

How Labor Can Strike Hitler A Mortal Blow

An Editorial

When asked: "Is an internal collapse of Germany likely?" the answer of British Prime Minister Churchill at his White House press conference on Dec. 23 was: "Don't let us bank on that. We have got to bank on an external knockout."

And from his point of view, from the point of view of capitalist politicians, this answer was the only one he could give. Churchill is unable to bank on a revolution against Hitler in Germany. He speaks the truth when he says that he can hope for a victory over the Axis by superior military force alone.

Right now the military initiative is with Hitler. Churchill has already admitted that it may be two or more years before the Allies will be able to engage the Axis with an equal or superior military force. Thus the military advantages are with Hitler. And according to Churchill, they will remain with him for some time.

But wars are not settled on this field alone. The successful struggle of the Soviet government in the days of the Civil War and imperialist intervention of 1918-20 is proof of this. While Hitler still has the military preponderance, at the same time it is generally recognized that the morale of the German soldiers and the German people is probably lower at this time than at any time since the beginning of the war, and the possibilities for an "internal collapse" greater than at any time since Hitler took power.

Consequently, when Churchill conducts the kind of war against Hitler that has to depend for the outcome solely on the military arena, and is unable to benefit from the political difficulties and internal contradictions of the enemy, he is conducting just the kind of war that Hitler wants him to, and that Hitler at this stage of the war fears least of all.

We do not mean by this that Churchill would not like "an internal collapse" in Germany under certain conditions that would be favorable to the Allied war aims. Churchill is after all fully aware of the gravity of Britain's position in the war and he is not an idiot. Nevertheless he has to conduct the war on the plane where Hitler wants it for two very good reasons.

The first is that he is incapable of arousing the German masses to revolutionary action against their own oppressors. They do not trust Churchill and the other Allied spokesmen and they feel from their experiences of the last war that they have no reason to trust them.

They remember from the last war that even after they had overthrown the Kaiser and the German war government, the Allies imposed a crushing peace settlement on them which starved their children, bled their industries white and created the economic and political conditions which made possible the seizure of power by the fascists.

And even if they did not have the experiences of the last war to go by, they would still have the declarations of Churchill in this war. How can they trust him when he told the world in the eighth point of the Atlantic Charter that after the war the Allies will disarm Germany and thus reduce it to the status of a secondary power?

His proclamations on paper that he stands for "the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they shall live" do not impress them very much as long as they see that in fact he refuses to grant freedom to the people of India.

They fear, when he says the Allied governments will teach "them" a "lesson which they and the world will never forget," that he means the German people as well as their oppressors. And as long as they do, they will also fear to take any steps — including the overthrow of their oppressors — which may place the German people at the mercy of the Allies.

In addition to being unable to arouse the German revolution, Churchill is afraid of it. That is the second reason why he does not "bank" on it.

Churchill would not be afraid of a "safe" revolution; on the contrary, if the German General Staff would overthrow Hitler and establish their own military dictatorship and sue for peace, or if the German capitalists decided to get rid of Hitler because they felt he was no longer able to safeguard their interests, he would welcome them with open arms.

But Churchill knows that these variants are extremely unlikely. He knows that when the German workers overthrow Hitler in spite of all the sacrifices, bloodshed and dangers that that will entail, they will be in no mood to re-establish a government of the people who were tarred with the Nazi brush or of the people who fought for the victory of the Allies and another Versailles. For then the German masses will establish their own Workers and Farmers Government, and appeal to the masses in the Allied countries to follow their example and together build the Socialist United States of Europe and the world, thus forever sweeping away war, fascism, imperialism and reaction.

Churchill would prefer a war that would last a hundred years to such a German revolution, and to the effects such a revolution would have on the workers in England and the masses in the British Empire.

This is why Churchill does not "bank" on a German revolution, and this is why the Allies dare not take advantage of the internal difficulties of Hitler, and this is why the war may last another two years — at least — and probably much longer.

And this is also why we Trotskyists, who want the destruction of Hitlerism and a "lasting peace" that will really last, continue to call on the masses in Britain and the United States to join the fight for Workers and Farmers Governments.

Such Governments would have nothing to fear from a liberating socialist revolution in Germany, and would do everything they could to bring it about. The masses in Germany, having observed the example of their British and American brothers in establishing such Governments and in granting independence to the colonies, and on being assured of a just peace and true collaboration from such Governments, would begin at once and with confidence the struggle for their own socialist revolution against Hitler.

That is how a Workers and Farmers Government would spell the doom of fascism and war everywhere!

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CHURCHILL URGES CREATION OF NEW LEAGUE OF NATIONS

N.J. CIO Votes Support of 18

State Council Hits Minnesota Convictions

Calls On Affiliates To Aid in the Appeal And Fight to Free 18

Dec. 30 — The New Jersey State Industrial Union Council of the CIO, representing more than a quarter million organized workers in the state, last night vigorously pledged its support to the 18 labor defendants convicted for violation of the 1940 Smith Gag Law in the Minneapolis prosecution of Local 544-CIO and the Socialist Workers Party.

The resolution, adopted by the Council had been favorably recommended to the State CIO Convention on Dec. 7 by the Resolutions Committee and then referred for action to the incoming State Council upon the announcement that war had broken out in the Pacific.

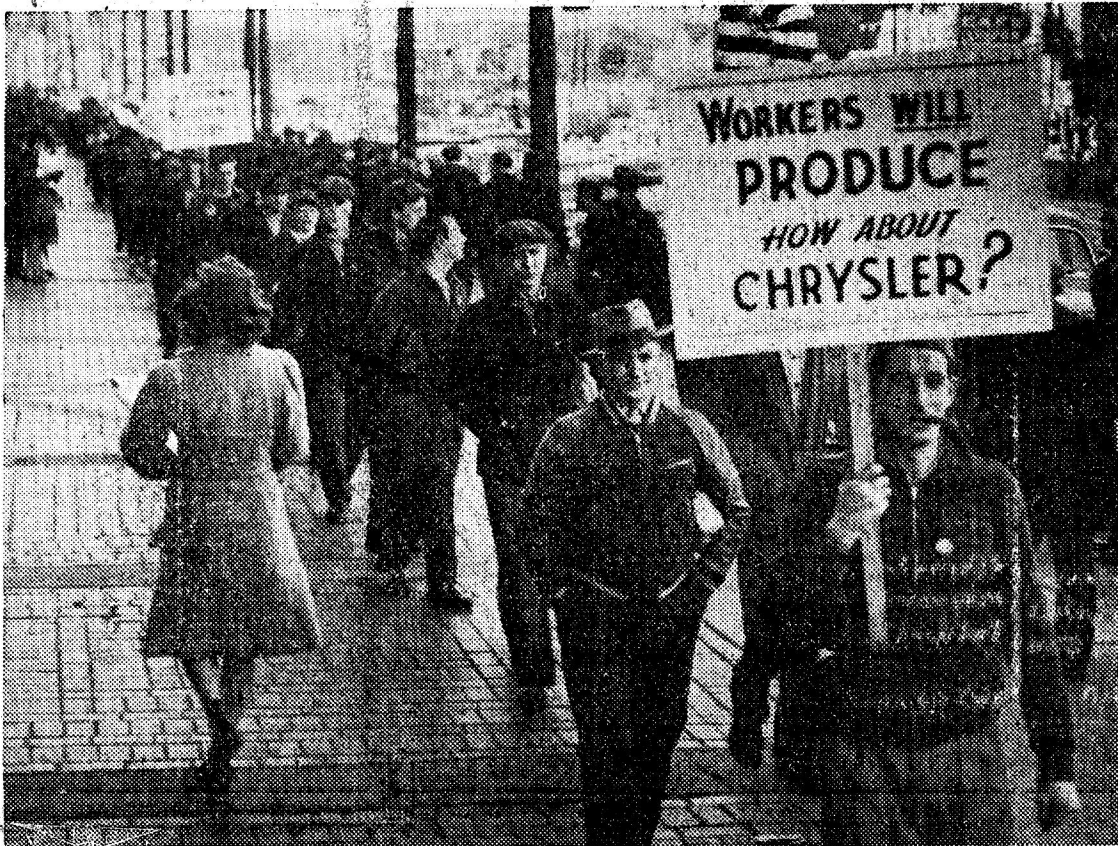
The resolution declared that the New Jersey CIO "condemns the convictions in the Minneapolis case and protests the use of the FBI to interfere in the democratic procedure of the labor movement."

It calls upon its affiliates to give "support in this case, to aid in the appeal of this case to the Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the Smith Act and to free the eighteen defendants."

It points out further that "these are the first convictions under the Smith Act which was sponsored by Representative Howard Smith, author of the vicious Smith Slave-Labor Bill" and that "this law is a dangerous weapon against labor and the democratic rights of the American people."

The Council also recognized

Protesting Priorities Lay-Offs



Detroit's streets once more resounded to the marching feet of thousands of auto workers, as these members of the United Auto Workers, CIO, last week picketed the Chrysler plant in protest against priorities lay-offs. Refusal of the auto corporations to effect speedy re-adjustment of their plants and machinery to war work was held responsible for the situation.

War Labor Policy Favors Interests Of Employers

Despite No-Strike Agreement, Economic Pressure Will Force Workers to Strike

By DON DORE

Still holding to their position that the open shop must be "frozen" for the duration of the war, the employer representatives at the labor-industry conference unwillingly yielded last week to a direct request of President Roosevelt and accepted a three-point proposal for the handling of labor disputes during the war that did not contain the open-shop demand.

The employers, however, had already gained their main immediate objectives. The proposals finally accepted included the surrender of the right to strike, the settlement of all labor demands through negotiation, mediation and arbitration, and the establishment of a War Labor Board empowered to handle all disputes.

In accepting these terms, the employers did not give up their expressed aim of continuing to fight for the elimination of the union closed shop issue as a proper dispute for consideration by the War Labor Board.

A few hours after accepting the agreement, the employer representatives joined in a formal statement which declared that: "We believe that, in determining the procedure of the board, consideration should be given to the principle we have consistently maintained — namely, that the board should not accept for arbitration or consideration the issue of the closed shop."

OPEN SHOP STILL ISSUE
The fact that the War Labor Board will have the power to consider cases involving the question of the union or closed shop does not mean that it will use this power. The board is not compelled to consider such cases, it will merely have the right to do so. If the board should refuse to consider any closed-shop demands,

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Proposes Plan That Failed To Halt Present War

Discredited System That Grew Out of First World War No Hope for Lasting Peace

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill resurrected the ghost of the League of Nations in his address before the United States Congress on Dec. 26.

His answer to the growing demand of the masses for some permanent solution to the problem of war was to reach into the trash barrel of history and pull out the tattered remnants of the League of Nations idea. What failed to prevent World War II was offered as a means of preventing World War III.

It is necessary, Churchill stated, that "an adequate organization be set up to make sure that the pestilence (war) can be controlled at its earliest beginnings before it spreads and rages throughout the entire world."

What that "adequate organization" is to be is bluntly stated by Edwin L. James, political commentator for the New York Times on Dec. 28. "It may be called the 'League' or it may be called something else; that makes small difference. But it is plain that both Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt look forward to the fair day when they can take up where Woodrow Wilson left off."

EXPLAINING PAST FAILURE
Anticipating the skepticism that would undoubtedly greet his proposal, the Prime Minister sought to give some explanation for the failure of the past League of Nations to prevent the present war.

"If we (America and Britain) had kept together after the last war, if we had taken common measures for our safety, this renewal of the curse need never have fallen upon us. . . Five or six years ago it would have been easy without shedding a drop of blood for the United States and Great Britain to have insisted on the fulfillment of the disarmament clauses of the treaties which Germany signed after the Great War. And that also would have been the opportunity for assuring to the Germans those materials, those raw materials, which we declared in the Atlantic Charter should not be denied to any nation, victor or vanquished."

The failure of the League, according to Churchill, was due to the failure of the United States to participate in it, to enforce the disarmament of Germany, to afford Germany access to raw materials.

FALSE ARGUMENTS
These are specious arguments on the face of it. Is it reasonable to believe that the old League, which con-

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Stalin And Eden Reach Agreement On War Policy

By ANTHONY MASSINI

The most important developments of the Soviet-German war last week did not take place on the front. It took place in the Kremlin where Stalin and Anthony Eden concluded an agreement between the Soviet and British governments on the conduct of the war, and the kind of peace to be established by them after the war.

The effects of this agreement on the war will be far-reaching. Instead of strengthening the Soviet Union, Stalin has placed a powerful weapon in the hands of Hitler and Goebbels. For the conference dealt not only with military and political problems relating to the conduct of the war, but also with the "post-war organization of the peace and security of Europe."

According to first London reports on the conference, printed

in the New York Times, Dec. 28, Stalin and Eden came to an agreement on a policy for "post-war reconstruction along the general lines laid down by the Atlantic Charter declaration of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill in their conference at sea last summer."

But while the eight points of Roosevelt and Churchill were vague on the all-important question of revolution in Europe, Stalin and Eden were quite specific.

ALLAYING FEARS OF REACTIONARIES

"It was also emphasized," says the London report, "that the negotiators had produced a unity of British and Russian views concerning postwar Europe — a development expected to be of special importance in view of fears in some circles that an attempt might be made to spread bolshev-

ism in the future Europe. . . "It was suggested that there might be something like a 'Continental Charter' for Europe that

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Pope Offers A Peace Program

To the half-billion Catholics who awaited his Christmas Eve message as a divine revelation, the words of Pope Pius XII conveyed little comfort and even less hope. The New York Times, Dec. 25, with all due respect described the message as "the most pessimistic speech he has uttered since the war began."

Gazing down from his spiritual eminence, the Pope surveyed the bloody conflict among nations. He confessed he could "scarcely find any reason for

comfort." Indeed, the sights on which his pontifical eyes dwelt caused him "depressing anguish."

However, the Pope offered more than consolation. He sought to enlighten mankind on the causes of the war and give guidance for the future.

"Men have rebelled" against the true doctrines of the Church; they have cast aside "moral principles." That is the reason for the war and all social evils, declared the Pope. "There is no other remedy than that of a return to the altars. . . a return

to the wise and unshakable norms of the social order. . . The Pope may be forgiven if he failed to be more specific as to the nature of these moral principles and "wise and unshakable norms."

SOME EXAMPLES OF "MORAL PRINCIPLES"
For it seems that every Christian ruler and statesman already lays claim to them. Indeed, Hitler, Mussolini, Petain, Roosevelt and Churchill do not lack Catholic sanction for their respective causes. In Germany, Italy,

France, England and America, the Catholic clergy, or important sections of it, have blessed the aims and aspirations of their respective nations.

Thus it would seem that the moral principles of the Church differ according to national boundaries, or that there is a division of opinion among Church leaders on what constitutes true moral principles.

The Pope's words might also have been more convincing had he been able to point to some

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