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GERMANY DEFEATS FRENCH BOSSES FRENCH WORKERS CAN STILL SMASH FASCISM AND PREVENT SPREAD OF WAR

WORKERS POWER! THE 1871 COMMUNE IS ONLY ROAD FOR FRENCH WORKERS

After 70 years Paris is again in the hands of a German conqueror. The defeat of the French armies and the treachery of the French bourgeoisie in 1870 caused the working class at that time to revolt and set up the now famous Paris Commune — the first Dictatorship of the Proletariat. A few deadly parallels with 1871 are inescapable in the present situation:

First, the treacherous role of the bourgeoisie has repeated itself all over again. It will be remembered that even long after the present war was declared, the Comite des Forges, French steel syndicate, continued a lucrative business with the German munition plants via Luxembourg. The coal deposits also found their way to German manufacturers by the same route and Belgium. The French bosses found the maintenance of profits the highest expression of their "patriotism", meanwhile piling up oppressive taxes on the working class.

PROFITS FOR BOSSES

Second, unstinted profiteering has held sway throughout this war, despite the "national unity" decreed by the government. No effort was made to limit profits by placing a ceiling on the price of consumption goods. The masses found themselves facing a more brutal oppressor at home than was threatening them from abroad.

Third, the incapacity of the allies has been completely revealed again. Their military strategy has been unchanged since 1918. They have learned nothing and forgotten nothing. They prepared vast immobilized fortresses that proved to be nothing but a detriment in the war of movement. They trained troops for trench warfare, and no trenches have been established — never has the German machine slowed up enough to allow time for digging in.

An even more salient point, Germany has far more troops in the field today than the combined force of the Allies. Yet greater Germany has a population of some 88 million, against a total over 650 million for the allies, including their colonies. How has this happened?

The reasons are not far to seek. The decay of imperialism is so deep-seated that the colonies become a deep sore-spot of cap-

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GERMAN VICTORY IN FRANCE GIVES BIG PUSH TO U.S. WAR MOVE

After 39 days of the most far-reaching military offensive in history the French bourgeoisie is suing for a separate peace. What are the effects of the new relationship of forces?

1—The war is not yet over. France may cede colonies to Italy and Germany in the peace agreement — if it is reached — but in order to get those colonies the Axis will have to fight for them against the British navy. The French may even formally give up the navy to the Germans, but to actually get hold of the ships the Nazis will have to send out their own navy to defeat the British, who undoubtedly even at this moment are rounding up French ships and preparing to force them to surrender or to destroy them. It is highly doubtful if Germany will get even half of the tonnage of the French navy, if it is ceded.

2—The next campaign of the war will now turn in one of two directions: either a frontal attack on the British Isles, or mopping up in central Europe for the big "Drang nach Osten", the march to the east.

STALIN FEARS "ALLY"

3—The new military moves by the Stalinist regime in the Baltic, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, indicate that Stalinism is in dread fear of its present "ally". It can many spheres:

be placed as a certainty that before very long possibly before the 1940 winter, or spring of 1941 — Hitler will repudiate his agreement with Stalin and march into the Ukraine. The respite that Stalinism received from its shameful pact and sell-out to Hitler will thus be of very short duration. The position of the Soviet Union is today more precarious than at any time since the Civil War of 1918-21.

4—Historically the most significant results of the German blitzkrieg are the feverish preparations by American Imperialism for the inevitable struggle with America's preparations fall into this new rising imperialist titan.

Roosevelt! Publish The Secret Military Pacts!

Even the most innocent pacifist by now is convinced that America is going to war, and going very soon. All Mr. Roosevelt's talk is about giving the allies its aid, etc.

Such talk does not come from the clear blue sky. It is based on an actual agreement with Britain (and undoubtedly France). **Every worker must demand to know the terms of this secret military agreement!**

What will the United States get out of the war, what colonies, what spheres of influence? These things have been agreed to and are undoubtedly in writing. **Why doesn't Mr. Roosevelt produce this secret document?** Why doesn't he tell the world what Messrs. Welles, Bullitt, and Kennedy have agreed to with British rulers for the redivision of the earth?

Technically all treaties in the United States must be ratified by the Senate; actually, however, there are any number of ways of getting around the technicality. It is fantastic to believe, however, that the American Imperialists are prepared to

enter the war, without a full agreement with their allies as to who gets what.

EXPOSE THE WAR-MAKERS

To present this naked imperialist agreement to the masses would expose Mr. Roosevelt's naked imperialist policy. It would uncover the lie that American workers are to fight (again) for "democracy". It would reveal that "democracy" for "our" bourgeoisie means the taking over of French and British colonies in the Western Hemisphere, Canada, possibly Australia, and large chunks of Asia.

America has already accepted a virtual protectorate over the British, French and Dutch colonies in this hemisphere. Dutch Guiana and the islands off it are important sources of oil; Trinidad has the finest asphalt deposits in the world; moreover the entire group of colonies is essential to absolute domination of the continents, both to suppress internal resistance and as bases for resistance to hostile attack.

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BUILDERS of the FUTURE

WAR PREPARATIONS IN AMERICA

Universal military training, for those between 18 and 65, is being suggested today for the American population. What then is behind the agitation for this measure in Congress?

The answer to this question can be found in other "notworthy" proposals. What is cleverly being forced through in Congress is compulsory military training for youth between 18 and 20 to serve at least a mandatory six months in the armed services. This is what Roosevelt and Army leaders will "compromise" on. It will mean the raising of an army of 1,000,000 capable reserves every year. Nor is this the only proposal.

FORCE UNEMPLOYED INTO ARMY

There is a plan by Roosevelt to start at once "non-combatant" training for approximately 1,000,000 civilians as well. Other plans contemplate expanding the Civilian Military Training Camps this summer to accommodate 100,000 instead of 30,000. These camps are voluntary, but we can see how much the wishes of man will be regarded by the present campaign to force unemployed workers into the army by cutting "army eligible" off relief rolls, because as Arthur Mudd, State Director of Relief in New Jersey, said: "It is a patriotic duty, particularly for those receiving public assistance, to enlist". (This same Mudd is investigating why the New Jersey CCC quota has not been filled, "while families containing eligible youth remain on relief".

Meanwhile there is continued agitation to convert the CCC into outright military camps. Every other editorial of the *N. Y. Daily News*, powerful pro-Roosevelt paper and "peculiarly" enough the partner of the anti-New Deal *Chicago Tribune*, demands that end the recruitment of one million "mechanic-sergeants" to boot. Now, before the election, we can see this militaristic campaign clearly. We can imagine what will be proposed after elections! And all this in the name of defeating the whole Western Hemisphere.

Bosses Launch Anti-Labor Drive

The capitalists and their government are using the Hitler victories in Europe, not only as an excuse to bolster up American militarism, but above all as the spokesmen under which the most vicious and far reaching ANTI-LABOR DRIVE is being carried out. The extra-legal reactionary and semi-fascist gangs are being used against LABOR and the revolutionists in the name of the "fight" against the "fifth column".

The fingerprinting and registration of all aliens, now under consideration in Congress, has already been made official in several states. Employment is being restricted to American citizens in a number of states, and this is especially true of the "war" industries, i. e., all the heavy industries. Further steps are being taken to discharge all "fifth-columnists", (those who oppose the boss from employment.

Heavy pressure is being brought forward to "force" revision of the

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One Error Leads To Another -- The Shachtmanites Blunder On

Every passing day of the war, with its increased pressure, pushes the centrist organizations further to the right. And just as military offensives demand a smoke-screen, so revisionism must cover-up its "new theories" with other revisions and falsifications of history.

We want to deal here with two points of the "newest" centrist grouping, just split from the Trotskyites, the Shachtman Worker's Party.

This group broke away from the official Trotsky movement on the main grounds that they are for the defeat of the Soviet Union in a war in which it is involved against a small capitalist country, such as Poland or Finland, or in an offensive as an ally of Germany.

The line of argument raised by Shachtman inside the Trotskyites was that the Soviet Union, under Stalinism was functioning **only** as part of the Rome-Berlin axis, that it played no other role by virtue of the fact that it was a Workers State. The R.W.L. pointed out that it is true that Stalinism is subordinating its policy to that of Hitler; but that despite that the Soviet Union itself plays a revolutionary role in the developments — note for instance the nationalization of industry in Poland, etc.

"THIRD CAMP" REVISIONISM

Now, in order to make their position more logical, Shachtman and company have invented the new theoretical concept of the "third" camp. The allies are the first camp, Rome-Berlin-Moscow the second camp, and the working class the third camp. On the surface this sounds very "left". Actually it is a capitulation to petty-bourgeois ideology.

They term the proletariat the "third camp" as against the other "two" camps of the warring imperialists and their Stalinist and other agents. In a fundamental theoretical sense, this is completely wrong.

We are not speaking here of the **strategy** of the "third position" of marching separately and striking together with one section of the bourgeoisie in a civil war.

The very base of Marxism is that there are TWO camps, the camp of the revolutionary proletariat and the camp of the predatory imperialist bourgeoisie with their agents. The struggle among the imperialists is only subordinate to the struggle between the two classes — an attempt to solve the contradictions of capitalism and circumvent the class war by redivid-

ing the earth. It is absolutely impermissible to put the two warring imperialist camps on the same plane with the CLASS WAR between the imperialist bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

BLURS CLASS LINES

Placing the inner-imperialist struggle on the same level with the struggle between the two classes blurs the class struggle enough to permit the Workers State, the bulwark of revolutionary struggle **DESPITE** STALINISM, to be placed in a camp outside the camp of the proletariat. It makes the inner-imperialist military strategy more important than the class forces beneath events.

The working class — "3rd camp" can thus be "defeated" in the abstract, while **concretely** the Shachtman group can be for the defeat of an already victorious October Revolution. How this contradiction will be reconciled, only time will tell — but it undoubtedly will be in the direction of reformism.

DISTORT FACTS

As if one "new" theoretical error within the first month of existence is not enough, "Labor Action" states: "The second world war began on the morning of Friday, May 10, 1940".

Everybody should know that the second imperialist war started last September with the German invasion of Poland and the Anglo-French declaration of war. The Shachtmanites are **deliberately** distorting this fact in order to cover up their false position on the defense of the Soviet Union.

Shachtman was for the defeat of the Soviet Union in Finland because, in part, they claimed that this war was not really a part of the imperialist war, unrelated to the war moves of the allies.

Now if you agree with them that the imperialist war hadn't really started at the time of the Soviet-Finnish war, then, of course, Finland could not possibly have been used as part of the Allied war strategy.

From our standpoint even if the imperialist war had not yet started and the Soviet-Finnish war had developed, we would still have been for the defense of the Soviet Union and for the defeat of Finland as an imperialist outpost.

The Shachtman-Trotskyites are forced to add one error onto another to justify their false positions.

Publish The Secret Pacts!

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BANKERS WILL GAIN

And who stands to gain by all this? Just look to see who is preaching that America go to war.

Mr. Bullitt and Mr. Kennedy are former bankers, tied up with the largest banking interests in America. The most vociferous war-mongers, like William Allen White, are merely stooges for the Morgan gang. Evidence is already piling up that Thomas Lamont, J. P. Morgan's partner, directly inspired the "stop Hitler now" page of ad-

vertising that broke over the nation recently.

The "democracy" we are about to fight for in 1940 is the same "democracy" we fought for in 1917 — the democracy of Messrs. Morgan, Rockefeller, DuPont and company — the right of our oppressors to continue not only to oppress but to use us as cannon fodder.

Demand that this gang of imperialist cut-throats publish their secret agreements. Remember that Wilson also had contracted a secret agreement with the Allies even while he was shouting about staying out of war.

CIVIL LIBERTIES — If Any

The great liberal, Felix Frankfurter, in deciding with the Supreme Court majority that school boards can compel children to salute the flag, "symbol of our national unity", no matter how conscientious religious beliefs may conflict with such salute, claimed to have reconciled religious freedom with national unity. Justice Stone, dissenting, said the decision seemed "no more than the surrender of the constitutional protection of the liberty of small minorities to the popular will"... Whereupon mobs in Texas and Maine set upon members of the sect of Jehovah's Witnesses, in Maine even burning their hall.

Bags of water are dropped on pickets in New York protesting changes in Federal job relief... New Jersey and Pennsylvania are arranging to take single men eligible for army duty off the relief rolls. The Immigration department, in its transfer to the Department of Justice and the hegemony of J. Edgar Hoover, is narrowing admissions of aliens; and the House, with little debate, passed the bill to permit the deportation of aliens convicted of espionage, sabotage, and felonies...

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Amateur radio stations are banned, and ship-to-shore messages limited to "necessary" ones... After the Communist Party broadcast upset the equilibrium of the big networks, Senator Wheeler, who is fulminating against U. S. entry into war, introduced a bill to permit stations to censor speeches of minority parties...

The president of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America, Ed Kuykendall, asked nine thousand motion picture houses throughout the country not to delete any part of newsreels showing the government's plans for defense. After Secretary of Navy Edison made remarks about "treason", in the House, and the leaders of the union told them that to remain on strike was to slow up the government's defense program, ship-building workers of Kearny, N. J., returned to work.

The conscription plan proposed by the Military Camps Training Association has been "favorably received in Washington"... And Bertrand Russell, former pacifist, has recanted and says he would fight now if he were not too old. War Department News is to be censored at the source.

Colonel Louis Johnson, Assistant Secretary of War, says that Germany is better off in the war than the allies because she is "mobilized on the industrial front". He says we can do the same in this country. Perhaps he was thinking of the auto union organizers who were arrested in Dearborn for violating a city ordinance against giving out handbills. Or he might have been thinking of the Eitel restaurant chain in Chicago that dismissed all foreign-born workers not naturalized. Or he might have been thinking — fill your own ticket... But as we go to press Canada joins the U. S. in celebrating Magna Carta Day. Where is Magna Carta? This document itself is on show at the New York World's Fair. The contents are scattered to the winds.

HAVE YOU READ?

**THE IMPERIALIST WAR
SHALL WORKERS SUPPORT A
LABOR PARTY?
FIGHT AGAINST THE ROOSEVELT
WAR PLANS
THE WORKERS ANSWER TO
BOSS WAR
ORDER YOUR COPIES NOW
5 cents each**

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**WHY A GERMAN IMPERIALIST
 VICTORY OVER FRANCE**

The onmarch of the Nazi blitzkrieg which has now rolled into Paris and forced France to surrender has raised the entire question of military strategy and tactics to the point where all the military big-wigs are trying to figure out how to combat the German lightning war of movement.

The Anglo-French and American militarists are attempting to determine how to perfect their military machine to counter-attack against Germany. They therefore have to pose the question of the economic-military base of the German war machine.

Some of the economic and military aspects of the German war machine merely reflect the status of German Imperialism. Hitler inherited the second highest national economic unit in the world. Only United States surpassed it. It was the Young and Dawes Plan and the "Americanization of German economy that reorganized this productive apparatus while the Anglo-French economic structures lagged. This economic structure, in spite of its deep internal decay, was utilized negatively by Fascism, not to "organize production" but to organize destruction — war production.

GERMANY PERFECTED STRATEGY

In military strategy Germany learned from the Spanish and Polish campaign; while England and France seem to have learned nothing from these valuable lessons. In fact the embryo of Hitler's main military strategy was taken from the Spanish campaign. The tank, the airplane, the machine drive that replaces the infantry attack, and the complete coordination of all arms of warfare under one central command for each action was merely worked out on a grand scale in Belgium, Holland and France. It was tried in Spain, improved in Poland, perfected in the low countries and used to the fullest extent against France. Add to this the effective use by Germany of that section of the exploiters (the fifth column) that realize the proletarian revolution can be smashed only by Fascism — therefore eliminate the outgrown structure of bourgeois democracy before the workers do.

But in reality this is only part of the problem. The basic question is: How does it happen that Fascist Germany — being as it is one of the most bankrupt links in the chain of rotting capitalist economy — is able to organize such a military machine? The answer lies precisely in the internal nature and purpose of the Fascist regime, i. e., Fascism is the most **barbaric**, the most **oppressive**, and brutal form of capitalist dictatorship; precisely because of its brutal oppression of the toilers and its organization of a decaying economy on the basis of **scarcity and want** — in brief, its rule of **BRUTAL DICTATORSHIP AND ORGANIZED STARVATION** — is it able to mobilize its forces, utilize tremendous sections of its productive machine for purposes of military **DESTRUCTION** and pass the whole tremendous burden onto the backs of the exploited and oppressed workers and toilers.

FASCISM IS KEY TO STRATEGY

This is the **MAIN** reason why Germany is able to launch such a vicious military machine of destruction. And that is why all talk on the part of the Anglo-French and American militarists that all they have to do is perfect their military strategy only scratches the surface of their real problem and intention.

In reality, the other imperialists must match the Fascist dictatorship, oppression and organized starvation by precisely the **same method** in their own lands — they

must also intensify the exploitation of the workers, further smash the democratic rights of the toilers, increase and "perfect" their own capitalist dictatorship by either an open military or Fascist dictatorship. In brief, they must — and that is what they are moving to do — also move toward **ORGANIZED STARVATION**, more brutal dictatorship and oppression if they are to perfect their military plans against Germany.

All their talk about "democracy and freedom against Fascism" is therefore so much cover-up: To match German **BARBARISM** with greater **BARBARISM** on their own part; to surpass German **OPPRESSION** of the toilers with greater **OPPRESSION** of their own workers; to equal German **DESTRUCTION AND DEATH** with more **DESTRUCTION AND DEATH!** These are the real aims of the Anglo-French and American imperialists.

Yes, the workers are for the defeat of Fascist dictatorship and organized starvation. But not by the methods of the "democratic" imperialists of **duplicating** and "**perfecting**" Hitler's methods; not by the imperialist method of meeting **BARBARISM** with **BARBARISM** at the expense of the toilers, but by struggling against **ALL** the imperialists and the oppression, dictatorships and war; that is the workers answer.

**FIGHT FASCISM BY FIGHTING CAPITALISM!
 DEFEND ONLY THE WORKERS RIGHTS AND INTERESTS!**

DOWN WITH THE WAR AIMS OF THE BOURGEOISIE!

TURN THE WAR FOR PROFITS INTO A WAR AGAINST THE PROFIT SYSTEM!

June 18, 1940.

**GERMAN VICTORY IN FRANCE
 GIVES PUSH TO U.S. WAR MOVE**

(Continued from page 1)

AMERICA PREPARES FOR WAR

a—Military,— over 6 billion dollars has already been decreed for the army, navy and air force in this budget. Very likely another 3 or 4 billion will also be added piecemeal.

b—Economic — Uncle Sam is forcing all the American nations, including Canada, into a giant cartel dependent on Wall Street. Henceforth in dealing with the Latin-American nations a third power will have to deal directly with the United States. The eventual goal of all this, according to commander in chief of the U. S. Army, Marshall, is the actual establishment of one unified political state in the Western Hemisphere. America's dream of empire thus begins with gobbling up of her "good neighbors".

c—Internally, the Roosevelt regime is hastening to take measures to reduce the American labor movement to the same status it enjoyed in Europe. New contracts for ships specify that by agreement with the president the 40 hour week and the 40 cent minimum hourly pay can be suspended. With the aid of CIO vice-president Hillman on the Defense Board and AFL Teamsters leader, Tobin, on one of the sub-committees, labor is being stopped from taking any action against the war moves.

BRITISH EMPIRE DOOMED

5—The economic antagonism between Britain and the United States is still the most intense imperialist antagonism on earth. But the political blows by Uncle Sam and the military blows by Germany are reducing the British kingdom slowly to impotence. No matter what happens now the day of the high and haughty British Empire is now over. If that Empire exists at all — if the social revolution fails — and that's

not our belief — it will now become — as a result of the war — either subordinate to the American Empire, or the German Empire.

6—The biggest victor, of course, in the present campaign is Germany. At a relatively small loss of men and materials (compared to the last war) she has achieved military domination of the mainland of Europe leading to her big goal — **consolidation** of Europe — but to achieve this will not be so simple. But American Imperialism also has made some gains out of the defeat of France. The first big gain is the consolidation of its rule of the Western Hemisphere, including the British Dominion, Canada. Secondly, America is ready — by Congressional resolution, to physically take over French possessions in the West.

7—The one immediate danger to the Nazi push is the present developments in France internally. Reports indicate tremendous mutinies and desertions in the French army. Rumors of "riots" are current in the radio reports of what is going on in France. There is a very strong possibility that before Hitler can consolidate his rule over conquered France, the French workers and soldiers will rise in organized revolt — a factor which will be more effective (even though it has less arms) against the Nazi onslaught than the stupid blunderings of the French bourgeois general staff. Such an event and its inevitable spread into the German army will check the imperialist war immediately.

The French bourgeoisie, or even part of it, may yet decide to continue resistance from Africa, should the terms of armistice be too severe. The divisions in the ranks of the French bourgeoisie at this moment are most favorable even for the proletarian revolution in that country.

June 18, 1940 —

COMMUNE IS ONLY ROAD FOR FRENCH WORKERS

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italism. This is an epoch of wars and revolutions. France and England, instead of drawing heavily on their colonials, have rather been forced to maintain large standing armies in the Near East, India, and Africa to prevent national revolutionary movements from breaking out in all their strength.

It is variously estimated that Britain and France are unwilling to use more than one colonial troop to each four of the home troops, otherwise they would be faced with constant national mutinies in the army.

One more deadly parallel remains for history to enact.

FRANCE WEAK LINK

When the war started last September, we stated that France was one of weakest links of the capitalist chain, just as Russia was in the last war. The deep-seated unrest and militancy in France, which was brewing toward revolutionary upheaval before the outbreak of the war, is now again coming to the surface.

The crisis in the French government, the resignation of Reynaud, indicate that the masses are greatly dissatisfied. Should France sign a separate peace, the masses will still have an opportunity. Before the Nazi butchers can consolidate the totalitarian regime over France the revolution will yet break out.

The French worker already sees clearly how the French bourgeoisie places property relations and profits ever higher than patriotism. Besides the rise of prices, besides the sale of war goods to the German conqueror (even today we venture to say) the French bourgeoisie handed over the great factories of Paris without even blowing them up or rendering them useless. They would rather that the Germans used the means of production to build more tanks and planes to slaughter French soldiers, than destroy their profits and wealth.

One master goes, a new one comes. And the worker continues to be driven for the profit system. Of this stuff are revolutions made!

Workers of France — in this hour of crisis raise high the banner of the Commune of 1871!

Anti-Labor Drive

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National Labor Relations Act, the Walsh-Healy Act, etc.

Interestingly only big bosses, who see bigger profits ahead with these laws nullified, have awakened to the danger confronting national defense if the laws continue. There is no doubt that the laws will be suspended in the name of patriotic duty. What the workers have gained in the last 8 years on the picket-line is to be taken from them in the name of "patriotism".

Every step taken is justified in the name of national defense. Nevertheless every single step is a drive against the rights of the working class. The workers must guard their rights jealously, expecting only attacks from the capitalist government — expecting only sell-outs from the Lewis leadership, represented on the War Board by Hillman, and the Green leadership. The workers must stand on their own feet, and must prepare for a sharp battle in defense of their interests.

WORKERS VOTE CANDIDATES BLAST WAR PLANS

COWAN OPPOSES CITY COUNCIL CN MILITARISM BILL

In answer to the plans of the Cleveland city administration to prepare Cleveland for "national defense", C. B. Cowan, Presidential Candidate of the Revolutionary Workers League, stated in the chambers of the sub-committee dealing with this point, June 7th, that the "only real defense needed by the American people is against the enemy at home" and that that "defense could be achieved by the ARMING OF THE PEOPLE on those principles of class defense".

Comrade Cowan emphasized the arming of the trade unions under rank and file control. In more than an hour of questioning and questioning Cowan made it clear that the "fifth column" talk is merely a subterfuge to be used against the organized labor movement.

In answer to his talk the committee tried to smear Cowan by adverting his police record, a record of frame-ups against this working class leader for his activity in the class struggle, dating all the way back from the time he was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps after the last World War.

The City Fathers were trying quietly to push through legislation to "prepare young men for trades for the building of (war) equipment; to get roads in shape; to contact Washington to get cooperation in training volunteers for home defense".

FOR REAL AID TO YOUTH

"If the City fathers and Mr. Koch (representative of the Army and Navy Union, Veteran of Foreign Wars, etc.) were really interested in the welfare of the youth of this city", Cowan stated, "they would be doing something about it now and here by stopping the vicious practices of the city in denying relief to these young men and their families".

The whole rotten "defense" scheme in Cleveland was denounced as part of the attempt by American Imperialism to take over new colonies and spheres of influence for the "economic and industrial interests who would benefit by the seizure of these possessions". These same interests Cowan continued, were behind the present city ordinance in order to reap the great profits that would result.

WAREHOUSES LOADED WITH FOOD --- BUT JOBLESS STILL STARVING

Unemployed workers please note —

The bourgeois press brags about the fact that there were on May 1st in this country in storage:

- 3 1/2 million bushels of apples,
- 76 million pounds of frozen fruits,
- 50 million pounds of frozen vegetables,
- 78 million pounds of cheese,
- 5 1/2 million cases of eggs,
- 87 million pounds of frozen poultry,
- 9 1/2 million pounds of butter,
- 62 million pounds of beef,
- 207 million pounds of evaporated milk,
- 614 million pounds of pork.

All this and much more is being kept in storage for war purposes, even though millions of people are starving now! In other words the bourgeoisie which is unwilling to feed you in peace time is more than willing to give you one good last meal while you're dying on the battlefields!

WILLIS ATTACKS BOSS-NEGRO WAR MONGERING

By ALLAN WILLIS, Vice-Presidential Candidate Workers Vote Platform

Nothing is more disgusting than to find among the slaves and the oppressed those who identify themselves with their masters' interests and attempt to fool their brothers into believing that the master's whip is not as cruel as it feels. Two articles appearing in last week's "Crisis" have revealed to us that there are such people among the Negro leaders, who can write such eloquent and unconvincing tripe in defense of British and French imperialism. These members of the educated Negro middle class are playing a reactionary role among the Negro workers by glossing over, minimizing and ignoring the necessary oppressive and sadistic nature of imperialism and at the same time embellishing and magnifying its dubious benefits to gain sympathy and support for British and French imperialism.

"DEMOCRATIC" POWERS BETRAY NEGRO

History stands to prove that the imperialism of the above mentioned countries, (and all the rest) is written in blood of hundreds of thousands of African Natives. Forced labor, decimation of whole sections of the population, murder, mutilation and castigation has been the common method of ruling the African natives for the last hundred years before Hitler transplanted it to Germany.

But in spite of this incriminating evidence, the League of Nations report, etc., we are told by these eminent gentlemen that imperialism has certain compensating features in that it educates and provides for health measures.

A less scholarly but more objective probing into the colonial question would have revealed to these men that education begins and ends in the colonies as far as it is profitable to imperialism. It has been said by an Englishman writing of African education that it would take about 2,000 years to have universal education in Africa at the speed it is proceeding now.

FIVE FOR FRANCE CLUBS

Why this sudden love for France and England by sections of the Negro "educational" middle class? Why the formation of "Five for France" Clubs among Negro University students when so many Negro sharecroppers could use that Five? These are the questions that every Negro worker and farmer should ask and think about.

With the jingoist beating of the war drums and hired and un-dred agents of capitalism burning the midnight oil to fabricate the reason why we should enter the war, this support of certain sections of the Negro leaders, whether pre-planned or not, fits in like a jig saw piece with the plans of the capitalist war-mongers.

The main enemy of the Negro workers, like that of the white workers is here in the U. States. The capitalists who exploit the Negroes in the factories along with the whites; the landlords that charge 40% of the miserable wages of the Negroes for rent, segregating them into vermin infested areas; the capitalist politicians who defend lynching, etc. — these are the enemies of the Negro people — right here at home!

We cannot defeat Hitler and Hitlerism until we defeat his plutocratic brothers here in the United States!

Virginia Teachers Fight For Equal Pay

Norfolk, Va., June 16.—For an unconscionably long time it has been the practice of the Virginia school boards to discriminate against the Negro teachers and to pay them much less than the white teachers for the same work, in very many cases setting the minimum pay for the white teachers as the maximum for the Negroes.

Some months ago Melvin O. Alston, Negro teacher of this city, with the assistance of the NAACP, applied to the Eastern District Court of the United States for a writ of mandamus, seeking to compel the local school board to grant him the same pay as white teachers in a similar position. Judge Luther B. Way refused the writ as a matter of law, overruling the constitutional arguments of Mr. Alston's attorneys. With characteristic legal covering-up of the real issues Hizzorer blandly stated that it was all a question of "freedom of contract".

Alston had "voluntarily" made a contract with the Norfolk School Board for a lower rate of pay, and the school board had a legal right to make as many contracts with separate individuals as it chose! Though he did not state it in so many words, the "learned jurist" clearly implied that the Negro intellect, the same as any other section of the proletariat, had the glorious American right to take what the bosses offer or starve.

LEGAL APPEAL NOT ADEQUATE

The NAACP appealed the case for Alston to the US Circuit Court of Appeals and argument was had on June 14 at Asheville, N. C. The case was argued for Alston by Thurgood Marshall of New York City and William H. Hastie, of Washington. They reiterated the position that the action of the school board constituted an arbitrary and unreason-

able discrimination based on difference of race and color, and particularly that it was a violation of the "equal rights" clause of the 14th amendment to the US constitution. The circuit court has not yet decided the issue, and, in any event, it is certain that the issue will be taken to the US Supreme Court by one side or the other.

This case has also had repercussions elsewhere. In Richmond a local committee of Negroes called on the Superintendent of the School Board and demanded that he fulfill a previous promise to the effect that when the next vacancy of principal occurred in a Negro school, that a Negro would be appointed. When the Supt. hedged, he was told by one of the members of the committee that his promises were like Hitler's. This infuriated the Supt., who said that he was getting very tired of the whole thing.

FIGHTING ISSUE FOR UNITY

This campaign for "equal pay for equal work" is a splendid fighting issue. Behind it can be rallied not only large Negro masses, but also white workers, and even liberals. But to confine the fight to the capitalist courts, as has been done up to now, is to fight the Bourbons on their own ground, and can only result in certain defeat. The initial stages of the Scottsboro fight showed that any fight of this nature can only be won by mass pressure. If the fight is to be won, several things are necessary.

First, it is necessary that the Negro and white teachers organize into unions and conduct a fight for equalization of pay and conditions, against all discriminations, and for a raising of the standards of all teachers, which, as can be imagined, are very low for both.

Second, the general labor movement must be aroused to the historical significance of this fight

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Third, after the leadership of the workers, which will be a consistent and fighting leadership, has been established, it will be possible to enlist the support of the Negro petty bourgeoisie and the white liberals.

The Richmond unit of the RWL is establishing contact with unions of Negro workers and various individuals of Richmond, Washington, Petersburg, and Norfolk, and expects to call a protest meeting in the very near future. Watch the columns of the "Fighting Worker" for further announcements.

Tobacco Workers Win Partial Victory

Richmond, Va., June 16. — The six weeks strike and "lock-out" affecting about 2200 workers at P. Lorillard Tobacco Co., terminated here on Tuesday, June 4, with a settlement that was nominally a victory for the workers, but which was actually fraught with grave dangers for the future. The Cigar Makers International Union was recognized by the employers as bargaining agency for workers, but to date although two meetings of the union have been held since the settlement was negotiated, the rank and file are still very much in the dark as to details of the settlement.

A shop committee has not yet been named, nor has it been made public whether the agreement contains clauses giving the workers the right to strike in case of breach of contract. The ten per cent cut in pay, which was the proximate cause of the recent strike, was not restored, a compromise of a nominal increase of five per cent being granted. What real gains the workers have made as a result of the strike cannot at this point be assessed, due to the general air of mystery shrouding the details of the agreement.

NEGRO - WHITE UNITY

This much can be said, however. The greatest stride forward evident at this juncture, is the militant and progressive spirit manifested from the onset of the strike, by both Negro and white workers, and the cooperative spirit of both races who buried prejudices in the efforts to win the strike. The union at present embraces more than eighty per cent of the workers, and negotiations are still in progress to make this a closed shop.

The chief hitch in closing the agreement lies in the fact that the New Jersey shop, which was one of four connected with the present disagreement, has voted against accepting the settlement as proposed. The other three, including the Richmond shop, have voted favorably.

What may be the final outcome cannot yet be stated with any degree of certainty. The spirit of the local workers is aroused, however, and strong gains have been made in a general attitude of progressiveness, and the refusal of the rank and file to compromise. Further developments will be reported fully in the columns of the Fighting Worker.