

The Fighting Worker

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Workers of
The World
Unite!

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AKRON WORKERS FIGHT RUBBER BARONS

The combined strike and lockout of more than forty thousand Akron rubber workers in the Firestone, Goodyear, Goodrich and General Tire and Rubber companies has driven home new lessons for the workers in this period. Chief among these lessons are the three major points which the RWL has long pointed out, namely; 1. The Truman administration moves rapidly to the right of the more demagogic regime of Franklin Roosevelt into a cruder, more open and vicious attack on the working class. 2. Dependency upon the policies and leadership of "left" demagogues like Walter Reuther in the UAW-CIO and Wheeler and Watson in the URW-CIO has the same end result for the rank and file as does dependency upon the policy and leadership of the R. J. Thomases and the Dalrymples — defeats for the workers through betrayal by their leaders. 3. Only an active and militant Rank and File leadership organized from among the workers in the shops and leading the workers struggles against the Truman administration war policies in every governmental board or agency and against the strategy of betrayal of their own leadership in the open reformist camp and the "left" camp of the "radical" demagogues, can assure victory.

On July 5th the U.S. Navy, acting under an executive order signed by President Truman, moved into the plants of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber company at Akron and "took over." The Naval officer in charge of this operation was one Captain Clark who was never a military man in the navy for purpose of battle but a former big business executive in civil life until the outbreak of the war, and who was assigned to the navy's strike-breaking organization known as the division of the special executive branch of the Navy for the settlement of labor disputes.

Captain Clark's first actions after seizure of the struck Goodyear plants was to prohibit picketing; order the strikers back to work under threat of loss of gas rationing allowances, withdrawal of draft deferment status, refusal of job referral cards, loss of unpaid two years' vacation pay and two years' premium pay already earned under an expired contract, etc.; he retained and pledged full cooperation with the same plant management existing before and during the strike; and he issued official statements saying that the navy would deal with management and the individual worker but refused to recognize Mr. Wheeler, president of Local No. 2 (Goodyear) of the URW-CIO or to recognize the union or to be at all concerned with the strikers' grievances.

Militant Leadership Needed

That the rank and file of the Goodyear workers understood the role of the Truman administration in using the navy to break their strike was proven at a membership meeting of the local where Wheeler, who had led a left reformist slate against the open social-patriotic slate of the Dalrymple crowd in the last Local elections, was booed and hissed by a vast majority of his

members when he made the following statements on the plant seizure: "We are now working for Uncle Sam. We will not defy the president of the United States. We will go back to work while our grievances are being processed. I will insist that these be settled forthwith. We union officers intend to have all grievances settled. You will get the justice you deserve. We will demand that we get back our night shift bonuses and vacation pay and we will also ask for a union shop. We will now go back to work. We have lost nothing and the union officers will continue to see that you lose nothing." It was unfortunate that the militant rank and file had failed to organize a leadership prior to this time as such a leadership would have been able to take over the meeting of the local then and there and continued the strike.

The situation in Local No. 7 (Firestone) of the UAW has developed a little later and a bit differently than the Goodyear matter but is heading in the same direction — defeat for the workers — unless they profit by the experience of the Goodyear strikers and establish, NOW, a militant rank and file leadership of the Firestone strike. Such a rank and file would need to oust Isaac Watson, local president who, like Wheeler of Goodyear, was elected on a "left" demagogic anti-Dalrymple slate; repudiate the policies of Watson and Wheeler and continue the strike regardless of what agency of the government took over or intervened until the demands of the strikers have been

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NEGRO MILITANT FORCED INTO ARMY

July 15, 1945—Allan Willis, militant Negro worker of Chicago and active member of the organized working class movement is now in the hands of the U.S. Army at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois. His family and friends do not know whether he is there as a member of the armed forces or as a prisoner of the military police as we go to press. And thereby hangs a tale of no little portent to the workers.

Allan Willis is over twenty-nine years of age — over the usual age now inducted into the armed forces. He has been under the care of various reliable physicians for serious and complicated allergies for a period dating back years prior to any selective service act. He has lived at the same address for several years and worked at the same place for an equal time. He has, to date fully met all legal requirements in relation to the selective service act and all instructions from his local draft board. But Willis is a known fighter for the rights and interests of the workers and the oppressed minorities — and Willis is a Negro. So the usual procedure in the process of induction was not followed in the case of Allan Willis. In their growing fear of the working class and their determination to destroy the workers organizations and leadership, the bosses of Chicago enlisted the aid of the local draft board, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Mar-

The American worker no longer has to be warned about the drastic layoffs to come. He feels the pinch getting tighter and tighter as war plants are closing, take-home pay is being cut, and prices of food and necessary commodities continually go up. The layoffs began in munitions plants manufacturing small arms and now even such plants as Ford's Willow Run has closed, put-

ALLIES' IRON-FIST POLICIES IN ACTION

July 13, 1945—The black claw of British and American Imperialism is rapidly reducing the people on the continent to abject slavery.

"Democracy" and "liberation" have become tragic farces that mean death, hunger, unemployment and disease throughout Allied Europe. The vindictive and profit-hungry policy of the Allies is not confined to Germany alone. It covers France, Italy, the low countries and every other spot occupied by Wall Street and London. The callousness of the Military Governments and advisors beggars description.

Dockers in Hamburg are being paid about 8c per hour. No more than five people may meet together at any one time in Allied Germany. Trade unions must be built on the Q. T., and illegally (in contrast to the Russian policy, incidentally, which attempts to channelize any underground activity by permitting Trade Unions and some political parties.) On May 26 the American

troops brutally broke up a meeting of 6,000 German workers organized to welcome home prisoners from Buchenwald. Food allotted to the people is below even a starvation level. The Allies are outdoing the Nazis in terror, hunger and brutality.

In France and Italy basic industry production is being kept at a level of only 15% of what it was under the Nazis. The Allies are releasing only pittances of coal for the big factories of these nations and the railroads and transportation systems generally are in utter chaos.

On or about the second of this July, Willis received a letter from the Chicago office of the FBI at his usual address stating that their office had been informed that he, Willis, had failed to appear before his local draft board for induction and requesting Willis to appear at their office. Willis went voluntarily and at once to the FBI where he was informed that his local board had sent him a letter to appear some weeks before. Willis told the FBI that he had received no such letter and would have appeared before the board in the event he had received such letter. He pointed out to the FBI the fact that he had, on several previous occasions, received letters from his board at the same address and had in every instance carried out their instructions. He pointed out that he had been at home every day since the alleged letter was mailed and had continued in his usual and known place of employment. He also pointed out that he was before the FBI in response to an ordinary letter voluntarily and would go to the draft board at once. The FBI said they

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Resentment Against Lay-offs Increase as Plants Close

2,000,000 unemployed by early August and 4,800,000 by the end of October. Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming warns that if victory over Japan comes suddenly the unemployment will be greater than the time of the "great depression." He estimates that one-third of the war workers will not find jobs in the same plants

WPB Chairman Krug foresees

Capitalist Anarchy

How is the government planning to take care of the millions of unemployed that will be walking the streets? Government plans for the coming period are conspicuous by their absence. No realistic well-formulated plans have been laid down. A few half-hearted moans over the deplorable situation facing the working class of America is all we hear from Washington.

This same "don't give a care" attitude is reflected when President Truman's weak proposal that the unemployed benefits be raised to \$25.00 a week. (The average benefits are from \$15.00 to \$18.00 weekly and in some states \$10.00 or less.) Chairman Doughton of the House Ways and Means Committee retorted, "I don't know when we'll take it up. We have a good many other things to do."

Strikes Increase

The American working class can't take this lying down. The workers are disregarding the no-strike pledge (which was forced on them by the labor fakers) and are taking to the picket lines in increasing numbers. The Labor Dept. Conciliation Service reported that the daily average of strikes had risen from 20 before V-E Day to about 40. In St. Louis 2700 workers were out on strike in a fuse plant, the rubber plants in Akron had 16,700 workers striking, 10,000 troops were sent to Chicago to take over the truck lines when the drivers went out on strike, etc. To mention the workers on strike all over the country would be a long, tedious report. The statistics aren't as important as the fact that strike sentiment is spreading like wildfire, sweeping the entire country in ever-increasing strength and momentum. These strike actions are an attempt on the part of the workers to fight against the obvious danger of the lowering of their living standards thru cut-backs and growing unemployment.

The Labor Dept. Conciliation Service was perplexed and perturbed over this situation and after an investigation came out with these reasons for the strikes: 1. Paychecks arrived late. 2. Lunchtime checker games prohibited. 3. War nerves. 4. Hot weather.

The Double Standard

It must have taken a tremendous amount of research and study to produce such answers that would evade the real issues so well! The resentment of the working class is not over the superfluous reasons of checker games being prohibited. The resentment of the worker has a real and well-founded basis. He resents the shutting down of plants and his being thrown out of work. He resents the reductions in pay that deprive him a living wage. He resents the fact that congress is

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British Iron Hand

The same picture is being repeated throughout Europe. Production has not yet really started up in France or Belgium or Holland. In the Low Countries even the pro-Allied ministers can not breathe without British permission. British forces are treating these nations as conquered territories, for all practical purposes. The resources of the "liberated" countries are being eaten up by Anglo-American troops,

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THE FIGHTING WORKER

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Programmatic Highlights

- 1—Against the imperialist war — a war for plunder, profit, markets and spheres of influence.
- 2—For the Proletarian Revolution which alone will end imperialist war and defeat fascism.
- 3—For a new Fourth (Communist) International. For a new Revolutionary Marxian Party in the United States.
- 4—Against a Labor Party and all other forms of Popular Frontism.
- 5—For independent working class action on the political and economic fields. For strike action now — including the sitdown strike — to gain better wages and working conditions. No faith in reformists and Labor fakers.
- 6—For full equality for the Negroes, Mexicans, Chinese, Japanese and all other oppressed minorities in the United States. Against Jim Crowism and Anti-Semitism.
- 7—For Workers Defense Squads in the Unions and elsewhere to defend the working class from the Fascist inroads of capitalism.
- 8—For full and unconditional independence for the Philippines, Virgin Islands, Porto Rico and all other territories of the United States, including those islands and areas now occupied by American military forces. For the right of self-determination for all colonies.
- 9—For the defense of the Soviet Union against World Imperialism and Stalinism. Extend the October Revolution. For a political revolution in Russia to reestablish Workers Democracy and continue toward Socialism.
- 10—For a Workers Council Government in the United States and all over the world.

BRITISH ELECTIONS EXPOSED

An Open Letter to All British Workers
On the Sham General Election.

June, 1945.

You are being asked to return a new Government from one of the two main parties, the Labour Party or the Tories. Both parties are determined to maintain capitalism. This they screen by lavish, lying promises of full employment, housing, pensions, independence for India and the Colonies and the abolition of imperialist wars. Although capitalism has exposed its inability to solve any social crisis, both parties have the audacity to ask for your mandate to continue the capitalist system. The main issue before the whole world today is whether or not capitalism should be abolished.

No party, barring one small "parliamentary reform" socialist party — certainly not the two main parties — has asked for a vote on this issue. Therefore the General Election is a SHAM. No matter who gets in, the workers will be swindled.

The Tories are completely identified with the defence of the privileges of "Big Business." The Labour Party, who in their 1929-31 government introduced such anti-working class legislation as the infamous "Means Test," ask to be returned on a programme of "Public Control." This is a deliberate trick to deceive the workers into believing that it means the overthrow of capitalism and the introduction of socialism. A Labour Government, because of its pseudo-reformist character, will inevitably carry out the dictates of "Big Business" as it did before, and, as its power to deceive grows less, it will conspire with the representatives of "Big Business" to pave the way for rule by terrorism — FASCISM.

We, a comparatively new working class organisation, cannot yet put candidates in the field. The only candidates we can endorse are workers who are free from the discipline of treacherous parties and who fully serve their class. But we must issue a warning! **SOCIALISM will not be achieved through parliament but through WORKERS COUNCILS OF ACTION in the factories, mines, shipyards etc., under the leadership of the workers own REVOLUTIONARY PARTY.**

Such a party we are building. We need your help. Start discussion groups at your place of work.

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS ASSOCIATION.

Yours fraternally,

Revolutionary Workers Association.

The Revolutionary Workers Association is the British Section of the International Contact Commission for the building of the New Communist (4th) International.

It is downright funny to see the British Trotskyists and Stalinists outdoing each other in kissing the boots of the British Labor Party. We have always contended that the

Trotskyites follow the gyrations of the Stalinists with scientific precision. Every time the C. P. sneezes the Trotskyites catch pneumonia. The elections in Britain, which mark an important shift to the left of working class opinion, offers an excellent illustration.

The slogan of the Stalinists is for a "Labor and Communist (i.e. Stalinist) Majority." The slogan of the Trotskyites is "Labor to Power." Since the Stalinists are only running candidates in one-thirtieth of the districts, the material result of both slogans is the same. Both favor the establishment of a "left" CAPITALIST government. The Trotskyites use some demagogic words about "support with criticism" but the end achieved is all the same, derailing of the workers energies from independent working class action and independent revolutionary politics into reformist channels.

C. I. U. C. Labor Fakers

The leadership of the Chicago Industrial Union Council introduced a resolution, to the mass meeting of CIO Stewards and local union officers on July 12, 1945, whose aim was quote: 'to assure the orderly transition during reconversion and a peaceful expanding post-war economy. They further advocated that these stewards and officers WRITE and BEG their congressmen to adopt the body of this resolution.'

This is a further attempt on the part of these phony, class collaborating, labor fakers to instil into the minds of the American Proletariat the false confidence, that all they have to do is to appeal to the good hearts of their Congressmen and Senators and all their problems will be solved. Past labor history has proven that the Capitalist Class only exceeds to the demands of the workers when, thru INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION, they THREATEN the power and economy of the ruling class. Then only concessions are granted.

These Misleaders of Labor attempt to hide the real nature of the existing decaying economy, by omitting the obvious tenant that Capitalism can have no further periods of expansion without Imperialist Expansion and Imperialist Exploitation. Their open support of the present Imperialist War in the above mentioned resolution and in their day to day actions in attempting to outlaw all strikes of the workers in war plants, proves that their deception to the workers is based on their loyalty to the Imperialist bosses whom they serve.

A real Working Class trade union leadership, must point out very clearly that the only REAL GUARANTEE for the working class of REAL POST-WAR SECURITY is in the complete overthrow of the decadent Capitalist economy and the establishment of Workers Control of Production for Use not Profit under a Workers Council Government.

Lessons of the Chicago Truckers Strike

The Chicago working-class certainly learned many valuable lessons in the recent Truckers Strike. We must examine the methods used by the bosses to break the strike in order to expose them and fight back in the future.

The use of the army as a strike-breaking force! For the first time in American labor history the army did not only intervene in a strike situation but also used the soldiery as the drivers and the Military Police as the armed guards.

The appointment of Longnecker, the part owner of a fleet of 1,700 trucks who is known for his anti-labor policies, as the director of the Office of Defense Transportation! During the strike he made a statement to the newspapers that he would like nothing better than to see every striking truck driver in the army working for him for fifty dollars a month.

The attitude of the War Labor Board in its refusal to recognize the justifiable grievances of the drivers for a 48 hour week instead of 51 hours and a five dollar raise in pay! When the drivers went out on strike the first time, the War Labor Board promised to do something about their grievances, if they would return to work. These workers, in good faith, returned only to be double-crossed. Nothing was done for them and they again went out on strike.

The use of the Draft Board as a threat against the striking drivers with immediate induction into the

army! The local Draft Boards inducted 37 drivers into the army in the course of the strike.

All these instances illustrate the complete collaboration between big business and the governmental agencies. The position of the worker as the victim of this collusion becomes apparent.

Fenner, the president of the striking independent local, capitulated on the basis that the Union couldn't curtail war production. This was another form of sell out. The leadership of a working-class union must point out that this is an Imperialist War. The workers cannot lose their rights in order to support it. Every struggle of the workers against their war-profit hungry bosses will be lost unless they recognize the fundamental fact that this is a rich man's war and a working man's fight.

Worker-Soldier Solidarity

One phase of this strike that had the bosses plenty worried was the obvious sympathy between the soldiery and the workers. Hundreds of little instances showed that the soldiers deliberately did things to prevent the smooth operation of the trucking lines. Most worker-soldiers resented the fact that they were being used as scabs. As a result, they did such things as loading trucks so that it would take hours to unload them. They used the excuse of not knowing the city, even after being given directions, to take the trucks out on joy rides. Many of the trucks will never be

the same as a result of the way in which they were driven. These tactics on the part of the soldiers were a protest against the position they found themselves in.

The lessons that have to be learned by the striking workers as a result of these actions on the part of the soldiers is that a direct and positive appeal has to be made by the strikers to these men that if a strike is in the interest of the working class the soldier has to support the strikers. Every victory of the worker NOW is a victory for the worker-soldier when he gets out of uniform.

The truckers went back to work under the pressure of capitulation of their top leadership. The use of the army to break their strike. Intimidation through threat of draft. Again it is made clear to the worker that unless he takes an independent position, rejects the concept of support of the imperialist war and fights back against the bosses and his agents in government, no victories can be won. The working-class and its unions have to fight against the use of the army in a labor dispute. They must demand the withdrawal from the War Labor Board all labor members in protest against its actions against workers fighting for their rights. They must guarantee themselves independence of action through the system of shop stewards who represent the interests of the workers. They must condemn the actions of the Draft Boards that throw strikers into the army.

LETTER TO EDITOR

BETHLEHEM STEEL STRIKE

Hoboken, New Jersey
June 17, 1945

The immediate cause of the strike of 7,000 shipyard workers in Bethlehem's Steel Hoboken ship repair yard is a protest over a wage cut handed to the riveters in spite of an existing CIO wage agreement.

The united action of the workers comes as a result of the brazen union smashing campaign of the Bethlehem Steel Co. For the past few months there have been numerous departmental stoppages, each time brought under control by the local CIO labor fakers but seldom settling any grievances. The present strike is a result of an accumulation of unsettled grievances and the company's complete disregard for union recognition except for the check-off.

The workers were better prepared at this stage of the struggle than at other times to fight the usual "flag waving, back-to-work orders" of the Flarity-Townsley machine. They recognize the fact that Bethlehem Steel locked out the riveters not only because they refused to accept scab piece work rates but because this is part of the "post-war" hunger plans of the boss-class. First the company will "rationalize" — speed up production and cut pay — of the riveters, then the pipe fitters, then the welders, machinists and so on down to every craft and department.

Rank and File Fight Back

At an overflow membership meeting today, the membership completely rejected the pleas of the local union officials. The rank and

file committee and some shop stewards had prepared the membership. Neither the company, the WLB, nor the Navy Department have given the local officials any signs that they will find them some "face-saving formula." Fearful that the situation might "get out of hand" the unwilling union officials who only a few hours ago were confident that they would send the boys back to work, have not assumed "leadership" and officially okayed the action via a milk and water statement.

The job to be done now is the effective organization of the strike. To win our demands the rank and file committee must take complete control over all activities and negotiations and be directly responsible to the workers. A continuous picket line must be organized. Provisions for workers defense and relief must be made and the local's funds placed at the disposal of the committee. Above all, all yards in the port of New York must be posted on events in Hoboken.

Ship repair workers are well aware of the old system of shape-up outside the company gate. Old timers well remember lugging their tool boxes on their back along the waterfront all week for two or three days' work. Nobody wants a return to the slave shape-up.

Reconversion as we see it every day means mass unemployment and a higher cost of living. Our battle is at the point of production. The general demand of the CIO for a 30 hour week with 48 hours pay

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Resentment to Ward Layoffs

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making plans for the capitalists to continue making profits (Truman gave sanction to congress to present big business with \$5,700,000,000 in the next two years in refunds and reduced taxes) while no plans are made for his welfare or his family's.

He resents the fact that the big capitalists like E. I. du Pont de Nemours Co. Inc. had been indicted nine times in the last three years on anti-trust charges and yet was acquitted recently despite the damning evidence of their forming a world wide cartel to control production, sale and price of certain commodities. He resents the fact that virtually no ceiling was placed on the profits or the salaries of big business men (857 leading manufacturing companies made a net profit after taxes of \$2,763,171,176 in 1944) while he has to fight like hell because of the "Little Steal" straight jacket, to get a \$.05 raise and then by the time the WLB gets around to approving the raise, the price of living has gone up and he needs another \$.05 in order to try to keep his family fed. These are the real reasons for the strikes — **THE ECONOMIC INSTABILITY OF THE WORKING CLASS UNDER CAPITALISM.**

Sharpening the Axe

Though the boss class is making no preparation for the welfare of the unemployed workers, it is making sure that its weapons against the workers — its strike breaking methods — are in good condition. For example, we find that the Detroit News tells of a "demonstration of riot drill tactics by combined forces of Detroit Police, Michigan State Troops and 728th Military Police Battalion of Camp River Rouge was termed 90% effective." We find the army and navy being used more frequently as direct strike-breakers as was the case during the Chicago truck strike. And we also find the police using tear gas to break up a clash between the pickets and the scabs at the Indiana Brass Co. in Elkhart, Indiana. In Akron, Ohio the selective service boards were ordered to cancel all deferments of the striking rubber

workers. The boss class has the machinery in his interests well prepared.

Besides using direct methods to break strikes, the bosses have their subtle methods too, such as causing dissension within the working class. "Pit the white worker against the black. Let them blow off their steam against each other." This strategy has been used by the boss class for a long time. Now there is a new twist to it. "Pit the war veterans against the civilian workers." A bill has been proposed in congress that would in effect forbid closed shops, because this bill states that a war veteran working in a closed shop would not have to join the union.

Program for Action

The working class must be prepared to fight against growing unemployment and intimidation, in order to do so they must have a positive program to work with.

The Revolutionary Workers League program for this coming period follows. Now is the time to prepare!

1. Keep the factories open and institute production for use.
2. For unity between white and Negro, veteran and civilian, etc.
3. For 40 hour, 5 day week with 48 hours pay.
4. For trade union wages for the unemployed.
5. For a Workers Council Government.

British Trotskyites

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been interested in protecting these comrades from the onslaught of the bourgeoisie. But, even if it had been TRUE — since when do those who use the name of revolutionary communism rise to defend the capitalist property laws?

It is a sad contradiction for the RCP that it finds it cannot organizationally defend workers from the laws of the capitalist class so long as it finds itself POLITICALLY advocating support of bourgeois "democracy."

Statement to C. O. Tribunal

The attached statement to a C.O. tribunal in Birmingham shows how our English comrades are fighting their own boss class:

As a Communist I refuse to submit to the military discipline of a capitalist class waging an imperialist war for the division and domination of the world. As a working class revolutionary I can only accept the discipline of a revolutionary organization, which represents and fights for the interests of my class.

I do not consider this to be a war of "Democracy against Fascism" any more than the last one was a defense of "Democracy against Prussianism." The fundamental and world economic crisis that forced the capitalists of Italy, Germany, Austria, Spain and France, to withdraw their heyday concessions to the workers, raise the Fascist legions, smash the workers' organizations, forces the British capitalists inexorably in the same direction. In this very war, in "Defense of Democracy," rights which the working class has taken a hundred years of struggle to attain, have been relinquished overnight, in return for "promises." Promises were also made during the last war, to, amongst others, the engineers, miners and soldiers. They were not kept. The resistance made by the British government to the demand of millions of Indians for self-determination today, exposes the hypocrisy of the "promises" in the Atlantic charter.

The entry of the Soviet Union into the war does not alter its Imperialist character. The only defense of the Soviet Union, the only hope of peace and the future development of mankind consists in the extension of the Bolshevik October Revolution of 1917 throughout Europe and the world.

The furtherance of the above I consider to be my duty to my class and only insofar as I fulfill this will I "square my conscience with my intellect."

—E.R.

RENEW YOUR SUB!

Negro Forced Into Army

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had nothing to do with the matter, that they just wanted to question him on his activities in the political and labor movements. They proved that they were fully informed on his activities in these fields to the letter. That his activities were perfectly legal was established then and there altho the old red herring was used by the FBI agents during the questioning. Willis was advised to return home and await developments from his draft board. This he did.

Several days after the above events Willis was arrested during working hours at his regular place of employment on a warrant issued by the U.S. Marshall charging draft evasion. He was taken under arrest to the marshal's office where the above facts were established, examination waived, bond set and Willis released under bond with instruction to deliver himself into the marshal's custody on the morning of Friday, the thirteenth of July. He was to be delivered from the marshal's custody into the custody of the U.S. Army at his local draft board. This Willis did under protest. That is the last his family or friends has seen of him to this date. It is assumed that he is now at Ft. Sheridan but his status there is unknown.

All this on the unsupported word of someone on the local draft board that the ysent a usual letter — ordinary first class mail — to Willis and he had failed to respond. No attempt was made to prove that this ordinary letter had been written or received.

Under the constitution the benefit of the doubt rests with accused and the burden of proof rests with the state. Other constitutional provisions provide that no one shall be deprived of his liberty without due process of law. The actions of the draft board, the FBI, the marshal's office and the U.S. army are all in serious violation of these elementary rights and are a sharp warning to the workers of this country to expose, fight against, and defeat this growing attack of the bosses and their various governmental instruments on the civil rights of the masses.

Murder Machine of the Future

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States. A standing army or navy is not built for defense, but offense. If there is a need for a standing army, it is to keep such an army in colonies and conquered countries to act as a police force against the masses of these countries who are being exploited by American Capitalists, when they attempt to rid themselves of these parasites.

SO THIS IS PEACE!

After four years of participation in the bloodiest world carnage in the history of mankind, we are gathering the fruits of this blood bath. These fruits are not very sweet for the youth of this country whose futures are being mapped out for them in the terms of permanent military conscription. But what a different picture that what was painted when this war began. Security, Freedom, Peace. What lies. What fakery! Security as a G.I. at the rate of fifty bucks a month. Freedom, as part of the most undemocratic instrument known to modern man, an imperialist military machine. Peace, as an armed guard to protect the interests of the Imperialist bosses in their attempt to exploit the workers of the world. This is the future of the American Youth under American Imperialism.

The young workers of the United States must fight against these measures to introduce permanent militarism. They have to organize against such moves. Our lesson has been learned; Capitalism has no future for the youth but more imperialist war and more futile blood shed. We've had our fill. Not until we wipe the imperialist rulers and their armies off the face of the earth and establish the rule of the working class will we ever know real Security, Freedom, and Peace for the masses of the world.

Letter to Editor

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must be enforced by strike action.

For Maritime Unity

Here in the port of New York the Bethlehem strike can have great meaning if it becomes better organized and forges a clear cut program out of its present protest against union smashing.

What is needed, not only in this port but on every waterfront in the states, is maritime workers' unity on the basis of a class struggle program. We have a whole series of labor faker controlled unions—AFL, CIO and Independent. All Maritime workers at sea or in the harbor — seamen, longshoremen, harbor and river boatmen, shore gangs, shipbuilders and repair workers should be united in one militant industrial union. The Ryans, Currans, Bridges and their ilk are too comfortable to surrender their positions for genuine unity. A committee of maritime workers from all branches should be set up to co-ordinate the efforts of all militants on the waterfront to effectively carry out class struggle policy now. B.M.

AKRON WORKERS FIGHT RUBBER BARONS

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met and a new contract established. Such a leadership now in Firestone would reinspire the Goodyear workers to follow suit and would have a tendency to restrike the Goodyear plant under a new militant rank and file Strike Committee.

WLB Supports Rubber Barons

The present leadership of the Firestone strike, under Watson, are playing around with another of Truman's hand picked and instructed agencies — the War Labor Board. For some time past and up to July seventh the WLB has been issuing "show cause" orders on the URW officials in the Akron locals. The union officials, including Watson, have been depleting the treasuries of their locals by voluntary responses to such show cause orders by making trips to Washington, D.C., at the expense of the union.

Instead of such a policy the union should have insisted that the War Labor Board come to the seat of the trouble or subpoena the union officials and pay the expenses of such trips from the WLB funds. This latter was finally done by Mr. Wat-

son on the last Show Cause order of July 7th after pressure was put on him by the rank and file. But the WLB took advantage of this new situation and Watson and his crowd did not warn their members of this new danger. The WLB subpoenaed a minority of those who were for the strike and a majority of those who were against it. Such a representation was in contradiction to the actual state of affairs among the leadership. At this last meeting the WLB did not take up the question of the no contract status obtaining at Firestone or any of the other grievances of the Firestone workers. Instead the WLB chairman, another big business executive, Mr. George Taylor, delivered a facetious and insulting lecture to the union.

Mr. Taylor and his WLB has already deprived some tens of thousands of workers of their already earned wages and vacation pay by a decree without due process of law and he knew full well that the old Firestone contract had expired and the workers were refusing to work without a contract and management

was refusing to sign a new one. Mr. Taylor also knew full well that Firestone and Goodyear had refused to make tires or other commodities for the government without their profit-juicy contracts and were taking advantage of the absence of a workers' contract to cut down crews and lower wages and otherwise speed-up the workers in the plant. Yet Mr. Taylor delivered himself of an oration on the "obligations" of labor versus the rights of labor and stated that the rights must be forgotten (by labor of course) during the war. The obvious fact that the rubber barons, in keeping with the other big business interests, were demanding and getting their "rights" by the billions and conceding no obligations whatsoever, was completely overlooked by Mr. Taylor.

Talk and Action

Mr. Watson should have immediately broken off all contact with the WLB and returned to Akron to mobilize the membership of his union to continue the strike regardless of Truman's WLB, Truman's Navy or any other such agency, until the demands of the strikers are met and

a contract signed at the plant. Mr. Watson has given no indication at this writing of doing this and the rank and file should learn from the actions of Mr. Wheeler in Goodyear that a leader can TALK militant but still sell out the strike.

What is needed now in Akron is a strong rank and file leadership made up out of the stewards from the various departments in Goodyear, General, Firestone and Goodrich in a industry-wide broad strike committee to strike the entire industry in Akron and keep it struck until a settlement is made. No other course will succeed. Dependence on the Government or any of its hand-picked agencies will lead to destruction of the union as well as failure to achieve victory in any of the immediate demands of the workers.

The Trade Union Educational League has had a force in Akron for some time now observing the situation and urging the rank and file to take matters into their own hands with a view to early victory. We hope that the TUEL will continue its work there and will extend to them every aid possible.

ONLY PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION CAN DEFEAT FASCISM!