.

This is the road to wipe out fascism forever—through a Workers and Farmers Government. And it is the only road. Workers, on this May Day pledge yourselves to follow this road!

30,000 Ford Workers Meet



Part of the mammoth crowd of 30,000 Ford workers which jammed the UAW-CIO mass meeting on April 10 at the Detroit Fair Grounds to ratify the settlement of the Ford Motor Company strike. Thirty thousand reasons why Ford backed down!

General Motors Strike Vote Starts Monday

GM Workers Are Determined To Win Wage Raises, Union Shop; Are Inspired by Ford Strike, Raises In Steel, Coal, Clothing

FLINT—Representatives of the International Executive Board of the UAW-CIO, forced to take a firm position by the adamant attitude of the General Motors corporation, and by the insistent demands of the union rank and file for improved conditions, called upon all GM locals to take a strike vote beginning Monday, April 28. The announcement met with enthusiastic cheers of an audience of 7,000 workers in a mass meeting at the IMA auditorium here today.

The GM locals had voiced their demands at a delegated conference held February 8, 9, and 10 at which a proposed contract was approved providing for several improved points: among them a ten-cent hourly wage increase, a shop steward system, a union shop, 80-hour vacation with pay instead of the 40 hours now prevailing, a 60 day seniority clause for new workers instead of the six-month clause before seniority is acquired, and a \$25 week wage

past six weeks with practically no results.

The corporation has given a flat NO to the union shop demand, has refused the steward system, and has refused to give an answer on wage increases, Reuther reported.

WORKERS ARE FIRM

The mass meeting in Flint demonstrated beyond doubt the determination and solidarity of the GM workers behind their demands.

Referring to the proposed 30-day cooling off period, the speakers pointed out that the Ford workers had "cooled off" for three years and then had to strike . . . and that the GM workers had been "cooling-off" for six weeks, and were now ready to turn the heat on.

COMPANY'S HUGE PROFITS

Many excellent facts were offered by Reuther, Addes and Thomas, proving that GM could afford to accede to the union's demands.

It was pointed out that the DuPont family alone reaped dividends last year on their common shares of \$37,500,000—the equivalent of \$4,600 per hour, on a 50-week, 40 hour-week basis. The ten-cent hourly wage increase could be paid for out of the DuPont's GM profits alone.

Addes further pointed out that for every dollar paid a worker in wages, GM reaped 65 cents in profit. The ten-cent increase would still leave the company 55 cents an hour to store in the bank and to distribute to the coupon clippers.

INSPIRED BY STRIKE GAINS

The greatest indication as to the new militancy of the GM workers, was shown when reports were made of the wage increases in the coal, steel and clothing industries. These gains by the CIO have inspired the GM workers. The Ford strike served to give

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Anti-Strike, Open-Shop Bill Blasted By CIO, AFL

Main Danger Now Is
Maneuver By FDR To
Provide 'Compromise'

Both the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organization have gone on record expressing complete opposition to the anti-strike, open-shop Vinson Bill. AFL President William Green last Monday added his protest to that voiced the week previously by Philip Murray, head of the CIO.

The bill is expected to be reported out of the Rules Committee and on the floor of the House by this week-end.

The House Naval Affairs Committee last week approved the anti-strike, open-shop Vinson Bill and rushed it to the floor of Congress following a two day "hearing" at which but one CIO spokesman was permitted to testify against the bill.

The only other "witness" to appear before the committee was Secretary of the Navy Knox, who had a day and a half to expand on his endorsement of the "cooling off" principle involved in the bill.

The Vinson measure would impose a compulsory 25 day "cooling off" period before a union could take action on a strike vote. In addition, it proposes to "freeze" wages and open-shop conditions in all plants and industries directly or indirectly engaged in war production.

ROOSEVELT'S GAME

Representative Vinson, Georgia poll-tax Democrat introduced the bill. His closeness to the administration is indicated by the fact that he occupies the key post of chairman of the powerful Naval Affairs Committee. Roosevelt can halt action on this bill any time he cares to nod his head.

The administration is simply playing the old game of "hard cop-soft cop" with organized labor, using the threat of drastic curbs, represented in the Vinson bill, as a club over labor's head to force acceptance of some form of "voluntary" cooling off period before strikes. As Knox, Stimson and other administration spokesmen have indicated, Roosevelt does not care to risk the onus of compulsion unless it is "necessary."

"LAST RESORT" THREAT

Secretary of War Stimson expressed the "soft cop" attitude of the administration in a letter to Chairman Thomas of the Senate Labor Committee, made public last week, in which Stimson stated that the War Department "is loath to recommend restrictive legislation concerning labor relations as long as there is hope that other methods of preventing interruption to production will prove effective."

However, when "other methods," such as the intervention of the National Mediation Board, pressure upon conservative and timid union officials and the extension of the OPM "formula" for settling strikes without wage in-

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ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

The Battle of the Balkans is drawing steadily toward its appointed end—a new Dunkerque for the British on the shores of the Aegean. The hasty move of British forces into Iraq shows that the British have already discounted the defection of Turkey. Britain's Suez "lifeline" will be defended in Western Egypt and at Turkey's frontier.

Meanwhile whatever developments were planned by the Axis strategists to follow upon the conclusion of the Soviet-Japanese pact are evidently awaiting the further course of the Mediterranean campaign. The week that has passed since the pact was signed in Moscow has been marked chiefly by the confirmation in Moscow that the pact accorded with the Axis strategy dictated by Adolf Hitler.

Pravda, Stalin's newspaper mouthpiece, made it plain on April 19 that the pact was to be regarded as a blow at Britain

and the United States by virtue of the new "solid foundation for development of friendly relations between the two states"—the Soviet Union and Japan.

From Chungking came reports that the Kremlin had "assured" the Chinese that aid to China would continue as before—i.e., in the same slow trickle. The well-informed N. Y. TIMES correspondent said that the Chinese Stalinists were "stunned" by the pact and refused to believe it could possibly mean any change in their own anti-Japanese policy. The United Press quoted a Chinese Stalinist spokesman as saying that his party's aim was still the reconquest of Manchuria, where the Kremlin has given recognition to Japan's "special position."

But whatever is done to cover up the fact that Stalin has struck a deal with the imperialist invaders of China, the damage is effectively done.

