

Social Insurance Fight, Demand For Security, Is Central Issue For All

Party Must Lead the Struggle Against Blue Eagle

By I. AMTER

The capitalist system has reached a stage at which masses are doomed to permanent unemployment. According to government reports, the output per worker increased more than 50 per cent between 1922 and 1929. Since 1929, and especially since the introduction of the codes under the N.R.A., production has been still more intensified. 250,000 miners have been eliminated from the industry; a great majority of the miners work only part time; and yet production remains at a high level.

The degree of unemployment, however, must be considered in the light of the long cyclical crisis through which world capitalism is passing, coupled with the fundamental crisis which is shaking capitalism to its core. That is, the productive capacity of world capitalist industry has reached a point of development far outstripping the markets. Capitalism in one country can secure markets only at the expense of another country. Capitalism as a whole cannot expand, but must stand still and decline.

Mass Unemployment

Since the introduction of the codes and the adoption of "rules against unfair competition," the manufacturers have been doing everything in their power to introduce new methods of production, which will lower the cost of labor power. This means the steady elimination of labor power, increasing speed-up, and the substitution of more refined, complicated mechanical processes.

Marx, and particularly Lenin, pointed out these facts. In "Imperialism, the Last Stage of Capitalism," Lenin pointed out the rapid tendency to monopoly, the rationalization processes, and the resultant unemployment.

This faces the whole working class with a critical question: how to secure a livelihood. Not only the 17,000,000 unemployed in the United States are concerned. Every worker in the shops; the older workers who are being discharged at a time when they have acquired their highest skill; the young workers who have not been able to find jobs—all face the same problem. This cannot be solved by relief, with its uncertainty, irregularity, discrimination, favoritism, etc. It can be obtained only through a system of unemployment and social insurance, covering all workers and providing for all contingencies.

Eighty per cent of the building trades workers have been unemployed for more than two years. With the coming of the crisis, they were reduced to a low level, and have been eager to work far below the union scale. Millions of workers work only part-time—in the steel, auto, mining and needle industries. Owing to the speed-up in the factories and because of improper protective devices, they suffer every kind of industrial and occupational disease, in addition to illnesses contracted because their vitality is lowered by the severe speed-up. The older men are being fired. What is to be the fate of these workers?

A Central Issue

As a central issue, therefore, rises the demand of the whole working class, for unemployment and social insurance as an immediate measure of security that the workers must struggle to procure under capitalism.

The adoption of the national recovery act was not merely to bring about recovery. As an economic measure to help the masses, it has completely failed. It has not put the millions of unemployed back to work; only a fraction of the alleged 4,000,000 unemployed have secured work on the C.W.A. jobs. In face of the prolonged world economic crisis and the rapidly developing basic crisis of capitalism; and in face of the intense struggle of the masses of the toiling population to protect themselves from the ravages of the crisis, the real aim was to introduce measures that would protect capitalism from collapse. "Capitalism or Communism" is admittedly the issue. Capitalism in its "democratic" form cannot protect itself so readily. Therefore "democracy" is being thrown to the winds, and steps toward fascism are taking its place.

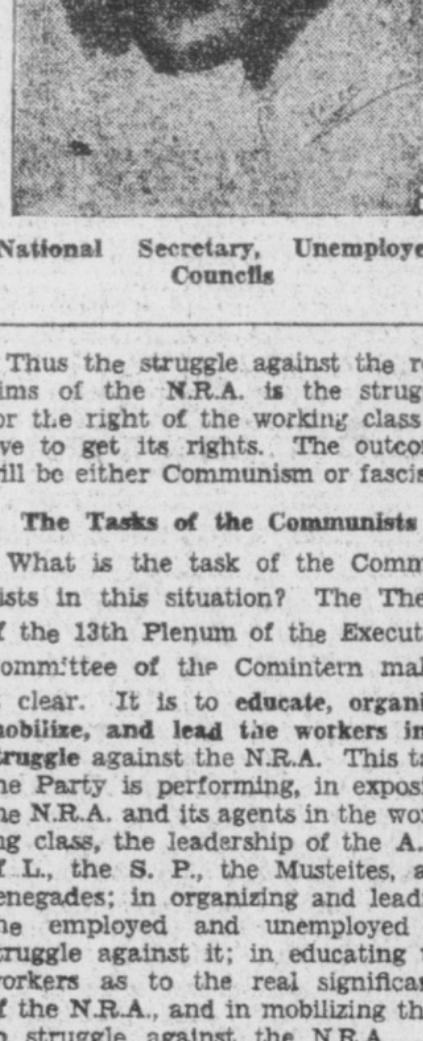
Militarizing the Unemployed

In Europe, fascism has already been established in several countries. In the United States this is one of the real purposes of the N.R.A. How urgent this is, may be seen from the steps that government is adopting in connection with the millions of unemployed youth and single men. Three hundred thousand boys have been put into the civilian conservation camps, by the government, supposedly to "raise their morale." According to Assistant Secretary of War Woodring, the organization of over 300,000 men in more than 1,500 civilian conservation camps was the first real test of the army's plans for war mobilization under the National Defense Act. (Emphasis mine—I. A.) Woodring declares that "by next summer a million young men will be enrolled in the camps. He proposes that the Army organize the C.C. veterans of the World War, the C.C. veterans, and, through them, the administration of the emergency relief, into a system of storm troops that could support the government's efforts to smash the depression." How much this smacks, even in language, of Hitler! The C.C. camps are the "forerunners of the great civilian labor armies," embracing all single (and possibly married) unemployed.

These "storm troops" are to be used not only for war. Woodring continues:

"Economic breakdown, unless promptly corrected, induces social breakdown. In such a crisis the army (all the above—I. A.) is the only organization in the country, which is able and ready to maintain the government"—meaning the capitalist government.

I. AMTER



National Secretary, Unemployed Councils

Thus the struggle against the real aims of the N.R.A. is the struggle for the right of the working class to live to get its rights. The outcome will be either Communism or fascism.

The Tasks of the Communists

What is the task of the Communists in this situation? The Thesis of the 13th Plenum of the Executive Committee of the Comintern makes it clear. It is to educate, organize, mobilize, and lead the workers in a struggle against the N.R.A. This task the Party is performing, in exposing the N.R.A. and its agents in the working class, the leadership of the A. F. of L., the S. P., the Musteites, and renegades; in organizing and leading the employed and unemployed in struggle against it; in educating the workers as to the real significance of the N.R.A., and in mobilizing them to struggle against the N.R.A.

Our task consists of most rapidly getting the closest personal contact with the masses (14th C.C. Plenum Resolution), in the shops and neighborhoods, on the C.W.A. jobs, in the unions and mass organizations, in the C.C.C. and Civilian Labor Camps; explaining to them the truth about the N.R.A., organizing and leading them in struggle. Our task consists in building fighting industrial unions and the opposition in the reformist unions, in the reformist and independent unemployed organizations, mobilizing the rank and file to struggle against the N.R.A. and against their leaders, who obstruct the struggle. It consists in bringing about united action against the N.R.A. on a common program of demands arising out of each particular situation.

Our main task however, consists in revolutionizing the workers, by interpreting the struggles in the light of the class conflict, by politicizing the struggles, raising political demands, such as the Workers' Unemployment and Social Insurance Bill, organizing demonstrations and strikes of a political nature, raising the class-consciousness of the workers and recruiting them into the Party.

Hence the struggle for unemployment and social insurance as a central and immediate demand of the whole working class and all working class organizations is a struggle also to build up the forces in action that will prevent the establishment of a fascist dictatorship in the United States and strengthen the ranks for turning imperialist war into civil war.

Lenin's Influence

COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL

By J. STACHEL

I

Stalin defines Leninism as "Marxism in the epoch of imperialism and of the proletarian revolution." He states further, "Leninism is the theory and tactics of the proletarian revolution in general and the theory and tactics of the dictatorship of the proletariat in particular." On this Stalin bases his statement that "Leninism is the further development of Marxism."

This is true about every phase of the theory and tactics of the proletarian revolution. It is true on the question of the trade unions. Marx, on the basis of the analysis of the laws of the development and decline of capitalism, showed to the proletariat that it was not sufficient to fight for "a fair day's wage for a fair day's work," but called upon the proletariat to inscribe on its banner "the fight for the abolition of capitalism." Marx and Engels, even in the pre-imperialist epoch, carried on a merciless struggle against all varieties of opportunism. They pointed out the bourgeois ideology of the British labor movement, which had resulted from the bribery by the British ruling class of large sections of the working class through super-profits. Marx and Engels fully recognized the necessity of the workers to organize themselves into trade unions.

The letter of Marx and Engels dealing with the early development of the revolutionary labor movement in this country were a great force towards pushing the immigrant revolutionists of that day toward the masses to work in the rising trade union movement. They condemned the barren sectarianism of the "purists," but at the same time, fought against pure-and-simple trade unionism, and called upon the revolutionists to work in the trade unions for the purpose of mobilizing the masses for the struggle for the abolition of capitalism.

Applying the teachings of Marx and Engels on the trade unions to the