

THE FIGHTING WORKER

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WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

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

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Hitler Victory In Norway Brings U.S. Closer To War

Plenum Launches Workers Vote Campaign

COWAN, WILLIS CANDIDATES

The next issue of the FIGHTING WORKER will contain statements by C. B. Cowan and Allan Willis, Workers Vote candidates for President and Vice-president.

As the bourgeois parties start the avalanche of lies, deceit and hypocritical propaganda in the 1940 Presidential elections, the Eighth Plenum of the Revolutionary Workers League, U.S. recently opened its Workers Vote election campaign.

The election campaign of the Revolutionary Workers League will be conducted primarily to expose the sham democracy of American capitalism and its war preparations, to use the forum offered by the elections to bring home these points, to rally workers in class action for them:

1—Fight against the Democratic-Republican war plans.

2—For the defense and extension of workers democratic rights against the attacks of the capitalists and their government.

3—For the establishment of Workers Control of Production for Use under a Workers Council Government.

The election program of the R. W. L., as published in other columns, emphasizes the independent class action of the workers and exposes the error in trying to

use the sham capitalist ballot to make any real change in the plight of the workers.

OUR CANDIDATES

C. B. Cowan, our presidential candidate, is an American worker of Scotch-Irish extraction, and a well known leader of the unemployed movement. His leading role as Organizer of the Association of Unemployed in the successful struggle of the Cleveland unemployed to restore relief a few months ago gained nationwide prominence.

Cowan was a marine in the last World War and was honorably discharged in 1919. From 1927 to 1935 he was a member of the Communist Party and a national leader in the veterans movement from 1931 to 1934. For two years he was National Adjutant of the Workmen's Ex-Service-men's League and led a large contingent to Washington in the famous bonus march of 1932.

Allan Willis, our vice-presidential candidate, is a young Negro militant. As a worker, as a youth, and as a Negro, he is in position to throw triple emphasis on the exploitation and oppression of the workers, the youth, and the Negro minority. His campaign will be an able and bold defense of the rights of these oppressed.

Virginia Judges Uphold Negro Discrimination

LEAGUE CALLS CONFERENCE

Petersburg, Va. — On March 26th, Trial Justice Clements found Miss Pauli Murray and Miss Adelene McBean guilty of violation of the Virginia segregation law in that they did not take seats designated for them by the operator of a Greyhound bus. On April 29, on appeal, Judge Richard T. Wilson, of Hustings Court of this city, found them not guilty of violation of the segregation law, but guilty of creating disturbance. On this charge they had been practically acquitted in the lower court. In addition to this example of legal side-stepping on the part of the two "honorable", a further touch of irony is added in that practically the only evidence of "creating a disturbance" is that one of these two Negro girls became hysterical and ill as a result of the incident! And, to cap the climax, when it was suggested that the case would be fought still further, Judge Wilson agreed to postpone decision until May 10, and to have briefs submitted in the meantime. What is behind all this judicial tight-rope dancing?

JIM CROW ACTION

In an attempt to extract super profits from the Negro masses and also to drive a wedge between the Negro and white toilers, Virginia, like all other Southern states, has a vicious segregation law. By it Negroes are, among other things, required to sit apart from the whites and to take such seats on public vehicles as may be designated by the operator. It happened that these two Negro girls were coming from New York to visit the mother of one of them in Durham, N. C. They were on a Greyhound bus in one of the rear seats, in a very uncomfortable position immediately over the rear wheel. One of them was ill. A request that two white children move up was finally agreed to. The seat which they then occupied was broken. After the operator of the bus had called the cops and had even been told by them that the seat should be repaired, he did so. But when Miss Murray told him that if the seat did not prove proper they would move up again, then the cops were called back and both the girls arrested, charged with creating a disturbance.

In the trial held before the police justice, it was found impossible to convict the defendants for creating a disturbance. Desperate at the thought that the defendants would escape, and that the Greyhound Company might face a suit for false arrest, the Commonwealth's Attorney, flanked by the attorney for the bus company,

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F.D.R. PUTS PRESSURE ON ITALY; EXTENDS NAVAL, AIR FORCES

May 3rd — As we go to press, British troops are withdrawn from Southern Norway leaving Hitler in virtual control. This action, giving Hitler a big strategic victory, as well as indicating the weakness, hesitancy and vacillation of the British boss-statesmen — brings the war to a decisive stage where further extension of military operations is inevitable almost immediately.

Hitler is now in a position not only to unloose military forces in the Balkans or against Sweden, but, if his military bases can be extended through Belgium to Holland, he can strike at the very heart of the British Isles.

The letter variant is more likely (especially since Sweden offers no opposition) but it depends on developments, particularly the action of Italy and the possibility of military operations in the Baltic.

We have previously emphasized that ALL the "neutrals" would inevitably be drawn into the MILITARY phase of the war. It is apparent that Italy is now seriously considering such action. The conferences of Ambassador Phillips with Mussolini, those of Ambassador Colonna with Roosevelt, indicate that the U. S. is putting pressure on Italy, in an attempt to prevent her giving military support to a Hitler-dominated bloc, and to use Italy for America's needs.

MUSSOLINI WANTS CONCESSIONS

The Fascist regime well remembers how in the last war, the boss-statesmen believed the promises of the Anglo-French, broke their pact with Germany and swung over to the Allies, only to be deprived of any loot at the "peace" conference. Mussolini is taking no chances now; he not only wants definite guarantees that he will get a big share of the loot, but he wants part of it now: before he enters the war, he uses his position of "neutral" in order

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Joint Unemployed Action Against Forced Labor In Cleveland

Cleveland, Ohio, May 1, 1940—

As a result of the arbitrary passage by City Council, under Mayor Burton's pressure, the general drive to lower the existing starvation levels of relief, the Division of Relief has instituted out and out FORCED LABOR for all the single men and women who are on the relief rolls of the city.

Most of the unemployed victims of the practice must go to work this week displacing regular city employees in the parks and street divisions of the city. These "forced labor scabs" are made to work eight days a month at an average hourly rate of 32c. The regular city employees thus displaced have been working at the rate of 60 cents an hour. The wages paid the "forced labor scabs" will be about 50% in cash and 50% in restricted relief orders.

UNITED FRONT FIGHTS BACK

The Joint Committee of the Association of Unemployed on Direct and Work Relief and the Federal Workers Union are holding a meeting on May 6th to lay plans for joint action of the two organizations to defeat this latest attack of the bosses against the Cleveland workers.

These two organizations of the unemployed and WPA workers, which successfully fought against the relief cut last December and forced Burton and City Council to restore relief, are also undertaking joint struggle against WPA cuts of the Roosevelt regime, and the simultaneous cuts of the Central Appropriation Ordinance of the City which will further lower relief standards at a time when thousands of WPA workers will be forced to apply for relief.

PLENUM PLANS ACTIVITY

The 8th Plenum which met April 20th and 21st reviewed the work of the League and made plans for further action in the next period.

The Plenum sessions were devoted to political reports and discussion on the International Situation, the Imperialist War and the International Contact Commission and the role and defense of the Soviet Union.

Much of the Plenum was devoted to Organizational matters with detailed analysis of the work of the League, proposals for extending our base in the mass movements, consolidation of our cadres, plans for the Convention, Negotiations, and the Workers Vote Campaign.

Milk Strike Truce

WORKERS MUST STILL STRUGGLE AGAINST BOSS ARBITRATION

Chicago, May 3 — The Milk Wagon and the Dairy Employees Union had the milk supply of Chicago completely under control through their two days strike. But in an all night conference at the States Attorney's office with the Dealers Association representatives, the union leaders agreed to call off the strike, go back to work at the present wage scale AND THEN NEGOTIATE a new wage scale. What the strikers were winning on the picket line the union leaders gave way in the conference room.

The strike was 100% effective as to its aims, and with such a condition, with the tempo still upward the wage scale should have been settled AS A CONDITION OF CALLING OFF THE STRIKE. The Dealers Association were responsible for the strike, and now the Union will have to fight very hard to prevent a wage cut in the negotiations.

The Milk Dealers Association

alleges the increased competition of store-purchased milk, which retails much cheaper than home-delivered milk, as an excuse for the cut. They claim they are now losing 2 cents on every dollar on home-delivered sales, and propose to take this out of the hides of the drivers. The Dealers also propose to base wages on the price of milk. This scheme would allow the Dealers to grab more profits and to blame price increases on the workers. The Union has pointed out that the basing of wages on prices is a violation of the labor code.

FIGHT JUST BEGUN

BUT THE FIGHT HAS JUST BEGUN. Although the drivers were out solid, with 90% of the market shut down, and with several smaller dealers signing on the Union terms, the Union officials gave the strike a knock out blow.

The present agreement is retroactive to May 1. If a lower

SUPPORT WORKERS VOTE PROGRAM

When you vote for Presidential candidates in 1940, don't forget 1916! That was the year the American people voted for Reag and Wilson, and got a bellyful of bayonets. A vote in 1940 for a Republican, Democrat, or another Capitalist Party (even if it's called "Labor" Party) is a vote for **REACTION** and **HUNGER**.

You won't solve your problems at this election. The odds are already stacked against you. Wall Street owns all the major candidates and parties. Wall Street millionaires finance the campaign. Wall Street lawyers have developed the election system to the point where it's just a fraud and a hypocritical snare.

Even President Roosevelt admitted last year that more than half the whites in Virginia over 21 can't vote. As far as the Negroes are concerned their plight is even worse. Poll taxes in the South of one, two or more dollars eliminate at least half the population from voting. Millions of transient workers, unemployed and youth under 21 — old enough to work or serve in the army but not old enough to vote — foreign born workers, soldiers, residents of Washington, D. C., and many others are in one way or another barred from the ballot.

BOSSSES CONTROL ELECTIONS

Assuming, however, that all these people could vote — what sort of choice do they have? In at least 23 states in the nation it is next to impossible for anybody outside of the two big capitalist parties to get on the ballot. Even the strong Coughlin-Lenke Union Party of the last election couldn't get on the ballots of many states. Other states require nominating petitions with as high as 250,000 signatures. To really run an effective presidential campaign under modern capitalism it takes millions of dollars. What working class organization can today match the capitalist dollars?

Furthermore, if a working class party could hurdle all these obstacles, could enfranchise the 10 or 15 million workers who are deprived of votes, could get all the necessary signatures to get on the ballot — what assurance would it have of actually being permitted to serve? None, whatsoever. Members of our older generation remember how the capitalists in New York, Washington, and many other places after the last war, threw Socialist legislators out of office simply because they were too "radical".

No, you can't solve your problems at the ballot. If you vote for Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Dewey, Mr. Hull, Mr. Vandenberg, or their second line agents, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Browder, or Mr. Thomas — you're voting to keep up this "democratic" sham, you're voting to preserve the rotten bulk of capitalism. If you don't want to waste your ballot, write in the names of the Candidates on the Workers Vote ticket, C. B. Cowan for President, Allan Willis for Vice-President.

VOTE FOR WORKERS STRUGGLE

A vote for the Workers Vote ticket is a vote against capitalism, a **PROTEST** against the profit system, a voice telling the capitalists that you're sick of capitalist hunger, wars and reaction, that you're ready to fight for a **WORKERS GOVERNMENT**.

A vote for the candidates of the Revolutionary Workers League is a vote:

- 1) Against the Democratic-Republican War Plans — Defeat Capitalism.
- 2) For Workers Democratic Rights.
- 3) For Workers Control of Production for Use under a Workers Council Government.

Don't fall into the old trap again! You want a change — but don't change back to the Republican. For eleven long depression years you've been hearing both the Hoover and Roosevelt variety of the capitalist politicians as to why they **CAN'T** provide for the lost generation of youth, why they **CAN'T** build homes for the homeless, why they **CAN'T** raise the living standard of the masses.

Professors have brought out all sorts of books to show why the masses must starve while idle factories, idle lands, idle gold and unemployed rot, while the state builds up a war machine running into billions of dollars. But the facts are really very simple — simple enough for anyone to understand.

The United States could easily produce 160 billion dollars income annually. **BUT** under Hoover, Roosevelt and the rest, they produce 65 billion dollars a year. Capitalism refuses to produce when there are no profits. It condemns 12—14 million to unemployment, 24 million to relief starvation; it has 57 million pounds of turkey in **COLD STORAGE** while the masses starve, millions of pounds of butter, eggs, wheat, corn etc., while workers children get tuberculosis, pellagra and other diseases of undernourishment.

BOSSSES PREPARE WAR ENTRY

And now in the year 1940, the prospect is even worse. In a real sense economically and politically, America is **ALREADY IN THE IMPERIALIST WAR IN EUROPE**. This will be followed by the military phase. The war budget is being skyrocketed to over 2 billion, while WPA is being cut to less than a billion. The capitalist politicians in Washington, led by New Dealer Roosevelt — are preparing a giant straitjacket of reaction.

We've already seen its beginnings. The government prosecution of building trade unions on phoney "anti-trust" charges; the Roosevelt and LaGuardia edict that you "can't strike against the government"; the smashing of the great WPA strike in Minneapolis and the frame up of dozens of its leaders; the anti-alien bills; **THE FORCED LABOR BEING INTRODUCED IN VARIOUS STATES FOR JOBLESS ON RELIEF**; fingerprinting on many war projects; threatened disfranchisement of workers on relief. The increased activity of the rotten Dies Committee — which is paving the way for the illegalization of Working Class organizations; the growth of all sorts of vigilante outfits; the shift of taxes quietly and slowly onto the backs of the workers and poor home-owners, and many, many other such factors.

To vote for this government and this system, for the program of plowing under while people starve, is to cut your nose off to spite your face, is **REALLY WASTING YOUR VOTES**. To express your interests, push the class struggle in your factory, strike the war industry plants, organize the unorganized, and develop independent working class action, support the Workers Vote Campaigns for a **WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT** by writing in the names of C. B. Cowan for President and Allan Willis for Vice-president, **WORKERS VOTE** candidates.

VOTE FOR A WORKING CLASS PROGRAM

1) AGAINST THE ROOSEVELT WAR PLANS —

Expose the role of American Imperialism, Democratic and Republican, as the Main Driving force for War; strike the munition plants; arm the working class and the poor farmers against the bourgeois war machine for the defense of their democratic rights; fight against the Roosevelt War Plans by fighting against the Capitalist System.

2) FULL FREEDOM FOR THE NEGRO PEOPLE

— Against Jim Crow discrimination of Negroes; organize to smash the restrictions forcing Negroes to live in filthy, overcrowded, high-rent Ghettos; free the five Scottsboro boys still held on a vicious frame-up in Alabama; stop the lynching of whites and Negroes by organizing powerful unions and Workers Defense Squads of black and white workers; for economic, political and social equality for the Negro people.

3) SAVE THE "LOST GENERATION" OF YOUTH

— Demand the right of equal pay for equal work; for independent relief for all youth equal to that of adults; for free educational and practical vocational training for all youth.

4) FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF THE WORKING CLASS — Fight the Roosevelt campaign against civil rights; for the right to strike, **INCLUDING THE SIT-DOWN STRIKE**; to picket — **INCLUDING MASS PICKETING AND WORKERS DEFENSE SQUADS**; the right of assembly, and other workers rights.

5) FOR IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE FOR THE COLONIES AND PROTECTORATES NOW UNDER THE UNITED STATES CONTROL — including Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Cuba, Virgin Is-

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STRUGGLE FOR ASIA SHARPENS U.S. -- BRITAIN FIGHT

At the present time the imperialist war is confined primarily to Europe and only the European imperialist powers are directly involved. But this stage is rapidly coming to an end and all indications point to an early extension of the conflict.

At the outbreak of the war when we had correctly analyzed the important events and factors leading up to it, we did not foresee the **SLOW TEMPO** of the military struggle. But this in no way altered its fundamental aspects. And now its extension is inevitable because the aim and object of the imperialist powers is to redivide the world, which means primarily to gain decisive control of the vast Asiatic markets. But to do this, the imperialists must **FIRST** settle the question as to who is master of Europe and who will dominate the life line to Asia.

In relation to the war and the war aims of the imperialists, the developments in the Pacific and Asiatic areas are vital. The following factors are of the greatest importance: 1—The present stage of the fundamental inter-imperialist struggle between England and the United States for control of the world. 2—The manner in which Japan uses this conflict, as well as the war in Europe, for her own ends. 3—The maturing revolution in India and the colonial upsurge throughout the East. 4—The whole issue of the proletarian revolution and the role of the Soviet Union under the heel of Stalinism.

We here only deal with part of these questions. And we again point out to those who may think that such analysis is unimportant, that one must have a clear understanding of **ALL** the aims of the imperialists in order to struggle against their war.

ENGLAND WEAKENED

We have previously dealt in detail with the struggle between the United States and Britain for **DECISIVE** control of the entire world. Despite the surface fact that England is now fighting Germany, this struggle is not abating, but sharpening. But at the present time, Britain's position is weakening. She is in direct military conflict with Germany, and threatened by colonial revolutions; Italy is ready to strike at her Mediterranean life-line unless Britain can appease her interest in Asia; and American Imperialism extends its trade war, gaining a big victory in South America and strengthening herself in Asia, while she prepares for military operations.

What kind of bargain can England obtain that will strengthen her position against America. To win Italy and Japan to military action against Germany, she can offer very little more than she already has, which have not succeeded. But in the midst of a military struggle against Germa-

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The Main Enemy Is At Home

AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR, FOR CLASS WAR

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MAY DAY, 1940

May Day,— day of working class struggle against capitalism — sees the workers attacked and repressed by the imperialists as they hurtle on in their second world war to redivide the world. In every country May Day has either been suppressed or distorted and warped by the imperialists and their agents.

In Germany, the Fascist barbarians brazenly used May Day to boast of their military gains. But we know that the militant workers of Germany, given leadership by the affiliates of the INTERNATIONAL CONTACT COMMISSION, showed their defiance and opposition to the bosses' fascist rule through secret meetings, leaflets and other propaganda.

In France, which claims to be fighting for "liberty" against Hitler, the military dictatorship completely suppressed May Day demonstrations, thus giving the lie to their own war intentions, and exposing to the hilt the real predatory aims of their war. And they are aided, as elsewhere, by the corrupt betrayers of the Socialist International who openly support their war.

MOCKERY OF MAY DAY

In Britain, Ernest Bevin, M. P., a leading trade unionist voiced the treacherous position of the labor fakers and social patriots when he devoted his May Day speech to a demand that the British bosses fight harder against Hitler! What a complete mockery! This Day of workers should be the time for firm opposition to ALL the imperialist camps and for INDEPENDENT WORKERS ACTION to turn the imperialist war into civil war.

In the Soviet Union, under Lenin, May Day was a living expression of the international revolutionary struggle of the working class. But this year a high point of Stalinist counter-revolutionary activity was reached when May Day was celebrated jointly with the representatives of Hitler! And the Stalinist spokesmen have the gall to state that the Soviet Union stands for "peace" when they stand side by side with their Fascist allies whose war plans they aid in every way.

Likewise in the United States, the Stalinists marched under the banner "peace", objectively giving support to the Hitler-Stalin war pact.

Thus the imperialists and their agents have warped and repressed this May Day in order to prevent the expression of its real traditions of workers struggle. But the misery, horror, destruction and exploitation which the war brings will deepen the resentment of the toilers, and prepare the basis for the conversion of the imperialist war into civil war.

Workers' Forum Attacked

Chicago, May 3 — Washington Park Forum, for ten years a center of workers' discussion and action on the South Side, is now faced with suppression by a ruling of the Chicago Park Commission demanding that a permit be issued for EVERY meeting, with each speaker and subject submitted a week in advance. Behind these legal rulings of the Park Commission are the interests of those landlords who want to retain Jim Crow housing to gain their exorbitant rents, and all those boss forces who are trying to smash the living standards and solidarity of the South Side Workers.

This forum is a living expression of WORKERS DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS: established and

maintained for ten years on the independent initiative of the militant and progressive Negro and white workers; where free democratic discussion has always been the rule; and where, on the basis of such discussion, CLASS ACTION in the interests of the workers has been successfully carried out.

The attack of the bosses is directly in line with their whole national drive to smash workers democratic rights in preparation for their entry into the imperialist slaughter. The workers of the Forum well know the kind of war for profit the bosses want to wage. So the Park Commission does the work of the bosses to try to smash the Forum! And that is precisely why all militant and progressive

WORKERS VOTE PROGRAM

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lands and many others; free the Puerto Rican nationalist prisoners in U. S. jails.

6) RAISE THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THE MASSES — For the five days week, six-hour day; for trade union wages on WPA; for a \$30 weekly minimum for WPA and relief; for workers control of the administration of relief; for social insurance — maternity, old-age, unemployment, and others — PAID FOR BY THE CAPITALISTS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT. FOR WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION FOR USE.

The working class must struggle for these demands today in order to better their living conditions and in order to prepare for the greater struggles that are to come. Only a Workers Council Government can solve the problems of the oppressed in the last analysis.

7) SAVE THE POOR FARMERS AND SHARECROPPERS FROM PAUPERIZATION — Abolish all existing mortgages; divide the land of the Southern bourbons among the sharecroppers and tenants who now inhabit them; for a complete moratorium on rents paid to the large landowners; organize the workers on the big bonanza farms and smash the power of the landcapitalists.

The working class must fight imperialist war; where the capitalists and their government organize wars to continue their system of oppression of the proletariat, the workers must organize and work for the defeat of their "Own" government and the capitalist armed forces.

THE WORKERS MUST ESTABLISH A WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT, a government that will appropriate the capitalist slave-drivers, will socialize industry; a government against the exploiters, in order to insure a government against the exploiters, in order to insure democracy for the working class. The new government will carry on production for use instead of for profit, will organize production on a higher level in order to assure abundance for all, instead of starvation amidst plenty, to insure the elimination of poverty, unemployment, and imperialist war. The workers in the United States must establish a Workers State that will cooperate with the workers of the whole world, including especially the revolutionary workers within the Soviet Union, and to lay the basis for a world communist society by giving material support to the revolutionary movement throughout the world.

The Workers Government — the Dictatorship of the Proletariat — can be obtained only by the independent action of the working class, both in the economic and political spheres, only under the guidance of a new party of the working class, completely independent of all other parties, an International Party, the New Communist (4th) International.

REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE OF THE U. S. AFFILIATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONTACT COMMISSION.

OUT JUNE 1 st

IN GERMAN
The Marxist
REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISTS OF GERMANY

15 Cents a Copy

workers must rally to the defense of WORKERS FREE SPEECH against this boss attack. A protest meeting is being held May 5th with speakers of various organizations; resolutions of protest are being sent to the Park Commission and Mayor Kelly.

But above all the workers must rely on their own organized strength to mass at the sessions of the Forum as soon as the weather permits it to open, and to defend with their own strength their hard-won democratic rights against the Park Commission and the Police.

JOINT MAY DAY MEETING WITH REVOLT GROUP

The Chicago Organization of the Revolutionary Workers League held a joint May Day meeting with the Revolt group, with whom the RWL is now negotiating its differences. Negotiations continue to be stalemated due to the fact that the Revolt Central Committee is still writing statements directly to the RWL instead of permitting its Negotiations Committee to proceed on the agreed agenda. The meeting was well attended, in view of the miserable weather. Much interest was shown in the progress of negotiations.

U.S. Imperialism Moves Closer To War Entry

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to try to force immediate gains from both sides.

Britain's moving of her fleet to the Mediterranean and her threat of a blockade are desperate attempts to keep Italy from joining with Hitler. But it is American Imperialism that is really turning on the heat. The Italian Imperialists are in position to demand material concessions from Uncle Sam. America, in her efforts to utilize Italy indicates that there is an attempt to come to terms closer to her own entry in the vortex of military operations.

U. S. PREPARES ARMED FORCES

This is not the only activity of the American imperialists. They and their military experts have been intently watching operations in Norway, analyzing the successes of air raids on warships; they understand that navies are vulnerable from the air and they draw the double conclusion that they must build heavier naval vessels as well as enlarge their plane force. But to talk of doing this for "defense" is only to deceive the blind.

For the American imperialists are preparing to use their armed forces on a WORLD scale in order to achieve world domination. The more they talk about the heavier war ships and more planes, the more clearly they reveal their intention to enter the war for decisive action.

The further involvement of the U. S. depends on possible German action against Holland now that she is consolidating in Scandinavia. American imperialism has already served notice on Japan not to dare to move against the Dutch East Indies in that event—still further proof that the American bosses aim at dominance in all of Asia.

The imperialists carefully prepare their next moves, each group speculating on the moves of the other, and laying plans accordingly. But no matter which area becomes the next scene of the war, it is certain that the imperialist slaughter is moving to greater carnage and destruction of men and material, bringing the American entry all the closer.

JUST OUT

May Issue

International News

Theoretical Organ

Provisional

International

Contact Commission

May Day Manifesto

A New Stage in the Imperialist War.

Problems of the Indian Revolution

The Mexican Revolution and the Land Question (II)

5 cents each

RICHMOND MACHINISTS STRIKE AGAINST PAY CUT

MILITANT STRIKER TELLS STORY

Richmond, Va., April 30th. — In 1938, taking advantage of the lack of organization of the workers, the owners of P. Lorillard Tobacco Co. added to their already swollen profits by a general wage cut of 10%. Known for years as one of the worst paying factories in the whole town, this cut literally took bread out of the mouths of the workers and their many sad stories could be related of what this cut meant in terms of sickness, not only for tobacco workers, but for our undernourished children. And this at a time when the directors of P. Lorillard were boasting of their profits to prospective buyers of stock!

About a week ago, after several days of futile negotiation, the machinists, having their own union, came out on strike for a restoration of the 10% cut. Just about an hour or so after, about three or four hundred Negro strippers spontaneously came out. Both the machinists and the strippers had the heartiest encouragement and support of the rest of the workers. A wave of organization spread among the workers. Representatives of the Cigar Makers International Union signed up hundreds in the course of the day.

BOSSSES LOCK OUT

The next day when the workers, except the machinists and strippers, appeared at the factory, they were informed that the factory was "closed indefinitely" except for a few days work for the packers. Immediately the two thousand employees went to the offices of the State Unemployment Commission to register for unemployment compensation.

The officials of the Unemployment Commission are trying to stall by saying that no compensation can be paid for a period of two weeks, and that it will then have to be decided whether it can

be paid at all since this "arises out of a labor dispute". Even from the standpoint of their own rotten law, it is certainly a bum stall that when three or four hundred workers are out on strike, the bosses can prevent any unemployment compensation for two thousand workers by locking them out.

The local press, the News-Leader and the Times Dispatch showed their fangs very early by trying to minimize the machinists strike, by not reporting at all the walk out of the strippers, and by subtle between-the-lines encouragement to refuse unemployment compensation.

MILITANT PLATFORM

But we know (most of us have just found out) that we can expect nothing from the bosses, or from their Unemployment Commission, except what we can get by fighting for it. We are going to try to line up our fellow-workers for it. We are going to try to line up our fellow-workers 100% in the union and:

1 — ELECT A STRIKE COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OPERATIVES, THE MACHINISTS AND THE STRIPPERS.

2 — DEMAND IMMEDIATE RESTORATION OF THE TEN PERCENT CUT.

3 — DEMAND A UNION SHOP.

4 — DEMAND IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

We shall not be bluffed by their so-called "lock-out". We know what orders they have to fill, and we know that they are bluffing. If we stick together we can lick them, and get our ten percent back as a starter. And we will!

Fraternally,

A STRIKER.

League Fights Jim Crow Cases

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asked for and obtained permission to amend the warrant to charge violation of the segregation law. Then the trial justice found the girls guilty of that and fined them five dollars apiece, evidently hoping that would be the end. But the case was promptly appealed.

DEFENSE ORGANIZED

In the meantime the Negro population of Petersburg and Richmond, and many labor and even middle class liberal elements of the white population were incensed. In addition to Messrs Cooley and Valentine of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples, originally representing the defendants, Mr. Oliver Hill, Richmond Negro attorney volunteered his services, and Mr. Thomas H. Stone, white, was retained by the local unit of the RWL, to assist in the defence. It was planned to carry the case all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States, and, what is more important, to carry on wide mass agitation to smash this and all discrimination by mass action. So labor baiting Judge Wilson, just fresh from hurling injunctions at the luggage workers, thought discretion to be the better part of valor, and was compelled to draw in his horns as narrated above.

However, the fight is not over. Workers, Negro and white, can not permit these two Negro girls,

who are also members of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, to be victimized in the least.

LEAGUE CALLS CONFERENCE FOR MURRAY AND MC BEAN AND SCOTTSBORO BOYS

The fight for the complete and unconditional freedom of Murray and McBean must be carried to victory; likewise a mass struggle to raise the pay of the Negro teachers — equal pay for equal work — must be launched.

But above all a firm reply of protest must be made to the arrogant pronouncement of the Alabama Parole Board with regard to the remaining Scottsboro boys — Patterson, Norris, Weems, and Powell — rescinding their parole.

To the above ends, the R. W. L. Unit of Richmond is calling a preliminary conference on May 15 to launch a broad conference of Richmond and vicinity for about a month later, and then to call a national conference, to fight on a mass scale against oppression of the Negroes, especially in the above cases and for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys. The columns of the FIGHTING WORKER will carry further details on developments and work of the conference. See to it, when the call for the broader conference is issued, that your union or other organization, sends delegates.

Chicago Relief Crisis Brewing

MILITANT ORGANIZATION NEEDED

Chicago, May 2 — With WPA cuts amounting to well over 15,000 due any day, Chicago again faces a severe relief crisis. The Chicago relief levels today are so inadequate that all manner of liberals, journalists and humanitarians have been constrained to speak out against it.

Statistics could be piled to the roof of Mayor Kelly's office to show that the relief levels in Chicago (now 80% of the minimum subsistence budget prepared by the Department of Agriculture) amount to slow starvation. According to tests conducted at the County Hospital, people fed on the relief diet showed loss of weight of five pounds within ONE WEEK. This indicates what families that have been trying to live for months on this budget face.

Recently there have been numerous conferences, meetings, protests, etc. of various liberal outfits, to both the state and city administrations. In reality, behind the humanitarian words of most of these groups and the publicity they are receiving, is a factional struggle between the boss class parties.

The sad part of the desperate plight of the unemployed is that, lacking their own class-struggle organization, their plight is brought to the public eye only by these groups for their own political purposes.

However, sincere these people may be, within their political position, no amount of their arguments and statistics, exposures, etc. will change the conditions of starvation and misery. What is urgently needed is a fighting, militant organization of the unemployed and WPA workers to struggle through mass actions to better their conditions.

MILK STRIKE

WORKERS MUST STILL STRUGGLE AGAINST ARBITRATION

(Continued from page 1)

wage scale is set in the new contract, each worker will have to refund to his boss the difference in salary paid him since May 1. If by May 31, differences are not reconciled, there will be special boards of arbitration — to take the struggle out of the hands of the workers and submit the disputes to "reasonable" people who will know how to make concessions — to the Dealers.

The arbitration process is an attempt to prevent strike action — the drivers' only real weapon.

The Union men must utilize the next weeks. Publicize their position and the workers side of the issue. Reach the farmers and win their support. It is an old story that the large scale farmer is practically subsidized by the dairy companies and the Association. The small farmer and the farmworker must be brought into solidarity with the Union.

WIN BY WORKERS ACTION

The first step in organizing 200 of the 900 independent vendors must be followed up. Other workers must be brought into the Union, if they are in any way connected with the industry. Arrangements must be made to handle the problem of consumers' sympathy, by publicity NOW, and by working out methods of farmer to consumer deliveries to break the backs of the bosses. Preparations are needed NOW for possible strike action should that again be forced on the workers. Not only the Teamsters Joint Council, of which the milk unions

Asia Struggle

(Continued from Page 2)

ny, she does not want to, but will be forced to sharpen her struggle against the United States even though she needs the "aid" of the United States to defeat Germany. For such American participation against the Fascist regime will only be at the expense of concessions from Britain.

In relation to Asia this has tremendously weakened England. She bluntly refuses even a paper promise of independence to India, turns bayonets on Indian demonstrators, thus fanning the flames of revolt. On the other hand she retreats before Japan, withdraws troops from China, giving Japan more room for military penetration; now she is considering allowing her financial stabilization fund to Chiang-Kai-Shek to lapse which will mean that America's influence and control will increase.

JAPAN'S GAINS AND LOSSES

The longer the intervention in China, the more money and men Japan pours into the struggle, the less likely her REAL victory becomes. Her biggest asset has been that the other imperialists have not intervened with arms; she has therefore been able to make military gains of a limited and very costly nature, making herself more dependent on British or American capital. She has cleverly played off the struggle between England and America to prevent the intervention of either or both, and she now slightly consolidates while Britain retreats. But while she speaks with mighty words against the U. S., she is actually moving very carefully pending American action, as well as the final line-up in the war.

U. S. TIGHTENS UP

While America's position is improved as Britain's weakens, her attempt to march toward world control is not a simple one. In order to gain her ends against ALL she now plays the role of "neutral", gobbling up war orders like a fat pig, and driving Britain and Germany from the South American markets. In relation to Asia she extends her control, for example, through the loan of 25 millions to the Nationalist regime, and which will probably be further increased if Britain withdraws its stabilization fund. Hull's sharp warning to Japan in regard to the Dutch East Indies is ample indication that the U. S. is preparing to EXTEND

her control in Asia.

But this type of "neutrality" today will inevitably lead to war tomorrow. There is no better illustration of this than the fact that while America's exports (war orders) have increased 51%, production charts are now again going down.

This means that even on the basis of tremendous war orders, the decay of American capitalism is so great that the economic and political advantages of this fake "neutrality" policy must soon be exhausted, and the American imperialists will be forced to hurl themselves into the slaughter in order to try to divide the world and gobble up Asia and South America.

Moreover, to the degree that men and material will be used in the war in Europe, to that degree will the other imperialists and especially American imperialism be drawn into the conflict. Likewise, this same consuming of men and material in Europe will increase the tempo of war reaction, and inflation in the U. S.

"PARALLEL ACTION" WILL SHARPEN STRUGGLE

One thing is certain, that even if the variant of "parallel action" between the United States and England is realized, the trade, financial and political war for domination of the earth, between the two giants will be sharpened; they have already been intensified by the war: The bloc between England and France has in no way offset the American advantages, especially in Latin America, where she is gobbling up Britain's markets; and no doubt the American imperialists are considering plans for setting up more American puppet governments there in order to have direct political control of her economic gains. Further, the shipping and mail struggle of the two nations goes on underneath the polite diplomatic words. The action of Britain in prohibiting the importation of tobacco, fresh fruits, etc. from America is further proof that England is striving to sharpen the conflict, even though she is dickering for "parallel action". If this is finally achieved, both will struggle harder than before against the other for hegemony in the settlement and division of the world.

But the plans of the imperialists will be razed to the ground by the proletarian and colonial revolution which the war is bringing to maturity.

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are affiliates, but the Chicago Federation of Labor, must be enlisted in the struggle.

If the Union shows by its ACTION TODAY that it means business, that it will not tolerate unnecessary concessions, that the workers intend to take the struggle into their own hands and fight it out, the victory is on their side.

R.W.L. TOURS

Following the Eighth Plenum of the Central Committee of the R. W. L. a number of tours have been organized to help plan the work in the various cities outside of the center.

Comrade Bob Campbell was sent to five cities in the mid-west: Davenport, Iowa Falls, Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield.

Another comrade has been sent to the east coast and will cover 15 or 18 cities, including Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Flint, Richmond, Pittsburgh, Columbus, New York, Philadelphia, Boston and others.

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