

Who Ended The
First World War?

— See page 4 —

THE MILITANT

Formerly the SOCIALIST APPEAL

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

VOL. V—No. 31

NEW YORK, N. Y. SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1941

267

FIVE (5) CENTS

LABOR'S NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE BRANDS ST. PAUL INDICTMENT AS FBI FRAMEUP

August 4-27th Anniversary Of World War I

An Editorial

On August 4, 1914 World War I began. Who "started" it? Learned professors were still trying to figure that out when World War II began. The truth is that all the imperialist powers were equally guilty. It was irrelevant who fired the first shot. All the imperialist powers had reached the stage in their economic and political degeneration where they could go on only by expanding at the expense of each other.

Twenty-five million men were killed or maimed in more than four years of warfare to decide which gang of imperialists would be top dog. The war would have lasted even longer, except that the workers and peasants of Russia, led by Lenin and Trotsky, took their destiny out of the hands of the Czar and the capitalists, and established the governmental power of the Soviets.

The revolutionary events which began in Russia in February, 1917 spread to the trenches and navies on both sides.

Had the American imperialists not entered the war in April, 1917, the war would have been over at least a year earlier than it did end. It would have ended with workers' revolutions throughout Europe. Precisely to prevent successful revolutions and their fruition in the Socialist United States of Europe, the American imperialists intervened.

Even so, revolution swept Germany, Austria and Hungary, and the imperialists forgot yesterday's enemies to join hands against the revolutionary workers. German capitalism was saved from being overthrown thanks only to the support the German capitalists received from American and British capitalism.

The revolutions of 1917 and 1918 which really put an end to the war came late in the war. For the first three years the capitalists were able to go on warring with impunity because of the help they got from the warmongering "socialist" leaders. In Britain, America and France these "socialists" called for "war for democracy against the Kaiser's autocracy." In Germany and Austria-Hungary they called for "war against Czarism."

They lied. In the end the Kaiser was overthrown, not by pro-war socialists, German or Allied, but by the revolution inspired by the anti-war revolutionary socialists, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. Czarism was finally destroyed, not by the "democracies" but by the anti-war Bolsheviks, and then the "democracies" financed the Russian monarchist White Guards with hundreds of millions of dollars in a three-year attempt to restore Czarism.

On this 27th anniversary of World War I, World War II is raging toward the close of its second year. It is but an extension of World War I. German capitalism, saved from revolution by the "democracies," resorted to fascism to destroy the German workers' organizations and to upset the re-division of the earth imposed by the Versailles Treaty. It does not matter who fired the first shot. All the imperialists are again equally responsible.

Today, as in 1914, there are warmongering "socialists" telling us to die for our "own" imperialists. This time there are, in addition, the Stalinists who likewise betray the working class.

No more than the warmongers destroyed Czarism and Kaiserism in World War I, will the warmongers destroy fascism in World War II. The Soviet Union will be saved, and fascism will be extirpated, only by the socialist revolution.

The overthrow of Czarism and Kaiserism seemed a far-off dream on August 4, 1914. The imperialists and their "socialist" warmongering lackeys seemed all-powerful in every country. The voices of Lenin and Trotsky, Luxemburg and Liebknecht, seemed but isolated voices crying in a wilderness of chauvinist madness.

But those few voices represented the real interests of the toiling masses of the world. Out of the crucible of the war came tens of millions of workers and peasants who learned to listen to those voices. Not the "realists" who supported the war, but the courageous few who stood out against it, were listened to by the great masses as the war unfolded death and destruction.

So it will be in this war. We of the Socialist Workers Party have no fear of the future. Today we are indicted and summoned to trial for our anti-war stand. Tomorrow the great masses will know from their own experience that all that we have said against all the imperialists is true. For every anti-war fighter torn by the government from our midst, there will be tens of thousands to take his place as the war unfolds. We represent the real interests of the toiling masses. And those interests will prevail.

Arming the Soviet Workers



This radiophoto from Moscow shows a group of Soviet civilian workers receiving rifles. Many millions of workers and peasants are reported being armed for guerrilla warfare.

James P. Cannon Is SWP N. Y. Mayor Candidate



JAMES P. CANNON

Anti-War Candidate Is One Of The 29 Indicted In St. Paul

James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, will be the Trotskyist Anti-War candidate for Mayor of New York City.

Comrade Cannon is one of the 29 under federal indictment, charged with "seditious conspiracy" by Roosevelt's Department of Justice.

His campaign will mobilize the advanced workers against the brazen attempts of Roosevelt and his War Party to intimidate the anti-war forces in America.

Comrade Cannon's record as a revolutionary socialist anti-war fighter for thirty years gives his campaign outstanding significance. He began his revolutionary career as a member of the IWW before the last war, and received his baptism in the class struggle during the great strikes waged by the IWW in those days.

FOUNDER OF COMMUNIST PARTY

He was an outspoken opponent of the last war and helped the anti-war forces as an editor of a left-wing socialist paper. Under the wartime anti-strike legislation, he was indicted and imprisoned for his work in the 1919 Kansas coal miners strike.

Inspired by the October Revolution led by Lenin and Trotsky, Comrade Cannon became one of the founders of the Communist Party in this country. He was elected to the Central Committee and Political Committee of the party.

He was delegate to the Fourth Congress of the Communist International in 1922 and to numerous other international gatherings in Moscow.

In 1928, he was a delegate to the Sixth Congress of the Third International. In Moscow he saw with his own eyes the bureaucratic degeneration of Stalinism. Expelled from the Communist Party for defending the revolutionary program of Leon Trotsky, he founded the Left Opposition, forerunner of the Socialist Workers Party.

ANTI-WAR PLATFORM

The platform of our party in this campaign will have three chief planks:

1. For a class struggle opposition to the war and the capitalist system that breeds the war.
2. For the defense of all workers' rights and civil liberties against the war-time repressions.
3. For the unconditional defense of the Soviet Union and against reactionary Stalinism which weakens the defense of the Soviet Union.

Every vote for Cannon will be a vote of protest against Roosevelt's attempted frame-up of the 29 "seditious conspiracy" anti-war fighters and militant unionists.

The first stage of the campaign is already under way, with an all-out mobilization of New York party members and sympathizers to get the necessary 7,500 signatures of qualified voters on the petitions to place Comrade Cannon's name on the ballot. Due to the election laws, our candidate will be listed on the petitions and ballots under the name of the Trotskyist Anti-War Party.

Says U. S. Gov't Is Repeating 1918 'Witch-Hunting'

CIO Political Body, Of Which John L. Lewis Is Chairman, Takes Strong Stand Against Federal Indictment of CIO, SWP Members

WASHINGTON, July 28—Labor's Non-Partisan League, of which John L. Lewis is national chairman and to which the CIO is affiliated, today branded the July 15 federal indictment of 29 Local 544-CIO and Socialist Workers Party members as "a menace to fundamental civil liberties and to labor's basic rights."

The text of the press statement of CIO's political body, dated today, follows:

"Witch-hunting tactics of the Department of Justice under A. Mitchell Palmer in World War I are being revived here as history repeats itself in World War II.

"The Palmer period in the Justice Department has long been recognized by all Americans with any respect for human freedom as one of the blackest in our Government's history, yet one of the key figures of that time is still functioning in a high Justice Department post. He is J. Edgar Hoover, now chief of the FBI.

"It was Hoover who was behind the recent Administration move to jam wire-tapping legislation through Congress, which was defeated only after the CIO became active against it. In the postwar era, Hoover's bureau stooped to searching private Senatorial mail and even tried to frame a U.S. Senator on trumped up charges.

"Today, Justice Department activities again are a menace to fundamental civil liberties and to labor's basic rights. The pattern of activity is the same as in Palmer's day and Hoover has forgotten none of it.

In St. Paul a few days ago a large number of CIO union members of Minneapolis were indicted for holding allegedly subversive opinions. The indictment went back to 1938 in strained efforts to find some incident on which to base its action. Not what these men did, but what they thought, formed the real crime against them.

"In this particular case, the Justice Department did not act against these allegedly subversive persons until three years after the deed complained of and

only after they had transferred their membership from the AFL Teamsters Union to the CIO.

"To many observers here, both in and outside the labor movement, this is a clear case of Justice Department interference in a trade union matter. By its action the Justice Department seeks to discourage teamsters from joining the CIO.

A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

"The incident is regarded generally here as an attempt by the Justice Department to establish a precedent. If it is successful, many informed observers are expecting other indictments of labor figures who do not toe the mark in the way some bureaucrat would prefer that they do.

"If Minneapolis teamsters can be jailed for their opinions, so can anybody. That is why the case is of national importance to civil liberties."

Civil Rights Defense Committee Is Organized To Fight Prosecution

It was announced this week that the Civil Rights Defense Committee has been organized on behalf of the defendants in the Federal prosecution of the Socialist Workers Party. This Committee has been formed for the purpose of raising funds to defray the cost of fighting this important case, and to mobilize labor and liberal support for the defendants.

George E. Novack, Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee, stated:

"The Civil Rights Defense Committee proposes to wage an energetic fight on behalf of the members of the Socialist Workers Party and the leaders of Motor Transport Workers Union, Local 544-CIO, who have been indicted in Minnesota. We condemn the action of the Federal Government in conducting such an unjust prosecution against members of a working class party for their opinions, or trade unionists because of their activities in the labor movement.

"We intend to rally public opinion in support of the defendants and to acquaint the American people with the serious threat to civil liberties and to organized labor involved in this important case. We believe that this assault upon labor's democratic rights can be and will be beaten back by an aroused public opinion."

The National Office of the Civil Rights Defense Committee is located at 160 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Auto Union Convention Will Hear John L. Lewis

Buffalo Convention, Opening August 4, May Be Test of Strength Between Lewis and Hillmanite Forces On Issue of CIO Policy

John L. Lewis will address the Buffalo convention of the United Auto Workers-CIO, it was announced Tuesday.

Coupled with the 10-9 vote of the International Executive Board of the UAW, refusing Sidney Hillman an invitation to speak, John L. Lewis' appearance may lead to a dramatic clash of the pro-Lewis forces with the Hillmanites at the convention.

By E. R. FRANK

DETROIT—Every convention of the Auto Workers Union constitutes a landmark in American labor history. The constitutional convention of the UAW, scheduled to open in Buffalo on August 4th will be no exception to this rule.

The great battle looming in the CIO between the Hillman and the Lewis forces will find its initial test of strength at this convention.

Relations between the Lewis-Addes and Thomas-Reuther groups have become increasingly embittered. The International Executive Board is divided into two hostile camps. Things have reached such a sharp turn that the board rejected by a vote of 10 to 9 the proposal made at its last meeting to invite Sidney Hillman to address the UAW convention.

The sad fact must be recorded, however, that the Lewis-Addes forces have not yet indicated clearly what they stand for.

HILLMANITE LINE IS CLEAR

Everybody knows where the Reuther-Thomas group stands. Comprising about half the union leadership and controlling such key sections as the General Motors, Chrysler and the Aircraft divisions, this group follows the Hillman program. It has sold itself lock, stock and barrel to the Roosevelt war machine. It supports the OPM and the National Mediation Board and, in general, is working overtime to place labor in the army straight jacket.

Of course the Hillmanite program, when boldly put, is not very popular with the auto workers or any other group of workers. The workers interests are in a diametrically opposite direction. The workers must fight for constant wage increases, if they are even to hold their own in this period of upward-spiraling prices.

In order to chloroform the auto workers so that against their better judgment and against their real desires they would line up behind the war machine, the Reu-

ther group has initiated a virulent red-baiting campaign reminiscent of Homer Martin at his worst. Reuther and Frankenstein announced months ago that they would seek an amendment to the UAW constitution to bar all members, sympathizers, etc. of so-called "subversive groups." That is where the Reuther-Thomas group stands and this is the program it will fight for at the Buffalo convention.

The other half of the top union leadership, the so-called Addes group, has generally supported John L. Lewis and his policies. What is the policy of John L. Lewis' followers in the UAW? Nobody knows for sure. The Addes people caucus against the Thomas-Reuther group, they compete for positions with them, but they have not yet clearly revealed what their union program is and what the membership grants them the leadership.

John L. Lewis has unquestionably taken a more progressive stand on many recent union issues than Hillman and his supporters. This much can be said.

(Continued on page 5)

Friends Asked To Aid SWP Election Campaign

Every class-conscious worker, every opponent of the boss war, every progressive individual who wants to defend civil liberties and the democratic rights of the workers, can do his bit by supporting the campaign of James P. Cannon for mayor of New York City.

The first stage of that campaign is to secure sufficient signatures on the petitions to place our candidate's name on the ballot. The election laws, aimed at restricting minority political parties from participation in the elections, are extremely stringent and require 7,500 signatures of qualified voters on the nominating petitions.

We urge every friend and sympathizer of our party to join with us in securing the necessary number of signatures.

Come to our headquarters at 116 University Place without delay, and obtain your petition blanks. The fight against this war and for the freedom of the 29 "seditious conspiracy" defendants will be aided by placing the name of James P. Cannon on the ballot in the coming New York City mayoralty election campaign.

