

Mexican Unions To Give Workers Army Training

Convention of CTM Casts Unanimous Vote To Institute Union-Controlled Training

Half a million members of Mexican trade unions will receive military training under the control and direction of their unions, according to an announcement made on Feb. 9 in the national headquarters of the C. T. M. (Confederation of Mexican Workers), the largest labor federation in the country. The story, reported in a special dispatch from Mexico City to the Feb. 10 *New York Herald-Tribune*, explains some of the details of the C. T. M. program for military training:

"All workmen between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five belonging to the federation will drill for one hour daily in brigades organized by labor. It is estimated, for example, that 10,000 chauffeurs will be enrolled in a chauffeurs' brigade. Railroad workers, bakers, street car line employees, spinners, weavers, electricians and other trades will be organized into similar brigades."

The dispatch indicates too that the decision to train the C.T.M. members is heartily approved by the local officials and members of the union:

"The training is voluntary as far as the government is concerned, having been voted unanimously by several hundred delegates to the federation's recent national convention in Mexico City, but will be compulsory within the federation, except for those physically incapacitated."

PROGRESSIVE STEP

The Mexican trade union movement has thus taken a long step forward in the protection of the workers' interests and organizations. The growing menace of reaction within Mexico as reflected in the rightward moves of the Camacho government, and the spread of the war to all parts of the globe, requires a trade union movement that is trained in the military arts and able to protect itself against its enemies.

The decision of the C.T.M. means that the workers will be able to receive military training under control of labor organizations. These organizations are far from what they should be, both from the point of view of democracy and militancy. Nevertheless they are organizations of workers and as such hostile to the interests of the capitalists. The dispatch does not say anything about the plans of the C. T. M. for training worker-officers in the more highly specialized art of military leadership. But if the proposal for military training is taken seriously by the unions, this question too will have to be taken up and acted on, for worker-soldiers need worker-officers just as much as any army needs officers.

THE DECISIVE THING

The dispatch states that the workers will receive military training "to prepare them for incorporation into the Mexican Army in case of necessity." The conservative trade union leadership tied to the government, will undoubtedly try to swing the

by the government but controlled by the trade unions, to train the workers to become officers." Such training would make it impossible for the American fascists to crush the trade union organizations as the fascists did in Germany and Italy.

Advanced workers in this country will be interested in the developments of the C.T.M. program, and especially for the lessons American workers will be able to learn from it. THE MILITANT will make every effort to cover these developments in its pages.

Business As Usual On International Scale

The "New York Times" of Feb. 5 has a story from Basle, Switzerland, showing that business is still business, and the Axis powers are no more desirous of disrupting it than the United Nations.

"Thomas McKittrick," it reads, "president of the Bank for International Settlements, will retain his post in full agreement with the other members of the bank despite the fact his American nationality is that of a belligerent."

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V. R. Dunne Explains Trial Of 18 To Auto Workers

FLINT, Mich., Feb. 6. — An enthusiastic audience of automobile workers meeting in the regional headquarters of the CIO last night heard a speech on "The Meaning of the Minneapolis Convictions" by V. R. Dunne, leader of Local 544-CIO of Minneapolis, and one of those convicted for violation of the Smith "Gag" Act in the Minneapolis labor trial last December.

Dunne gave a short history of the union struggle for decent conditions in Minneapolis and for union democracy within Tobin's Teamsters International. He sketched the events which led up to the disaffiliation of Local 544 from the AFL and its affiliation with the CIO, and the resultant prosecution of Local 544 and Socialist Workers Party leaders.

Dunne showed that these convictions both violate the democratic rights of the labor move-

ment and endanger the civil liberties of the American people.

Despite the fact that the meeting took place at the same time as an important union conference, there was a good attendance of union members and officers who had expressed interest in the case.

Although most of those who attended were victims of priorities unemployment, they contributed generously to the Defense Fund.

Dunne's speech in Flint was one of his first stops on his national tour for the Civil Rights Defense Committee, the organization mobilizing public support for the 18 who were convicted.

A revised schedule of the remaining stops of Dunne's tour, as released this week by the C.R.D.C., will be found on P. 2. For further information about the tour, address the C.R.D.C., 160 Fifth Ave., N. Y. C.

CIO HEADS HAND OVER KEY DEMANDS TO WLB

Same 'Old Gang' Is Running War Production Board

An Editorial

The War Production Board is the discredited OPM with a new name. Like the OPM, it is run by the dollar-a-year men, and run by them in the interests of the Wall Street monopolists.

This is becoming clear even to the leaders of labor, who pledged their allegiance to it when it was set up with much fanfare only a month ago.

On Feb. 5, for example, at a symposium in Philadelphia, E. J. Lever, a SWOC official who is now working in the WPB's labor division, charged that the WPB is no different than the monopoly-dominated OPM: "The name has been changed, but the old gang is still there."

The bosses do not ask Washington what to do, he declared, but they tell the government and they "have the brass hats eating out of their hands."

So far as labor policies are concerned, he added, "The labor procurement agencies have been working with too many theories evolved at a time when industry was concentrating on preventing the extension of collective bargaining."

The same day in Detroit UAW President R. J. Thomas blamed current unemployment of 300,000 auto workers on "management and its agents in government," recalled that the OPM had been "dominated by selfish corporate industries" and implied that the WPB was no better.

Thomas' description of the war production set-up was supplemented by a statement from

Walter Reuther, director of the UAW's GM division, who asserted that GM and the other auto corporations claim that "they merely went along with the government" but the fact is that "they were the government." Since the WPB is only a new label for the old set-up, this means that the capitalist monopolies are the government now too.

What these labor leaders say about the WPB is true so far as it goes. But the solution they propose will solve nothing. They ask big business to share a few of the government posts with themselves. They want to reform the WPB by adding a few more "junior partners" like Sidney Hillman.

Donald Nelson has made it clear that he will depend on the dollar-a-year men to run the war. Under pressure, he may add some labor representatives to governmental agencies. But "the old gang" will still be there, and they will still be "eating out of the hands" of the monopolies and running the war program in their interests. The labor representatives will serve only as the window dressing.

Labor's job is not to get some more posts for the union bureaucrats who will only be the prisoners of big business in the government. Labor's job is to fight to take the control of war production completely out of the hands of big business which has shown its chief interest is profits. Labor must demand that the government take over the war industries and operate them under the management and control of the workers.

G. M. Auto Union Council Maps Contract Demands

By JOE ANDREWS

FEB. 9. — UAW delegates from 90 General Motors plants met in Detroit last week-end to draw up a set of demands for new contract negotiations with the corporation. The current contract expires in April.

The results of this conference, and the negotiations with GM, will have great significance for the entire labor movement; workers in CIO unions all over the country look to the auto workers to set the pace. If the auto workers succeed in defending their standards and conditions, it will inspire and bear heavily on the

success of the struggle of workers in steel, electrical and other major industries.

Walter Reuther, GM Director for the UAW, proposed a set of six demands: a blanket dollar-a-day wage increase, the union shop, revision of seniority to protect workers in the transfer to military work, extension of the umpire's powers, a \$100 Defense Bond payment in lieu of the paid vacation, the establishment of union committees to defend the plants. In demanding a dollar-a-day increase, Reuther also proposed the union ask for a provision by which wages would be readjusted every three months in accordance with rising living costs in major auto centers.

Pointing out that workers are actually "worse off than they were a year ago," Reuther based the demand for the wage increase on the fact that the 10 cent an hour increase won last year has already been eaten up by the rapid rise in living costs. "In 1941 the corporation made a profit of \$1366 per employee," Reuther said. The dollar-a-day increase, on the basis of 1941 earnings, would still leave over \$1200 profit per employee for the Du-Ponts and the other GM coupon clippers.

RISING SCALE OF WAGES

The demand that wages be readjusted every three months is as important as the demand for a general wage increase. The danger of a precipitate fall in the buying power of the workers as a result of increased prices was foreseen last year by the GM Conference, which also drew up contract demands providing that wages be raised automatically with the cost of living.

But the GM negotiations conducted by Reuther and the UAW executive board did not win this demand last year; they settled for the blanket 10-cent hourly increase, which was quickly eaten up by spiraling prices. This year the problem faces the auto worker.

Depend On Labor Board Alone To Obtain Demands

Workers' Struggle for Wage Increases and Union Shop Endangered by No-Strike Policy

The eyes of all American labor are centered on the War Labor Board, to whose mercies the CIO leaders last week entrusted crucial demands of the workers in steel, auto and other basic industries.

Among the decisive cases slumped to the WLB are those involving "Little Steel" — Bethlehem, Republic, Inland Steel and Youngstown Sheet and Tube — and General Motors. In addition, the WLB for a number of weeks has had before it the "maintenance of membership" demand of the CIO shipyard workers at U. S. Steel's Federal Shipbuilding Co. plant in Kearny, N. J.

The WLB decisions in the "Little Steel" cases, where the Steel Workers Organizing Committee is seeking dollar-a-day wage increases and the union shop, are expected to have a decisive bearing on pending contract negotiations in the entire steel industry and to indicate the position the Board will take on the CIO's general wage and union shop demands.

The GM case is thus far limited to the single issue of overtime pay for Sunday and Saturdays. The fact that the auto union leaders have submitted this issue to the WLB indicates that they will probably do the same thing with the even more important wage and union shop demands in the coming contract negotiations with the auto corporations.

WHAT MURRAY MEANS WHEN HE SAYS "FIGHT"

This readiness of the union leaders to submit all major demands and disputes to the WLB demonstrates what CIO President Philip Murray really had in mind when he promised recently that the CIO would "fight" for higher wages and union security in all industries.

Since these leaders have agreed — without consulting their members — to surrender the use of the strike weapon, it is clear that they are staking the interests and vital demands of the workers exclusively on the hope of favorable WLB decisions.

The demands now before the WLB are those to which the employers are most bitterly opposed, general wage increases and the union shop. The bosses are raising an ever harsher clamor for "freezing" of wages and the open-shop status quo.

Their offensive has been strengthened by influential Administration spokesmen, particularly Price Administrator Leon

Henderson. An Associated Press dispatch on Feb. 10 disclosed that Henderson last week appeared personally before a full session of the WLB and urged it to rule against any general wage increases such as the CIO is demanding.

The Board's handling of the Federal Shipbuilding "maintenance of membership" dispute gives a hint of the position it is likely to take on the question of the union shop. Although the Board has had this case for weeks, it has as yet made no decision. This delay indicates that the Board is seeking some "formula" which will seem to make some concession to the workers, but actually enable the open shop to remain in force.

This does not mean that the Board will rule against labor in every case and on every demand. There is the possibility of the Board making some small concessions, including limited wage increases. Such concessions, however, would have for their purpose to silence workers' protest against mounting war profits and soaring living costs and to bolster the myth of the Board's "impartiality."

FOR REPUDIATION OF THE NO-STRIKE POLICY

The union leaders' policy of depending solely on the WLB to protect the workers' interests is a grave danger to the workers because it places their interests entirely at the mercy of the "good-will" of 12 individuals, including four corporation heads and four so-called "public" representatives with pro-employer leanings.

It deprives the workers of their most effective bargaining weapon, the strike, and gives them in return only the privilege of having some self-appointed labor "attorneys" plead for them before a board which is stacked against labor.

The defense of the workers' interests demands a repudiation of the present union leadership and its servile policies. It demands a genuine fighting policy and union officials who are concerned only with leading and inspiring the workers in genuine struggle for their rights and conditions.

such evidence, such a verdict could not be sustained; and that if the evidence showed the defendant appropriated funds, he had done so openly and in good faith. The judge denied the motion but suggested the defense renew its motion after it had introduced its testimony.

Courtroom observers and newspapermen predict that the case will never go to the jury, so weak is Tobin's case.

Congress Stalls Priorities Relief Bill

FEB. 10. — Despite mounting unemployment due to priorities and plant closures for war production conversion, Congress for the past three weeks has been kicking around a bill for a paltry \$300,000,000 to aid the jobless. This is the same Congress which has appropriated a total of \$115,000,000,000 for war without a pause or quibble.

It was only after months of clamor and growing pressure from the organized workers that President Roosevelt on Jan. 17 made the gesture of proposing an appropriation of \$450,000,000 to \$600,000,000 to supplement present state unemployment insurance benefits, which average \$10 weekly per worker for a maximum of 13 weeks. This was immediately trimmed down to \$300,000,000 following a White House conference between Roosevelt and Congressional leaders.

No further action has been taken thus far, although by Feb. 1 over 300,000 auto workers alone had been laid off. Roosevelt, who can always get speedy action from Congress when he wants it, has sat back and let Congress stall.

Actually, even the top sum pro-

employment insurance agencies are protesting the original bill because it might interfere with "state rights" and pave the way for "federalization" of unemployment insurance.

These same Congressmen, however, didn't stall for a single minute when they recently voted themselves handsome retirement pensions, thus setting off nationwide ridicule of Congress.

Meanwhile, a lot of propaganda has been spread by corporation and government sources about how fast the auto industry conversion is taking place and how "soon" there will be a shortage of labor. This is intended to convey the impression that the auto workers will be off work "only a few weeks."

C. E. Wilson, General Motors president, was forced to admit, however, at the United Auto Workers' CIO, GM council conference, on Feb. 8, that GM employment was 196,000 in Dec., 1941, a decline of 39,000 from the June, 1941 peak of 235,000. It

will reach 148,000 by March, 185,000 by June, and not hit 235,000 again until September. 87,000 GM workers, according to Wilson's own admission, will be out of work from two to eight months.

The unemployed workers are expected to use their months of enforced idleness to train for war production work. This is the sort of training which many corporations customarily give the workers on the job while paying them full wages.

The organized labor movement should demand that Congress do no less, by appropriating a minimum of \$1,000,000,000 to put all the unemployed into training for jobs in the war industries while paying full union wages during this training period.

This demand must be implemented by nation-wide organized union action to force Congress to act — and act at once — to provide adequate unemployment benefits and training for all the jobless workers.

KELLY POSTAL ACQUITTED BY JUDGE

BULLETIN

Minneapolis, Feb. 11. — Judge Hall orders directed verdict of acquittal for Kelly Postal because of lack of evidence.

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 9. — The trial of Secretary-Treasurer Kelly Postal of Local 544-CIO for the alleged embezzlement of \$1,000 from AFL Teamsters President Tobin was resumed this morning before District Judge Levi H. Hall, as the defense began introduction of testimony.

The state rested its case last Thursday, and a mighty weak case it is. Like the federal government's recent "sedition" case, the "embezzlement" case rests completely on the testimony of the Tobin payrollers and Quilings.

Of the eight witnesses, seven are Tobin agents; four of these were also government witnesses in the sedition trial; two are members of the "Committee of 99"; the seventh is T. T. ("Raw Deal") Neal, Tobin's receiver. The eighth witness, a clerk at Postal Telegraph, gave testimony that boomeranged on Tobin.

The \$1,000 that Postal allegedly embezzled is the check for that amount, made out on Jan. 22, 1940, in the middle of the Pink

Suit against Local 544. It was a cashier's check drawn as a precaution against the finks and their boss backers tying up the union treasury. The check was finally cashed June 11, 1941; after the 544 membership had voted to leave the AFL and join the CIO, and had unanimously passed a resolution instructing its officers to take all necessary steps to defend the union's property from its enemies.

When the state rested its case Thursday afternoon, defense attorneys made a motion for dismissal, on the following grounds: That the state had failed to substantiate its claims; that the state had failed to show the commission of any crime; that if a verdict of guilty were given on

What Colonial People Think About The War

British Get Little Aid Now From Their Own Subjects

By ART PREIS

Some of the capitalist press accounts of the Malaya fighting stoop to the absurd in an effort to "explain" the Japanese military successes. One of the correspondents, for instance, even has it that the Japanese soldiers have the advantage of being "natural" jungle fighters, although most of them have never seen a jungle, being largely farm boys, factory workers, office clerks, etc., of the sort that make up the armies of the western powers.

More plausible accounts reiterate the complaint about Japanese "herds" and "overwhelming superiority of numbers" and "tremendous concentrations" of mechanical equipment.

A New York Times story, Jan. 31, reports the extent of these "herds": "A British military commentator in London estimated that the Japanese had six full divisions of 100,000 men in Malaya."

But how does it happen that 100,000 men have made such rapid advances against the British who rule over 400,000,000 people in India, Burma and the Malay States?

BRITAIN AND CHINA

As for aircraft, tanks and guns, the British forces in Malaya are far better off in this respect than the Chinese army.

"Yet here are the Chinese, who have nothing," observes the columnist Samuel Grafton in the New York Post, Jan. 15, "killing hell out of the Japanese at Changsha, and filtering toward Canton, while the Malaysians, plus Indians, plus Australians, plus British, are backing down the Malay Peninsula toward Singapore. How is it that Chinese 'natives' alone" he asks, "are doing better than Malayan natives plus English?"

Here is a question which probes deeply into the reasons for the British defeats. What about the Malayan natives? What role are they playing? Haven't they heard the message of the "four freedoms"?

The dispatches from the Far East don't say much about the native peoples. But they do contain some significant hints on the status of affairs.

REPORTS ON THE NATIVES

Interspersed in the reports from Malaya and Burma one reads repeatedly: "British troops most of the time have had to fight blind. . . while the Japanese have had aerial observation constantly and the great added advantage of land reconnaissance by their own men slipping through the lines disguised as Malaysians or by hirelings among the natives." (Singapore dispatch, New York Times, Jan. 15).

"The Japanese continue to fight largely in plain clothes. . . Japanese troops dressed like Malays and riding in small groups on bicycles, as if going to market, have attempted to filter through the British lines." (Northern Johore dispatch, New York Times, Jan. 21).

And from the Maulmein Front, Burma, comes the story: "Fifth columnists aided them (the Japanese), to some extent, in creating general civilian disorganization. . . The Japanese dress in the uniforms of prisoners and advance shouting in Burmese, Indian and English. They force natives to shoulder guns and march along with them to give the impression of numerical superiority."

It sounds strange indeed, that the British who have ruled Malaya for a hundred years are so

easily fooled by Japanese "disguised as natives"; that the Malayan and Burmese natives don't tip the British off about these cunning tricks; that ordinary Japanese soldiers run around "shouting" in three foreign tongues, no less.

One is forced to conclude, at any rate, that the native peoples aren't giving much aid to the British because they are more or less indifferent about the British fight for the "four freedoms." Here, then, is a clue to the British difficulties.

AFRAID TO ARM THE NATIVE PEOPLE

Moreover, the British show no eagerness to organize and arm the natives in defense of their own land.

The London Daily Express, Jan. 15, lamented that "here is the great tragedy of Malaya. We could have had a native defense in Malaya. . . But a pack of whiskey-swilling planters and military birds of passage have forgotten this side of the Malayan population."

No, they haven't "forgotten" it. They deliberately obstruct it. An Associated Press dispatch from Singapore on Feb. 6 tells that the Singapore radio has broadcast an appeal "for all able-bodied European civilians" to join the Singapore defense forces, explaining that "the use of only Europeans for this service likely would prevent the Japanese from trying to land disguised as natives."

Surely, one must ask, wouldn't the advantages of a greatly augmented armed force offset the possibility of a few Japanese infiltrating "disguised as natives", and wouldn't armed Malaysians be the best preventive of such a possibility? Clearly, this is a pretty thin excuse to cover the fact that the British fear armed natives as much as they do the Japanese.

Why? Because the British authorities feel that the native people hate them no less than they fear the threat of the new Japanese masters.

We have a good example on a small scale of what has bred that hatred in the following, reported in an Associated Press dispatch from Singapore, New York Times, Feb. 6:

"The ranking air raid warden in Singapore is quoted as saying: 'It's no use telling the people that Malta has had a thousand raids and they have stuck it, or that Chungking has had worse than we've had. Those places have ideal shelters and we have nothing except drains and trenches.'"

The report comments: "Before the war came to Malaya, authorities here shelved a proposal for deep shelters holding that the terrain was unsuitable and the cost prohibitive."

Naturally, the native people, who are being bombed mercilessly by the Japanese, resent the fact that the British could spend \$400,000,000 for a now useless naval base and find the "cost prohibitive" for air raid shelters.

MIKE GOLD AND HIS FRIEND 'SLIM' DISCUSS THE COLONIAL SITUATION

By M. STEIN

Institutions have a way of continuing their existence long after they have become devoid of the ideas which gave birth to them. Hitler, for example, did not abolish the Weimar Constitution — the product of German Social Democracy — he merely filled it with totalitarian content. Stalin, to give another example, did not abolish the Soviets created by the Russian Revolution as the organs of workers' democracy, he merely shot everyone who took this workers' democracy seriously, and all that remains of the Soviets is the name.

The Daily Worker was founded 19 years ago by a band of self-sacrificing revolutionists carrying aloft the banner which was betrayed so shamefully by the social-democracy during the first world war. The Daily Worker today is one of the most outspokenly jingoist publications. All that is left of its past is the format and the name. Yes, and one more anachronism: a column under the title "Change the World". This column is conducted by the inimitable Mike Gold. Of all the Stalinist scribes, he has the longest record of service, which speaks well for his capacity for spineless adaptation to every change of line.

RE-EDUCATION AFTER JUNE 22

In the "Change the World" column we have under consideration (Daily Worker, Feb. 5), Mike Gold has the unenviable job of re-educating those who had read his impassioned denunciations of British, Dutch and American imperialism in the days of the Stalin-Hitler pact, some seven months ago.

Having had his start as a writer of fiction, Gold knows that the author can speak most effectively through a properly chosen character. And who can speak more authoritatively on the subject of imperialism than a native of the Dutch East Indies? Gold had some good fortune. A native of Borneo was literally discovered right on his doorstep. All he had to do was walk out of his office on 13th Street and into the elevator. Who was there operating the elevator but a native of Pontianak, largest city in West Bor-

neo, which had that day fallen to the Japanese.

And as if to compensate for the blow of the fall of Pontianak, Mike Gold has the additional good fortune of finding in this operator of the elevator in the Daily Worker building a man who by some peculiar combination of circumstances expounds a 100 percent Stalinist line, so that Gold does not have to add a single word of his own to the narrative, except some descriptive color of the rides up and down the elevator during the interview. Later on we will see why Gold couldn't interview this man he calls "Slim" on his lunch hour or after working hours.

"Slim" commences the narrative where Gold left off some seven months ago:

"There are 65,000,000 people in all Indonesia; the island of Java contains some 45,000,000. . . The Dutch conquered us in 1558. After three centuries of their rule, something like 98 percent of our people are illiterate."

"THEY ARE SLAVES. . ."

"We have known only poverty. We earn a few pennies a day; but are taxed for everything. There is a tax on each chair in the house, a tax on each coconut tree in the backyard, and on the street light before one's house. There are special taxes for the street cleaner, the fire department. It is really crushing."

"On the rubber plantation there prevails a system of colonial slavery. The workers are herded there because they are starving, and are willing to sign three-year contracts. Under these contracts they are slaves."

Here Gold gets a bit impatient with Slim's narrative. He has a job to do and so far he's got only the background material. He prompts Slim to come to the real point. We quote further: "You have painted a terrible picture, Slim," I said. "What is there left to fight for?"

Slim, of course, wouldn't think of answering that it is very much worthwhile fighting for national liberation from all brands of oppressors, that it is very much worthwhile fighting for socialism. He knows what Gold has in mind

and he rushes ahead to accommodate him. We quote:

"Plenty, at least we had our trade unions and political parties. The Dutch oppressed us but we could appeal to the democratic elements in the motherland."

Treachery of 1914 and 1942

The words of that song: "I got plenty of nothing — nothing is plenty for me" seem to be Slim's creed of 1942. Slim takes the trouble to denounce the native social-democrats by referring to them as Hillquits and Scheidemanns, but he does not dare speak of the policies of Hillquit and Scheidemann.

For while Slim's hand is that of Gold, his voice is that of Scheidemann and the arguments are Scheidemann's arguments of 1914. However, they smell a lot worse today and not because of age alone. When Scheidemann sold out to the Kaiser, he at least got something for it in return. Slim is satisfied as long as 65,000,000 colonial slaves can "appeal to the democratic elements in the motherland" of 6,000,000. And just who were the democratic elements in the "motherland"? The Royal family? The slave holders? Or perhaps the Dutch working class? But the workers were themselves exploited and oppressed, and had no voice in the running of the empire.

Gold is still riding up and down the elevator with Slim. He is not interested in the details of social-democratic policy of 1914 and its points of similarity with Stalinist policy of 1942.

New Slanders Like the Old

His next task is to slay the Trotskyists.

Says Gold:

"But there must be some Malaysians who have fallen for Japanese propaganda?"

Answers Slim:

"Yes, there are Quislings everywhere. We had some Trotskyites in Malaya; they are pro-Japanese."

This story too is not original with Slim. He is merely repeating the arguments of the treacherous Russian social-democracy which denounced

both Lenin and Trotsky as agents of the German Kaiser. Kerensky even produced documents to prove it. The fact that the documents were forged was a mere detail. In the eyes of the social-democracy Lenin and Trotsky committed an unpardonable crime — they opposed imperialist war. For the same reasons the Trotskyists are criminals in the eyes of the Stalinists.

Gold passes on quickly to the point that is supposed to clinch the argument: "What do they (the colonial slaves — M. S.) expect to gain out of the inevitable victory of the United Nations?"

"Everything," said Slim, who speaks in sweeping terms (plenty. . . everything. . .). "The end of world fascism for one. Which reminds me, all the bells are ringing and this is the eighth floor. Wanna get out?"

"Everything" to the Natives

Now we know why the elevator represents the setting for the expositions of the Stalinist policy. All the bells commence to ring just at the time when the argument becomes most embarrassing. Is "the end of world fascism" everything to the native of Borneo or Java? They have been slaves for three centuries — 98 percent illiterate. Most of them do not know there is such a thing as fascism. But they do know their Dutch slave holders.

All reports indicate that the colonial slaves of the Dutch and British empires have not been able as yet to discover the thin line of difference between slavery under their present masters and the Japanese military clique that aspires to become the masters of tomorrow. This is why the natives in the colonies stand aside in the present war.

Their interest can, however, be aroused in a struggle for liberation and for independence. Only this kind of struggle could be progressive. Gold may try to tell the colonial people from his elevator why they should support one set of imperialists against another, but once they arise, there will be no force on earth to keep them down and it will spell the end of all imperialism.

How The Democracies Treat Aliens And Refugees

ALL NON-CITIZENS HERE ARE LABELLED 'ENEMY ALIENS'

By MICHAEL CORT

Thousands of workers, whose only offense against the state is that they do not have citizenship papers, are being fired from their jobs, torn from their families, and shipped off from their homes.

We've heard stories of such persecutions ever since Mussolini and Hitler came to power. But this time the story is a little different, in that it is now occurring not only in foreign fascist states but also right here at home in the United States.

An anti-alien hysteria is being carefully nurtured here in America. Reactionary elements in big business and the government are attempting to wipe out all distinctions in the people's minds between pro-fascist and anti-fascist aliens.

The very label they use to identify aliens is pure demagoguery. "Enemy alien" is not a label referring to an alien that supports the Axis powers — it is any alien that comes of German or Italian or Japanese parentage.

There are hundreds of thousands of "enemy aliens" in this country. They are mostly workers. They make steel and automobiles and mine coal and catch fish and cut lumber. Many of them are trade union militants — far more strongly opposed to fascism than most of their persecutors.

Most of these "enemy aliens" have lived in this country the majority of their adult lives. This is their land — they helped build it! It was the strength of their backs that helped create General Motors, United States Steel and Anaconda Copper. But they never took out citizenship papers. That is their crime against the state!

It's not easy to obtain citizenship in this country. A man must pass complicated literacy tests. He must be able to give information, dates, etc., he often cannot recall. When a worker is down in the coal mines all day it is not easy for him to study at night. Most workers find that the job of feeding and sheltering their families is more than full time work. And so many of them never got around to taking out citizenship papers. And so they are now slated for a concentration camp.

It's not only the workers who have been here for 20 or 30 years that are being persecuted. The anti-fascist refugees from Europe are finding a taste of the same terror they fled abroad. They are viewed with almost as much suspicion here as they were by Hitler.

HYSTERIA IN CALIFORNIA

California is the focal point of the first crescendo of hysteria.

Attorney-General Biddle has established restricted zones on the Pacific Coast where "enemy aliens" may not live. But this is far short of the goal enunciated by Pacific congressmen and employers. Already the "liberal" Governor Olson of California has:

Revoked the State licenses of "enemy alien" physicians, dentists, teachers, druggists, architects and optometrists.

Removed "enemy aliens" from the State civil service lists.

Banned all foreign language schools.

The federal government, thru the Navy Department, has removed all "enemy aliens" from jobs in plants with "vital defense work." There are few industries today that are not engaged in "vital defense work." Those that would come outside this official ban are closed to aliens anyway because of the hysteria of the employer class.

Not satisfied with depriving these workers of the means of making a living, Senator Hiram Johnson of California would go further. He is sponsoring a resolution in Congress which would bring about a forced evacuation of all aliens from the Pacific Coast zone 300 miles deep and stretching from Canada to Mexico. If the same policy were applied to the East Coast, and there is agitation for it from the American Legion, workers would be torn from their homes and jobs in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, and all the industrial centers along the Atlantic.

WHAT TO DO WITH THEM

What to do with the workers and anti-fascist refugees once they have been taken from their homes and jobs, is a problem that apparently does not concern Johnson or the Legion. But the United States Army, often more efficient in such things, is quietly building concentration camps. Seven cantonments are already under construction in the southwestern states. Each camp will hold 3,000 men, women and children. The camps will house both prisoners of war and "enemy aliens." This means that both fascists and anti-fascists will be dumped in together.

This is indeed a strange "crusade against Fascism" when the anti-fascist fighters who are unfortunate enough to be of German or Italian or Japanese parentage are thrown into concentration camps — when the workers who neglected to meet certain legal technicalities are deprived of work and taken from their homes.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT HOUNDS THE ANTI-FASCIST REFUGEES

The following account of how the British government treated the working-class refugees from fascism is taken from an article by Leslie Taylor, "Enemies or Allies", printed in the Dec., 1941 issue of the discussion magazine, LEFT.

There is one test issue which proves the irreconcilability of the capitalist method of war and of any genuine Socialist approach: the treatment of the Socialist Opposition in Germany and the Nazi-occupied countries (by the British government).

For years this Opposition bore the brunt of the tyranny of Nazism. Concentration camps, imprisonment, torture, death, were the lot of thousands of its members. Some hundreds of them escaped to this country, only to be treated as outlaws — getting past the immigration officers with difficulty, living here under constant restrictions, rarely allowed to work for a living.

When war came they were treated as "enemy aliens", and rounded up in internment camps. Many of them were deported to the Australia and Canada, some subjected on board ship to abominations which became a public scandal, some meeting their death on the Arandora Star. In due course they were brought before tribunals, a process which took months. When their genuineness as anti-Nazis had been re-established, they returned to their role of outlaws under constant police restrictions.

Then came the invasion scare — and once more they were arrested

and interned. Once more they went in procession before new tribunals, which were instructed to ignore the previous reviews of their cases, so that the laborious task of proving their anti-Nazi record and sincerity had to be repeated. Most of them have filtered through the tribunals now, but with no assurance that they will not be rounded up as soon as another scare develops. They are still "enemy aliens". . .

A Socialist Government would welcome as honored guests men and women who had suffered at the hands of Nazism in another country. A Socialist Government would understand the value of making them allies. It would select from them reliable leaders to man a Department for the furtherance of revolution in the countries under Nazi domination. The wireless would be placed at their disposal; the leaflets distributed over Germany and the Nazi-occupied countries would be drafted by them. The object of a Socialist Government would be to encourage and assist a Socialist revolution in Europe, and they would accept eagerly the opportunity of having European experts at hand to help them in the task.

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