

THE FIGHTING WORKER

WORKERS OF THE WORLD
UNITE!

Organ of the Revolutionary Workers League of the U. S.

Vol. 4 No. 8 Whole No. 38

August 1, 1939

LABOR DONATED

Price: 1 Cent

CONTACT COMMISSION FOR NEW COMMUNIST FOURTH INTERNATIONAL IS FORMED

COMMITTEE OF THREE WILL UNIFY MARXISTS
Forward to a New Revolutionary Party in the U.S.

One of the most important steps forward for the revolutionary movement for the whole past period, since the Fascist victories in Germany, Austria, and Spain, is the political declaration of the Committee of Three in forming the Provisional International Contact Commission for the New Communist (4th) International. A 14 point programmatic outline (printed in the August issue of THE MARXIST) that presents a Marxian position on the key questions of the day has been issued over the signatures of the Central Committee of the Red Front of Greater Germany, the Leninist League of Scotland, and the Revolutionary Workers

League of the U. S.

Adherence to the 14 Points was also pledged by leaders of a group that is still doing fraction work within another organization in Europe.

CENTER IN U. S.

Partly because of illegal and semi-legal conditions in Europe, the International Contact Commission will establish its headquarters in the United States and issue its International Bulletin, tentatively titled INTERNATIONAL NEWS, from here. The Bulletin will appear by September 1st in Europe in English and German, and as rapidly as possible it will appear in French and Spanish also.

Two comrades from different

European countries will come to America soon. The Committee of Three has empowered the Revolutionary Workers League to issue the Bulletin until these representatives arrive.

(Continued on page 2)

NAACP LEADERS MEET, FORGET NEGRO MASSES

Richmond, Va.—Eight hundred delegates of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People met here from June 28 to July 3. That the Convention did nothing in the interests of the broad masses of Negro workers and sharecroppers would constitute no shock to those who are familiar with its composition and history.

The Convention was an alliance of white liberal capitalist forces, Negro petty-bourgeoisie, Stalinist and CIO stooges. Its objects were twofold, to safely hamstring any militancy on the part of the Negro toilers and to line up support for the New Deal as a means of securing sops in the form of jobs within the New Deal machinery.

On the opening day a professor of Fisk University went into a maze of statistics to show the poverty of the cotton growers of the South, Negro and white. This speech paved the way for Mr. S. H. Dykstra of the Wage Hour Division of the U. S. Dept. of Labor, who blandly told the Convention that they should rely on the Wage Standards Act.

RELY ON ROOSEVELT

That was the tone of the whole convention — rely on the capitalist New Deal machinery, rather than on independent class action by Negro and white workers and farm masses.

On the third day, the "legal lights" got into action. Particularly did Mr. Charles H. Houston, of Washington, advocate "constitutional methods," that famous fight to secure Negro rights by making use of the "13th, 14th,

(Continued on page 3)

250,000 Strike Against WPA Cuts ROOSEVELT PLAYS OPEN STRIKE-BREAKING ROLE

July 18th — "You cannot strike against the government," said Franklin Roosevelt at a press conference July 14th.

Maybe they can't, but 250,000 WPA workers were striking against Roosevelt's union-busting relief administration, which hiked up the hours of work for WPA to 130 hours a month, and threatens to lay-off 650,000 by September 1st.

Illusions about this great "friend of labor" and "friend of the forgotten man" are rapidly vanishing with the average worker, as Roosevelt decreed an open strike-breaking policy of firing all workers who struck against the Woodrum Bill (which FDR graciously signed.)

From one end of the country to the other a spontaneous wave of strikes and demonstrations is sweeping the country against the wage-cutting, lay-off, union-busting provisions of the new relief bill. These strikes for economic demands are also open political strikes against the American capitalist government.

MORE CUTS TO FOLLOW

The attempt to beat down the Building Trades wage level by the bosses and their government is an attack on the whole working class. Once they succeed in this move then the Building Trade wage level of those in private industry will be lost, and a systematic follow-up in other industries will begin.

No matter what the so-called leaders of the American Federation of Labor, the Workers Alliance, or any other organization are saying, the strikes are openly and squarely against the New Deal policies.

It wasn't Hoover or Garner who proposed the 800 million dollar cut in relief appropriations this year. It was Franklin Roosevelt and no one else. And Congress gave him all but 40 million dollars he asked for.

Who came out for the 130 hour week and lay-offs? It was Roosevelt's man Col. Harrington who put his feet four square for these propositions and who later

(Continued on page 3)

Delegates Demand Strike in Packinghouse

Lewis-Stalinist Machine Gives Lip Service to Strike but Delays Action

Eight hundred delegates came to the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee convention in Chicago, July 17, and almost to a man they were for strike of the four largest meat packers, Armour, Swift, Cudahy and Wilson. The applause for the word strike was deafening.

The pressure of the delegates was so great that the Lewis-Bittner-Stalinist machine which dominated the Convention was forced to give lip-service to the idea of strike, but at the same time in their resolution provide for a number of methods of delaying action still longer.

Few conventions in the last fifteen years have been so smoothly run and so bureaucratically handled as this one. No credentials committee was elected; no rules committee was elected; no constitution committee was elected. The "Convention" lasted only 3½ hours.

Resolutions introduced by the Kansas City Council — the 2nd

largest Packinghouse center in the country — were not only not reported out to the delegates, but the chairman of the Resolutions Committee, Henry Johnson, failed to inform the members of this committee that these and other resolutions existed.

NATIONAL STRIKE COMMITTEE

The resolutions introduced by the K. C. Council called for a democratically elected national strike committee from the Locals that will have national direction of any strike and the power to negotiate with the companies. Another resolution called for a strike against all of the Big Four at one time, instead of permitting some of the plants to work while others are out.

Two other resolutions introduced by this militant Council called for the thirty hour five day week, with no reduction in pay, and extension of the shop steward system.

As against these militant pro-

(continued on page 4)

New York Cuts School Costs to Assure Bankers' Interest

New York—The special session of the New York Legislature, called to revise the State budget invalidated by the Courts, adjourned Monday, July 10th. Prior to its adjournment, it passed a budget which represents a great blow to the workers of New York.

Under the pressure of the big trade and commercial organizations, a wave of "economy" cries swept away the last shred of the much-vaunted "opportunity" under capitalism — that of education. In order to save \$10,000,000 for the business-men of New York State, the Legislature cut the budgetary allowance for education.

The practical effects of this move are the proposed elimination of kindergartens and night schools in New York City. An alternative proposal advanced is to cut the salaries of the teachers. Both of these steps are now being discussed in the newspapers and by the Board of Education with the prospects that a combination of both will be carried out.

Needless to say, it is the workers who will be hardest hit by this move. The impossibility for men to make a living during the crisis

that has lasted for ten years, has driven thousands of wives to look for work. The kindergartens as a place of refuge for their children have made this possible. And the night schools have been the only vehicle for the impoverished masses to obtain the barest education.

FOR MASS ACTION

The prospect of the elimination of both of these institutions in the coming semester has aroused an unprecedented spontaneous

(continued on page 3)

Leave S.W.P. to Join R.W.L.

Two members of the Chicago Trotskyites, including a delegate to the Trotsky convention in New York last month from the South Side branch, Emil Revyuke, have joined the Revolutionary Workers League.

On the basis of the new conditions the RWL will set up a unit on the South Side, where a number of successful meetings have already been held.

Editorials

CHARITY? - WHO GETS IT?

Workers on WPA and Relief

The story is being spread by the boss press that relief and WPA are only charity; that the unemployed oughtn't to kick about lay-offs, longer hours, wage cuts, forced labor, and relief cuts.

Don't fall for this charity bunk.

The only people who get charity under capitalism are the few hundred millionaires who do nothing and nevertheless get billions each year.

The working class produced every piece of wealth, every factory, mine, mill, home, every bit of clothing — everything that's ever been produced in the United States. And those who've been living off the workers' sweat — the Morgans, Rockefellers and their ilk, now claim they're giving us charity on WPA and relief, that they have to cut down this "charity."

The unemployed should give it to these parasites straight from the shoulder: "We're the ones who've been giving out charity all these years, and we're getting a little sick and tired of it. If you don't know how to run industry — and you certainly don't — so that the majority of the people can eat regularly and live decently, we do."

Let's stop giving the bosses charity. The working class, especially its unemployed members, should begin thinking seriously about taking over both industry and government and running it so that this charity to the parasites and hunger for the unemployed is ended once and for all.

THE «PEACE-LOVING» WAR-MAKERS

Who starts wars?

The July 8th edition of the Chicago Daily News gives the story in a nutshell:

"Treasury may hit Japan by New Duties on Cottons."

Why does Japan fight in China? There is the answer. Silks and textiles are among the largest products of Japanese economy. Already America has a large countervailing duty on Japanese silk — an additional tariff over and above tariff. All the British colonies in Asia have quota restrictions against Japanese goods. So have the French colonies.

So — the Japanese imperialists, much weaker than the American and British imperialists, are forced to take military measures in China to make up for markets they are losing in other parts of the world.

The same is true of Germany and Italy. America has an extra tariff of 25% against all German goods. There are similar countervailing duties against Italian exports.

ECONOMIC FIGHT NEVER ENDS.

On the other side of the fence, Germany has her restrictions against American and British exports, through her blocked mark and quota restrictions; and so have Italy and Japan. Furthermore Britain has her restrictions against American exports to the British empire (the preferential dominion system); and vice-versa.

The military measures of the six large imperialists are only the outgrowth of their economic struggles. All the imperialists are the "aggressors" in this field. This war goes on constantly.

Only — when one or another of the imperialists is unable to keep her head above water in the economic field she resorts to a military struggle.

That's how wars begin.

And if you look at it from that light, there is no greater aggressor than American imperialism which is fighting for markets against ALL other imperialists all over the world.

JOIN THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE

He Escaped from a Nazi Concentration Camp

WILL YOU HELP HIM?

Comrade Y is a refugee from Germany. Placed in a concentration camp some time ago he managed to escape and is now roaming through Europe without benefit of police papers. He must be aided immediately.

Comrade Y is a refuge from Spain. For the time being he has been able to avoid the attempts by Daladier's police to draw him into forced labor in the foreign legions. How long he can continue to do so is not certain. But he must be aided at once.

No sincere revolutionist in the U. S. — whether he agrees or disagrees with the program of the R. W. L. — can possibly remain heedless to the needs of these two and many other workers in need in Europe.

A Red Aid organization in Europe has asked us to solicit funds to help. They have been forced to cut their allotment per individual from \$1.75 a week to \$1.40.

Please help these comrades. Don't wait till tomorrow. Send in your share today. Give as much as you possibly can. Get your friends to give.

Send funds to:

ALDINE GUNN, TREASURER
1904 W. Division Street
Chicago, Ill.

Republished CONSTITUTION

Revolutionary Workers League, U.S.
5 CENTS EACH

TWO FACED ECONOMY

It takes no Sherlock Holmes to tell who runs and owns the government in the U. S. Just a few elementary figures will prove the case.

Under Franklin ("remember the forgotten man") Roosevelt one and three quarter billion dollars was added to the 1939 budget over the 1938 figure. At the same time, however, the allotment for unemployment relief was cut from close to 3 billion dollars to one and three quarter billions.

Pretty clear isn't it. The government is spending close to 3 billion dollars more for war purposes, for help to big business, etc., but it's cutting a million men off W. P. A.

INALIENABLE RIGHT — TO STARVE

Twenty-two million almost-destitute Americans will receive — with the "blessings" of Frank Roosevelt — one and three quarter billion dollars. But a handful of coupon clippers — certainly not more than a few hundred bankers — will receive the bulk of a three and a half billion dollar appropriation to pay interest on bonds, etc. A handful of parasites will get TWICE as much as 22,000,000 who have no means of subsistence.

And if you're still interested in figures — the war department will get just about 28 million dollars more than the total for all the unemployed.

We certainly live in wonderful times! More money to get people killed than to keep them alive. Twice as much money for parasites who live by keeping America's 180 billion dollar productive system, producing only 60 billions — twice as much for these parasites (who call themselves by such fancy names as financiers, etc.) as for those millions of workers who are available to produce the things of life.

AND THEY CALL US COMMUNISTS TROUBLE-MAKERS BECAUSE WE'D LIKE TO CHANGE THIS ROTTEN ORDER OF THINGS!

International Contact Commission Formed

(Continued from page 1)

WORLD LABOR MOVEMENT

The world labor movement is confronting another period of decline on the heels of the Spanish debacle. The reformists, Stalinists and Socialists, as well as the Anarchists are moving further to the right politically, and confronting sharp internal dissension and splits.

The Brandlerites, I. L. P. and POUM centrist groups have saved themselves for the time being from extinction by pooling their forces with what remained of the London Buro into a new centrist swamp.

The Trotskyite centrists whose disintegrating sections in Europe and other parts of the world are propped up by their United States section, are a part of this general trend. The U. S. section has come out for support of a third capitalist party, the Labor Party, and similar left Peoples Frontism is being practiced everywhere else.

This crisis of the labor movement is not a crisis of Marxism. The formation of the International Contact Commission on the basis of its 14 Points raises high the flag of the proletarian revolution and carries onward the banner of Marxism as laid down by the Communist International and its 21 points in its early period. The 14 Points of the Commission embody the lessons of the victorious October Revolution, as well as the German, Spanish and other defeats.

AGREE ON DRAFT PROGRAM

The leadership of the Red Front of Germany and the Leninist League of Scotland are in full agreement on the basic points of the DRAFT PROGRAM OF THE RWL (now since the 3rd Convention the official RWL

Program.)

The political agreement obtained and the organizational steps taken TOWARD the New Communist (4th) International by these groups, coming together from different backgrounds and under different conditions, is one of the healthiest signs of the day.

The Red Front is a growing and relatively large illegal organization carrying on day to day class struggle work within Greater Germany. On the other hand the Revolutionary Workers League, still living in a period of legality before the storm that will drive all revolutionists "underground", has stood the test politically since its birth 3½ years ago, and since the spring of 1938 has been making organizational gains and has increased its striking power. The Leninist League is taking steps to spread out to other parts of Great Britain.

COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

The Provisional International Contact Commission does not have any great "leaders" and "heroes". But it has cadres tested in war and revolution, in legal and illegal work, cadres fighting under the powerful "democratic" imperialists of the United States and England, and cadres fighting under the most powerful Fascist nation. It will establish a COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP based upon a Revolutionary Marxian Program.

The Committee of Three is now sending the 14 Points to ALL revolutionary organizations throughout the world that claim they stand for a new Communist International, for Marxism.

The Committee of Three takes the initiative as the Provisional Committee and calls on all Marxian organizations to join with them in the Contact Commission upon the basis of the 14 Points. Where two or more groups within one country adhere to the 14 Points, the Provisional Contact Commission calls on them to take formal steps of negotiations and unification.

The Commission calls on all revolutionists to break politically and organizationally from the opportunist organizations and join forces with the International Contact Commission.

Forward to the New Communist (4th) International!

Forward to the proletarian revolution!

Forward to a Communist World!

A Letter

To the Editor,

"Yesterday, Saturday, I went down to Washington Street, which is the main street of the city and sold FIGHTING WORKERS next to the Coughlinites, with their "Social Justice." In an hour I had sold 30 copies and the 3 young Coughlinites next to me had sold a total of 5 of their papers.

"The Coughlinites were clearly on the defensive. When I yelled my slogans, they shouted that it was a Communistic paper. Two middle aged men became so angry at my slogans that they raised their hands to strike me, but I escaped unharmed."

J. H., Boston.

JUST OFF THE PRESS

THE MARXIST

Special

Contact Commission Issue
14 Point Program of the Provisional Contact Commission for the New Communist (4th) International

The Revolutionary Movement after the Spanish Defeat
"Freedom" for culture under Capitalism

250,000 Strike Against WPA Cuts

(Continued from page 1)

came out for firing all strikers — and actually canned over 50,000 in a few days for this "crime."

ONE MILLION LAY-OFFS

The strikes are the climax of the pent-up opposition of the unemployed against the forced labor and lay-off campaign by the American capitalists.

Over 600,000 men have been laid off by the New Deal on WPA since the first of the year. Now 650,000 more are to go. And what's more those who remain will have much longer hours and less pay. Wages, especially in the North and West will be cut considerably below the present starvation rates.

In Chicago, New Deal Mayor Kelly has cut relief to 65% of the former rates of last year. It is absolutely impossible for any family to live on this rate — about \$21 or so for a married couple. After rent is deducted (the landlords still want 100% of their rent) there is nothing left for food.

In many localities the local administrations are instituting open forced labor. In Chicago relief people will have to work 30 hours a month to earn part of their relief checks. In Pennsylvania the amount of hours will be even longer.

OFFENSIVE VS WHOLE CLASS

The offensive against the unemployed is part of the decay of capitalism. It shows that bourgeois democracy in its method and aims is slowly paving the way for Fascism. The forced labor, wage cuts, strike-breaking — these are only a bridge to the open dictatorship of the capitalists, Fascism — providing the workers let Roosevelt and the bosses whom he serves get away with it.

Unfortunately the policy of some of the "leaders" of labor is acting as a brake on the workers. The A. F. of L. leaders who control the strikes refuse to spread them from the skilled to the un-

skilled workers. Nothing could be more detrimental to the strikers.

Furthermore William Green has stated that striking can not achieve anything — that only Congressional action will get the workers anywhere.

SPREAD THE STRIKES

The pro-Roosevelt Workers Alliance obviously can give no aim or perspective to the strike. They support Roosevelt and direct their attack only against Garner and the Republicans. How can the unemployed fight effectively if they are told to support their enemy?

John L. Lewis and the CIO haven't said a word yet about the strikes.

In Minneapolis and other places the workers have adopted fine class struggle tactics. In Minnesota almost all projects are closed down. More of this sort of thing is just what is needed.

The WPA strikes can be a giant step forward for the American workers, if they are not throttled by the A. F. of L. and Workers Alliance.

Every worker must fight for:

- 1.—Spread the strike to all WPA workers, skilled and unskilled both.
- 2.— For a national one day protest strike in industry, especially in Steel, Auto, etc.
- 3.— For demonstration of the unemployed on relief and joint action by WPA and workers on relief.
- 4.— For joint councils of democratically elected delegates from the projects, from industry, and workers on relief to spread the strike further and achieve its aims.
- 5.— For all war funds to the unemployed.
- 6.— For trade union wages and conditions on the projects.
- 7.— For Workers Control of Production for Use, under a workers Council Government.

N.Y. School Costs Cut

(Continued from Page 1)

protest on the part of the masses of New York. Unfortunately, the reformists from the Stalinists to the American Labor Party in control of the Parents-Teachers Associations, have directed this spontaneous protest wave into the impotent channels of petitioning and lobbying. Although these reformists were successful in mobilizing many workers behind their lobbying activities in the period intervening between the regular and special sessions of the

Legislature, the impotence of these methods was shown up by the complete failure of their efforts.

The problem now is to organize the parents, teachers, trade unions, etc. to carry out powerful mass demonstrations, school strikes, mass delegations to Albany, etc. to force the Governor to once again call the Legislature into session to reverse itself on this matter. And the alternative to solve this problem by cutting the salaries of the teachers must be rejected. No amount of polite lobbying will accomplish this. The workers are aroused by this attack on their long-fought-for rights, and will respond.

Tours and Trips

The first part of the month Comrade Sid Okun was on tour in the East, speaking in Boston and New York. Also two week end trips by Comrades Streeter and Kohlman to Detroit-Cleveland with meetings and other organization work in both towns. were held.

THE FIGHTING WORKER

1904 W. Division Street
Chicago, Illinois.
Vol. 4 No. 8 Whole No. 38

FOR A NEW COMMUNIST (4th) INTERNATIONAL

Workers Picket WPA Chiefs

STALINISTS WHITE-WASH ROOSEVELT

Chicago — Col. Harrington and his WPA aides held a meeting here July 12th and 13th and decided to begin laying off 650,000 WPA workers one month earlier than had been expected.

Ironically enough, the meeting was held in one of the most exclusive hotels in the city, the Stevens Hotel. The cost of the meeting could undoubtedly have kept quite a few men on the job.

A picket line of 500, composed most of Workers Alliance members — Stalinist controlled, and a small contingent of Illinois Workers Alliance members, affiliated to the new Workers Security Federation, picketed for 4 hours. An attempt by the Stalinites, Lang and Co., to force the IWA members from the line was thwarted.

The Stalinite posters called for supporting "Roosevelt and Recovery, against Hooverism and Hunger" — as if it was Hoover and not Roosevelt who had insisted on the 130 hours a month for skilled labor and the layoffs. This shameful belly-crawling to strike-breaker Roosevelt undoubtedly was one of the factors that kept the line down to such small numbers, after extensive preparations had been made.

The IWA placards, were far to the left of the Stalinite placards. Members of the RWL were active in the IWA contingent and helped fight off Lang and Co.

WPA Reorganized As Step to Cuts for All Workers

WPA is no accident or the product of the good nature of the American capitalists or their government. It is part and parcel of American Imperialism in decay. Threatened by the developing class antagonisms toward the proletarian revolution the American capitalists were forced to give this "concession" in order to keep their system of exploitation alive.

The wage scales of \$55, \$65 and \$85 per month based on hourly rates of 50c, 68c, and 88c per hour were set as another "concession" to the organized workers in the trade unions, as a means of heading off the growing militancy of the workers and the threat that they might resort to independent class action over the heads of their "leaders", Green, Lewis and company.

MILITANCY CORRALLED

Four years later, when the bosses have recovered from their fright, and the labor lieutenants of capitalism in the ranks of the workers have consolidated their bureaucratic control over the workers, the time is ripe for a new and vicious attack on the workers standards generally. Where better to begin than in the WPA?

The new set up on WPA calls for more hours per month. The HOURLY scale is automatically reduced. Even should this setup remain in force the workers have still suffered a reduction in the monthly income due to additional carfare, etc.

But this set up will not remain. The bosses were very clever in attacking the HOURLY income. We can expect in the near future that total first monthly wages will be slashed too, by cutting hours down to 112 again or direct wage cuts.

SOCIALISTS ORGANIZE RED BAITING UNEMPLOYED GROUP

MILITANTS REFUSE TO AFFILIATE

Washington — The unemployed National Health Insurance Bill, conference which took place here and other class collaboration proposals.

The line of the organization is clearly indicated by its name — Security Federation — as if security were possible under capitalism. Furthermore, McDowell introduced a motion which was carried stating that no member "who supports dictatorship foreign or domestic or who advocates means of direct action or terrorism as a solution to unemployment can be a member, or any organization can be affiliated."

In a statement issued to the press McDowell said that this was intended to exclude Coughlinites, Fascists, and Communists. Whether McDowell knows it or not, this is precisely the argument the Stalinists used to use against the Socialists years ago, when they classed the Socialists and Fascists in one lump.

The line of the organization is clearly indicated by its name — Security Federation — as if security were possible under capitalism. Furthermore, McDowell introduced a motion which was carried stating that no member "who supports dictatorship foreign or domestic or who advocates means of direct action or terrorism as a solution to unemployment can be a member, or any organization can be affiliated."

What is more, the resolution is a smokescreen for support of capitalist dictatorship. It denies workers a fundamental right in the trade union movement, to hold and to express any working class political viewpoint they please.

Already there are divisions and fights in the new organization. The national leadership came out against the WPA strikes. The Illinois organization came out for the strikes. When the new federation tries to set up state organizations these divisions and fights will undoubtedly sharpen.

Workers in many cities intend to fight for a class struggle program against the class collaboration line of the Workers Security Federation. The Cleveland Association, a New Jersey group, and others refused to affiliate on this program.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS ON THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF MARXISM

- Documents of the POUM and the Left Wing and an RWL Analysis
- Anglo-American Antagonisms
- Militarism and Youth under American Imperialism
- Dialectical Materialism
- Barricades in Barcelona — Hugo Oehler

Outline of Volume 1 of Capital 10 cents a copy

Road to Power in Spain

- Outline of the May 3-7 Insurrection — Barcelona
- Mexican Oil
- New Zimmerwald
- Criticism of Trotskyist Transition Program
- Revolutionary Defeatism and Centrism
- Communism or Fascism in France
- R. W. L. Constitution

PRICE 5 CENTS

FIGHT BRIDGES FRAME-UP

Bridges is a pale pink labor bureaucrat. But despite his false policies and bureaucratic methods every worker must fight against this assault on workers' rights.

The attempt to deport Harry Bridges, labor leader of the maritime unions on the West Coast, on the grounds that he is a "Communist", must be fought vigorously. Bridges is only one of the foreign-born workers the Roosevelt government is trying to deport.

SPECIAL

YOUNG WORKER

5 CENTS PER COPY

Far from being a "Communist" 1904 W. Division Street, Chicago,

Announcing International News

Theoretical Organ of the Provisional International Contact Commission for the New Communist (4th) International.

1904 Division Street
CHICAGO, ILL.

Notes on the News

The great "Democracies" have been shouting feverishly about Germany's war plans. They were so upset about Germany's war plans that England, France, United States, and Belgium in 1939 sent Germany 6,449,814 tons of steel, iron ore, copper, and manganese ore. Uncle Sam led the whole pack in the shipment of steel and scrap iron with 462,782 tons.

War may mean death and privation for millions of people, but to the capitalists of all nations it merely means good business.

New York City under Mayor La Guardia is concluding negotiations for purchasing the IRT and carrying through a unification of three subway systems. The total investment will be a billion and a half. Three percent bonds will be issued by the city to buy out present owners. The financial report now claims that allowing for INTEREST and amortization charges, its cost is 13 cents per passenger, with a five cent fare.

Whenever bankruptcy faces any industry (after the exploiters have milked it dry) they agree to "public ownership" to get back their investment, through new bonds with guaranteed INTEREST.

The city will then boost the fare and the "big shots" will be retained at large salaries to run the subways "for the people". Government ownership under capitalism is to prevent complete breakdown of sick industries, is to SAVE A TOTTERING STRUCTURE, and is not for the interests of the workers. Government ownership of industry can be progressive only under a WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT.

FOR A NATIONAL SITDOWN STRIKE IN PACKINGHOUSE!

(Continued from page 1)

posals and other proposals of this sort from other locals, the resolutions reported out by Johnson provided for the top bureaucracy, instead of committees elected by the rank and file, handling the negotiations, and laid down a consistent line of class collaboration.

The line of the Bittner-Stalinite bloc was: 1 — Get Roosevelt or some other big capitalist politician to intervene; 2 — Fight Armour's alone first before attempting to fight the others; 3 — avoid strikes at almost any cost.

Of the twelve resolutions introduced by the Lewis-Bittner-Stalinite machine one was against amendments to the Wagner act, another called for a social security committee, another spoke of a "hostile Congress opposed to Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal" which cut WPA and asked for support of Lewis' program for 3,000,000 jobs. This is the Stalinist line of absolving Roosevelt of all blame for the lay-offs on WPA and the strike-breaking.

The first and last resolutions of the day, by the Lewis-Stalinite bloc, were the most important. Resolution number 1 promised the companies that "we will live up to any contract" agreed to. Even though the companies refuse to sit down at a table together with the PWOC, these "leaders" promise to be good boys.

FOR MORE DELAYS

The last resolution — a long-winded one — enumerates 8 or 10 instances where Armour refused

The Senate, the House, and various State Legislatures all have bills before them aimed at the foreign born workers. In some states bills have already been passed. Thirty-one such bills are before the House and ten are in the Senate.

One of these bills provides for deportation of aliens advocating "ANY CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT." Another proposes setting up concentration camps for these "aliens."

This vicious anti-labor legislation is aimed at the entire working class. It will be followed by legislation against all radical activity, and against the labor movement as a whole.

Every worker must protest. Protect the foreign born workers! Smash the anti-labor "Alien" Bills!

The New Deal talks of economic rehabilitation in the South as the number one problem there. This propaganda serves to strengthen the New Deal wing and to put the brakes on the slow but sure developing revolutionary social forces that economic decay in the South is bringing to the fore among the Negroes and poor whites.

Against the New Deal program for the South the working class must pose as its number one problem — THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL EQUALITY FOR THE NEGRO MASSES. Smash Jim Crowism! Organize industrial unions of the Negro and white workers. For independent CLASS ACTION of Negro and white workers against all exploiters and their agents, Old Deal and New Deal both, as well as the agents of the exploiters in the ranks of the Negro and white workers.

to discuss national contract with the Armour workers, and then ends up with another such request for negotiations. "We demand," the resolution states, "that Armour obey the laws of the United States by meeting with our Union."

If the company still refuses to meet with the Union, the resolution proposes taking it up with President Roosevelt, and if Armour still refuses, then the committee suggests strike action against only the Armour plants.

The overwhelming majority of the delegates were for preparing a strike NOW against not only Armour's but the rest of the big companies. On April 8 the National Policy Committee of the Armour Locals met in Chicago and gave the company till May 10th to sign a national contract. May 10th passed. The PWOC leaders dilly-dallied and postponed action.

A week or so before the Convention the leadership again served notice on the company that if it did not meet with Mayor Kelly's "labor committee" strikes would follow. The time given the company expired at the time of the Convention, but the machine still postpones action.

FOR NATIONAL SIT DOWN

These sort of tactics will only demoralize the workers, will only play into the hands of the companies. Militant elements must prepare NOW for a national sit-down strike. No more dilly-dallying!

Another important aspect of this "convention" was that the

"Democracy" in the Writers Organizations

New York — It's a strange thing about these cultural organizations that stand for "democracy."

A little over a month ago, Florence Becker, poet, was expelled by the National Board of the League of American Writers because she insisted that the only way to fight Fascism was by fighting capitalism in all its forms, including its bourgeois democratic form. Her democratic right to appeal to the national convention of the L. A. W. was denied her by Franklin Folsom, executive secretary.

And in order to make the whole thing kosher, the Stalinite leaders of this group immediately changed this constitution to eliminate this democratic right.

TROTSKY OUTFIT SIMILAR

The League for Cultural Freedom and Socialism, Trotskyite controlled, is no better when it comes to the question of workers democracy.

After a 20 minute debate as to whether or not to hear her viewpoint on a dispute over policy with the leadership, she was given only three minutes to say what she wanted. When she refused to give full endorsement to the LSFS statement of aims, which is an umbrella for all those who support bourgeois democracy, as well as those who are genuinely for workers democracy, she was excluded from the LCFS too.

7th Plenum

The seventh plenum of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Workers League, U. S. will take place in Chicago over the Labor Day week-end. The agenda proposed will include the question of the Provisional International Contact Commission, the struggle against Fascism, the present war crisis, the trade union and unemployed questions, with reports from the field, and the organization question.

top bureaucracy refused to permit the members to organize a Packing House Workers Union. The "Organizing Committee" structure, with appointments and rule from the top, and full control of the 50 cent monthly per capital tax by Bittner, will continue in force.

This control of the purse also enables the bureaucrats to control the policies. The rank and file must raise its voice back home, now that the convention is over, against the bureaucratic practices and class collaboration policies of the leadership.

FOR A NATIONAL SITDOWN STRIKE IN PACKINGHOUSE.
FOR A NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE GROUP ON A CLASS STRUGGLE PROGRAM.

STRENGTHEN THE STEWARDS COUNCILS IN EACH PLANT AND DEMAND REAL AUTONOMY.

FOR WORKERS DEFENSE SQUADS.

FOR A PACKING HOUSE WORKERS UNION WITH LOCAL AUTONOMY.

Cowan Tour

C. B. Cowan is on a tour to the west coast for the Cleveland Association of Unemployed on Direct and Work Relief to help develop sentiment and consolidate contacts on the coast for a new unemployed organization on a class struggle program. Comrade Cowan is the organizer for the AUDWR.

Danzig New War Issue

Real Crisis Is Failure of Workers in Europe to Fight War Steps

Last month the "war crisis" was over the blockade at Tientsin. This month the "crisis" is over Danzig.

Everyone is asking whether this crisis will be solved, whether war will be averted. Yes, this crisis will be "solved" — with big quotation marks around the word solved — only by Germany taking Danzig, by the bottling up and the beginning of a new partition of Poland, the consequent strengthening of Germany and the inevitable "war crisis" of tomorrow over Rumania, Belgium or Ukraine.

Germany has helped this "solution" along considerably in the last few months by sending thousands of soldiers and large supplies of munitions into Danzig, bringing the day of enslavement of the Danzig masses to German imperialism much closer.

That British "appeasement" is still a very strong possibility is evidenced by the fact that these steps by Germany have gone unanswered.

CRISES TO CONTINUE

For the revolutionists, war crises and war under imperialism are accepted facts — just like the sky or the sun. Only the proletarian revolution will stop war. Until then each "crisis" and each "solution" will only bring further "crises" and further contradictions and struggles.

The real crisis last month was not in Danzig, but in Britain and in Germany. The British imperialists announced the biggest war budget in their "peacetime" history — 3 billion, 300 million dollars. They held a joint war show with the French imperialists

in France to "impress" Germany. But the working class leadership in England — the Labor Party and the trade unions — did not utter a word of criticism of these war moves. On the contrary they supported them.

WORKERS BETRAYED AGAIN

The crisis consists of the fact that as the new world carnage is about to begin the great voice of the British and German working class has been muffled.

Over in France there is even a worse situation. The "democratic" Daladier government is arresting scores of revolutionists, raising hours and cutting wages, but none of the so-called working class parties has come out against the war preparations, has organized even a single strike in a single factory against the war machine. This crisis in the ranks of the working class permits the imperialists to continue "solving" their own contradictions at the expense of the masses of humanity.

The one bright spot in this crisis last month was the establishment of the Provisional Contact Commission for the new Communist (4th) International of three groups: the Red Front of Germany, the RWL in U. S. and the Leninist League of Scotland, standing firmly on a Marxian program against war, pledged to work in all imperialist countries for the defeat of our own capitalist class.

In this small force, just as with the small force of left Zimmerwalders in 1915 that stood for the same program, lies the hope for a revolutionary answer to the imperialist war.

NAACP Convention

(Continued from Page 1)

and 15th" amendments to the U. S. Constitution.

Even an elementary law student knows that the main use of these amendments has been to safeguard the business interests of certain capitalist groups, commencing with the New Orleans Slaughter House cases and coming down to the present times, with occasional show sops thrown to groups of Negro intellectuals, actually negated in practice.

The show was climaxed on July 3 when Mrs. Roosevelt presented a medal to the Negro singer, Marian Anderson. This is the same old boloney. The policy of the New Deal increases the misery of the sharecroppers, a large number of whom are Negroes, drives still lower the starvation wages of the workers, all for the increased profits of the Southern landowners and capitalists, including, as he admitted, Roosevelt himself.

FORGET SCOTTSBORO BOYS

But the wife of Roosevelt gives a medal! Take comfort in that, Negro worker and sharecropper! You and your wife and children may suffer from hunger and the stretchout, from pellagra and rickets, but on one day in the year one Negro singer will get a medal from the "First Lady of the Land"!

Of particular significance was the lack of any reference to the Scottsboro boys still languishing in Southern prisons. The NAACP and the I. L. D. having concluded a deal that would have brought a blush of shame to the lowest shyster, now shut up like clams and leave the remaining boys to

their horrible fate of continued jail terms for one of the worst frame-ups of our times.

The answer to this must be, not the strengthening of such boss reformist outfits as the NAACP, nor any futile attempt to "change it from within," but the building of powerful workers' unions, and, under their hegemony and with their help, strong organizations of sharecroppers, that will drive into oblivion the bosses and their Negro and white hangers on, such as the NAACP.

In this fight it is absolutely necessary that the white workers should march in the forefront, remembering that "labor in a white skin can never be emancipated so long as labor in a black skin is enslaved."

C.P. Hooligans Beaten Off

A group of Stalinist hoodlums were quickly put in their place when they tried to break up an R. W. L. meeting at Newberry Square, July 2nd. An audience of a few hundred spontaneously surged forward, threw the Stalinists off the speaker, comrade Kohlman, whom they were pummeling, re-established our speaker's box and defended the meeting throughout.

P. S.—next week the Stalinists humbly stood by our meeting, with their leader shushing up each heckler as he opened his mouth. Instead of breaking up our meeting they inquired in most gentlemanly fashion when we would terminate our meeting so theirs could begin.

The American Legion is breaking up Stalinist meetings in Chicago's 27th ward. The R.W.L. offers the C. P. a united front to defend these meetings from the reactionaries.