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French Referendum And Coming Elections

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TRUMAN CALLS FOR SAVAGE LAWS IN BIG BUSINESS WAR UPON LABOR

The Road Labor Must Follow For Victory

By The Editors

The dramatic events of the past week mark a major turning point in the development of capital-labor relations in the United States. They open an extremely important new chapter in the life of American labor.

For the past six months the mightiest wave of strikes in our history has been rolling over the country. One big union after another has been drawn into this titanic strike movement until it has embraced the most decisive sections of the entire working class.

The first stage of this struggle against Big Business was initiated by the CIO unions, the most advanced and dynamic force in the ranks of organized labor. Now in the second great wave the strike movement has spread to the miners and railroad workers.

Far-Reaching In Scope

The entry of the railroad unions into the arena of strike action is the clearest sign of the far-reaching scope of the class struggle and the profound depth of the social crisis. The railroad brotherhoods are the traditional fortresses of ultra-conservative unionism. The engineers and trainmen have not engaged in a strike for over fifty years. Wave upon wave of strikes have swept over the labor movement without budging the bureaucracies of the rail unions.

Whitney, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and Alvanley Johnston, chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, are among the foremost advocates of class collaboration policies in the union movement. The United Mine Workers President, John L. Lewis, while more militant in his methods, is a champion of the "pure and simple trade unionism" of the old Gompers-AFL school. Only six months ago at Truman's invitation these union leaders were in Washington participating in a joint labor-management conference with the representatives of Big Business seeking a formula for settling disputes without resort to strikes.

Today these union leaders have not only been obliged to call strikes. They have found themselves violently opposed by the very Truman administration which they counted upon for help in their negotiations with the rail and mining magnates.

Alarmed by the uninterrupted series of strikes and the growing strength and militancy of the working class, Big Business has decided to launch a full-blown counter-offensive against labor. The financial and industrial lords of Wall Street are up in arms. Their rule and their priv-

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NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF SWP MEETS IN N. Y.

A thoroughgoing and fruitful examination of party-building problems was the center of discussion at the four-day meeting of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, held in New York City early last week. Other important points on the agenda included the international situation, trade union problems, the question of unification and the party's internal relations.

The organizational report, made by Farrell Dobbs, editor of *The Militant*, gave both a picture of the party's steady growth in terms of recruiting and influence since its national convention in November 1944 and an indication of the problems resulting from this growth.

These problems, themselves a sign of the healthy condition of the party, revolved mainly around further recruiting, integration and training of revolutionary workers without previous political affiliation. The recent experiences of the party in this connection were subjected to analysis for the purpose of learning the lessons of the past period and indicating the road toward additional progress in the coming months. The discussion demonstrated that American Trotskyism is not only stronger today than ever before, but is steadily developing from a revolutionary propaganda group to a serious workers' party with firm roots among the masses and their organizations.

ELECTORAL ACTIVITY

Other aspects of Comrade Dobbs' report, reflecting the same trend, dealt with party educational work, publication and

GROWING CRISIS IN CP

The trade union reports and discussion were concerned primarily with the application of the party's policies in the great strike struggles that began after V-J Day. During this period, it was noted, both SWP recruitment figures and various union slogans had shown a growing receptivity among union militants toward the SWP's transitional program. Considerable attention was paid to the best possible means of extending and strengthening this influence and of further politicizing the leftward-moving tendencies in the unions.

In the discussion of the organization and trade union reports, a number of speakers from different parts of the country confirmed the existence of a growth-

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Wall Street's Strikebreaking Agency



Federal Troops Used As Miners Defy Strikebreaking "Seizure"

May 27—U. S. Army troops have been ordered out for strikebreaking duty against American workers.

As the 400,000 soft coal miners today resumed their bitter strike for health and safety conditions in defiance of Truman's "seizure" of the mines, an armored detachment of 150 soldiers from Camp Campbell moved into the Madisonville, Ky., mine fields to escort scabs and "protect" the nearby Pond River colliery.

For the first time since Roosevelt used troops to break the North American Aviation strike in 1941, the federal government and administration has employed armed forces against workers fighting for their rights. This is undoubtedly the first contingent Truman intends to use in his efforts to force the militant miners back into the pits without satisfaction of their just demands against the profiteering mine owners.

Despite United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis' declaration of a two-week strike truce on May 10, large numbers of the wrathful miners had re-

SWP Calls For Labor's Aid To Halt Stalinist Hooliganism

NEW YORK, May 22—C. Thomas, Organizer of Local New York of the Socialist Workers Party, today issued an appeal to CIO, AFL and other trade unions, as well as to fraternal, civil liberties and other progressive organizations, calling upon them to aid in halting the vicious attacks by the Communist (Stalinist) Party upon freedom of the press in New York City.

In recent weeks, the letter states, on several occasions girl distributors of *The Militant* and of leaflets to members of the National Maritime Union were physically assaulted by known Stalinist officers and goons, who tore the papers from their hands.

"These attacks are by no means spontaneous or accidental," the letter states. "They are part of a nation-wide campaign publicly proclaimed and deliberately organized and directed by the leadership of the Communist Party designed to obstruct and prevent the distribution of *The Militant* before trade unions and working class organizations and to incite physical violence

IN THE NEWS

Imperialism Spreads Its Beneficent Rays

"The Eastman Kodak Company made public yesterday its findings on long-range radioactivity effects of atomic bomb explosions. The findings, together with those of other observers, indicate that temporarily radioactive by-products of a single bomb spread over an area about the size of Australia." (N. Y. Times, May 23.)

High Cost Of Dying

The Casket Manufacturers Association on May 22 demanded before the House Small Business Committee that price controls be lifted from burial caskets, advising the House committee that several large manufacturers of low-cost caskets have ceased operations, while others have stopped handling the lower-priced models.

A Word To The Wise

New York City Park Commissioner Robert Moses, addressing the annual dinner of the National Institute of Social Sciences last week, warned publishers: "It is a pity that decent people must suffer because of the frustration of millionaire publishers of red, radical sheets, whose interest lies not in orderly progress, fanning the ashes of prejudice and inciting class against class. Presumably these publishers want to be on the winning side when the Great Revolution comes, forgetting that on that day theirs will be the first heads to roll in the gutter."

Thumb Bums

"Bankers, brokers and sundry other business men found it prohibitively if not stylish to invade the transportation byway usually reserved for knights of the open road—hitch-hiking. Some bummed rides with truck drivers on ferries. Others simply got out on the edge of the road and worked their thumbs." (N. Y. World-Telegram, May 24, on rail strike effects.)

Truman Leads Vicious Attack On Rail Unions

By Art Preis

After a two-day demonstration of their paralyzing power in the greatest transportation strike in history, the 293,000 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen were ordered back to work by their leaders late Saturday afternoon. This order came shortly before a deadline set by President Truman in his strikebreaking ultimatum the night before.

For 48 hours, the engineers and trainmen, traditionally among the most conservative unionists in America, had defied Truman's "seizure" of the country's railroads under the Smith-Connally Anti-Strike Act. There was no sign of a break in their ranks up to the very moment when A. F. Whitney and Alvanley Johnston, presidents respectively of the trainmen's and engineers' unions, under the concerted onslaught of the capitalist government and Big Business ordered a return to work on the terms fixed by Truman in conspiracy with the railway profiteers.

WORKERS BITTER

A tremendous wave of bitterness and wrath swept the striking railroad workers when word came of their leaders' submission to Truman's dictate. They were full of fight and were prepared for a show-down struggle. From lodge meetings all over the country came immediate reports of boos and sharp resentment at announcement of the return-to-work order. As even the Big Business press admitted, "the members voiced mixed opinions, but the one that predominated was: 'Whitney says we're licked, but our turn will come.'" (N. Y. Times, May 26.)

Never, in the whole history of American labor struggle, have workers fighting for their just demands been subjected to such savage attack by the agencies of capitalist rule.

The ferocious assault against (Continued on Page 2)

Proposes Most Vicious Bill Ever Sought By President

Climaxing his savage strikebreaking offensive against American labor, President Truman on May 25 called on a special joint session of Congress to enact the most repressive legislation against the labor movement ever advocated by a head of the U. S. government.

The most drastic and harsh section of Truman's anti-strike proposal was his request for Congress "immediately to authorize the President to draft into the armed forces" all workers "who are on strike against the government."

This means that the President could break

any strike by ordering a plant "seizure," calling the walkout a "strike against the government," and then driving the workers back to work under penalty of imprisonment for draft evasion or desertion. Once under Army command the workers could be subject to court-martial.

Twin Cities Rail Strikers Show Militancy

BULLETIN

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 25—More than 600 men present at the afternoon strike meeting here today heard Vice-President Coyle of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen announce that the nationwide rail strike was over. Strikers were told that they were to go back to work on President Truman's terms of 18½¢ per hour and a one year moratorium on rules.

The announcement was greeted by boos. Angry and disappointed, groups of men stood around the hall, damning Truman. Both Whitney and Johnston were criticized for giving up the fight.

By C. Gustafsen

(Special To *The Militant*)
St. PAUL, May 25—Unanimous defiance of President Truman's ultimatum to striking railroad workers marked strike meetings held in the Twin Cities this morning. Truman's threat to call out the army to run the railroads was branded as "the greatest strikebreaking speech in memory" by union officials here. Statements made by the President in his nationwide broadcast Friday were denounced as "unfounded in fact." From every railroad terminal (Continued on Page 2)

Why Browder Embarked On His "Mission To Moscow"

By Joseph Hansen

Why did Earl Browder go to Moscow? What is the purpose of his consultations with leading Kremlin officials? The capitalist press has been filled with speculation about his junket. The rank and file of the Communist (Stalinist) Party likewise are wondering what is behind Browder's trip.

Foster in an obvious attempt to dampen this speculation and to ease the profound crisis in the ranks of the Stalinists has offered his explanation of the trip. To believe Foster there was no mystery whatever about Browder's excursion. As Browder left the United States, Foster labeled him "Wall Street's Ambassador-At-Large." The State Department, according to the May 14 *New Masses*, granted Browder a passport "as an acolyte of Big Business, serving its reactionary ends."

STALINISTS DISTURBED

Precisely how Browder's visit to Moscow could accomplish anything for America's ruling 60 families was a riddle the Stalinist hacks scrupulously avoided probing into. It is true they claimed Browder's airplane flight had "opened the sluice-gates for new anti-Soviet insinuations," particularly that the "American Communist 'line'" is a "product of manipulations by Soviet leaders."

believe their leader was unjustly made a scapegoat for a line that originated with Stalin himself cannot help asking themselves: Even if Browder is again made our leader, how did it happen that he was ousted and expelled? How did it happen that all the top leadership unanimously attacked him as a renegade after just as unanimously supporting his line during the war? How do these monstrous shifts in line and flip-flops in leadership occur?

KEY TO MYSTERY

The key to the mystery of Browder's trip lies in the mechanics of the Kremlin's foreign policy.

In the days of Lenin and Trotsky, the workers' state pursued a foreign policy of inspiring and aiding socialist revolutions in other countries. The principal channel of this policy was the Communist International. Although an autonomous organization, the ideas and methods of Lenin and Trotsky shaped its activities in other lands. The Bolsheviks of those heroic times considered the development of the socialist revolution in other countries and the defense of the Soviet Union as indivisible—two sides of the same task. Thus the official diplomatic service of the USSR served as an adjunct (Continued on Page 3)

And Browder's followers, who

