

The S. P. Celebrates May Day to Cover Betrayals of Workers Entire Year

By ROSE WORTIS

WITHIN a few days workers of New York City will gather to celebrate May 1st through a mass parade and demonstration in Union Square and a mass meeting organized by the Communist Party in Madison Square Garden. May 1, 1934, has a greater significance to the labor movement than ever before.

The workers of New York City, those organized under the leadership of the Trade Union Unity Council, the independent unions, and those in the A. F. of L., must give serious thought as to how and with whom they are going to celebrate May 1, have through demonstration live up to the true meaning and purpose of May 1 as a day of international solidarity and international struggle against our class enemies, the capitalists and those who are aligned with capitalism.

May 1 was established by the international revolutionary movement as a day of international solidarity in which the working class gathers its forces for a more determined struggle against capitalism. May 1 therefore belongs to the revolutionary movement, which utilizes this day of international demonstration in order to strengthen the struggle against capitalism and to express its solidarity with the workers of the one country, the Soviet Union, where capitalism has been overthrown through the revolutionary uprising of the working class.

THE Socialist Party has long abandoned the idea of a revolutionary struggle against capitalism and in its day to day work has shamefully betrayed every thing that May Day stands for. In the past year in particular the Socialist Party of the United States and its supporters in the trade unions, just like the social democratic party of Germany and the entire Second International, have a record of the most shameless betrayals of the working class.

In this article we want to review the activities of the Socialist Party and the socialist trade union bureaucrats in the day to day struggles of the American workers.

When the capitalist class of this country, aware of the rising tide of struggle of the workers against the wholesale wage cuts, mass unemployment and the lowering of the standards of living, came forward with the N. R. A. as an instrument to break the rising tide of struggle, the Socialist Party leaders, just like their brothers of Germany, aligned themselves with the Roosevelt government and declared the N. R. A. a new charter of labor. The union bureaucrats in the socialist controlled unions, such as the I. L. G. W. U., openly declared that with the enactment of the N. R. A. there would be no further need of strikes, that the government would do the trick.

As a result of this treachery, gains made by the dressmakers in the historic strike of last summer have practically been wiped out. Today 20,000 dressmakers are locked out of the shops, while their union, under the leadership of the Socialists, Dubinsky and Hochman, and their ally, Zimmerman, is maneuvering with the jobbers to drive the workers back to the shop under the old sweatshop conditions.

In the strike struggles that followed the enactment of the N. R. A., the Socialist Party and the trade union bureaucrats have played the most treacherous role, equal to the treachery of their colleagues in Germany, in Austria. In the needle trades, the "Forward" and the Socialist Party prevented the unification of the workers, carried on a vicious attack against the militant elements in the Industrial Union, which called on the workers not to depend on the N. R. A. but to fight militantly for their union conditions.

IN THE recent strike in the shoe industry, where 10,000 workers for a period of 17 and 18 weeks were fighting the bitter open shoppers, the Socialist Party through its press and its leaders openly lined up with the bosses and helped the bosses to build up a scab agency, the Boot and Shoe, which is controlled by the bosses as an instrument to bring back the open shop conditions and to rob the shoe workers of the gains made as a result of their bitter struggle.

In the food industry the Socialist Party and their socialist controlled unions have resorted to the most vicious anti-labor injunctions in order to break the strikes of the cafeteria workers, the grocery clerks who are militantly fighting for the right to be organized into a union of their own choice and for decent living conditions.

In the jewelry trade the Socialist Party leaders in the last strike, which for the first time in many years practically tied up the industry, sold out the workers during the very height of the strike and gave up rights won by the workers even during the time when the in-

dustry was an open shop industry, namely the right to the job, as well as other conditions.

In the furniture trade the splendid strike which involved practically the entire industry was sold out by the socialist leader Tieze, and today the upholsterers are slaving under miserable conditions and with the consent of the union, the bosses are taking back even the slight gains which they were forced to give to the workers in the past strike.

In the printing trade Zausner, one of the shining lights of the Socialist Party, has betrayed the interests of the workers by openly permitting the bosses to undermine the seven hour, \$9 scale which the workers had won as a result of their struggle.

THESE are but a few examples of the treacherous role played by the Socialist Party and socialist-controlled unions in the day to day struggles of the workers against the bosses.

The most outstanding of these betrayals, however, the Socialist Party has carried through in the recent strikes of the taxi drivers. For the first time in many years 40,000 taxi drivers went out on strike against the most miserable and inhuman conditions. The Socialist Party, in the persons of Panken, Levy and Micky Most, the true agents of the bosses, have been instrumental in betraying this strike which is of outstanding importance in the history of the strike struggles in New York City. Today the same Panken and Levy are attempting to split the union of the taxi drivers and in that way helping the big fleet owners to utilize the split to force the company union on the taxi drivers.

The betrayal of the Socialist Party was limited not only to serving the interests of the bosses during periods of strikes, but to every phase of the class struggle. The Socialist Party and the unions under its control have fostered, encouraged and helped to build up the most scandalous racketeering in the trade unions. Every attempt on the part of the workers, whether it is in the Walters Union, in the Laundry, Building, Clerks, in the Moving Pictures or any other union, to rid themselves of these racketeers who lived on the workers, the racketeers always found their greatest supporters in the Socialist Party and "Forward" who gave their money, their press and their blessing to the racketeers.

AS against this record of the blackest treachery, the militant forces inside and outside of the A. F. of L., under the leadership of the Communist Party, will come out in the tens of thousands to celebrate May 1, to take courage in the achievements under the leadership of the fighting unions and the Communist Party. We will come together in thousands to solidify our forces, strengthen the bond of unity between all workers, and to take up with greater energy and enthusiasm the tasks of strengthening and building the militant T. U. U. L. the militant independent unions, the fighting oppositions in the A.F.L., to build a united front of the unemployed and employed workers. To build the Communist Party under whose inspiring leadership and guidance the militant forces in the American labor movement have been able to expose and in many instances to defeat the demagoguery of the Roosevelt administration; and win important concessions from the bosses and to build rank and file unions controlled by the workers as instruments to carry on the struggle for the immediate improvement in their conditions; to prepare themselves for the final struggle for the overthrow of the bankrupt capitalist system.

As a result of the experiences of the workers of New York City with the Socialist Party and A. F. of L. leaders in the past struggles, many of these workers are turning to the militant forces for leadership. Despite the poisonous propaganda of the bosses and the Socialist Party, who in every struggle are raising the red scare in order to defeat the workers, tens of thousands of workers, among them native American born workers, new sections of the working class not involved in struggles until now, are turning to the Communist Party and to the militant unions for leadership.

Workers of the Trade Unions: Let us work with greater energy and enthusiasm to make May 1 the biggest and most inspiring mass demonstration of the fighting forces of the American working class. Let us make May 1 a demonstration that will help to inspire and encourage us in the coming decisive battles of the American working class with their class enemies, the bosses and their allies, the Socialist Party and the renegades of all shades who have become part and parcel of the treacherous officialdom of the A. F. of L.