

THE FIGHTING WORKER

WORKERS OF THE WORLD
UNITE!



Organ of the Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S.

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ENGLAND GAINS OVER GERMANY AND ITALY IN SPAIN A. F. OF L. COMPROMISES ON C. I. O.

MARINE STRIKE DRAGS ON

Workers Need One Union

The marine strike on the West Coast which is still solid and the strike on the East Coast and Mexican Gulf which despite the splendid action of the workers, is largely ineffectual, prove that no marine strike can be successful unless all the workers in the maritime industry are organized in one union and strike at the same time. On the West Coast the Maritime Federation of the Pacific makes it difficult to use one section of the marine workers against another. On the East Coast boss agent Ryan, head of the International Longshoremen's Association, holds the longshoremen in check while the seamen are striking.

The urgent need of the marine workers is a national federation which must embrace all workers in the industry: sailors, firemen, longshoremen warehousemen and teamsters.

That type of organization can be created only through the bitterest struggles against the bosses and their agents: Ryan, Hunter, Grange, Green and company, and the Stalinists who are in key position on both coasts.

NO HELP FROM CIO

Nor can the marine workers rely on the CIO. When they appeared before the Tampa convention of the American Federation of Labor to ask for assistance Zaritsky, leading representative of the CIO made no fight against the strike breaking decision of the convention outlawing the strike.

While Grange was recruiting crews to break the strike on the East Coast, Dubinsky's office was distributing leaflets in St. Louis telling the needle trades workers that: "The (boss) Government of the United States is eager to establish an abundant life for the men and women who turn the wheels of industry." Between the main policy of Green and Grange and that of Dubinsky and Lewis there is no essential difference.

More important even than the question of organizational structure is the question of policy. There are only two bases for a labor movement: collaboration with the bosses against the workers; or solidarity of the workers against the bosses and their labor agents. There is little room for a new set up on the first basis. Lewis and Green are fighting it out now to decide whether the bosses will be served by craft or industrial class collaboration structures. But on the basis of a class struggle policy the marine workers can build a mighty organization.

SUPPORT THE FIGHTING
WORKER FUND

Federation Faces Patch-Up With Lewis or Decline

The Tampa convention of the American Federation of Labor revealed again that the leading crust is a group of boss agents who refuse to make any concessions to the needs of the working class. The resolutions passed were based on the policy of defending capitalism and trying to squeeze a few reforms out of it. They took no action to support the Spanish workers and outlawed the strike of the East Coast seamen.

Green led a successful skirmish behind the scenes against the extreme right for a policy of reconciliation with the CIO. As a result the Frey proposal to expel the CIO unions never reached the floor and the convention voted to pursue peace negotiations with Lewis.

THREE REASONS FOR COMPROMISE

The compromise is mainly the result of three things: the pressure of the bosses who want a united A.F. of L. for fear that a split to the left, even of the Lewis variety, may get out of hand and give rise to tremendous struggles; the outcome of the election which strengthened the anti Morgan line-up in the country, especially in Pennsylvania, Lewis' stronghold; and pressure by the workers in the marine, auto and steel industries.

Just before the elections the pressure of the Roosevelt administration through Dubinsky and Zaritsky was directed against Lewis to prevent a split with Green. The election stiffened Lewis against Green and swung Dubinsky back into line. A patch-up on the basis of the present situation should favor Lewis more than it did before.

The Fighting Worker must record an error which it made in this connection. It stated on October 15 that "If an agreement is reached it will be only on terms which will give Green advantages in the fight against industrial unionism." This statement was made within the framework of the League's line that peace was the most likely outcome of the Lewis-Green struggle. That line has been proved by the A.F. of L. convention.

As the situation stood on October 15, the statement of the Fighting Worker was correct. The change in the situation wrought by the election makes it necessary to induce the tactical correction into the correct line of the League stated above.

WORKERS PRESSURE

Not the least cause of the compromise was the pressure indirectly exerted on the convention by the workers in the basic industries. The marine strike and the possibility of the growth of a national maritime federation under a leadership antagonistic to Green and Co.; and the surging tide of unrest in other basic industries expressed in sporadic strikes, the leaders of which stand close to



the CIO, made Green realize that if the die-hard expelled the CIO unions the next strike wave may see the rise of a new federation of labor. His tactical retreat and the convention compromise lay the basis for an attempt to head off the coming strike waves by patching up the struggle with the CIO within the framework of the A. F. of L.

There was no organized force at the convention to counterpose to the class collaboration line of Lewis and Green a line of class struggle against the bosses and Lewis and Green. The Socialists, Stalinists, Lovestoneites and Trotskyites canalized the left sentiment of the workers into support of the class collaboration set-up of Lewis.

The Federation now must either patch up its differences with the class collaborationist CIO and experience a rebirth (with a possible split-off by the extreme right); or be supplanted by the CIO as the dominant boss agency in the labor movement.

Neither of these possibilities is in the interests of the workers. But there is one which is: to create an industrial union movement on a class struggle policy.

LEAGUE DELEGATE TO SPAIN JAILED

Held by French Gov't

In line with the decision of its national convention and its duty as a revolutionary organization the Revolutionary Workers League sent a member of its Central Committee to Europe some time ago to represent it at the recent conference against war and Fascism called by the opportunist International Bureau of Revolutionary Socialist Unity, and to follow up this work by proceeding to Spain to assist in the work of creating a Bolshevik party in that country.

On his arrival in France the Blum Government put our comrade in jail. We have just learned that he is free and in Spain.

For reasons which should be obvious it is impossible to reveal the name of our comrade at this time.

Popular Front Stiffened; Social Revolution Wanes

From July through September the workers and sections of the peasants in Spain threatened to overcome the counter-revolutionary policy of the Popular Front Government and parties and overthrow capitalism. In that period all imperialist powers, including the United States, watched the situation closely ready to act together to prevent the extension of the October Bolshevik revolution to Spain. Germany and Italy acted openly. France and England had to conceal their counter-revolutionary role to avoid serious struggles with the workers at home. The neutrality formula and committee served them well. The Soviet Union under the leadership of the Stalinists played the game of the imperialists by entering into the neutrality conspiracy.

Inside the ranks of the working class the agents of the imperialists, the Socialists and Stalinists, had the upper hand. When the workers moved in a revolutionary direction they went along at their head in order to be in a position to hold them back from following in the path of the Russian workers of 1917.

WORKERS HARNESSSED

During the months of October and November they succeeded in once more harnessing the workers to the capitalist government. In Catalonia where the social revolution rose to its highest peak the workers established organs of their independent class rule, committees which corresponded in part to the Soviets of 1917 in Russia. These committees assumed governmental functions and began to regulate life, challenging the rule of the boss class. The top committee in this structure was the Anti-Fascist Committee of Fifteen.

This contest could end either in the workers setting up the dictatorship of the proletariat or in the bosses re-establishing their dictatorship over the workers. A Bolshevik party would have made the first outcome possible. The absence of a Bolshevik party made the second inevitable. So in the beginning of October the Anti-Fascist Committee was liquidated and the Catalanian Generalidad once more became master of the situation, this time with the help of the "left" representatives of the workers, the anarcho-syndicalists and the POUM.

During the same period the Madrid government fled to Valencia and left behind a military dictatorship called a defense junta. The first act of this dictatorship was to strip the trade unions of their defense functions and disarm vast numbers of workers behind the lines.

The decline of the social revolution created the condition for the capitalist powers to use the civil war to fight out their conflicts as the United States and England did in the Chaco War. The prompt action by Germany and Italy gave them an advantage with the open-

FRENCH TROOPS BREAK STRIKES

Shoot Down Arabs, Moors

The dramatic suicide of the Socialist Minister of the Interior, Salengro, has drawn all eyes to the sharp crisis in France, obscured for a time by the Spanish civil war.

In June the working class in France took the offensive in a series of nation wide strikes. The "working class" parties of Blum and Thorez held the struggle back from rising to a revolutionary level. The impending defeat of the workers in Spain is shifting the situation in favor of the bourgeoisie.

FASCISTS GROWING BOLDER

The Fascist forces are growing bolder and parade their armed detachments openly before the workers. The new strikes now rising sporadically over France are no longer handled with the demagogic promises of June. Salengro's promise that there will be no more sit-down strikes was carried out even in his home town of Lille, where troops were used to break the strike of 300 coal truck-drivers. In Tripoli, French reserves ruthlessly suppressed the strike of the Moslems demanding the union of the Lebanon Republic with Syria. And in Morocco French troops have been used to shoot down Moors whose agitation for freedom is increasing.

The incident of Salengro's suicide has been used by Blum to make a further shift to the right under cover of a fake attack against the Fascists. The new minister, Dormoy, is a right Socialist "like Blum," according to the capitalist press.

ly counter-revolutionary side at the expense primarily of England whose control of the Western Mediterranean would be seriously jeopardized by concessions given to Germany and Italy by a victorious counter-revolution. Such an outcome would also weaken France and the Soviet-French alliance.

To offset this outcome France and the Soviet Union began to ship material aid to the Madrid government. The result thus far has been a stiffening of the Popular Front set-up which has succeeded in halting the drive on Madrid and even taking the offensive in the north.

IMPERIALIST COMPROMISE

The decline of the social revolution definitely opens the possibility of a compromise solution with all capitalist interests inside and outside of Spain at the expense of the workers. What is being decided now is what power is going to get the most out of it.

The situation may be rudely disturbed by the working class. The creation of a Bolshevik party could again open the possibility of a victory for the workers.

"THE MUSIC OF AMERICAN PROSPERITY"

Unemployment to Grow; New Crisis Coming

In a recent article the New York Times grows absolutely lyrical about the condition of American capitalism. It talks about the "music of American prosperity". It shows that dividends are going up and coupon clippers are busy. Wages it says are going up, unemployment is decreasing, and payrolls are rising. If we believe this picture prosperity is all around us.

Millions of workers know from their daily, bitter experience that the picture of the Times is a class picture which records the improvement in the position of the bosses. The bosses run society and the government and have been able to use the upswing which is taking place to improve the position of their class. At the same time they have thrown a few crumbs to a few million workers in the form of Christmas bonuses and increases in wages to escape paying the federal tax on the undistributed surplus earnings of corporations which is a high sounding legal name for the surplus value created by the workers; and to bribe the workers into passively accepting the rising cost of living.

A truer picture of the situation in the country and what is in store for the workers is contained in a recent report of the Federal Reserve Board. The Board says that "The current level of activity is higher than at any time since 1930." "Shoes, rayon, petroleum, refinery products and tobacco have been produced at the highest levels on record." "In such industries as iron and steel,—output during recent months has been less than 10 per cent under the average for 1929, and in machine tools—activity is now greater than at any time since 1929."

WAR PROGRAM SPEEDS INDUSTRY

In accounting for this upturn the Board avoids stating that government spending has played a large part. Billions handed out to big business corporations directly; millions more indirectly through the PWA, WPA, etc; and the record breaking war program involving gigantic expenditures for coast defense improvements, cruiser construction, etc. have stimulated industry.

By far the most important factor in the upturn is the modernization of existing plants. A feverish activity is going on in this sphere. The very latest achievements of science and engineering are being applied to industry in steel mills, mines, auto and rubber plants, in a tremendous number of plants in a great number of industries to increase the productivity of the plant with a fewer number of workers than before. The basis is being laid for the creation of fresh millions of unemployed.

YOUTH SWELL UNEMPLOYED

That the present upswing will not solve the unemployment problem is recognized by the Federal Reserve Board which said: "Longer time reasons for the continuance of unemployment in the face of rapidly expanding output include the growth of the population and the progress of technological improvements". The first factor referred to by the Board which is the second in importance is the yearly addition of half a million working class youth who swell

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COST OF LIVING RISES IN CHICAGO		
	1936	1935
Butter (lb.)	39c	35c
Sugar lb.)	6c	5c
Rye Bread (2 lbs.)	15c	12c
Eggs (doz.)	40c	38c
Coffee (lb.)	20c	15c
Soup Meat (lb.)	30c	25c
Potatoes (pk)	45c	25c
Flour (lb.)	7c	4c

the growing army of the unemployed.

The bosses themselves have no confidence in this upturn. "Warns of Undue Optimism Over Business Future" reads a headline in the Chicago Daily Tribune. "Willard L. Thorp, director of economic research of Dun and Brad-

U.S. PUSHES BIG WAR PROGRAM

Prepares to Fight England

Less than a month after the reelection of the President who "hated war," the press is flooded with news of the gigantic war preparations of American Imperialism.

The launching of the Philadelphia, first of a series of eleven ten-thousand ton cruisers, is a part of the heaviest naval construction drive since the war. Five Eastern coast yards are booming with activity. In the Brooklyn yard two of the nine thousand men employed are W.P.A. men!

NAVY WANTS PLANES

At the same time the navy department is asking for dirigibles and more planes. The army is being reorganized into smaller striking units which can maneuver more easily.

General Markham, Chief of Army Engineers, announced plans have been approved for the construction of a seaplane base at Midway Island, 1,200 miles west of Hawaii, with landing bases at Guam and Wake Islands. The following day Tokio charged that this will advance the spearhead of U.S. striking powers in Asian waters closer to Japan.

The plans for Midway Island are a typical example of the methods of American Imperialism. First an investigation committee is sent, often under the cover of the National Geographic Society, or some other such outfit. Then construction is carried on for "commercial purposes," and "with an eye to strengthening the defense line of the U. S. in the eventuality of war."

FLORIDA SHIP CANAL

To improve the coast defense the war department is proposing to spend 150 million dollars to build a ship canal across Florida to cut down traveling time around the peninsula to Gulf ports, Central America and the Caribbean.

The war plans of U.S. Imperialism look first of all to one giant enemy, Great Britain. Only Great Britain is powerful enough to make Uncle Sam transfer the treasury's gold from Washington to inland Kentucky. The U.S. remembers well the British occupation in the war of 1812. It is with an eye on Great Britain and Japan that the U.S. Maritime Commission was reorganized, to coordinate and strengthen the American merchant marine, as a naval auxiliary in time of war as Great Britain has already done.

FIGHTING WORKER NOW IN CHICAGO

This is the second issue of the Fighting Worker published in Chicago. The transfer of the League's organ to this city completes the transfer of the national center from New York which was decided on by the national convention last March.

All exchanges, subscriptions, mail and donations should be addressed to the Fighting Worker, 2159 West Division Street, Chicago, Illinois.

street... said... "If depression is around the corner behind us, it is also bound to be bound the corner in the future... I know of no condition which is more dangerous for a business than a period of sustained high profits."

The situation is forcing the bosses to attempt to head off the coming crisis by capturing a bigger share of the world market. In this sphere the recovery has been slow. The Federal Reserve Board says about this that "Improvement in domestic conditions has continued to be the principal factor in recovery, but exports, particularly of industrial products, also have increased." The coming period will see the bosses and their government making bigger efforts to drive out on the world market. Roosevelt's trip to South America has this aim. Hull will come back with a new treaty. The reciprocal trade policy of the Roosevelt administration is a major plank in this program. But inasmuch as this involves greater imports which conflict with the products of American agriculture the agricultural crisis in this country will be deepened.

UPTURN SHARPENS CONFLICTS

The other capitalist countries face the same problem and will compete with and resist the plans of the United States, particularly England. Thus the economic upturn is sharpening the conflict with the rivals of American imperialism and is bringing war closer. The bosses know this and are preparing for it.

The coming period should see growing misery, greater preparations for war and sharpening struggles by the American workers and farmers against the boss class which is grinding them into the dust.

The whole development is bringing revolution closer. We must be ready. Now is the time to build the Marxist party which will overthrow American imperialism.

LEAGUE TO BUY PRESS

The Revolutionary Workers League is campaigning for a FIGHTING WORKER FUND to buy a press to print the Fighting Worker. The first response to the campaign has been enthusiastic. Thus far a total of \$260 has been pledged: a sympathizer has offered to match dollar for dollar up to \$75; the Young Workers League has pledged \$50; the Detroit organization, \$50; New York, \$50; Chicago, \$20; Columbus, \$5; Washington, \$10; Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Davenport, Cleveland, Youngstown, San Francisco and a number of other places have not been heard from yet. When they make their pledges known the total will be enough to buy the press.

DETROIT BUYING MULTIGRAPH

In addition the Detroit comrades are buying a multigraph machine on which the Fourth International, theoretical organ of the League, and Young Worker, organ of the Young Workers League will be published at considerably less than the present cost. The machine will be delivered in Chicago within a month.

The acquisition of a press is the first step in a program of establishing a printing plant to expand the press of the two organizations. It should be possible to announce shortly that the Fighting Worker will appear weekly.

50 NEW SUBS FOR FIGHTING WORKER

As a result of the special drive for subs made in connection with the League meetings to commemorate the nineteenth anniversary of the Soviet Union the Fighting Worker received fifty new subs from Washington, D. C., New York and Chicago.

FOR A WEEKLY FOUR-PAGE FIGHTING WORKER

Roosevelt Trip Aimed at England and Japan

Millions of workers and members of other classes acclaimed Roosevelt on his trip to the "peace" conference at Buenos Aires. Roosevelt, it is clear, has raised great hopes in the hearts of millions of people that he can prevent the outbreak of another world war. What a ghastly comedy Roosevelt is playing! His trip is a preparation for war; to line up Latin America against America's rivals for a war in which the United States is going to strike out for the domination of the entire earth.

U. S. BIGGEST WAR MONGER

Who says so? We say so because we know that peace and war are determined not by the personalities of presidents and statesmen, nor by their good or bad intentions. War is a never ending necessity under capitalism. The United States is no exception. To try to "solve" the

crisis which cannot be solved under capitalism American imperialism is driving toward war to capture the great markets and colonies of the world. American imperialism is the biggest war monger in the world and therefore the biggest pacifist and hypocrite.

TO LINE UP LATIN AMERICA

The boss press states the thing openly. This is what the Chicago Daily Tribune said: "The move was applauded... for the influence it might have... in strengthening the political and economic position of the United States in Latin America as against European nations and Japan, in promoting cordial relations with a region that would supply essential raw materials to the United States in time of war..." "European nations" means England first of all. And several days later the same paper reported that in England they were afraid the outcome of the conference would be to cut off some of the raw materials England needs to rush her huge armament program to completion.

NO DEMOCRACY UNITE FRENCH ELECTION PROVE YOUTH FOR WAR

Results of Worker's Vote Form Unity Committee

The 1936 elections clearly revealed the hypocrisy of "our" so-called democracy. The Stalinists and Socialists and even the reactionary Lemke outfit were kept off the ballot in most states. In Louisiana, Florida and other states, Socialist write-in votes were thrown out.

Revolutionists were hounded and denied the right to speak. In Chicago, Streeter and Clarke were jailed for speaking for the League's candidates. In Davenport, Iowa, Hugo Oehler, national secretary of the League, was prevented from speaking over station WOV.

Roosevelt polled about thirty millions direct votes and Landon more than seventeen. Roosevelt received 521 electoral votes, and Landon, 8.

To expose these things and the disfranchisement of millions of negroes, youth, foreign born, and migratory workers, and to gauge the sentiment of workers for revolution, the Revolutionary Workers League circulated Workers Vote lists to collect the signatures of those who agreed with its election program. As an auxiliary tactic all workers who were not disfranchised were asked to write in, on the boss ballots, the names of the League candidates for president and vice-president, Garrett and Roberts.

Although the labor vote was canalized by the Stalinists, Socialists, Trotskyists, and the A.F. of L. labor fakers, into support for capitalism, the League found a surprising sentiment for its overthrow.

The League campaign was started late and was not carried through as well as even our small force was capable of doing. The reason lies in the fact that the League has not yet entirely broken with its secretarian past in the Communist League of America and the Workers Party.

December 1st Young Worker Out

The December first issue of the Young Worker, organ of the Young Workers League, contains articles on the WPA and the Youth; Thanksgiving—for What? the trip of Ernest Erber, Chairman of the Young Peoples Socialist League to Spain; and a number of other subjects.

A six months subscription—the paper is issued twice a month—is only twenty five cents. Subs should be sent to the business manager at 2159 West Division Street, Chicago, Illinois.

The French Socialist and Stalinist youth organizations together with a young free thinkers society and the Republican youth, have formed a Unity Committee, and drawn up a "series of demands in the interests of the youth of France which are being acted on by the Blum government." (Young Communist Review, October, 1936).

Their slogan is "Action—Education—Recreation." What they mean by action is made plain by the work of the Young Communist League today. "Generally, the YCL units have been transformed into branches, with headquarters of their own, which are open all day. There are many activities and circles in every headquarters such as: gymnastics, fencing, aeronautics, dance courses, lectures, scouting groups, ping-pong."

While French Fascism under LaRocque and Doriot advances, the Socialist and Stalinist youth under Blum and Pivert; and Duclos and Thorez are busying themselves with tea-parties. This is what the program of the People's Front is in action: class peace. This is the program which paves the road for the Mussolinis, Hitlers, Francos, and LaRocques.

Not long ago the Spanish Socialist and Stalinist youth organizations merged and support the Popular Front government which is aiding the counter-revolution by holding the workers back from establishing a proletarian dictatorship and crushing Fascism. Shortly after the Belgian youth organizations of the Stalinists and Socialists took steps to merge on a program of uniting the nation against Fascism, of class peace; of support of the capitalist government's war plans. The French are following suit while the Stalinists in the United States are working hard to accomplish the same result through the American Youth Congress.

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Theoretical Organ of the Revolutionary Workers League, U. S.

FRANCO-SOVIET PACT AND SPAIN CIO AND THE LABOR PARTY

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