

THE FIGHTING WORKER

Vol. 6, No. 12, Whole No. 73

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 1941

Labor Donated Price: 1 Cent

Lindbergh and Isolationists Conceal Menace to Workers

How Not To Defend the U.S.S.R.

Question: Since the democracies are aiding the Soviet Union in its struggle with Fascism, should we support the American and British armament program?

Answer: A proper understanding of this problem throws light on our whole struggle against the imperialist war machine. The Stalinists are for giving such support to the "democracies." But we oppose the "democracies" as well as the fascism of Germany and Italy.

WHICH ROAD?

Which is more to the interest of the working class: support of the Soviet Union by support of the American and British imperialists or an unrelenting working class struggle against British and American imperialism?

In order to answer, we have only to understand that there is NO FUNDAMENTAL CLASS DIFFERENCE between capitalist democracy and capitalist fascism. Both have need for an imperialist war machine, for the crushing of the workers' militancy, for the lowering of the workers' standard of living. One resorts to direct and immediate terrorism; the other combines bribery and corruption of the labor "leaders" (the Bill Greens, the Phil Murrays, the Lewises and the Tobins) with the method of terrorism. Under fascism the working class is crushed; under capitalist democracy the bosses still have this task before them.

But both have the same objective results for the working class: to regiment the wage worker into support of the imperialist war

which makes him a slave.

Both have the same irreconcilable opposition to the Soviet Union — to the land where the workers once took the means of production away from the bosses and abolished production for profit. Seventeen years of Stalinist domination have not sufficed to obliterate that basic trait of Soviet economy.

SHALL WE ACCEPT AID?

But can't we make use of the "democracies" in the struggle to save the Soviets? Certainly we can, but on what basis? Not on the assumption that the "democracies" constitute a united front against fascism. Put it this way for simplicity:

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There is a lot of free advice nowadays from reactionaries of the stripe of Hearst, McCormick, and Lindbergh, and liberals like Wheeler, about how to fight the war-mongers.

In reality, these would-be champions of the people against war are pulling just as clever a swindle on the American people as the Roosevelt-Willkie doublecross was. They are only against participating at the moment in the present war as an "ally" of Britain. They are all for national defense and national unity, for maintaining and perpetuating the system of exploitation.

Tomorrow we will see them turning up as crusaders for a war that will suit their own special capitalist interests: in fact, 99.9 percent of them will become rabid flag-wavers as soon as the U.S.

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Closed Shop Closes Door on Militants

We have noted before the progress the SWOC is making in the way of closed shop contracts with the steel industry. This development is paralleled in the auto industry by the recent Ford agreement, and is being rapidly extended in other industries.

It is worth while to examine the conversion of the Weirs and other steel men to the closed shop. The recognition of the SWOC as exclusive bargaining agency for a plant guarantees negotiations with Phil Murray and his boys. And the current drive for the check-off as an attendant of the

closed shop reveals the beauty of the system — for the bosses. The check-off agreement which the worker signs as an instruction to the company authorizes deduction of dues and initiation fee from his wages — to be sent to PITTSBURGH.

NO LOCAL AUTONOMY

This means that the union local is deprived of all autonomy. If all local income is dependent on the will of the SWOC office in Pittsburgh, then Murray has absolute control of all local policy. No local can declare a strike with-

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Taxes, Taxes, Taxes...

Food is taxed — by state sales taxes and new federal taxes.

Movies are taxed.

Cigarettes are taxed.

Clothing is taxed.

A bill was introduced into Congress to tax earnings five percent weekly. The object is to raise this tax gradually — as in England where the income tax, now amounting to 20 percent of weekly earnings, began at five percent.

Income taxes are now paid by workers earning as low as \$15 weekly (\$800 yearly).

SACRIFICE

To finance the War Program, the Roosevelt administration is resorting to enormous taxation of the entire mass of the population.

The Administration has figured out that total expenditures of the masses on the necessities of life must be cut at least 15 billion dollars yearly — this is called sacrifice — so that this 15 billions can be used for munitions and other war materials.

We can therefore look forward to inevitable struggle of the tax-burdened masses against government taxation.

REVOLTS AGAINST TAXATION

Mass struggles are directly occasioned by the breakdown of the economic system, by the increased exploitation and oppression of the masses. Taxation as a common burden imposed on workers, farmers, middle classes, is a centralizing, immediate grievance. The simple struggle against taxation sets off the whole smouldering inferno and becomes a lever to social revolt.

The American revolution of 1776 began under the slogan of a struggle against taxation. Remember: **"Down with the stamp tax!"**

"Down with the tea tax!" "No taxation without representation!"

The Russian Revolution of 1917 arose from starvation of the masses. Vastly increased taxation imposed by the Czar in the name of national defense, helped bring

the struggle to a head.

Struggles against taxation colored early revolts: the uprising in Naples, Italy, in 1767, was the consequence of a tax imposed on figs, then a chief item. In Milan the revolt was against the huge stamp tax. In Holland a revolt broke out against the tax impost on fish.

REVOLT IN ENGLAND

In England, every Revolution has featured the struggle against taxation: Wat Tyler's movement began as a struggle against the poll tax. The revolt of Jack Cade began as a protest against excessive taxes on food. The revolution of 1649 was brought on by the struggle against the tax collectors.

Likewise in France in 1789.

But the ruling classes of all countries continue to tax the population to pay for the war.

The rulers of America are no exception. They are following in the footsteps of Charles I of England, of Louis XVI of France, of Czar Nicholas Romanov of Russia, of all the doomed exploiting classes the world has ever seen.

Taxes, taxes, taxes,— today.

Revolution, revolution, revolution — tomorrow.

History repeats itself. Let the workers learn from history.

N.Y.A. UNION

The organization of the young workers of New York into the National Youth Administration Worker's Union shows the effect of the boss' preparations for entry into the imperialist war.

The youth demand a minimum of \$12 a week, the expansion of the N.Y.A. program, the establishment of an N.Y.A. council to be elected from the shops to discuss their problems with the administrators,— and as a basis for these demands they PLEDGE FULL SUPPORT TO THE "NATIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAM."

The N.Y.A. youth do not see

On Army Morale

(We publish below excerpts from a letter just received.—Ed.)

Camp Grant, Ill.

Aug. 27, 1941.

Dear comrade Editor:

A few weeks ago I came from a job as "production soldier in America's first line of defense" into training as a destruction soldier in the first line of offense. The more I see of our post, the more I feel that what we need is a strong union of rank and file soldiers...

Here there is no pretense of preparing for peace. Everything makes it plain that we are preparing for war. One of the worst things is the inefficiency of our big shots. We have to make up our own full field packs, but a private is always detailed to make up the officer's pack. And its not only for his convenience. They dont know how! But they do know how to inspect our packs and give us a week's KP for having a tent peg missing...

MORALE

We are having morale instilled into us. Now this morale is a curious thing. One would expect to be told about democracy, etc. But the first thing the recruit learns is that democracy means mobrule. What we really want is military discipline. The soldier must be made an absolutely brainless machine: **OBEY**. The moral comes in in making us like it. In no other way can the worker in uniform be trained to shoot and to bayonet his class-brothers on a picket line.

that this program was created as part of the war drive and as a step to the army.

Capitalism in decay cannot supply peace and plenty for youth in development.

For a new YOUTH ORGANIZATION to lead youth in its struggles!

For a workers council government that can supply youth with a life of peace, plenty, and opportunity!

The Fighting Worker

Central Organ of the
**REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS
 LEAGUE, U. S.**

(Affiliated to the Provisional
**INTERNATIONAL CONTACT
 COMMISSION**

**For a New Communist (4th
 International)**

Subscription \$1.00 per year

Published weekly by

DEMOS PRESS

Office

**708 N. Clark St.
 Chicago, Ill.**

CLOSED SHOP

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out Murray's OK. The outlaw strike will simply be starved to death.

Moreover the closed shop plus check-off guarantees the company against having to bargain with rank-and-file revolt. The absolute dictatorship of Murray, Bittner and their allies will be consolidated. Murray has made clear his support of the Roosevelt war machine. When the steel workers eventually realize clearly that Murray's role is to make them loyal cannon-fodder for imperialist war, they will revolt. And then the closed shop and the check-off will serve the interests of the bosses by leaving the militant workers to the mercy of unemployment.

RANK AND FILE CONTROL

The workers in the SWOC must understand this clearly. They **must fight tooth and nail for local autonomy and for their own elected leadership. The SWOC leadership was imposed from on top. Theoretically the Organizing Committee gives way to a regular Union next year. It is against this threat that Murray is preparing.**

Every worker must fight against the check-off. We are for a closed shop, certainly — but a closed shop under rank-and-file control. We want dues collected by our stewards, elected from our rank-and-file. Only a progressive group organized for action can gain our demands.

JUST OFF THE PRESS

The Nazi Invasion of the Soviet Union

5 CENTS EACH

SOVIET UNION

(Continued from page 1)

Two rival corporations are cutting each others' throats in ruthless competition for a limited market. Suddenly the workers in one corporation go on strike. For a time it serves the interests of the other corporation to aid that strike. But for how long? And at what price? The workers take the aid of the rival corporation, but they do not support that corporation. If the bosses of the plant on strike knuckle under to their competitors then a joint front against the workers of both plants is established. And the strategy of the strike is essentially the correct strategy for defense of the Soviets. The main task is to get the support of the WORKERS in the rival plant. If support by the rival bosses becomes the key strategy then the bosses gain control of the union.

Even The Children Shall Sacrifice

Chicago, Sept. 2 — A big surprise awaited some 438,610 school children when 454 high and elementary schools opened this fall. The old 10-cent plate, for many their only substantial daily meal, has vanished from the lunchroom counter. Milk, too, has risen in price.

Frank O. Washam, director of lunchrooms, tells us that this increase is due to the higher cost of foods that the school board will have to pay this September.

The children will be forced to pay more for food inferior in quality — some of the better foods will be entirely eliminated from the school menu. They will be forced, instead of having a half decent meal, to bring along dry sandwiches.

Yes, in Hitler's Germany, too, the "National Defense" Program sacrifices the health and well-being of future generations.

«DEFENCE» DAY

The following is part of a leaflet issued by the Chicago City Committee of the R.W.L.

In the heart of the midwest, Chicago, Mayor Kelly has set September 10th, as "Chicago Defense Day". Factory whistles are to blow, "Paul Revere" squads will distribute leaflets, women's "telephone corps" and caravans are to march to the Coliseum, where a mass meeting is to be held, men in Uncle Sam costumes are to read a proclamation throughout the city, and the army, navy and air corps will have a little parade.

Mayor Kelly is laying it on thick for the "defense of democracy". (Mayor Kelly is the same democratic gentleman whose police KILLED 11 steel workers in the infamous Memorial Day Massacre in 1937, by shooting them in the back.

Mayor Kelly is the same democratic Mayor who permits the most outrageous robbing of Negroes on the South Side in the biggest rent swindle of our times; the same Mayor who permits the Rockefellers (who control the University of Chicago) and others to keep Negroes enclosed in a filthy, vile, unsanitary ghetto; the same Mayor who refuses to enforce the Chicago sanitation laws when they affect Negro workers for poor whites).

Workers of Chicago: When "Paul Revere" raps at your door, telling you the Nazis are coming, tell him you have your own Nazis right here: your bosses and their politicians, the Kelly-Nash machine and its gangster alliance.

Fight the wave of brass bands organized to drown out the moans of tomorrow's cannon fodder.

Rip the mask off this Chicago gargoye. Expose Kelly and his tie-up with Roosevelt, agents of Wall Street imperialism.

CHICAGO MEETINGS

**League Speakers every Saturday night at 8 P. M.
 Plebian Forum:
 34 South Peoria**

ISOLATIONISTS

(Continued from page 1)

enters the present war. They say so themselves.

CAUSE OF WAR

Ask these "anti-war" patriots what is the **cause** of war? Are they willing to fight capitalist war at its source? That is the crux of the problem. War is the result of imperialist and commercial rivalry for markets, profits, spheres of investment. The leading imperialist powers are attempting to re-divide the world to suit their own interests. The U. S. is just as guilty of this as is Germany.

Unfortunately, capitalist education and propaganda have led many sincere workers to believe that war is something separate from capitalism, caused by "evil" men. But the truth is that as long as we have wage exploitation and production for profits we will be cursed with, unemployment depressions, misery and **war** for the masses.

To fight war, to keep out of the imperialist slaughter, we must do away with the **cause of war** — capitalism.

One cannot fight fascism and also defend capitalism which gives birth to fascism.

One cannot fight war and also defend the system of exploitation.

One cannot keep America out of war by defending capitalist property relations in America.

ISOLATIONISM A SNARE

The pacifist and isolationist road is a snare for the working class. The workers' fight against war is first and foremost a fight against capitalism, for higher wages, better working conditions, more workers' rights. Not national unity with the boss class, but working class unity against the bosses. To really fight fascism and war abroad we must first fight our own boss class and its agents at home.

**For Democratic Rights — For the
Right to Organize, Strike
and Picket**

Who Is For Negotiated Peace ?

In his Labor Day speech, Roosevelt once again rejected any idea of a negotiated peace.

The Axis powers have tried on more than one occasion to obtain a negotiated peace that would leave intact all they have won, especially domination over Europe, even though the smaller countries might be given "independence". This would give Germany a breathing spell for her next military adventure toward Asia. Her most spectacular "peace offer" through Hess, against the Soviet Union, which would leave the crumbling British Empire a semblance of its former self, was rejected, primarily due to the pressure of American imperialism.

NEW TRY

Now another propaganda campaign is under way for a negotiated peace between the Axis and the U.S.-British forces before winter, especially due to the difficulties Hitler has encountered in the invasion of the Soviet Union and the prospects of a long winter campaign. The question of a Finland-Soviet Peace, although important, is a side issue. Such a peace, even if accomplished in no way insures or points to a negotiated peace before winter among the imperialists.

In England there is quite a large crowd of reactionaries, of whom Lord Halifax is one, who would agree to a negotiated peace. They fear American imperialism as well as the social-revolution and want to save something out of the Empire. In the United States there is a small but growing force for a negotiated peace. Lindbergh, Wheeler and others of the America First Committee are among its proponents. The reactionaries who have not lined up with Roosevelt are for it. It goes without saying that all under cover fascist agents pull in this direction.

SOCIALIST EXCUSES

For different reasons, many

"left" socialists and liberals (and the Stalinites too before the Nazi invasion changed their line), advocate a negotiated peace. Norman Thomas and the British Independent Labor Party even have "socialist" reasons for their position.

To think that anything can be settled by a negotiated peace between the Anglo-American and the Axis imperialists is naive innocence. To support "national defense" against "invasion" as the socialists and liberals do, and at the same time talk against participation in the war and for "peace" through socialism (how?), is sheer stupidity if not worse.

CAPITALIST "PEACE" AGAINST WORKERS

Under present conditions, Wall Street and Roosevelt will fight bitterly against any attempt at negotiated peace. They want the war to continue, they want to see Hitler defeated, and England, Russia and Japan exhausted, so that the US can step in and take over.

But if social revolution breaks out in Europe this winter a negotiated peace will become far more likely. All the imperialist robbers fear the workers revolt for more than they fear each other.

The working class of Europe and America want peace from the imperialist slaughter. But "peace" negotiated by the exploiters is not peace — it is a breathing spell to a greater blood-bath of the population.

Peace can be won, but not so long as we have imperialist rule. A real lasting peace can be had only by turning the imperialist war into a civil war, by the social revolution to eliminate the **cause** of war — capitalism, and its exploitation of man by man.

**For the Unification of all Trade
Unions on a Class Struggle Policy
with Industrial Structure**