

Unity Needed in the Struggle for Social Insurance

By I. AMTER.

Today, the local, county and state governments, obeying the dictates of Wall Street, are cutting unemployment relief. The bankers, landlords and big industrialists demand "economy" and reduction of taxes. The politicians carry this out not by cutting down high salaries, not by declaring moratoriums on payment of principal and interest to the bankers, but by firing thousands of civil service employees and particularly by cutting down relief. The mayors of fifty of the largest cities in the country have declared their bankruptcy—and the unemployed have to bear the burden.

Every Promise Broken.

The Roosevelt government has betrayed every promise the Democratic Party made during the election campaign. Congress has closed, without making good a single promise. Instead of the promised unemployment insurance, Roosevelt and congress gave us 32 war vessels and 390 bombing planes to cost \$247,000,000! Instead of the promises of the "new deal", Roosevelt and congress decreed forced labor for the youth, cutting of salaries of federal employees and of the disability allowances of the veterans. To peak it all, congress and Roosevelt have given us the industrial "recovery" bill, which means the lowering of the standard of living of the American workers to a level not experienced by this generation of workers. It means the fixing of the standard of wages against which, according to the law, there will be an appeal, not to the organized striking strength of the workers, but to Roosevelt. It means the taking away of the right to strike (as already shown in textile in Reading, Pa., and steel and mining in western Pennsylvania). It means the corralling of the workers into unions under government supervision. It means the heartless speeding up of the workers in the shops, increase in accidents and occupational diseases, the throwing of hundreds of thousands of the older workers into the streets—while maintaining the profits of the employers.

No Jobs.

Millions of unemployed workers who think that industrial "recovery" is now assured, will get no job. We should not forget what Roosevelt once said: "If we should return to the peak production of 1929, between five and ten million workers will never return to work." Yes, more than this: Millions of workers now unemployed and the millions who come out of the schools and colleges each year, will never again see the inside of the factories.

Starvation for the unemployed; hunger wages, heartbreaking speeding up, government controlled unions, and the denial of the right to strike for the employed workers, increased misery for the toiling farmers, destruction of the small merchants—this faces the people of this country. All of this is in preparation for a new world war—a new slaughter of the working class of the world.

Led by the Unemployed Councils, the workers have been carrying on a struggle to meet these conditions—and their struggles have been partially successful. Were it not for the fighting Unemployed Councils, the standard of relief, low as it is, would be still lower; more hundreds of thousands of working class families would have been evicted; more tens of thousands of Negro and foreign-born workers would have died of hunger. But this is not enough.

Social Insurance Needed.

The demand and need of the whole working class today, faced with the "recovery" bill, has not been achieved: Unemployment and Social Insurance at the expense of the employers and the government. This demand for protection in case of unemployment, sickness, accident, old age, maternity; the demand for security must be realized for the working class family. The struggle for unemployment and social insurance becomes the central task of the whole working class—brought home to us with the greatest sharpness by the industrial "recovery" law—the pearl of legislation of the Roosevelt-Wall Street government.

Through the provisions of the industrial "recovery" law, the employers, already well organized in their associations and chambers of commerce, will be better organized than ever before. The anti-trust law is bolished. The government will aid the industrialists in organizing themselves and will unite them under government direction. Today, the struggle of the workers becomes a sharper one, and demands the greatest unity.

The Unemployed Councils have been the champions of unity of the working class. Fighting alongside the other militant working class organizations, the Unemployed Councils have championed unity and in some measure have been successful. But this unity is still insufficient—still greater unity is needed.

The National Federation of unemployed organizations set up in Chicago on May 13 was a step in the correct direction.

The Unemployed Councils played a significant part in this convention, which took the first steps toward uniting the existing unemployed organizations of the country on the basis of the united front. This is only conceived of as a step in the direction of the unification of all unemployed organizations in the United States.

This convention was called by the leaders of the Socialist Party for the purpose of setting up a national unemployed organization in opposition to the Unemployed Councils. But in this the socialist leaders did not succeed. Although the convention was not representative of the rank and file of the unemployed organizations, it went on record for a federation and for unity. The socialists finding that they could not carry out their splitting activities, left the convention. Today, they continue their splitting, scabbing activities against the interests of the working class.

The Next Step.

Steps in the direction of unity were also taken at the state convention called by the Unemployed Citizens Leagues in Pennsylvania, in which the Unemployed Councils played a very important part.

The next steps will be taken at the state and national conventions of the same organization in Columbus, Ohio, on July 1 to 5. These conventions must be further milestones toward the unification of the unemployed organizations, toward uniting the workers to struggle against the industrial "recovery" law, toward intensifying the campaign for Social and Unemployment Insurance.

The National Federation decided to continue the process of building the united front in the states, counties, cities and neighborhoods. The National Committee of the Unemployed Councils calls upon the local Unemployed Councils, which have everywhere been in the forefront in uniting the workers, to take the initiative in building the federations in the neighborhoods, cities, counties and states. Unity of the workers in struggle against the Roosevelt program must be established without a moment's delay!

This unity must draw millions of American workers into the struggle for Social and Unemployment Insurance. The workers in every neighborhood, every working class organization, every A. F. of L. and independent union, every socialist branch, every club, fraternal lodge, veterans' and professional organization, must be reached and be made an active participant in this fight.

Unity of the working class in the struggle for our central demand: Social and Unemployment Insurance—is our burning need.

"The Steel"

Just What 'Socialist Competition' Means to U.S.S.R. Labor

This is the third and final installment of the significant chapter from Ilyin's "New Russia's Primer" which was suppressed by Houghton-Mifflin, American publishers of the book. In Saturday's issue we published the first installment of this dramatic contrast between a capitalist and a proletarian society. Ilyin, the author, is a Soviet engineer.

The worker is master, and the master reckons every penny himself, so that the industry shall have the lowest possible running costs, the biggest possible profits and turn out the best quality goods. And so one shop after another, one brigade after another is going over to the new form of work from the point of view of the owner. Every workers' section, every shop, brigade and workshop has its own plan, its own calculations, its own funds and responsibility. The workers know that it