

Questions and Answers

(The following is the last of a short series of Questions and Answers on the World Economic Crisis, Unemployment and the Tasks of the Revolutionary Trade Unions, issued by the Red International of Labor Unions.—Editor.)

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Question 6: What must be the tasks of the revolutionary trade union movement if we take it that the Unemployed Workers' Movement is bound to grow and develop?

We see that the unemployed workers' movement evinces a tendency towards further growth. We also see that the danger of fascism was much in evidence and that efforts would be made to divide the movement. It is these considerations that determine the basic tasks of the revolutionary vanguard of the proletariat for the immediate future.

The basic task is to **preserve, strengthen and develop working class unity in the struggle against capitalism.** The efforts of the bourgeoisie and social-fascism to divide the ranks of the working class and set the unemployed at those in employment, must be countered by the revolutionary elements by setting up unity between the unemployed and those in employment at the factories, and by promoting international working class solidarity between all sections of the working class. The outcome of the maturing economic struggles as well as the class struggle itself will depend in great measure on the organization of the unemployed and the place they will take on the general revolutionary working class front.

The chief method of struggle must be the organization of mass revolutionary demonstrations of all the workers, **both employed and unemployed.** The RILU Executive Bureau has therefore resolved to appeal to all affiliated RILU organizations to **announce March 6 as an International Day to struggle against unemployment,** arranging mass demonstrations of the unemployed workers on this day getting the workers in employment to leave the factories before the conclusion of work to take part in these demonstrations.

The chief demand to be urged at these demonstrations should be: **Seven-hour day, more pay, capitalist state to give full relief to unemployed.**

At the same time the revolutionary vanguard of the working class movement must tackle the problem of organizing the unemployed workers and leading them in the struggle. To this end broad agitational activities must be started among all the workers, both unemployed and employed, explaining the meaning and the character of present day unemployment, showing that it is rooted in the present world crisis, urging that the unemployed be given work by reducing the working day to seven and six hours, by fighting the introduction of overtime, that the unemployed be guaranteed state relief at expense of employers and that unemployment relief should be increased to equal the average wages obtaining.

The struggle to get full relief for the unemployed, as well as the struggle against unemployment itself, should be a political struggle, that is, should raise the issue of political power, and should be shouldered by the working class as a whole.

Besides the agitational and propaganda work, Unemployed Workers' Committees should be organized having representatives of the workers in the unions as well as the unorganized workers. These committees should be elected at General Meetings of the unemployed and should be permanent organs for the movement.

The immediate tasks of the Committee are: To prepare the ground for conferences of delegates from the unemployed in the various districts and branches of industry, to organize demonstrations of the unemployed and those in employment, to organize marches to the capitals or district centers from the most depressed areas, publishing leaflets, bulletins and papers for the unemployed workers.

The revolutionary unions and the revolution-

Unemployed in in Stru

By CHOUTKA.

A RESULT of the sharpening economic crisis in Czecho-Slovakia, which has affected all branches of industry, is the uninterrupted dismissals, the closing down of shops and curtailment of output.

During the prosperous years in Czecho-Slovakia there were 30,000 workers squeezed out of industry, permanently for a more or less prolonged time. This unemployment was the consequence of nationalization, which, however, had not yet achieved its complete development.

Now, however, with the crisis growing sharper from day to day, unemployment is steadily increasing, and it may be stated with complete confidence (there are no official data on unemployment) that the number of unemployed has reached the 250,000 mark, and will uninterruptedly go on increasing.

If we take into consideration, also the workers employed on short time in the mining, glass, metallurgical and other industries, we see that not less than a million workers have been affected by the crisis at the present time.

It goes without saying that unemployment is most rife in the industrial centers of northern, western, eastern and middle Bohemia. Meetings, conferences and demonstrations have already been organized by the unemployed workers in the towns of these districts. At these meetings they presented their demands, and also the demands of the red trade unions and the Czecho-Slovakian Communist Party. They will continue the organized struggle for the achievement of their demands, under the leadership of the revolutionary trade unions and the Communist Party of Czecho-Slovakia.

The unemployed demonstrations were of a determined and militant character, made still more sharp in view of the critical situation and the discontent of the workers.

In the big industrial towns, in Prague, Reichenberg, Moravska Ostrava, Auszig and other towns, the unemployed have set up committees of action, to which employed workers are also sending their representatives, to support and strengthen the connections with the unemployed for the impending struggle against rationalization and social-fascism.

In many towns and districts, thanks to their fearless actions, the workers have achieved some successes. They made the local authorities in some places assign sums of money for unemployment benefits, and politically they succeeded in still further exposing the criminal betrayal of the workers' interests by the social-fascists, who spoke in the local self-government bodies against benefits being given to the unemployed.

The threat of unemployed demonstrations, the nature of which grows steadily more intensified, the further organization of the struggle, the increase in the unemployed army—all this forces the bourgeoisie and the social-fascist government, which has already applied strin-

ary T.U. oppositions must take the initiative in forming Unemployed Workers' Committees and at the same time they must systematically expose the inactivity and sabotage of the reformists in the efforts made to help the unemployed.

Representatives from the women workers, both employed and unemployed should be seated on the Unemployed Workers Committees. The International Day to Struggle Against Unemployment must be utilized to mobilize all the young workers whether in or out of employment.

All attempts to utilize the unemployed as scabs during economic struggles must be definitely frustrated.