

# BIG STRUGGLES LOOM IN NEW YORK, SAYS COMMUNIST LEADER

**Amter Cites Numerous Strikes, Advancing Relief Struggles, Harlem Events and Growth of the United Front**

By I. Amter

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May Day, 1935, finds the workers preparing for battle on all fronts. In auto and rubber, the workers, misguided by William Green and some of their local labor leaders, have been faced with government recognition of company unions. The coal miners who traditionally have closed their contracts on April 1, and if necessary have gone out on strike on that date, have been betrayed by John



Lewis by a postponement until June 16. In steel the workers will have held their convention against William Green and Mike Tighe in order to effect organization, so as to carry on a struggle for the right to organize and for better conditions.

**I Amter** The Roosevelt-Wall Street government has betrayed its pledge to the workers to provide unemployment insurance. The U. S. Congress, on order of Roosevelt, has defeated the Workers' Bill, H. R. 2827, and enacted in its place the Wagner-Lewis-Doughton Bill, which does not provide one penny of insurance but leaves to the individual states the whole question of providing relief. The fight for unemployment insurance has not ended. On the contrary, the betrayal of the U. S. Congress of the interests not only of the 17,000,000 unemployed but of the whole working class will be answered in full measure.

Hearst, Macfadden, Coughlin, Johnson, Long, still rant about the rights of the workers. The Hearst press, taking the leadership in the struggle against the Communist Party and aiding the McCormick-Dickstein Committee in its attempt to outlaw the Communists and all militant workers' organizations, is doing its worst to slander the Communist Party and the Soviet Union.

This is done in conjunction with the struggle against the Soviet Union and the building of fascism and military forces within the United States. Hitler is preparing for an onslaught against the Soviet Union. The growing strength of the Soviet Union and that of the revolutionary forces throughout the world represent a force that the capitalists and their government will have to reckon with.

## Relief Cut in New York

In New York the situation is in keeping with the national situation. Unemployment relief has been cut. More than 25,000 workers have been removed from the relief lists but the number of applicants continues to grow. One-third of the population of the richest city in the world is dependent on relief. Wages are not advancing, but on the contrary the rising cost of living is cutting into the standard of living of the employed workers and driving down the conditions of the unemployed still lower. Battles at relief bureaus continue and mount with the sharp attacks of the police.

The Negroes, always the worst sufferers, broke out in rebellion on March 19 in Harlem. This is but an indication of what will occur not only in New York but throughout the country. Down in the South, where government investigators have disclosed conditions, we face not only the mass misery of the Negroes, but the mass struggle of all workers.

Beginning in January, 1936, aliens in New York will be denied relief. Increased persecution of the foreign-born and the threat of deportation over the head of every militant foreign-born worker threaten these workers. Filipinos are being picked up on the streets and immediately deported to the Philippine Islands.

## Strikes Are Answer

The workers have not accepted these conditions without struggle. On the contrary, today in New York City 3,000 workers of the National Biscuit Company, workers who had never been organized before, are now in their seventeenth week of strike with their lines undiminished. Food, hotel, needle, marine, building service, metal, in all of these industries the workers have gone out in militant struggle. Today the electric signal men are putting up a battle against the N. R. A. The Klein and Ohrbach workers, newspaper publishing and other white collar workers have joined the ranks of the strikers and have carried on a splendid fight.

Political strikes of a high character have taken place. Not only the mass outbreak in Harlem, but the demonstration of the Cuban workers in lower Harlem and the closing of about 500 shops in the one-hour strike, show that the political consciousness of the workers is rising. The strike of the longshoremen and teamsters against the injunction shows the growing political understanding of the workers and the need of unity in struggle against the government.

## United Front Grows

The strike of the students on April 12 reached a figure of about 25,000 in New York City, and the militancy displayed by these youth shows the leftward trend among this section of the population. The splendid Madison Square Garden meetings in defense of the Soviet Union and against the fascist Hearst indicate quite clearly that within the masses of New York is developing a clearer understanding of the danger of fascism and war

and the need of unity in struggle against it.

The united front is a slogan not merely in the mouths of the workers but one that they are putting more effectively into action from day to day. The united front in Ridgewood of Socialists and Communists and other working class organizations against the Nazis; the united front under the name of the Equal Opportunities Committee in Queens, first demanding the placing of Negro doctors in the hospitals in Queens and now even on a broader program; the united front movements being built in Harlem of every conceivable organization, demonstrate the desire of the workers for united front.

There are those who profess to stand for the united front but prefer to unite with the enemies of the working class rather than with the workers. Who would question in New York that despite his pretensions of interest in the workers and standing for their rights, LaGuardia is an enemy of the workers? Every action that he has carried out since he became Mayor shows clearly that he knuckles down to the bankers, accepts the dictates of Wall Street and carries on a subtle and at times openly brutal campaign against the workers.

## Leaders Block Unity

This has not prevented the Socialist leaders from uniting with LaGuardia. Viadeck on the City Housing Commission, Judge Panken accepting a judgeship from LaGuardia, are examples of this willingness to unite with LaGuardia. Algernon Lee spoke at an anti-Soviet meeting together with White Guard representatives. Anna Chernovina was joyfully greeted by the Socialist Party and with equal heartiness by the convention of the Daughters of the American Revolution! Harry Lang, filthy writer for the Jewish Daily Forward, co-operates with Hearst in slandering the Soviet Union. Hyman Nemser, member of the old guard City Committee of the Socialist Party of New York, co-operates with the racketeers in building unions which, because of their rottenness, had to be suspended by the leaders of the A. F. of L. It is the old guard leadership of the Socialist Party of New York and those who follow this leadership that stand in the way of forming the united front of the workers of New York.

These people mainly are responsible for the fact that on May Day there cannot be one huge demonstration of the workers of New York against hunger, fascism and war. They mainly are responsible for attempts to prevent the unity of the workers on the picket line and in the struggle for relief. But they will not succeed forever. On the contrary, the united front May Day demonstration in New York in spite of their efforts will be a demonstration of unity of wide sections of the labor movement.

## Must Build "Daily"

The building of the Daily Worker into a newspaper reaching hundreds of thousands of workers in the New York District; the increase in the circulation of the Party literature; the reaching of the workers in the shops, the white-collar workers and the intellectuals; and above all the building of the Communist Party and the Young Communist League in the shops of basic industry, and of fighting union organizations in every shop, on the road to making New York City a 100 per cent union town—these are our tasks.

May Day is a milestone in our struggle for unity—but only a milestone that should lead to ever greater unity and to the victory of the working class over its enemies! A milestone in the revolutionary struggle of the workers for the final emancipation from capitalism, for its destruction and the establishment of a Soviet America.

## Peasants and Workers In Portugal Protest Oppressive Wine Taxes

LISBON. — Great demonstration took place in all the wine-growing centers in Portugal during the month of April these being directed against the oppressive wine taxes. Particularly were the manifestations militant in Cartaxo, a large wine region in central Portugal, where the small holders, peasants, and agricultural workers demonstrated against the tax collectors.

A conspicuous factor of the demonstration was that the trade union leaders were forced to join the workers. Armed troops were called to disperse the demonstrators. In order to pacify the crowd, an officer of the National Union declared: "Calm yourselves, I am one of you; I am a liberal, too." But the wrath of the workers only increased. They marched to the town hall, and destroyed all the nationalist posters and pictures of the dictator, Carmona. The demonstration concluded with shouts of "Down with the dictatorship!" and a repetition of the demand put forward by the Communists: "No payment of the 18 per cent wine tax."