

# Down With War Mongers!

## Stalin Waves Pink Flag To Bluff Allies

### Admits "Final Victory" Is Not Quite So Final As Believed

Joseph Stalin made a feeble attempt this week to wave a faded pink flag in the face of the British and French bourgeoisie in hopes of exorcizing the specter of complete isolation that now hangs over the Kremlin as a result of Stalin's own counter-revolutionary policies.

Panic-stricken by the prospect that his bourgeois allies will abandon him in favor of a four-power pact uniting Britain, France, Italy, and Germany at the expense of the Workers' State, Stalin suddenly re-discovered the existence of the world working class as the only ally upon which the Soviet Union could in the final analysis depend.

### Undeserved Headlines

Stalin's statement, made in a letter to a young Communist published in Pravda, did not, however, deserve the sensational headlines given to it by the capitalist press which proclaimed Stalin's return to the cause of the world revolution.

He was trying only to bluff England and France out of their negotiations with the Fascist powers by seeming to threaten revolutionary action by the working class, at the same time trying to throw dust in the eyes of Communist workers who have grown restive under the monstrous betrayals of the People's Fronts in Spain, France, and other countries.

What Stalin will do when Chamberlain and Chautemps call his bluff remains to be seen. Stalin will not and cannot make a genuine revolutionary turn, if only because he would be the first victim of a resurgent revolutionary movement of the workers.

### No "Victory" After All

While it did not, as the capitalist headlines suggested, embody a call to revolution, Stalin's letter did make a very significant retreat from the doctrine, hitherto official and sacrosanct, formally promulgated by the Seventh Congress of the Comintern, that the victory of Socialism in Russia was both "final and irrevocable."

Stalin reiterated his reactionary, nationalist theory of socialism in one country but instead of the "final and irrevocable" victory of Socialism in Russia of which so much was heard until this week, Stalin now says: "The aid of the international proletariat appears (!) to be a force without which the final victory of socialism in one country is not to be decided."

Even this halting, qualified retreat sounded strange after three years of the clamor of People's Frontism and "collective security" under which the safety of the Soviet Union has been placed at the mercy of dubious bourgeois allies while at the same time the revolutionary movement of the working class has been disoriented, undermined, and wrecked.

### "Democracies" Cool

Stalin's letter is a confession that his foreign policy is crumbling.

England is moving toward a deal with Italy and Germany. In France, the ruling class has cooled to the Franco-Soviet pact. The People's Front government of Chautemps will follow England. American imperialism, while moving toward open struggle for domination of the Pacific, has evinced no readiness to respond to Ambassador Troyanovsky's

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## Socialist Workers Party Manifesto

Ethiopia. Spain. China. Already three million casualties, with the curtain not yet raised on the main act. Already three million dead, wounded, dying. Hundreds of cities already destroyed: factories, homes, mines, railroads, left in shattered, crumbling ruins. Thousands upon thousands of the most heroic and militant of the workers, peasants, students, torn to pieces by the machine-gun spray, the twisted fragments of time-fuse bombs.

All this is but the faint, mild foreshadowing, the first cracks in a world shell which is near the breaking point. Every nation points directly, with all its concentrating energy, toward the looming war. The precarious balance, upheld by the Versailles Treaty imposed by the winning imperialist gangsters in 1919, holds no longer.

No words can describe the horror of the war which threatens every day more closely. The last world war, the most devastating event in the whole long history of mankind, was a children's game in comparison. To-day it is the very fate of humanity which is at issue.

### Heading Directly Toward War

The United States, along with every other nation, heads directly toward the war. In these recent months, Roosevelt, the cunning leader of American imperialism, is moving rapidly toward first place among the war makers of the world.

In his October address at Chicago, Roosevelt announced his direction: *Toward the war!* First place in his Annual Message to Congress was given to the war. At the bidding of his masters, the rulers of American industry and banking, he inserted into his budget more than a billion dollars for military appropriations.

To the Ludlow Amendment, Roosevelt and his associates replied that the people have no right whatever to speak on such a question as war, that they will go to war when, how, and against whom the imperialists dictate, that no measure will be permitted which might have even the slightest chance for interference with the plans of the war-makers.

In a Special Message to Congress, Roosevelt demanded another eight hundred million dollars for the Navy, over and above the billion dollar military appropriation already carried in the regular budget. As the Congressional hearings proceed, there is every indication that even this sum will be indefinitely increased.

### War Sentiment Being Whipped Up

To Japan, the presumed enemy nation of the Roosevelt program, Secretary of State Hull addresses a series of provocative notes designed to whip up war feeling among the people of this country. U. S. naval squadrons and companies of U. S. Marines in the Far East watch carefully over Standard Oil tankers and American-owned factories busily drinking blood-stained profits out of the people of China.

Hull's notes on the sinking of the "Panay," the joint British, American and French notes on the Japanese naval building program, find their appropriate echoes in every section of the press. Jingo headlines re-appear, blazoned across front pages. Atrocity stories fill column after column; ponderous editorials, alike in pro-or anti-Roosevelt journals, call for ever more warships, ever larger armaments. The newsreels of the sinking of the "Panay" are rushed by airplane to every movie theater in the country; the same theaters which for months were prevented from showing the films of the Chicago massacre of the steel workers. A vicious anti-Japanese race-hatred is being worked up by the war-mongers.

What is this war for which Roosevelt is preparing? Whose war is it? What is it for?

It is a war for the re-division of the earth. It is a war of the rival imperialist powers for the major shares in the rights of exploitation, oppression, tyranny, profits. It is a war to decide which nations shall be most favored in the grabbing of markets, natural resources, and outlets for investment, for the benefit of their own capitalists. It is a war to decide which national set of robbers shall control the international imperialist racket.

### Imperialists Are All Alike

In this war, there are no "good" and "bad" capitalist states, no "peaceful" and "aggressor" imperialisms. They are all tainted with the same disease, damned with the same curse, fascist and democratic, West and East alike. They are all driven by the same insurmountable conflicts.

It is a war, from the point of view of every camp and coalition, against the masses of the people, against their every interest and need.

For the United States, the most powerful and vigorous imperialist state, it is a war in which will be sought undisputed domination for American capital on an international scale. Watching the new economic depression eating away the foundations of the social order, Roosevelt lunges toward the war as his solution for the insoluble crisis of U. S. capitalism. Perhaps, fertilized by enough blood, profits will again grow to a size that will satisfy the hunger of Morgan, Du Pont, Rockefeller.

What will come of this war? Who will win? What will the war solve?

This war will solve nothing for imperialism in general. The same insurmountable conflicts will remain unaltered. It will solve nothing, just as the last war solved nothing. Untold millions of workers will die and

suffer and kill each other while industrialists and bankers manipulate war contracts to fill their coffers. The agents of wealth and privilege will descend in each nation upon their respective governments to squeeze the last percent out of every order for bombs, gas masks, submarines, machine guns, airplanes.

A peace of exhaustion will find one or another set at a temporary advantage, and the preparation for the next war will again begin.

### Masses Have Nothing To Gain

Meanwhile destruction, death, misery, tyranny for the masses of every nation. Have the masses anything to gain? More food? Food will be destroyed, and those who should raise the food will be busy killing each other. Better houses? The bombs will blow up the houses. Higher wages? The war machine, in the name of sacrifice for war, will beat down real wages while war scarcity lifts the price level; and the social wealth representing generations of labor will be physically annihilated. Freedom? The war machine will impose a totalitarian dictatorship in every nation—a dictatorship being made ready in this country in the Sheppard-Hill Bill now pending before Congress. All democratic rights, above all every right of the working class—to strike, to picket, to demonstrate, to organize in free and independent unions—will be smashed by the war.

The traitors in the ranks of labor will tell us that it is our war, and that we must take part in it. They will tell us that it is the war of "democracy" against "fascism", of peace-lovers against war-makers, of civilization against barbarism. Already all of their efforts are devoted to the betrayers' task of winning the masses to support of the war. Under the slogans of "collective security," by falsifying utterly the nature of the war, with loud shouts for democracy, they make ready to lead the masses into the armies of imperialism.

### Stalinists, Social Democrats Shout War

First and foremost, in this as in every other country, the Stalinists prepare the betrayal of the masses. In voices louder than Hearst's they snarl at the Ludlow Amendment, praise Roosevelt's war program, demand revenge for the sinking of the "Panay." Day in and day out their unspeakable attacks, their lies and viciousness and slanders and frame-ups are launched against every militant in the labor movement who raises a voice against the coming war.

Within the labor movement, the Stalinists, under the whip of the butcher of the Kremlin—his hands reeking with the blood of the Russian and Spanish revolutionists—are today the chief force building the fires of the war spirit. Tomorrow they will be the most active of the recruiting agents of Roosevelt and Chautemps and Chamberlain, and the spearhead of the lynch gangs hounding the war's opponents. They will play the same role in the coming war that was enacted by the Second International in the last war and is being played even now by the social-democratic parties.

No pretense even of a fight against the war is conceivable apart from the unremitting struggle against Stalinism and the parties of the Second International.

This struggle cannot fall back into the dreams and illusions of pacifism and "isolation". Isolation is impossible for this country because this country is bound hand and foot to world imperialist economy. Profits

## Unionists Will March In Relief Demonstration

Demonstrating against layoffs and for increased relief, thousands of workers will mass in Foley Square (two blocks north of City Hall) at 11 a. m. Saturday, February 19, for a march to Wall Street.

Organized through the initiative of the Workers Alliance, the demonstration is sponsored by the Trades Union Committee for Unemployment Relief with numerous participating trade unions, including the Transport Workers, Furriers, Painters, District Council No. 9, Radio and Telegraphers, Boot and Shoe workers and others.

### Relief Problem Acute

Although the demonstration was first projected some weeks ago, its importance and timeliness is emphasized by the events of last week. Under pressure of the miserable and worsening relief conditions in New York—reduction in clothing allowances for February, delays and rejections of the weekly thousands of new applications—"sit-ins," picketings and demonstrations broke out at the bureaus during the past week. All progressive workers must show their solidarity with the Workers Alliance by attending Saturday's demonstration.

All workers out to Foley Square (two blocks north of City Hall), 11:00 A. M., Sat., Feb. 19, for the Workers' Alliance demonstration and march to Wall St.

The Progressive Group of the Workers Alliance proposed that the Saturday demonstration should take place at the City Hall, and should be directed against the anti-union actions of the administration as well as against its miserly relief policy. The leadership of the Workers Alliance, saturated with "People's Frontism," opposed any action which might embarrass the supporters of LaGuardia and advocated instead a demonstration against the "60 families," and the "economic royalists."

One slogan that featured past demonstrations of the unemployed will be conspicuously absent. The slogan "All War Funds for the Unemployed" when proposed by the progressives was rejected by the C. P. controlled leadership, despite the fact or perhaps because of the fact that it was never so pertinent as now.

for U. S. capital cannot be maintained without the world market; and a share in the world market cannot be upheld without fighting for it. No Ludlow Amendment ever devised could keep U. S. imperialism from plunging into war. To rest the fight against the war upon the illusions of pacifism and isolation means to block the genuine fight against war.

There is in the final analysis only one way to fight the war, only one way to overcome it. The only answer to the imperialist war is the class struggle of the workers and the socialist revolution. For the coming imperialist war, we reiterate the battle-cry of Karl Liebknecht and Lenin in the last war: "The enemy is in our own country!"

The militant, unflagging class struggle of the workers alone can delay and hamper the war-makers. The socialist revolution alone can overthrow the whole imperialist system, root out those causes which make war under imperialism inevitable, and build a society in which peace and freedom can be achieved. All other hope is vain.

The class struggle and the socialist revolution in the capitalist countries is also the only sound way of defending the remaining conquests of the Russian Revolution, of protecting them from imperialist attack and from bureaucratic Stalinist undermining.

### Build A World For Peace

Workers of the United States! Consider your marvellous machines, the railroads you have built, the mines you have sunk, the great rolling mills, the blast furnaces, the precision tools, the shining turbines! Are they to be used forever to turn out profits for the bosses, and, in the war, to send death to your brothers? You have made them: Take them into your own hands, to bring peace, and to give men what they need!

Farmers of the United States! Look at the beautiful rich land, at the tractors, reapers, combines! Are you raising your cotton to make high explosives, your wheat to provision your sons in the trenches? Let us use the land for ourselves, not for profits, to make peace possible by giving men enough to eat.

Scientists, teachers, engineers, artists, students of the United States! Will you again let your talents be perverted into the service of the war machine, for the sake of a system and a class which does not permit you to use those very talents for any genuinely human purpose? Join with us to defeat the war and to build a new society!

We, the revolutionists of the Socialist Workers Party, with the Fourth Internationalists throughout the world, true to the great revolutionary anti-war traditions of Lenin and Liebknecht, pledge ourselves to fight unceasingly against the war, against every person and idea which supports it.

### No Aid To The War-Makers

We will give nothing, nothing whatever, to support the war. We will give everything, our energies, our time, our brains, our lives, to fight against it. The workers have no fatherland! They can conquer one only when the socialist revolution makes them masters in the land.

We do not fear the war-makers, or their hiring traitors. The cold grasp of death clutches at their throat, mighty and powerful as they seem. Their strength is the fevered, diseased strength of dying men. History has already dug their deep and terrible grave; they struggle on its brink. The temple of their world, the world of a decayed and rotting social order, crumbles about them.

History, life, the future, are with us! Out of the vast ruins of a shattered civilization, with the great masses of mankind we shall go forward to build a new world!

### DOWN WITH THE WAR-MONGERS!

ENLIST NOW IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE WAR!

AGAINST THE ROOSEVELT WAR PLANS!

ALL WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED!

WITHDRAW ALL U. S. ARMED FORCES FROM THE FAR EAST!

AGAINST THE SHEPPARD-HILL BILL!

AGAINST COLLECTIVE SECURITY, THE MASK OF IMPERIALISM!

NO SUPPORT TO THE U. S. GOVERNMENT IN ANY WAR!

END WAR BY THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION!

BUILD THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY, THE ONE ANSWER TO THE WAR-MAKERS!

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE! FOR THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL AND THE TRIUMPH OF THE WORLD REVOLUTION!

National Committee,  
Socialist Workers Party

## W.A. Militants Call Jobless To Struggle

### Progressive Group Takes Lead In Setting Forth Demands

Summoning the growing army of unemployed victims of capitalism to struggle militantly for a program of relief matching in dimensions the global war budgets of the Roosevelt administration, the Progressive Group in the Workers' Alliance of New York this week put forward a series of demands to serve as the rallying ground for action by all workers, employed as well as unemployed. The demands are as follows:

1. For those on relief: A 40 per cent increase in relief allotments, plus clothing, dental and eye care for all who need it.

2. For new relief cases: The handling of emergency applications within 24 hours, and all other applications within 72 hours.

3. For W.P.A. workers: Trade Union wages to replace the present wage of \$55 per month, in order to end W.P.A. scabbing on union labor.

4. For the unemployed generally: Diversion of all war funds to unemployment relief.

These demands must become the battle cries of all the unemployed throughout the nation, starting with the great demonstration of New York's unemployed scheduled for today (Saturday).

While unemployment increases, with the need for relief assuming vast proportions, relief itself is being cut and made ever more difficult to obtain.

### Relief Sharply Cut

In January, the clothing allotment for those on relief in New York amounted to half a million dollars. This month it has been cut to a niggardly \$50,000 (one-tenth of the January figure), while dental and eye care has been practically discontinued.

Those who try to get on relief are being given the run-around. Emergency relief cases fail to receive prompt attention. Other applicants take weeks to handle. Red-tape methods are used to discourage applicants. Not more than 50 per cent of those seeking relief, however dire is their need, manage to get on the rolls.

The picture of New York is a picture of the country as a whole. Numbers of the unemployed are suffering the pangs of starvation. Hunger takes an increasing toll of life. The list of suicides mounts daily. On December 12, 1937 the Daily News reported: "Relief held up; baby is starved to death.... Assistant Medical Examiner said 'This baby died of starvation'.... 'Barbara would be alive now if the Home Relief had sent the check on time,' said Mrs. Mary Danielson, the mother."

### Another Tragedy

The New York Post of January 12, 1938, reported that a Mrs. Montetoni had tried vainly for three weeks to get a Home Relief allowance. Her first application was turned down and she was given a new application. Thereupon she drank disinfectant and died. The report added: "Police said there was not a scrap of food in the house." Unemployed locals have staged spontaneous sit-ins to protest this callous treatment.

The reaction of the LaGuardia "popular front" administration to the growing distress has been to launch an attack on the organization of the unemployed, the Workers' Alliance. This is part of a concerted, country-wide attack on the labor movement by

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# Demand All War Funds For Unemployment Relief!

# Twin Cities Progressives Score Smashing Victory

## Splitters Swept From Top Bodies

### Elections Drive Them From Central Labor Organs in Midwest

MINNEAPOLIS.—With one clean sweep, progressive slates in the Minneapolis Central Labor Union and the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly last month drove out of office local Stalinists and their fronts who have long been striving to split and raid established unions in the Twin Cities.

A number of other progressive developments have occurred in the Twin Cities area during the past month, the effect of which has greatly strengthened the union movement in this section.

1. On January 7-8 the annual elections in the General Drivers Local 544 were held, resulting in the return of all officers to their previous posts. Bill Brown won the race for president, the only office which was contested, by a 3 to 1 vote.

#### Miles Dunne Elected

2. On January 14 the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council demonstrated the harmony existing in the ranks of the local driving crafts by unanimously agreeing upon the new executive board. Miles Dunne was elected to the post of secretary-treasurer, the office formerly held by the martyred Pat Corcoran.

3. On January 14 the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, at the largest delegate assembly ever held, repudiated the anti-labor St. Paul Grand Jury report which, inspired by the Citizens Alliance, was intended to be a weapon against the drivers' movement in the Twin Cities. By this action the delegates emphatically reversed an earlier endorsement of the jury report made by the St. Paul Union Advocate and by a few conservative union officials in that city.

#### Split Drive Defeated

4. In Austin, Minnesota, the employers initiated a campaign designed to split and disorganize the union movement. The Austin Drivers Union and the C.I.O. movement, which in this town is directed by progressives, formed a united front, beat back the scabby schemes of the bosses, and through a strike won a 10-cent hourly increase for a Miscellaneous Workers Union of the C.I.O.

5. A committee of 150 Minneapolis union officials has been formed to draw up and present to Governor Benson demands calculated to return to the trade union movement the decisive voice in Farmer-Labor Party circles. Benson and a group of Stalinist stooges, backed by the Communist Party, are seeking to carry the F.L.P. far to the right into a People's Front stew of right-wing F.L.P.'ers, New Deal Democrats and "progressive" Minnesota Republicans, thus isolating in F.L.P. circles the progressive union movement of the state.

#### Demands To Be Made

The committee of unionists will demand of Benson that he return the coming F.L.P. state convention from Duluth to St. Paul, that he assure labor its proper dominant role in the F.L.P. councils, etc.

The net result of the above listed developments is to place labor in Minnesota in a stronger position than ever, and to assure the continued progressive development of the unions in this state.

## JOE LUBICH

With deep sorrow the Minneapolis branch of the Socialist Workers Party reports the death of Joe Lubich, 48, treasurer of the Janitors Union, for 20 years a member of the Workmen's Circle, an old socialist, and a sympathizer of the Left Opposition since 1928.

Joe Lubich was chairman of a committee which came to the General Drivers Union in the early hours of May, 1934, to offer its services to the strikers. This committee became one of the main props for food collections during the May and July strikes and represented an important section of the Northside labor movement which was thus placed behind the strike.

The executive board of the General Drivers Union, together with a large delegation of drivers, attended the last rites for their friend.

## Minneapolis Teamsters Sue "Daily Worker" for Libel

### Martyred Unionist



PATRICK CORCORAN

### Complaint Lists Repeated Stalinist Slanders Against Union

Charging that the Daily Worker, official organ of the Communist Party published false, malicious and defamatory statements about them, five leaders of Minneapolis' largest union filed suit this week in the Federal Court of the Southern District of New York, claiming damages of \$335,000.00. The complaint is probably the longest on record in any libel suit, covering over 100 pages and 16 exhibits.

Local 544 of the General Drivers Union of Minneapolis, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, William S. Brown, the president of the Local, Farrell Dobbs, Grant Dunne, Miles Dunne and Vincent Dunne, all leaders of the Union, are the plaintiffs. Morris D. Forkosh of New York is the attorney co-operating with Albert Goldman, Chicago labor attorney and attorney for Leon Trotsky during the hearing of the Dewey Commission in Mexico.

#### Malicious Slanders

In the complaint it is alleged that on 16 different occasions the Daily Worker falsely and maliciously designated the plaintiffs as "Trotskyite racketeers, gangsters, gunmen and associates of the employers and the underworld." The plaintiffs assert that the Stalinist Communists are in a conspiracy to injure their reputation among the workers of the whole country and particularly of Minneapolis.

The suit is a direct result of the killing on November 17 of last year, of Patrick J. Corcoran, Minneapolis labor leader. Corcoran was Secretary of the Joint Council of the General Drivers Union and was closely associated with the plaintiffs. According to the complaint the Communist organ has in several articles insinuated that the plaintiffs were responsible for the murder. They are specifically charged with being behind the trigger-men who killed Corcoran.

#### G. P. U. Methods

Attorney Goldman stated that "the Stalinists are transferring their frame-up methods from Moscow to the rest of the world. The Moscow trials which have been designated a frame-up by the Dewey Commission have been followed by a wave of terror in France, Spain and now in the United States. The disappearance of Juliet Poyntz, a former Communist who broke with the Communist Party, and the obvious attempt of the Soviet G.P.U. to use the Robinson-Rubens for the purpose of implicating anti-Stalinist elements in this country in some fantastic plot, are serious indications that not only Trotskyists but all honest trade unionists and opponents of the Stalin regime must be exceedingly careful.

"I hope that this suit will help defend all anti-Stalinist elements in the labor movement and will check the unbridled ferocity of the Stalinists in their campaign to rule or ruin the labor movement," Goldman declared.

## WAA Progressives Unfold Program

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the boss class and its governmental institutions. On the one hand, the LaGuardia police break strikes so effectively that the New York Post was able to report February 1, that "praise for Mayor LaGuardia and Police Commissioner Valentine was voiced today by the New York Chamber of Commerce because of their efforts to enforce the law against illegal picketing."

On the other hand, LaGuardia's relief bureaus break sit-ins of the unemployed. They display anti-union signs in the best manner of Ford and try to intimidate the workless from joining the Workers' Alliance.

As the depression deepens, the double attack will grow sharper. The bosses will try to keep profits up by cutting wages, laying off workers, and securing reduced taxes. For the coming war Roosevelt is preparing to spend close to two billion dollars, a fat slice of which will go directly into the pockets of the armaments manufacturers in the shape

## One In Six In N. Y. Depend Upon Relief

One-sixth of the population of New York City is dependent on some form of relief, according to the findings in a survey quoted February 13 by the New York Times.

Public assistance rolls embrace, according to the survey, 1,255,000 of New York's 7,470,000 men, women and children and the number is rising at the rate of 5,000 per week.

This revealing statistical picture of capitalism in decline points the urgent need for organization and militant action by the workers, both employed and unemployed, to prevent the capitalists and their government from loading the burdens of the crisis onto their backs—to fight for socialism as the only way out of the blind alley of capitalism.

## Rorty Gives Stinging Reply To "Writers"

### Tells Few Home Truths To Communist Stooze Organization

A stinging rebuff to a well-known Stalinist stooze organization, the so-called League of American Writers, has been delivered by James Rorty, prominent radical author and journalist and a member of the American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky.

Occasion for the rebuff was a circular letter issued in the name of the "League" to the writers of America over the signature of Donald Ogden Stewart, asking for answers to the following questions: "Are you for, or are you against Franco and Fascism?—Are you for, or are you against the legal government and the people of Republican Spain."

#### What He Wanted

"We desire," said Stewart, "to print your answers. We wish the whole country to know what is felt by the most sensitive instruments of the national life, you American writers. Your verdict has world importance."

On February 4, Rorty replied as follows:

"Dear Mr. Stewart: "I take it my name got on your mailing list by mistake. Since I have never been asked to join the League of American Writers, I must assume that I do not come under your definition of the term 'writer' or 'American writer.'"

"However that may be, I think it is sufficiently well known that I am against Franco and Fascism and for the legal government and the people of Republican Spain in their struggle against Franco and Fascism."

#### Against Fascist Methods

"I am also for the legal government of Republican Spain when, as and if it opposes the unscrupulous policies and actions of the Communist Party of Spain, which uses fascist methods (murder and slander) and has already seriously disrupted and impaired the unity and the morale of the Spanish workers. I am, finally, against the League of American Writers, as now organized and led, because I regard it as a typical Communist Party 'innocent club,' and as such a fake and a nuisance."

"If you use this letter in any way, I must ask you to use it in full. Incidentally, does it not occur to you and your associates that when you adopt the name 'League of American Writers' and then exclude from your membership writers of recognized competence and integrity who have devoted far more years than you have to liberal and radical struggles, simply because they differ with the particular political faction that controls your organization, you are not merely dishonest, but guilty of a profound disloyalty to the high tradition of the writer's craft?"

"Truth and forthrightness are the very source spring of the writer's profession. You have fouled that spring, but frankly I doubt that you are enough of a writer to understand that."

"Sincerely (signed) 'James Rorty.'"

## Party Resolutions

# TRADE UNION MOVEMENT and the S. W. P.

The following is the third and last installment of the resolution on the trade union question adopted by the convention of the Socialist Workers Party.

Precisely because of the intensely political and polemical environment in which our party has developed, it is necessary to emphasize a number of fundamental, elementary guiding lines for our trade union work.

The party is the leader and guide of all the work of its members in the trade unions. Without party leadership and guidance, all trade union work inevitably degenerates into opportunism and becomes a hindrance to revolutionary progress. In his mass work, the party member must not become a "mere trade unionist," or forget the need of imbuing the trade union movement with a revolutionary political class consciousness. However, in order effectively to pursue his work in the trade union movement the revolutionist must understand keenly the importance of approaching his fellow unionists and their problems not so much on the basis of his own consciousness and experience, but rather on the basis of the level of consciousness and the degree of experience of the average trade unionist.

To approach the trade unionist, trade union problems or even the trade union leadership in exactly the same manner in which one political organization deals with a rival political organization, would result in self-isolation. The revolutionist must be conscious of his political role, but at the same time also of the fact that he is dealing, in the first place, with trade union problems and with workers who have not as yet developed beyond a trade union consciousness.

The excellent work which our comrades have already done in various unions shows the vast, untapped possibilities for participation in the class struggle and recruitment to the revolutionary party which are opened up before us by a serious and systematic work in the trade unions.

### Serious, Responsible Approach Needed

A serious approach to the trade unions and their problems, and not a hyper-critical one, is the need; a responsible attitude toward the work of building the trade unions and our influence within them, and not a lightminded, "experimental" one; an attitude of methodical, patient enlightenment of the politically undeveloped worker on the basis of his day to day experiences in the unions and in the class struggle, and not a supercilious, "high-political" approach to him.

The present period also calls for a highly responsible attitude in the key question of strikes in general, and particularly sit-down strikes. It is imperative to combat the defeatist, reformist propaganda that strikes are impossible in a period of economic crisis or decline. Strikes, and victorious ones, are possible even under such difficult circumstances; only, it is more important than ever that they be carefully organized, the moment and the place deliberately chosen, and the struggle conducted in the most militant and determined manner. In this connection it is important to be aware of the danger of strikes or other actions confined to small minorities, harmful in general, and always tending to degenerate into adventurist movements which only antagonize the bulk of the organized workers.

The sit-down strike is not a universal substitute for the classic form of strike action (quitting the plant, mass picket line, etc.), but it is indubitably a proved contribution to proletarian tactics and an effective weapon in their struggle. Its initiation and extension are a tribute to the resourcefulness of the proletariat in finding new and powerful methods of fighting its class oppressors. It has served, moreover, the important end of breaking down an awesome respect for bourgeois private property which the ruling class instills in the proletariat from its childhood onward. It is our duty to defend this weapon against all attempts to suppress, discredit or outlaw it. This does not signify that we advocate the indiscriminate use of the sit-down at all times and in all cases. We judge its feasibility on the same general considerations which determine our tactics in strikes: general objective conditions, the state of the union, mood of the membership, position of the employers and the state, possibilities of achieving the objective, etc., etc.

### Sit-Down Has Significant Future

The sit-down strike has, however, an even more significant future before it than the ordinary strike. Precisely because it challenges the fundamental tenet of capitalism, the inviolable right of private property in the means of production, the sit-down strike seems to be one of the main indicated means of mass action—by virtue of the seizure of the plants and their temporary control by workers' committees—for realizing in the coming period the slogan of: **Workers' control of production!** The deepening of the present crisis will push this slogan to the foreground and, properly directed by the revolutionary party, it may become the decisive popular slogan with the masses of the workers and above all the militant trade unionists.

We reject contemptuously the arguments against the sit-down strikes advanced by the government authorities, the employers and the trade union bureaucrats. On their lips, this opposition is simply one way of formulating their opposition to strikes in general, as well as to all militant mass action of the workers. At the same time, it is necessary to point out that, as a rule, any attempt by a small minority in a given plant or industry to impose a sit-down strike upon the big majority of the workers involved, without consulting them or obtaining their agreement, or at a time when the majority of the workers either have no acute grievances or are not as yet conscious of them—will lead inevitably to a reaction against sit-down strikes, ordinary strikes and even unionism in general on the part of the more undeveloped workers.

A serious and responsible attitude in this question is absolutely imperative. While we do not join in the reactionary chorus of condemnation of so-called "outlaw" strikes—the responsibility for which usually reposes upon the bureaucracy, which cynically ignores the legitimate demands and grievances of the workers—and while we remain steadfastly on the side of any group of workers once they are engaged in a struggle with the capitalist class or any section of it, we are conscious of the responsibility that reposes upon us as a vanguard force, and therefore counsel against the indiscriminate or promiscuous use of the sit-down

## 20,000 Storm Philadelphia City Hall

PHILADELPHIA.—Twenty thousand workers and small merchants stormed the City Hall on Saturday, January 29, to protest the two per cent sales tax passed by a vote of 15 to 7 in the corrupt boss-controlled city council. After months of fake promises, the workers got what they always get from "Pro-Labor" govern-

ments, a soak-the-poor measure and the clubs of the cops who broke up the demonstration.

The Socialist Workers Party joined in the protest against the sales tax, issuing leaflets explaining the basic reason for such taxes and calling for workers' action to end sales taxes, unemployment and boss tyranny.

strike into which workers are often provoked by the brutal exploitation to which they are subjected by the employers.

### For Democratic Union Control

The same general propositions hold true of so-called "unauthorized" strikes. The left wing strives at all times to obtain the maximum amount of support, both from the officialdom of its own union and from working class organizations as a whole, for all the actions which it advocates, strikes included. We oppose the bureaucratic conception that the calling of strikes is the exclusive prerogative of the international officials of a given union, and we advocate the widest democratic control of the strike weapon by the rank-and-file, vested, in the first place, in the hands of the local and district unions and in the shop committees which must be set up everywhere and which must have the most immediate charge of protecting the interests of the workers and enforcing the provisions of any agreement entered into between the employers and the employees.

While taking proper cognizance of the fact that the rules of many trade unions require official permission from the international officials before a strike may be called, and orienting ourselves accordingly, we cannot ignore the fact that the international officialdom of the various unions are not only opposed, generally speaking, to the use of the strike weapon, but sabotage it when it is employed. Situations are therefore quite conceivable in which the only way the rank-and-file can obtain legal permission for a strike at certain times is by forcing the hand of the officialdom by what the latter often start by condemning as an "outlaw" strike.

### The Immediate Tasks of the Party

The party sets itself the following immediate tasks for its work in the trade unions.

The immediate registering of all party and YPSL members in order to have a complete record of the trade or profession of each member, union affiliation or eligibility, position in the trade union, etc. etc.

Every effort must be made immediately to have every eligible non-trade unionist in the party join the union of his trade or industry and take an active part in its life.

Wherever two or more members of the party and the YPSL belong to the same union, they are to constitute themselves a party trade union fraction, to work under the direction of the trade union department of the party.

Where no union exists for a given trade or industry, in a given locality, our comrades must take the initiative in organizing the unorganized.

The need of a nationally connected left wing in the American trade union movement is the most urgent problem in that field today. None exists at the present time, since the old left wing movement organized by the Communist Party has been completely liquidated and dissolved into the trade union bureaucracy. Without a left wing movement, standing on the militant platform of the class struggle, the trade union movement in this country is doomed to the demoralizing effects of class collaborationism and the dead-hand control of the reactionary union bureaucracy. Our party must take the leadership in organizing and integrating nationally the left wing movement.

Where such groups do not yet exist, we must take the initiative in forming them on the widest possible basis compatible with the formation of a genuinely progressive movement having a basically class struggle platform. Progressive groups should be conceived of not only as fields of recruitment for the revolutionary party, but as the means for setting in motion the largest number of workers at a given time for the advancement of a left wing position and a left wing leadership. It is not a precondition for our participation that from the outset we have the leadership of such groups, but it is an absolutely minimum condition that we have the right to advocate and defend our own position in the ranks of the general progressive group.

### Platform of the Left Wing

The left wing movement should stand on the following general platform:

Against class collaboration and for a policy of class struggle. For the fullest inner-union democracy for all members of the union and for all groups. Against the attempt to legalize and suppress all minority groups in the unions, such as has been done in the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and for the system of group rights in the union such as prevails, for example in the International Typographical Union.

For the normal functioning of all unions and against bureaucratically appointed organizers and leaderships such as prevail in most of the "Organizing Committees" of the C.I.O. For immediate holding of conventions, adoption of constitution and policies, and democratic selection of the leadership.

For the shop steward and shop committee system throughout the industries, integrated into the trade unions.

Against any attempt to "incorporate" the trade unions, against all "government regulation" of the trade unions, and in general, against all attempts to deprive the unions of their complete class independence by subordinating them to the apparatus of the government, which is only a machine for defending the interests of the capitalist class.

For the defense against the government, the employers and the trade union bureaucracy of the vital weapon of the strike, including the sit-in strike.

For the amalgamation of all craft unions in a given industry into industrial unions.

Against high initiation fees and prohibitive dues systems, especially in the present period of unemployment and crisis. Against the dropping of unemployed members from the rolls for inability to pay the regular dues required.

### Union Must Defend Unemployed

For the defense by the trade unions of the interests of the unemployed. For the organization of the unemployed by the trades unions themselves. For the affiliation in a body of the unemployed workers of a given trade or industry to the corresponding union, and for full rights of voice and vote for those workers on all questions directly affecting them and their specific problems (the system employed by project workers associated with the Teamsters' Union in Minneapolis).

For special attention to the defense of the rights and interests of the young workers and apprentices, and for the annulment of the exceptional legislation against them now existing in the unions, which prevents them from participating in the trade union movement and its struggles with full rights.

In order that these tasks may be carried out in a systematic, efficient and centralized manner, the convention instructs the incoming National Executive Committee of the party to establish immediately a regular Trade Union Department, with a responsible and functioning Trade Union Secretary. The National Executive Committee of the YPSL shall appoint a representative to function in the party's Trade Union Department.

# Jury To Get New Facts In Rubens Case

## Carlo Tresca Will Bare Significant Links In Moscow Frame-Up

BY JUNIUS

A variety of developments during the past week, confirming our earlier predictions, have lifted the Robinson-Rubens mystery to a new level and have exposed still further the systematic character of the frame-up methods employed by the Stalinist international to discredit its political opponents and drive the U.S.A. into war with Japan.

1. The G. P. U., after two months of "sweating" Ruth Marie Rubens, got her into line sufficiently to be able to show her to U.S. Embassy officials in the presence of a group of G.P.U. agents. These officials were permitted to ask after her health and to be told that she desired no legal counsel or other assistance. No questioning was allowed regarding the circumstances of her arrest, past activities, or the movements of Donald L. Robinson, her supposed husband, which were the usual ones of a G.P.U. agent.

### Duranty On the Job

2. The G.P.U., through Walter Duranty, New York Times correspondent and cover-up journalist for Stalin, has begun a campaign to sell the Robinson-Rubens frame-up to the American public, which has been highly skeptical of Moscow's hints that these G. P. U. agents are "Trotskyite-Bukharinite-fascist" agents of the Rome-Berlin-Tokio axis.

His first contribution was an "imaginative" account of the interview between Mrs. Rubens and the Embassy representatives in which he described how the G. P. U. inquirers had established their "moral ascendancy" over the woman and thus bent her to their will. All that he succeeded in revealing was the extent of Stalin's "moral ascendancy" over Duranty.

Duranty, who has frequently referred his readers to Dostoevsky as a guide to an understanding of Stalin's Russia, now adds Freud as an additional indispensable reference for an understanding of the methods of the G.P.U.

There was frightful truth in his "imaginative" account of how Mrs. Rubens looked fearfully at her G.P.U. captors before daring to answer the pertinent and vital questions put to her by Henderson. But Duranty breezily explained it all as "moral ascendancy."

### Tresca Issues Statement

3. A sensational statement concerning the Juliet Stuart Poyntz case was made by Carlo Tresca, anarchist and outstanding Italian anti-fascist in this country. Tresca charged publicly that the disappearance of Miss Poyntz is connected with the Robinson-Rubens-G.P.U. frame-up. He has volunteered details and been subpoenaed to appear before a Federal Grand Jury. When the appearance was postponed Monday, Tresca, who was a member of the Dewey Commission on the Moscow trials, issued the following statement to the press:

"I regret the postponement of my appearance before the Grand Jury in the Robinson passport fraud matter. You know I am not permitted to reveal what I intend to say to the Grand Jury. Last week I charged publicly that a Russian secret police agent made off with Miss Poyntz. She has not appeared since, nor has the Communist Party cited a single fact to cast doubt on my

Held By Stalin



Mrs. MARIE RUBENS

charge. Moreover, her attorney has belatedly conceded that my charge is not impossible. It is more than that. It is true.

### Epstein Keeps Silent

I have been asked repeatedly whether the man I accuse is the one named in an article in a New York newspaper, Shachno Epstein, former editor of a Communist paper here. If I had wanted to tell the man's name to the press, I would have done so. I will tell his name to the Grand Jury. I can add nothing publicly at this time. I can only say that, as far as I know, Shachno Epstein has not filed any libel suits or even protested.

"We are on the trail of people who know important relevant facts. One is an American agent of the G.P.U., who, before being sent from Moscow to Barcelona, where he played a role in the murder of my dear comrade, Professor Camillo Berneri, sterling anti-fascist and anarchist philosopher and educator, spent a term in a Danish prison after being convicted as a Russian spy. His name is George Mink. He is a New York Communist Party functionary. His past is a matter of public record. He and others of his stripe whom we are seeking could cast light on the Poyntz affair.

### Conspiracy Under Way

"We are not dealing with a petty passport fraud, but with a conspiracy originating in Moscow, in which that fraud is a mere link. The object is the staging of a Moscow frame-up trial, designed to stimulate war fever here through a spy scare, and thus drive this country toward war for Stalin's benefit.

"We are going to get to the bottom of the Robinson-Rubens-Poyntz-G.P.U. case and expose the war-mongering conspirators and their master in the Kremlin."

Panic-stricken by the revelations concerning Stalin's latest frame-up, the Daily Worker has denounced Tresca as a Japanese-Fascist spy and has applied the same term to Herbert Frow, a journalist who can a series of articles in the New York Sun last week exposing the details of the Rubens conspiracy.

### Beard Slandered

It has also made insinuations against Dr. Charles A. Beard, advocate of an "isolationist" program in foreign affairs, who recently attacked the Roosevelt-Browder big navy program, by suggesting that Beard's attitude springs from his Japanese connections, i.e., the fact that he served the Tokio municipality after the great earthquake in 1923 as an expert on municipal government reform.

And, of course, the time-honored gangster methods of the Stalinists are being brought into play to prevent the truth reaching the light. A witness supporting Tresca's charges this week received anonymous threats over the telephone from a pay station.

# Workers Must Rally Around Beal To Fight Sabotage of His Defense

BULLETIN!

In order to "cut through all secondary and extraneous questions and focus attention on the simple but paramount issue of civil liberties," Fred Beal has decided to drop the fight against his extradition and surrender to the authorities of North Carolina. The Non-Partisan Defense Committee will continue the fight there for reversal of Beal's nine-year-old jail sentence.

The State of North Carolina has sent its representatives to Massachusetts to press for the extradition of Fred Beal, leader of the famous Gastonia textile workers' strike, who was framed-up on a murder charge and sentenced to a 20-year term in prison. The textile barons want their pound of flesh. They cannot forgive Beal for trying to organize their slaves. Their state government is right on the job, demanding of the Massachusetts authorities that their victim be surrendered.

Father Edmund A. Walsh, Dean of Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, notorious Jesuit enemy of the Soviet Union, made a public attack on the defense efforts being made to save Beal from prison. Speaking before the Boston League of Catholic Women, Walsh declared (according to the Boston Daily Record of January 31, 1938) that "the same radical group who defended Sacco and Vanzetti will attempt to make an issue of Beal's case and agitate against his extradition to North Carolina."

### C. P. Sabotaging Defense

A press release of the Non-Partisan Committee for the Defense of Fred Beal reports that "at the same time active Communists, Art Shields and William F. Dunne, of the Communist Party's International Labor Defense organization, have brought pressure to bear on Professor Albert Sprague Colledge of Harvard University and Miss Jessica Henderson of Boston, the two guarantors of Beal's bail bond, urging them to withdraw their support of Beal, but have failed in that. Various members of the Non-Partisan Committee for the defense of Fred Beal have received messages seeking to intimidate them into abandoning the defense."

The Committee further reminds us of a pamphlet entitled "Gastonia—the Citadel of the Class Struggle in the South," written in 1929 by the same William F. Dunne, at a time when Fred Beal was still a member of the Communist Party.

Dunne wrote:

"An attempt was made to lynch Fred Beal. Every method was tried to arouse the populace to a murderous frenzy.... It is the task now—and a task needing the greatest energy and speed—to rally the whole American labor movement and the whole working class in a solid battle line which will stand between these workers and their would-be executioners, a battle line which will oppose an unbreakable front and advancing ranks to the murderous offensive of the textile barons, their government and the capitalist class as a whole."

### Only One Change

Since that was written, only one thing has changed: Fred Beal quit the Communist Party and, after his return from Russia, became a critic of the Stalinist regime. The frame-up is the same; the "would-be executioners" are the same; it is still true that, as Dunne wrote nine years ago, the "actual reason for the attempt to railroad these workers (Beal and his comrades) to the electric chair and to long terms in the penitentiary is that they organized the National Textile Workers' Union and led a strike of workers in the Lory Mill—the stronghold of the cotton textile industry in the South."

But another change has taken place. In 1929, the Communist Party was in the vanguard of the defense of Beal. In 1938, the C.P. and its degenerate agent Dunne are in the vanguard of the cops and jailers!

"Put him in prison!" cry the North Carolina jailers.

"Withdraw his bail!" cry the jailers' assistants, Dunne, Shields and Browder.

### What Must Be Done

"Surround Beal with an iron wall of working class solidarity! Defend this victim of a capitalist frame-up from the textile barons' prisons! Shield him from the North Carolina jailers and their depraved assistants of the Communist Party!—those are the battle-cries of every honest worker, of every honest liberal, of every decent person who is revolted by the infamous attempt the Stalinist dicks, and their allies, the Southern sheriffs and the Jesuit reaction, are making to railroad an upright, fearless member of the working class to twenty years in a capitalist dungeon."

# Littlepage 'Evidence' Boomerang Against Communists, Lamont Finds

The American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky has just made public three copies sent to Mr. Corliss Lamont, secretary of the Friends of the Soviet Union, in answer to a circular letter he had mailed to members of the American Committee in the hope of having them disassociate themselves from the Committee and from the Dewey Inquiry Commission and its report.

The vain hope of Lamont was based on an article on Soviet industrial sabotage written for the Saturday Evening Post by a Mr. Littlepage, American engineer who worked in Russia for several years. In the article, which was sent to all American Committee members, Littlepage, obviously a red-baiter, denounces all "Communists" as saboteurs and wreckers by their very political nature. In this category he also includes the present rulers of the Soviet Union.

### Whitewash "Witness"

This is the new "witness" whom the secretary of the Friends of the G.P.U. produced in an attempt to whitewash the assassins who framed-up the Moscow Trials!

In his reply to Lamont, Norman Thomas wrote: "The Dewey Committee, which considering all the circumstances seems to me to have done a very fine piece of work, was concerned with the charges against Trotsky, not all the charges made in Russia, and I do not think its findings particularly affected one way or the other by such proof as the Saturday Evening Post article offers concerning sabotage."

A stinging reply by Carlo Tresca, editor of *Il Martello*, anarchist weekly, declared:

Littlepage's Testimony "You must have thought of Mr. Ford, the LaFollette Committee and the deplorable espionage system practised in some American industries, when you came across phrases like this in Mr. Littlepage's article: 'The police department of the Commissariat of the Interior has its representatives in every Soviet factory, farm, mine and institution, who keep busy looking out for potential or actual wreckers, and organize a whole army of amateur spies to assist them. In fact, so many people in Soviet institutions are busy watching producers to see that they behave properly that I suspect there are more watchers than there are producers.'"

"What do you expect, my dear Corliss, from a country where you find more watchers than producers in its industrial plants?"

Watchers? Let's call them spies or agent-provocateurs. Because—Oh! yes, because—when you have 'watchers' you have agent-provocateurs....

"I thought you were sending me a piece from a respectable bourgeois magazine to give evidence that Trotsky is guilty. I can't find in it a word suggesting that Trotsky participated in sabotage in Russia."

### Trager's Reply

Frank N. Trager, former national labor secretary of the Socialist Party, wrote back to Lamont, saying that "as a friend of the Soviet Union—as therefore a sympathizer to Communism, may I say to you that support you give to such a witness as Littlepage is comparable to support of a Lusk Committee or a Hague. No socialist could nor should any sympathizer who is really anxious to defend the Soviet Union, accept and publicize the testimony of a man who says: 'Now, sabotage is a familiar Communist weapon in every country; industrial sabotage in the United States can usually be traced to Communists or people who think like Communists. It is hardly surprising that some Communists should use this same weapon in Russia, once they have decided that the existing regime does not satisfy their own peculiar notions.'"

### Reason For Sabotage

"As I see it, the reason organized sabotage has proved far more effective in Russia than anywhere else is that Communists occupy most of the highest places in Russian industry....

"This in effect argues that Communism as such utilizes the weapon of sabotage, that particular events traceable to sabotage are usually perpetrated in Russia as well in the United States by Communists. In fact the more Communists about, the more frequently does sabotage result.

"This is the 'philosophy' or profession of faith of your witness. Does he come into court with clean hands? Is he a credible witness to be accepted by F.S.U.'ers and socialists? I deny it—and regret, sir, that you see fit to popularize an utterly unworthy testimony from a man who by his open and frank statement is our class enemy."

### ROOM FOR RENT

Modern conveniences, including phone; reasonable. Trolleys, subways. Phone Glenmore 2-3153, call mornings or see Ben Herman at Y.P.S.L. office.

# British Dockmen Stop Japan Cargo

Like others at Middlesbrough and London, British stevedores at Southampton, England, refused last week to handle 22 bales of Japanese cotton goods which had arrived from New York on the liner Berengaria. The Associated Press said the shipment would probably have to be returned to New York.

The workers require little persuasion to act against the Japanese imperialists, but they need to be given a lead. It is high time the maritime unions and the longshoremen went into action in this country, both to prevent Japanese goods from being landed here and to stop our own ruling class from aiding the Japanese imperialists with munitions and supplies.

Revolutionists and left-wing groupings in these unions must give the workers a lead. Let us act NOW.

# Dock Strike Ends With Gains In P.R.

The six-week dock strike that stopped all cargo to and from Puerto Rico ended on February 10, when the shipowners agreed to accept the arbitration plan proposed by Governor Winship and previously accepted by the strikers. The longshoremen went back to work for 40 cents an hour (the rate was 32 cents before the strike), the final wage to be determined by the arbitration board appointed by the Governor.

The outcome of the strike was a victory for C.I.O. and A.F. of L. cooperation. The bulk of the strikers, the longshoremen, belong to the Free Federation of Labor, affiliated with the A.F. of L., while the clerks, checkers and watchmen were recently organized by the C.I.O., which gave leadership to the strike. The crews aboard the ships, members of the C.I.O. National Maritime Union, made the tie-up completely effective by refusing to handle cargo.

### Do you Know Alice?

Wait until you see our Alice. HE'S A RIOT! "Alice Thru The Thermidor" A musical farce. Given by The Upper West Side this Saturday, February 19th 916 9th Ave., (near 58th St.) Dancing and Drinks of course.

### ROOM WANTED

Young man would like to share room, apartment or studio with congenial soul. Write S. M., c/o Socialist Appeal.

Faces Old Charge



FRED BEAL

# NO SOLUTION PROVIDED IN HOUSING BILL

## Act Filled With Jokers Offers No Aid To Millions

By JOHN FREDERICKS

The long awaited passage of the National Housing Act has taken place and Franklin D. Roosevelt has signed it, making it law. From the favorable publicity that the Act has received at the hands of the capitalist press, the workers have been led to believe that lasting benefits will result from its being put into operation.

The bill, however, is a sham from beginning to end. This can be seen from a brief analysis of the situation we face and the solution offered by the Act.

### Shortage of Homes

There is at the present time an acute shortage of homes for workers amounting to between one and one-half million dwelling units. In addition to this there are between one and one-half and two million dwellings now in use that are unfit for human habitation. The Housing Act, in order to remedy this situation, would have to provide new homes for between five and eight million persons.

It would also have to remove from active renting the two million condemned buildings now standing in the slums. It will be seen that the Act will not touch the problem when it is realized that the Government will do no actual building or tearing down itself, but will only make funds available for other groups to work with. There will be no slums eliminated as a result of this bill because private owners will refuse to destroy property that is profitable to them.

If the worker wants a new home under the Housing Act, he will have to buy one already built or hire someone to build a home for him. But first he must have the sum of \$600 in cash—or he gets no home. The number of slum dwellers who have this sum tucked up their sleeve are few and far between. The workers' only other course under the Act will be to rent a home.

### Another Catch

Here we run into another of the Act's catches. The large-scale apartment houses will be built, owned and operated by private interests. The Act provides that a private capitalist, or group, may borrow money from the government twenty times the amount he is willing to invest himself. In other words, he can borrow \$2,000,000 providing he is willing to invest \$100,000 himself. The only evidence of good faith is that he must show that he has started building operations.

The result of this policy will be the passing out of large sums of money to speculative builders, who will slap up flimsy buildings, at high rents, and then milk the tenants for the rest of their lives. It will not guarantee proper housing or low rents which is what the workers need. In fact, the workers have cause for alarm because of Roosevelt's threat that the labor costs of the building trades must be cut down. Every effort in the direction of cuts must be met with stern resistance on the part of the workers.

The Act will cause more harm than good to the workers in the long run. It opens the road wide to credit expansion of the worst kind in the name of helping the workers.

# SOVIET UNION NOTES

## Duranty "Explains" USSR Economic Crisis Like Purges —By Concealing Facts And Belittling Seriousness.

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

# Walter (Dostoevsky) Duranty Reports for Duty

In recent years Duranty's journeys to Moscow coincided with sensational developments there. When the monstrous Moscow frame-ups were staged, Duranty just happened to be there, with handy references to Dostoevsky to explain everything. Duranty's latest appearance in Moscow is providing him with an opportunity to do more "explaining" in the field of Vyshinsky's "justice," involving, this time, the Robinson-Rubens enigma—regarding which, incidentally, his reticence for two whole months was as mysterious as that of the G.P.U.

## Duranty Tries to Minimize the Crisis

To account for a grave decline in such key industries as steel, coal, and transportation, Duranty begins by qualifying it merely as a "recession" and a government reduction of "daily production norms" a procedure, if you were to believe Duranty, that is "not unprecedented" but only "sufficiently unusual to merit attention." Nothing serious, you understand. In point of fact, "objectively speaking," it is a species of growing pains. For, according to optimistic Walter, one of the prime reasons for the decline is "the vast extent of industrialization and the speed at which it is being carried on" (N. Y. Times, February 9.) Has the basic equipment of industries been undermined, as we have reported in the Socialist Appeal, and as is apparent from even a cursory reading of the Soviet Press? Fish and piffle, implies Duranty. The lathes and machines have merely "aged." And adds: "In the circumstances it is not surprising that they have aged rapidly—the wonder is that they stand up at all."

From Duranty's own report it appears that imports of machinery from abroad have had to be resumed "in a big way" in an attempt to remedy this grave condition. The population is suffering, among other things, from a shortage of butter, which is being exported to pay for machinery. "The Russians are grumbling.... from Leningrad to Rostov and from Moscow to Sverdlovsk."

But Duranty has a simple formula with which to dismiss this "trifle." Says he: "The answer is simple—the Bolsheviks prefer machines to butter." Duranty, you will observe, is as "simple" in his explanations as fascists like Goering, who also speak for the preferences of the German people, declaring they, for their part, prefer guns to butter.

## Duranty Falsifies Statistics

Against this background of facile and dishonest explanations, Duranty proceeds to juggle with official statistics, and as a result conveys the impression that the actual drop was not so serious after all. For instance, he reports the cut in norms for steel as being from 57,900 tons daily in December to 57,000 tons in January; and in coal a cut from 403,500 to 385,200 tons. All he "forgets" to do is to report that there were two cuts in January, and that the figures he cites were maintained only for the first few days in that month. For the greater part of January the official norm for coal was set at 384,000 tons, while for steel the norm was cut to 54,700 tons, i.e., almost four times the cut reported by Duranty.

But the slickest stunt Duranty pulls is in "reporting" the actual output attained. In this sphere he prefers to use "percentages," and glibly reports an "average production of 90 per cent." After all, you see, all that is involved here is a mere lag of "10 percent." According to official Soviet figures the production in steel has been averaging only 50,000 tons daily; in coal 360,000; and in car loadings around 75,000 (as against the original plan of 95,000).

The decline has been most catastrophic in railways. Duranty prefers to overlook this item as due to "seasonal factors," although the Soviet press has been filled with "alarm signals" over the situation. We have already cited in this column numerous passages from Pravda in this connection. We limit ourselves to one additional quotation from that paper, which prints a dispatch relating to the breakdown of the important Stalinsk railway and charges that the failure of the key station on that road has practically closed down the metallurgical plants in the South. According to this dispatch: "No one here even bothers to consider the fact that because of the poor functioning of the station the furnaces are not operating and entire branches of metallurgical plants are not working at full capacity." (Pravda, January 31.)

## Crisis Sharper Than Officials Admit

On the basis of Duranty's dispatch we can state with certainty that the economic crisis is far graver than could have been gathered from the official statistics, even taking into consideration their notoriously falsified character. For one thing this can be established from the fact that Duranty evades mentioning those aspects which the Soviet press itself has been drumming on. (He does not even breathe a word about the difficulties in spring sowing!) On the other hand, Duranty implies that even further cuts are to be expected. He states that the import of machines and equipment will be increased in the future, and indicates that Soviet industry is almost entirely without reserves "to cover breakage repairs and replacements—for which they are now paying the price." Ominous words indeed! Furthermore, his dispatch makes public a crisis in precisely those key industries—oil and steel—in which the official press has been claiming "successes" of late. If Duranty has been permitted to prick the bubble of Stalinist claims on the eve of the third Five-Year Plan, it is only because the ruling clique seeks to prepare public opinion for a slight "recession." The job of Stalin's ace foreign correspondent is precisely to cover up the full extent of the crisis by admissions of "minor" and "temporary" difficulties.

## Other Soviet Dispatches Equally "Colored"

The tendentious nature of reports from Russia that have recently appeared in the N. Y. Times extends to other fields as well. Thus, on February 10, the Times printed a dispatch on the current purge, without Duranty's by-line, but with a familiar note. The idea the "dispatch" tries to sell is that the current purge is also neither "unprecedented" nor so very extensive. The anonymous correspondent has the gall to state that under Lenin there were "bigger and better" purges. We reproduce this piece of falsification verbatim: "Numerically, as great as such expulsions have been, they do not compare with the great purge of 1921, when, it was estimated, one-third of the party were expelled or placed on probation." The 1921 "purge" took place at the close of the Civil War, when the party membership did not number more than 1,500,000 (as against four million at the beginning of Stalin's purge), when tens of thousands of Bolsheviks had fallen on the field of battle, and when, after the victory, shady elements and careerists were attempting to flood the ranks of the party. The purge then was directed against this scum, and not against those in any way connected with the October revolution, as is the case at present. By printing these and similar falsifications—with which we shall deal in future issues—the N. Y. Times is repeating its record of the early days of the October Revolution; when its columns were open to every conceivable kind of anti-Bolshevik rumor and slander. Isn't it a little premature for the Times' editors, to drop their pretence of carrying only news that's "fit to print?"

# Communist League of China Needs Our Financial Aid On Firing Line

China's struggle against the invading legions of Japanese imperialism is the concern of every worker and, above all, of every revolutionist.

Sympathy with China's struggle can be translated into practical action by giving financial support—badly needed—to the Chinese section of the Fourth International.

The Communist League of China, hounded by the Kuomintang and its Stalinist allies, has been plunged into a financial crisis by the war. It has appealed to the Socialist Workers Party for aid in continuing and extending its work and thereby discharging its great revolutionary responsibilities.

An appeal is going out to all party branches to collect funds for the Chinese revolutionists. The party looks for a quick and generous response from every member able to contribute.

To sympathizers who will be reached only by the Socialist Appeal we ask for a similar response.

Send in your contribution—large or small—and send it in now, addressed to the Socialist Appeal, 116 University Place, New York City.

Act at once to help keep aloft the revolutionary banner of the Fourth International in China!

SOCIALIST APPEAL

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Cordell Hull Says "No!"

In reply to the questions of Senator Hiram Johnson concerning the existence of an "alliance, agreement or understanding" with England in case of war, or any agreement, "expressed or implied" for joint navy action with another power, Secretary of State Cordell Hull answered in a letter to Senator Key Pittman with an emphatic "NO!"

The Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Leahy, answered similar questions put to him at sessions of the House Naval Affairs Committee with just as emphatic a "NO!"

But the same day the Hull letter was made public in the press, Mr. Arthur Krock, the New York Times' well-informed Washington correspondent, wrote in a dispatch (Feb. 9, 1938) that he is "expertly informed that, should it at any time serve the common interests of the two great democracies [England and the U. S. A.], their navies would automatically complement each other in the Pacific."

And efforts to call Mr. Krock for testimony before the House Naval Affairs Committee were voted down under the whip of its chairman, Rep. Carl Vinson.

Whom shall we believe? Correspondent Krock who says "Yes" or Diplomat Hull who says "No" to the question: "Have the imperialist bandits secret agreements among themselves for common war action?"

With all the respect undoubtedly due to our Great Democratic Government and its Great Secretary of State, we believe Mr. Krock.

Every imperialist power is involved in dozens of treaties, agreements, "understandings"—kept secret from the masses and brought into play actively when the masses are dragged into war to protect the interests of the financial and industrial lords of the land.

Diplomacy is the art of concealing the truth about these treaties and telling lies about them. Diplomats are the liars who practise the art. Why should the masses believe one when none of his predecessors has given us any grounds for believing him?

On August 3, 1914, Foreign Secretary Edward Grey came before the House of Commons in London, asking for a declaration of war against Germany, and declared: "I come first, now, to the question of British obligations. I have assured the House—and the Prime Minister has assured the House more than once—that if any crisis such as this arose, we should come before the House of Commons and be able to say to the House that it was free to decide what the British attitude should be, that we would have no secret engagement which we should spring upon the House, and tell the House that, because we had entered into that engagement, there was an obligation of honor upon this country."

Sir Edward was lying like a trooper. When the Bolsheviks took power in Russia three years later, they published all the secret treaties which showed that there were numerous "secret engagements" which England, France, Belgium, Russia and the other belligerents had committed themselves to before the outbreak of the war.

Woodrow Wilson, coiner of "open diplomacy" arrived at, also deceived the masses when he ran for President in 1916 under the campaign slogan of "He Kept Us Out of War!" and when, early in 1917, he asked Congress to declare war upon Germany. Because, on March 7, 1916, a year before Wilson came before Congress, he had before him and even revised the notori-

ous memorandum of Sir Edward Grey and Colonel House which read:

"Colonel House told me [Grey] that President Wilson was ready, on hearing from France and England that the moment was opportune, to propose that a Conference should be summoned to put an end to the war. Should the Allies accept this proposal, and should Germany refuse it, the United States would probably enter the war against Germany."

Like Sir Edward, Cordell Hull is an honorable man. Like Mr. Wilson, Mr. Roosevelt is an honorable man. But the masses were tricked into the last "war for democracy" by honorable men and the same ones are trying to trick the masses into the next "war for democracy."

If Hull says, "No, there are no secret agreements," we say, "No, we don't believe you and your kind." The Russian workers finally got to the secret files in 1917 and proved that those who refused to believe the diplomatic liars were justified in their skepticism. The American workers will some day do likewise with the secret files in the White House.

Footnote To Carleton Beals

Mr. Carleton Beals will be remembered as the gentleman who withdrew from the Dewey Inquiry Commission during its hearing of Leon Trotsky in Mexico City. His attacks on Trotsky and the Commission promptly made him the darling of the Stalinists.

Now comes a footnote to the case of Mr. Beals written by the German Nazis. In the December, 1937, issue of a virulently redbaiting magazine published by them in Berlin, Contra-Komintern, which describes itself as the "Fighting Organ of the Anti-Bolshevik World Movement" and calls Trotsky "the bloodhound of 'War-Communism', one of the instigators of the world revolution" (Page 421), the Nazi editor writes:

"One of the members of the Inquiry Commission, the author Carleton Beals, finally recognized the unworthy role for which he had allowed himself to be misused and the dubious personality for whom he was supposed to stake his good name. Unequivocally and categorically he declared his withdrawal from the committee." (Page 423). Comment superfluous!

Falsifiers of Marx

Last Saturday, on the anniversary of Lincoln's birthday, the Daily Worker indulged in a veritable orgy of patriotic ballyhoo as the exponent of Twentieth-Century Americanism. As could only be expected from this Stalinist sheet, history as it concerns Lincoln and his social role was falsified.

In wads of quotations (including the inevitable quotations from Marx) and in editorial comment, Lincoln's fight against Negro slavery was extolled, but the full Lincoln was nowhere to be discerned.

It was left to the ultra-reactionary New York Sun to recall that Lincoln the Abolitionist was also an ardent defender of the system of private property. This paper quoted Lincoln as saying (March 21, 1864): "Property is the fruit of Labor; property is desirable; it is a positive good in the world. That some should be rich shows that others may become rich, and hence is just encouragement to industry and enterprise."

In Lincoln's day the capitalist system of private property was historically progressive. Lincoln's struggle to universalize capitalist democracy against the reactionary slave-owning Bourbons of the South was likewise and unquestionably progressive. Marx remained true to himself in backing Lincoln and the progressive forces of capitalism against the slavers.

Today the system of capitalist private property and its sham democracy is in decline. It condemns multitudes to unemployment and starvation and exposes humanity as a whole to the horrors of periodic wars. It has lost all its progressive features and is an obstacle to social progress.

The Stalinists, in defending capitalism and capitalist democracy, and in seeking to justify this by reference to Marx's support of Lincoln against the slavers three-quarters of a century ago, reveal thereby their own reactionary role in the working class movement and the fact that nowadays they refer to Marx, co-founder with Engels of the revolutionary socialist movement, only in order to prostitute his teachings.

Stalin Waves Help Fight War Faded Flag

(Continued from page 1)

plea, publicly made on February 8, for "Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union to form an alliance."

The ease with which Hitler has taken over Austria and the complacency with which this move has been received in London and Paris show how far the parleys have already gone toward the creation of a bloc of the European powers directed against the Soviet Union. In this perilous situation, dippy last-minute twists of policy will be of no avail to Stalin.

Stalin is like the man on the flying trapeze. What we have to do is to make sure that when he falls, he does not pull the Workers' State with him into the abyss to which the Stalinist

In connection with the Appeal subscription drive and the anti-war campaign of the Socialist Workers Party, this space in coming issues will be devoted to publishing results obtained by party locals in pushing the drive. The comparative standing of the locals throughout the country in gaining new subscribers to the Appeal will be given from week to week. Prizes for the "go-getters" will be announced later.

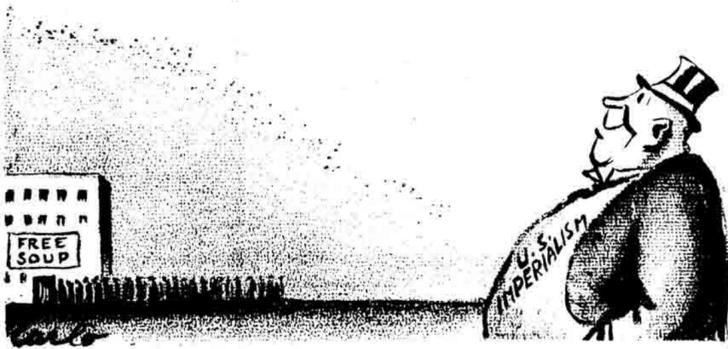
We feel that one of the most effective ways of combatting the war propaganda that has already made itself heard in this country, is to build the Appeal circulation, particularly in the trade unions, so that workers everywhere can know that Revolutionary Marxism and its only American inheritor — the Socialist Workers Party — present and work for the only principles and program of action that will prevent another "war to save democracy."

Therefore it is your duty, if you are not a subscriber, to subscribe to the Appeal at once and contribute to its maintenance if you can. If you are a subscriber, it is your duty to get one or a dozen or hundreds of new subscribers and in that way become an active participant in the struggle against war.

Send in money quickly for subscriptions and contributions — and don't delay. The war won't wait for us!

The workers of the world will, indeed, be the only bulwark for the Workers' State in the dark days to come. But they will fulfill this role adequately only by fighting unremittingly against their own capitalist classes and for the victory of Socialism. That struggle will be waged without and against Stalin, the hangman of the Russian October.

Relief A La Roosevelt



The Dream of Isolation

By James Burnham

The idea of "collective security" has never been popular with the majority of the people of this country. This has been proved on a number of occasions, most conspicuously during the period following the last war. In spite of the fact that the war itself showed that neutrality for the United States in a major European conflict was impossible, as soon as the War was over Americans wanted to steer clear of Europe.

This sentiment was reflected in the Senate. Wilson came back from Versailles with his head full of the new Treaty, Briand's plans for collective security, and the grandiose scheme for the League of Nations. The Senate blocked adherence to the League, and in doing so undoubtedly represented majority opinion.

Even now, with the entire Administration, especially Roosevelt and Hull, driving for collective security, and with the outstanding bourgeois press holding the same perspective, the anti-collective security Ludlow Amendment came close to a majority in the House of Representatives.

MAJORITY FAVOR NEUTRALITY POLICY

The majority of the people has been traditionally in favor of "isolation"; or, as it is often called, "neutrality." There are historical reasons for this feeling, so different from opinion in Europe, even among the masses. For one thing, there is the important geographical fact that the United States is far away from any other great power, whereas the European nations are situated right next to each other. Again, there is the carry-over from the hopes of the American Revolution, which was to build a new civilization freed from the conflicts of the Old World. And, in addition, there were the unparalleled resources and opportunities for expansion on the North American Continent.

There was always, of course, hypocrisy and unreality in the idea of "isolation." Isolation from Europe was found to be perfectly consistent with the ruthless extermination of the native inhabitants of North America. The Monroe Doctrine, dating from the early years of United States history, was hardly an "isolationist" conception. In actuality, from the point of view of United States capitalism, isolation and neutrality means only that up to a certain point in its history the United States had a sufficient sphere for exploitation and advance in the Americas, and did not need to develop a "world outlook."

BASE FOR ISOLATION NO LONGER EXISTS

As the United States entered the imperialist stage of its development, the economic basis for the policy of isolation was destroyed. The idea of isolation lingered on in a vacuum. This

was already clear in the Spanish War. It was fully shown by the War of 1914-18. The ramifications of American capitalism had become world-wide, and it was drawn irresistibly into the vortex of world affairs.

With the last War, the United States became a creditor nation, and has since become the first and most powerful of the imperialist powers. Its whole internal economy now depends upon its stake in the world market. Without its foreign trade and foreign capital investments, it would be bankrupt within six months. Far from decreasing in importance, the foreign trade and investments must necessarily play an ever more crucial role.

BEARD SEES WHERE POLICIES ARE LEADING

In the New Republic debate over collective security between Earl Browder and Charles A. Beard, there is no doubt at all that Dr. Beard has much the best of the argument. He understands what Browder's argument means, that it means advocacy and preparation for war; and with his mature and rather tired irony he exposes Browder's meaning. He knows what Roosevelt is up to: "The Roosevelt Administration, bewildered and baffled by the economic impasse at home, is employing sentimental coverages for excursions abroad."

He knows how "peace-loving" France and Great Britain are: "Having all the European territory required by their traditional ambitions and loaded with the spoils of empire, Great Britain and France do want peace—at their price.... The great democratic powers want peace and the possession of all they have...." He knows that Italy and Germany and Japan are driven by conflicts too great to be stopped by any peaceful "quarantines": "I find in history no justification whatever for assuming as truth that Italy, Germany and Japan would surrender unconditionally to a grand quarantine."

UNDERSTANDS VALUE OF DEMOCRACY

He knows also just what "democracy" is worth to imperialism, and just how democracy is served by imperialist war: "Does anyone conversant with British history really believe that the operations of the British government since 1914, let us say, have been controlled by some conception of democracy, as distinguished from British interests in the Mediterranean, Africa and elsewhere? Or the operations of the French government? What did these governments do for democracy in Germany between 1919 and 1933?.... And if it comes to another war for democracy against the three offenders, have we any ground for expecting beneficent results in the way of a universal democratic advance? All I ask anyone to consider on

this point is the record...." Lastly, Beard knows the real direction of Roosevelt's program, which Browder so ardently defends: "That Roosevelt would take them in (to the next world war) swiftly if it comes is highly probable...."

FAILS TO MAKE POSITIVE PROPOSALS

Beard knows all these things about the Roosevelt-Browder program, about collective security. But what does he propose in its place? In the debate he makes no explicit proposals. His views, developed elsewhere in his writings, are left implicit. They are the views of isolationism: he wants the United States to stay home and mind its own business.

But, in truth, this alternative is no alternative at all; and Beard's program is no program. The truth is that the business of U. S. imperialism is everybody's business. The truth is that foreign trade and capital markets are necessary to U. S. capitalism if it is not to collapse. There are not enough markets to go around among the powers. The competition for them is a life and death question for each power. Therefore, in the end, they—including the United States, fight each other for them.

DOES HE THINK U. S. WILL ABDICATE?

To assume that the U. S. capitalists, controlling the U. S. government, will not fight under such circumstances, is to assume that they will voluntarily abdicate, will stand by while the social system which supports them goes bankrupt. Does Dr. Beard, with all his historical knowledge and his irony, make such an assumption?

The idea that isolation is possible for imperialist United States is thus an empty illusion, utterly unrelated to historical and economic reality. If it and those who advocate it are less treacherous than collective security, the illusion of isolation is also a most powerful danger. For it is an illusion which leads the masses away from the genuine fight against war, dissipates their energies in empty air, and leaves them helpless when the war breaks out in spite of—in part because of—the illusion.

(This is the third in a series of four articles by James Burnham on the New Republic debate over collective security between Earl Browder and Charles A. Beard. The last article, summarizing the Marxist answer to collective security, will appear in the next issue.)

Williamsburg Branch (Socialist Workers Party) will hold a BIZARRE SOCIAL at its New Headquarters Saturday Night FEBRUARY 26 The Famous Red Dancers will be on the program Country Refreshments Take Broadway-Brooklyn line to Gates Avenue

ANTI-LYNCH BILL

A Speech I Did Not Deliver In The United States Senate

By ALBERT GOLDMAN

Gentlemen: Some of you feel that you have already done your duty, that is, you have done what appears to you to be politically advisable. Thirty-seven of you who are in favor of the anti-lynching bill voted to close debate and proceed to a vote. You think that you have thereby cleared your skirts and can go back to your Negro constituents with the claim that you are a friend of the Negro people. What else could anyone expect from you? Did you not vote in favor of closing debate and thus bring the bill to a vote, something which the two dozen Southern senators refuse to permit by their filibuster? And now there is no use continuing the attempt to pass the bill because the filibuster will prevent this august body from considering other important measures!

Undoubtedly you will succeed in convincing some of the Negro people that you were sincere in your efforts to pass the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill. But I assure you many white and Negro workers will see through the hypocrisy which is glaringly evident in the bill itself and in the attitude of the large bloc of senators supporting the bill for political reasons.

Hyperisry of Northern Democrats

I am afraid that I must agree with the reactionary, white-chauvinistic Senators from the South that the bill was introduced with the sole purpose of enabling the Northern Democrats to make sure of the Negro vote. It is common knowledge that many of the Senators from the Northern States, where many Negro voters reside, are actually against the bill but dare not come out openly in opposition to it. The purpose of the bill is essentially to fool the Negro voters. As a matter of fact, all of you are constantly occupied with the task of fooling not only the Negro people but all the people. If you and your like did not succeed in deceiving the wide masses do you think they would tolerate the capitalist system for one moment? Do you think the white and Negro workers would permit themselves to be exploited, would suffer hunger and misery, would consent to be cannon fodder in capitalist wars if they were not deceived by the capitalist politicians, press, school and church?

By the way, let me call your attention to the greatest hypocrisy of all of you, the man who sits in the White House, President Roosevelt. This great friend of the people, the Negro people included, I presume, is as silent as a sphynx. Not a word has he uttered in favor of the bill, not a sentence has he written urging his supporters to vote for the bill. This shrewd politician hopes to make the Negroes think that he favors the bill and at the same time avoid antagonizing the Southern Democrats by actually coming out in its favor. He will certainly be happy if the bill never passes so that he will not be forced to sign or veto it.

Weakness of Bill

Let us consider the provisions of the bill and see whether it will bring about the desired effect of stopping the inhuman lynchings of innocent Negroes? In the first place, it should be known that the bill does not attempt to punish any leader or member of a lynching mob. If it is possible under present conditions to stop lynching, it can be done only by a vigorous prosecution for murder of the leaders and members of a lynching mob and not by the method proposed in this bill.

The Wagner bill threatens to penalize the official in charge of any prisoner who is lynched or the governmental subdivision where the lynching occurs. Before any official can be successfully prosecuted it will have to be proved that he wilfully neglected to use all diligent efforts to prevent the lynching. I hope that no one is foolish enough to believe that a prosecutor, assuming even that he is interested in obtaining a conviction, will have an easy task before a jury in the South. The burden of proof, of course, will be on the prosecution and that practically guarantees

rantes an acquittal. In the case of a governmental subdivision, which under the proposed law will be liable to the party injured or to his relatives in the sum of from two thousand to ten thousand dollars, the burden of proving that the official used diligence is on the government. Even there it will not be so difficult to prove that the officer did his best to prevent the lynching and was overwhelmed by superior force.

In some states there is a law which makes a governmental subdivision absolutely liable for all damage done to property in the course of a riot. Wagner could certainly have treated the Negroes at least in the same way, that is, the bill could have provided absolute liability on the part of any governmental subdivision where a lynching occurs. But property is more sacred than Negroes.

Motive of Southern Senators

Why are the Southern Senators so bitterly opposed to a bill, the effectiveness of which can be questioned even for the purpose it is intended to serve? Should the bill pass, white masters will continue to have their properties; they will continue to exploit both Negro and white workers; the share-cropper will continue to live on the brink of starvation; and the Negroes will still be spat upon, reviled and terrorized. The Northern States have shown that lynching can be limited to revolutionary workers, as in the case of Frank Little, or that it can be done with all the legal forms, as in the case of Sacco and Vanzetti, without in the least disturbing the well-being of the capitalist class.

The arrogance of the ruling whites in the South knows no bounds. They will not permit any encroachment upon their right to do as they please with their "niggers." And then there is a possibility that the Negroes, even though they may be mistaken, will think that there is some power to protect them against the brutality of the white bosses and this thought might cause them to lift up their heads. The Senatorial representatives of the white ruling class of the South are anxious to prevent the slightest concession to the people who created all the wealth of the South.

How Lynching Will End

It is necessary that the Negro workers clearly understand the nature of this anti-lynching bill and the motives of those who have introduced it and support it, as well as those who are opposed to it. The Democrats who allegedly support it, do so because they see a chance to assure themselves of a huge number of Negro votes. The Senators who oppose it are unwilling to yield an inch of their right to keep the Negro in utter degradation.

The Negro workers must understand that even if the bill is passed (and it has very little chance of passing) it is doubtful whether it will have any effect upon lynchings. I shall vote for the bill because, as weak as it is, it might conceivably have some slight effect in saving the life of a Negro. The Socialist Workers' Party states clearly that a far more effective method than this bill to stop lynchings in the South is for the Negro and white workers to organize and shake their united fist in the face of the white masters. Only a united struggle of white and colored workers will improve the horrible conditions of the working class of the South. Do not rely upon the charitable feelings of the masters; do not depend upon the good will of the Northern Democrats. Rely only upon your united strength.

Against Capitalism

And it is not enough to struggle against lynching alone. There is very little choice between being lynched and starving to death. Lynching is only one of the results of the conditions under which both Negroes and white workers are compelled to live. So long as the white capitalists are permitted to rule this country, so long will there be unemployment, war, terror, starvation, lynching.

Not an anti-lynching bill will do away with lynching, but a bill introduced by a workers' government abolishing the right of the white ruling class to own the wealth of this country and exploit the workers of all races and creeds. For the Negroes to gain complete economic, political and social equality, and for the white and Negro workers to live as brothers free from the exploitation of capitalists, it is necessary to create a workers' government.

Village Forum

The Village Branch of the S. W. P. will hold an open educational meeting this Friday, February 18, at 8:30 P. M., at the home of Dr. Paul Luttinger, 5 Washington Square, North. Frank L. Demby, member of the National Committee of the Y.P.S.L., will speak on "France in Ferment." There will be questions and discussion. Admission free. All welcome.