

Russia dispassionately. That ought to get a wage cut for Broun from any sharp capitalist editor like Roy Howard.

# WORK OF RED TRADE UNIONS AND OPPOSITION AMONG UNEMPLOYED

## A Flapper Looks at Moscow

After some diligent years as a women's fashion writer and an attempt to abolish all boot-leg liquor in Manhattan by the ancient but unreliable means of drinking it, Alice Hughes was sent to the Soviet Union by the World-Telegram, which is trying to beat the Post and the Times on stupidities about Bolshevism.

All we can make out of the drivel is that the light-minded lady thinks that revolutions are just too awful for anything! How can anyone get along without all those big electric signs like Broadway's, advertising Catchem & Skinnem's Hair Oil, and a thousand other evidences of "civilization"?

Really, girls, perfume is terribly costly in Moscow! And how can any woman live without it? Alice went about pricing things in amazement. And no seal-skin coats to be had at any price! Terrible! The only thing she enthused over was when, at the house of an American friend, she was surrounded by bottles of vodka and wines.

That cheered her up for a while so that caviar was caviar, and not a "blob of tar" on bread that pained her soul. But she had a relapse. She tried to enter a shoe store just to see how much shoes cost, when she discovered in amazement that "one is only admitted if he has a card from a trade union."

This was too much! There are limits to what Alice can stand. So, bravely brushing aside her tears, she fled back to New York, to write up the horrible details. Revolutions are not interesting after all! They're simply awful!

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ployed, to make every one of these workers realize that only the R.I.L.U. sections and their organizations are the acknowledged representatives of the millions of unemployed.

While formerly not affiliated to the revolutionary trade union movement, the R.I.L.U. adherents must, by means of energetic and revolutionary work for defending the living interests of the unemployed and by means of linking up their struggle with the struggle of the workers in industry, lead the whole movement politically and organizationally, in order to finally turn these millions of unemployed into a firm consolidated force for overthrowing capitalism.

## RESOLUTION OF THE R.I.L.U. EXECUTIVE BUREAU

THE deepening of the world crisis, making for the further growth of the unemployed armies throuth the capitalist countries bring to the fore as one of the central and urgent task of the revolutionary trade union movement the organization of the struggle of the unemployed and the necessity for setting up close militant contacts between the unemployed and the workers in industry, who today are threatenend with wage reductions.

For mobilizing the unemployed for the struggle and organizing them, the question of agitation and action is of uttermost importance. The masses of unemployed proletarians will only recognize the leadership of the revolutionary labor movement when the adherents of the revolutionary trade union movement learn how to link up the general principal slogans with the every day demands, and day in and day out at the labor exchanges, the municipalities, in Parliament, etc., learn how to organize and actively wage the struggle for the petty and everyday demands of the unemployed, for rendering them concrete and practical help and for showing them a way out of their constant poverty.

The chief militant demands of the revolutionary trade union movement in the capitalist countries, which should in the different countries be supplemented according to local conditions are:

1. The introduction of obligatory unemployment insurance at the expense of the employers and state.
2. Unemployment relief, amounting to full wages, to be paid out to all unemployed for the whole period of unemployment.
3. Relief to be paid out to workers employed part time, to make up their full amount of wages.
4. The seven-hour working day for all workers and the six-hour day for workers under age, for miners and workers employed in harmful trades, without cuts in wages.
5. Struggle against compulsory labor and the task-work systems.

Besides, it is necessary to raise special demands in different communities, provincial parliaments, etc. These are to be as follows: (1) Work to be provided at union rates; (2) grants to be handed out in case of sickness, accidents or death; winter relief to be handed out; (3) unemployed getting insignificant relief or not getting any relief at all to have their rent reduced or to be freed from paying rent altogether; (4) fuel, potatoes and milk for the children to be supplied free of charge; (5) free fare when going to labor exchanges or in search of work; (6) electricity and gas free of charge; (7) special houses for young workers to be organized, etc.

Naturally, these demands must be closely linked up with the general conditions of the political and economic struggle against the capitalist regime, against fascism, police terrorism, etc. The winning over of the majority of the unemployed does not only depend upon the ability to correctly formulate the slogans of agitation and action, but, first and foremost, on the organization

of the every day struggle of the unemployed in defense of their immediate demands.

### Forms of Organization

The thorough preparation and organization of the struggle of the unemployed for their partial demands on the basis of the broad united front from below is therefore one of the basic tasks confronting the revolutionary T. U. movement in all capitalist countries, and the linking up of this struggle with the struggle of the workers in industry is the prerequisite of the mass political action of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie.

Particularly the center of gravity in all our work must be transferred to that strata of unemployed who get no relief at all or who only get insignificant amounts.

In order to organizationally link up the unemployed and warrant for them a solid leadership, the R. I. L. U., adherents must take the initiative of arranging for the election of unemployed committees (committees or councils) on the basis of the broad united front from below. Elections of such committees are depending upon the situation in the given country at the labor exchanges, in the doss-houses, at the public kitchens, or at the workers' living houses, by general meetings of all unemployed, regardless of race, nationality or sex, and no matter to which party or trade union these workers belong.

All committees of a town or city, elected at the labor exchanges, the doss-houses, the public kitchens or in the different districts of the city, elect a Local Unemployment Committee to lead the struggle on a local scale. The local committees in their turn must elect a Regional Unemployed Committee to consolidate all local forces on a regional scale and to increase the power of action of the unemployed movement. Such Unemployed Committees must from top to bottom, be comprised of representatives from the enterprises.

Similarly, when setting up local or regional unemployed committees, it is necessary to put consistently into effect the principal of tactic of the united front from below. The local and regional committees of the unemployed are responsible for carrying on the struggle of the unemployed on the territory they cover. In those countries where there are leading centers of the unemployed movement, they must develop energetic activity and become actual leading bodies. In those countries where there are no such centres, it is necessary to carefully consider the expediency of organizing such on a national scale.

In order to create a firm base for the unemployed committees, it is expedient to register the unemployed by issuing membership cards. However, this does not make it obligatory for the unemployed to pay membership dues. Voluntary dues paid in by the unemployed may frequently be sufficient, or collections among the unemployed and the employed workers, as well as among the petty-bourgeois elements. Besides, the registered unemployed should not be looked upon as privileged members of the unemployed organizations, considered as such by the unemployed committee when defending their interests, as

compared to the unregistered.

In those countries when other forms of organizing the unemployed are already being applied, which have proved to be actually effective, that may be preserved, insofar as they do not hinder the further extension of the united front, or should be further developed in accordance with our present instructions.

### Task of the Unemployed and Auxiliary Committees

The centre of gravity of the whole work of the unemployed movement should be transferred to the labor exchanges and other institutions where the masses of unemployed gather. In those countries where there is no possibility for getting the masses of unemployed together at the labor exchanges, etc., it is necessary to concentrate the work among the unemployed directly in the localities where the unemployed live.

The labor exchange committees, the town district committees and councils, besides registering members and accepting dues, are also responsible for the general work carried on at the given labor exchange or in the given locality. This work, besides everything else, includes: To issue bulletins at the labor exchanges on labor demands and also district and town papers, to convene general meetings of the unemployed, elect delegates, to organize anti-fascist self-defense corps, to set up special committees and auxiliary committees during strikes for attending to organizational questions, to questions concerning the trade union press, recruiting activities, legal advice, food for children, catering for women and young workers, struggle against evictions, control of overtime work at the enterprises, etc.

In view of the fact that the committees at the labor exchanges or the town districts cannot attend wholly to this work, these committees and auxiliary committees and councils are charged with an extremely important task. All unemployed deprived of relief, or whose relief has been decreased, who have been refused municipal help, who are struck off the books of the labor exchange for having refused to do certain work offered to them, or who clash with the police for certain action connected with the unemployed movement must get advice and support on all these questions and difficulties from the legal advice bureau.

### Evictions, Strikes and Overtime

The task of the committee for struggling against evictions of unemployed for not having paid their rents consists of mobilizing the unemployed masses, of organizing demonstrations and preventing the unemployed from being thrown out of their houses. The unemployed strike committee must work in close contact with the general strike committee during strikes, and mobilize the unemployed for distributing leaflets, for taking their turn on the picket-line and for carrying out all work connected with the struggle, as well as keep all unemployed workers widely informed on the progress of the strike.

Of important significance for linking up the struggle of the unemployed with the struggle of the workers in industry are the unemployed committees for controlling the amount of over-

time work put in at the enterprises. The task of these committees consists of showing up all instances of overtime worker, as well as the different rationalization measures introduced at the enterprises of their respective districts and localities; however, simultaneously these committees must prevent the indignation of the unemployed from developing into a struggle against the workers employed.

### Work in the Trade Unions

At those enterprises where overtime work is applied, the unity committees or unemployed committees organize special meetings with the factory committees and functionaries, organize demonstrations of unemployed in front of the enterprises and hold factory meetings, where representatives of the unemployed speak, in order to thus, by means of joint action on the part of the employed and unemployed, set up a fraternal militant union to fight overtime work in the interest of both.

The activity of the unemployed in the reactionary trade unions must be organized and directed by the T. U. Committee. To carry out this work it is absolutely necessary for the unemployed when registering to point out to which union they belong. The unemployed must mobilize the members of the trade unions for the struggle in defense of the demands raised by the unemployed—for the seven-hour working day, without any wage reductions, against overtime and new rationalization measures, against the anti-proletarian measures on the part of the bourgeoisie and the treacherous policy of the T. U. bureaucracy, particularly as regards questions affecting the unemployed.

They must on all such questions come out at meetings, conferences and congresses of the trade unions, mobilizing the trade union members and workers at the enterprises and rallying them for the joint struggle.

The network of auxiliary committees' and commissions' task is to carry on tireless and self-sacrificing work, aim at linking up closely the masses of unemployed with the unemployed committees and the workers at the enterprises. The activity of the leading organs of the unemployed movement should aim at consolidating the ranks of the unemployed and employed workers in a single militant front by means of putting forward demands responding to the interest of both. It is essential to take advantage of each and every opportunity for organizing demonstrations, meetings and manifestations of both the employed and unemployed workers.

### General Task

The center of gravity of all activity of the unemployed committees should be the organization of the struggle of the unemployed for their urgent everyday demands and interests. The committees and their auxiliary committees must carry on a systematic and stubborn struggle for the most insignificant demands of the unemployed. The most insignificant success serves to raise the consciousness of the unemployed and increases their confidence in the fighting organs.

If the unemployed committees desire to win over the overwhelming majority of the unem-

ployed on to a higher political plane, the every day struggle for satisfying the direct needs of the starving unemployed should comprise the basic content of all of their activity. The unemployed committees are obliged to thoroughly control the work of their auxiliary committees, besides the later must regularly report of their work to the unemployed committees.

At regular and frequently convened meetings, open for each and every unemployed worker, the unemployed committees and their auxiliary committees must report of all of their work, on all of its positive and negative results. The unemployed have full right at any time to remove from their posts different members of the committee auxiliary committee, and also to make new elections of the committee or the auxiliary committee.

### Revolutionary T. U. Organizations and the Unemployed Movement

The movement of the unemployed must become a wide united front movement and be built in such a fashion that it acquires maximum attractive force for the wide unemployed masses, regardless of the party or trade union these masses belong to. Even this angle the revolutionary T. U. organizations must immediately develop their work among the unemployed. All R. I. L. U., sections and affiliated organizations must display uppermost initiative for organizing and extending the movement of the unemployed.

Therefore, it is necessary that the revolutionary T. U. movement renders every possible support to the movement of the unemployed and leads the latter through its adherents. However, such leadership must not be formal. The movement of the unemployed must not be subordinated to the revolutionary T. U. movement by means of a number of formal resolutions. In actual fact, the revolutionary T. U. movement must lead the whole of the unemployed movement through its followers, who have to come out boldly and actively in the leading committees and their auxiliary committees for defending the demands of the unemployed.

On the other hand, it is necessary to start wide recruiting activities among the unemployed for drawing members into the revolutionary trade union organizations, in order to win over the more class-conscious sections of the unemployed and organize them in the ranks of the Red trade unions and T. U. Opposition. In order to direct the movement of the unemployed into correct channels and guarantee a correct class line, the supporters of the revolutionary trade unions movement must be firmly organized.

The members of the revolutionary T.U. movement in the ranks of the unemployed movement should be the chief political motive power, act as the organizing factor throughout all campaigns and demonstrations of the unemployed in the struggle for their living interests.

The revolutionary T.U. movement must do its level best, in the process of the everyday systematic struggle for the interests of the unemployed, to win the confidence of the unem-