

SOCIALISTS ENROLL TROOPS FOR SPAIN

Union Asks Automobile Showdown

Martin Again Demands Conference With G. M.

DETROIT.—With the eyes of American Labor turned to Detroit the issue of unionization neared a show-down this week as officials of the United Auto Workers asked the General Motors Corporation for "an immediate general conference" for collective bargaining purposes. This request follows a rapid increase in union membership in General Motors plants and a pledge of complete support from the Committee for Industrial Organization of the union's efforts to secure recognition from the company.

General Motors has retaliated by a flat refusal of recognition from President Alfred P. Sloan, and an anti-strike injunction against Homer Martin, union head.

A conference of union delegates at Flint Sunday created a "Board of Strategy" and backed the ultimatum of the union leadership.

The Board has been authorized to call a general auto strike if it deems it advisable. 40,000 workers are out and 135,000 more are likely to be affected by this weekend.

A letter from Pres. Homer Martin of the United Auto Workers sent to Mr. Wm. S. Knudsen, executive vice president to the General Motors Corporation, declares that "bona fide collective bargaining is the only workable instrument for the establishment of satisfactory relationship between the employers and employees."

LETTER CITES ABUSES

The letter, which followed an earlier telegram to the same effect, calls attention to the failure of efforts to negotiate settlements of local strikes with the plant managers; flagrant discrimination against workers for union affiliation; widespread dissatisfaction with the speed-up system; job insecurity through the absence of proper seniority rules; and abuses of the present piece work systems of pay. The letter likewise stated, "In addition to these points we have mentioned, there are many other grievances affecting wages and working conditions that we wish to take up with you in this general conference."

Shortly after receiving the communication from the United Auto Workers, Mr. Knudsen met with President Martin and Secretary George Addes of the United Auto Workers. Mr. Knudsen advised Mr. Martin that the union should take up alleged discrimination cases and grievances with the plant managers or, if necessary, the general managers having jurisdiction in the location involved. Mr. Martin informed Mr. Knudsen

THE TENTH WEEK OF THE WEST COAST MARITIME STRIKE

The maritime strike is in its tenth week. With Congress going into session this week, the clamor for Federal legislation to deal with the strike is increasing. Enormous pressure is being brought to bear to force a settlement. It is vitally important for the workers to take stock of the situation and to appraise the new developments correctly.

Victory is within the grasp of the workers, and has been for the past three weeks—ever since the new negotiations began between the shipowners and the unlicensed groups. If the workers see things as they really stand, and act accordingly, the victory will become a reality.

The west coast ships have been tied up tight as a drum for nearly ten weeks. There hasn't been a break in the ranks of the workers. This remarkable demonstration of the workers' power and solidarity is the main factor in the situation. It fully entitles the unions to count on a favorable settlement and to calculate every move on that basis.

The resumption of negotiations with the unlicensed groups—whose demands were the main bone of contention—showed a weakening on the side of the bosses. The agreement offered to the Sailors' Union yielded all the basic points. By this the bosses abandoned their fundamental position which caused the strike. That was the time for all the unions to press forward, and demand direct negotiations on the basis of the concessions offered to the Sailors. The failure to do this, and still worse, the effort to discredit the Sailors' agreement, only injured the position of the strikers and delayed settlement. More "politics" of this kind will be very costly indeed.

Now, with Congress convening, and the hue and cry for legislative interference growing louder and more insistent, there is grave danger to the workers in shifting the scene to Washington. What the unions want and need is direct agreements with the shipowners which recognize their fundamental demands.

Such an agreement has already been offered to the Sailors. Despite all propaganda and poppycock on the question it contains the best and most thorough-going provisions for union recognition and control of hiring ever put on paper in this country. Read it and see for yourself. Ask anyone to show you a better contract covering these basic points anywhere. The Sailors' agreement is the key to further negotiations and a victorious settlement.

By conceding the hiring hall and other basic points to the Sailors the shipowners have disarmed themselves before the fundamental demands of the other unions on the same points.

Now is the time to push direct negotiations on this basis.

Now is the time to press with all force to settle the strike on union terms in San Francisco, not on the terms of politicians in Washington!

Offers Self for Sale

JACKSONVILLE, Vt.: William Edward Bird, unemployed, advertised in a Boston newspaper today, offering himself to science as a human guinea pig for \$2,500. I have to tide my family of five through the winter somehow, he said.

Sen that the union is awaiting a formal written answer since the matter of a general union agreement, not simply local problems, is involved, and since only through a general conference of company officials and of union representatives can collective bargaining be carried on in a practical way.

RUBBERWORKERS ORGANIZATION DRIVE IN L. A.

LOS ANGELES.—As part of a general committee for Industrial Organization campaign to organize the mass production industries on the west coast, the International Rubber Workers' Union has opened offices in this city.

Frank Grillo, secretary of the international union, predicted 100 per cent organization of the thousands of California Rubber Workers within the year in a speech before the Los Angeles Central Labor Council.

Grillo is one of many CIO organizers recently sent to the west coast. Most of these men will remain until the workers in the basic industries are won for labor under the industrial union banner.

OTHER PLANTS

Later in the same day smaller flying squadrons posted themselves at Republic Steel and Wisconsin Steel plants in the same area and handed out several thousand more papers. Each paper carried a pasted leaflet announcing an S. W. O. C. mass meeting at which Congressman R. S. McKeough and Van A. Bittner, regional director of the steel drive, were to speak.

Meanwhile, additional reports of progress throughout the midwest area were being made at Chicago headquarters. Seven new charters for lodges in the Amalgamated Assn. of Iron, Steel & Tin Workers sent the total in the midwest district close to the hundred mark.

At St. Louis, the S. W. O. C. signed a contract with the management of the Sterling Steel Co., providing for a large number of improvements in working conditions, together with a 5 per cent wage raise. The pay boost is in addition to a 10 per cent raise announced in mid-November.

Silicosis Victims Awarded Damages

MEXICO CITY.—The Board of Conciliation and Arbitration has decided the case of eleven miners, victims of silicosis, brought by the Miners and Metal Workers Industrial Union against the American Smelting and Refining Company.

The eleven workers are to receive immediate compensation of 2,000 pesos, with the additional right to institute further claim against the company should their ailment continue to get worse.

The Line-up In Spain

By Carlo



Steel Union Advancing In Midwest

Progress Recorded In Organization Drive In Chicago Area

CHICAGO.—The organization drive of the steel workers is taking the Chicago-Calumet district by storm. Aggressive union tactics are responsible for sweeping advances all along the line.

A flying squadron of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee descended on the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp. South Works plant here and distributed some 14,000 copies of Steel Labor.

Every representative of the S. W. O. C. in the Carnegie-Calumet area, together with volunteer workers, was on duty at the half-dozen entrances to the huge plant, which extends for a mile and a half along the Lake Michigan shore line.

According to Jakeman, the pharmacists are asking for a 48-hour week rather than the present 54 to 75-hour week for all pharmacists, a maximum salary of \$40 a week with time and a half for overtime, two Sundays and 15 evenings, a month leave, equal salaries for men and women pharmacists, registered pharmacists for store managers, and recognition of the union. The Thrifty stores were selected for the strike because the union considers that it has its best case against them, not only with regard to their treatment of all their workers, but also with regard to their observance of drug laws.

This is the first strike of white-collar workers in Los Angeles and the membership of the union is, as a whole, inexperienced in strike and labor work but well aware of that fact and learning fast. So far they have drawn blood to the extent of a nice, thick injunction and a Red Squad man on duty at every store.

Employers are attempting to recruit scabs, but Los Angeles unions are aiding the strikers with help on the picket line and relief contributions.

Pacifist Talk And War-like Actions

In a recent article appearing in the Santiago, Chile, press, the "practical" statesmanship of President Roosevelt is praised, pointing out that while pacifist declarations were being made in Buenos Aires tremendous increases were being made by the

Now Enlisting For Western Division Of Debs Brigade

Socialist Party Calls for Volunteers to Fight
Against Fascism With Spanish Workers
For Socialist Spain

The Socialist Party of California is calling for volunteers to form a Western Column of the Debs Brigade, initiated by the New York organization of the Socialist Party for service in Spain. The Brigade is to sail as soon as possible to join forces with the workers of Spain in their heroic fight against the fascist foreign regions and for a Socialist Spain.

Volunteers are urged to come in person or write at once to San Francisco Socialist Headquarters at 236 Van Ness Avenue. Men will be chosen on the basis of special engineering or technical skill, aviation and artillery experience or distinguished combat records. Questionnaires will be furnished on request to Socialist locals and out of town applicants. All applicants must pass a thorough physical examination.

OVER 200 ENLISTED

The Debs Brigade was initiated by Local New York of the Socialist Party and within a few days more than two hundred specially skilled combatants had been chosen. First sailing from New York is scheduled for January 19. The American Column will join the famous International Brigade of Workers from all countries who are fighting on all-Spanish fronts against Franco's Moors and Hitler's conscripts. Eastern Headquarters is at 21 East 17th Street, New York City.

Throughout the country the response to the Socialist Call has been immediate and enthusiastic. A fund of \$50,000 to finance the expedition has been appealed for. Westerners who cannot themselves join the Spanish workers can participate by sending funds to the Western Division, Debs Brigade, 236 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco.

LETTERS FROM RECRUITS

Letters are pouring in from many sections. Typical extracts follow:

Sullivan County, N. Y.—"I am a striking seaman, formerly a Staff Sergeant in the Regular Army of the United States. I was a radio operator and in charge of artillery engineers office—a graduate of U. S. Coast Artillery School—my age is 33, excellent physical condition. (Continued on Page 2)

Ghost Of Epic Walks Again In Legislature

William Moseley Jones
Rides Democratic
Tiger—Inside

The California State Legislature began its fifty-second session at Sacramento Monday of this week. The Legislature with a Republican Senate (25-15) and a Democratic House (47-33) has a glorious opportunity for passing the buck and rolling up political records without danger of making any change which will affect the steady process of the rich getting richer while the poor get—sales taxes.

The election of William Moseley Jones, Democrat, as speaker of the House brings a ghostly reminder of the once mighty Epic movement to "win" Socialism by calling it production-for-use, and capturing the Democratic Party. Epic is gone, and Jones, former Epic leader, takes the Speakership with the blessing and program of super-reactionary Senator William Gibbs McAdoo. This virtually concludes the Epic ride on the Democratic Tiger. Epic is not only inside, it is so thoroughly digested that both ex-Epics and McAdoo-ites share the same smile.

Indications are that the smile will be safely and sanely liberal at the present sessions. The Democrats can go a long way in this direction, since they are sure of a Senate veto. These "records" will be used to woo labor votes next year so that the Democratic Party can take its turn at acting as the majority party to keep California safe for capitalism.

(Continued on Page 2)

Socialists Support Workers' Alliance Marches on Capitol

By FRANK N. TRAGER

Labor and Organization Secretary of the Socialist Party

The Socialist Party of the United States has instructed its state and local organizations to give all possible aid to the unemployed and WPA workers in their demonstration against the Roosevelt administration on January 15, in Washington, D. C. The Socialist Party officially endorses the "On To Washington" mobilization of the Workers' Alliance of America, which will begin right after the first

Students In Fight Over War Issue

Socialists Battle With Patriots at A.S.U. Convention

CHICAGO.—Rout of the popular frontist "Student-Labor Party" advocates and a stalemate on collective security marked the proceedings of the American Student Union convention just ended here.

The four hundred delegates, from a hundred and fifty schools, now on their way home by foot and car and in a specially chartered train and buses, represented a balance of forces between the Socialists and militants on the one hand and the Communists and liberals on the other.

The major fight developed on the supporting resolution to the Oxford Pledge not to support any war waged by the government, after the pledge itself was overwhelmingly reaffirmed as part of the ASU constitution.

Leading off for the uncomfortable liberals, James Wechsler, Communist editor of the ASU organ, reported for the minority in the city, is at present directing its attention against liberals on the faculty of Tulane University and Newcomb College. It happens that there are several professors, mainly in the departments of history and sociology, who have dared speak and write on the subject of tenant farming in the South, who have attended liberal and pacifist meetings, who have taught classes of workers without receiving pay for their services, and have even done such "un-American" things as to travel to Russia as a tourist and to read "Das Kapital."

The Louisiana Coalition of Patriotic Societies, Inc., has solemnly drawn up formal accusations against these professors, and the professors have been forced to appear before the board of administrators of the university with attorneys and witnesses to "defend" themselves against these "crimes."

STUDENTS HIT BACK

The fact that the board of administrators is not supposed to administer anything but the funds of the institution, and the further fact that the Coalition of Patriotic Societies, Inc., is a self appointed board of censorship over the opinions and actions of teachers has not prevented the university board from listening to the absurd charges, and subjecting the instructors of the college to a degrading and humiliating experience.

The speeches upholding Wechsler's stand were made almost exclusively by Communists. The pacifists and patriots found them such able servants, that they themselves hardly had to take the floor.

DEFEATED 136-99

Arraigned against them, Socialist and militant students including Harold Draper, Albert Hamilton, Molly Yard, Jefferson Campbell, and other leading figures, stood out against this foreshadow of war hysteria. They insisted on pointing out that advocacy of collective security logically led to support of armaments, militarism, and eventually war. This they demonstrated so irrefutably that in the face of the large bloc of social-patriotic Communists and League of Nations lovers who desperately clung to a "way out of war under capitalism," they were able to muster 99 votes against 136 which defeated the resolution.

PLAN HUNGER STRIKE

In connection with the Student Anti-War Strike, the convention voted to undertake a pacificistic 24 hour hunger strike simultaneously with the nationwide campus demonstration, proceeds from food savings to go to anti-war work. It also endorsed the national march on Washington for the American Youth Act, which will occur February 19.

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Red Hunt In Full Swing In Gulf Port

New Orleans Bosses Conduct Reign Of Terror

(Continued from Page 1) and others are daily sending bread, meat, canned goods, etc. to strike headquarters. On Christmas Day, several restaurant keepers invited the seamen to a free dinner.

COLLEGE PAPER SUPPRESSED

When the Tulane Hullabalo campus student weekly, attempted to reprint a part of the Post Dispatch article, the presses were ordered stopped, and six hundred copies already off the press were destroyed. The University authorities plausibly deny that there is any censorship of the Hullabalo. They also deny that books on labor problems have been removed from the shelves of the library. The fact remains that new books and pamphlets ordered by the department of economics have not been catalogued although they have been in the possession of the librarian for some months.

Dr. Clarence Bonnett, head of the department of economics, tells a news reporter that when he inquired why the books which he had ordered were not on the shelves, the librarian stated that she had been ordered not to place them in circulation. When interviewed, the librarian stated that this was a mistake, that the long delay in cataloguing these particular items was the normal procedure. All we know is that the books are not there.

LIBERALS UNDER FIRE

The Coalition of Patriotic Societies, Inc., which is the group responsible for the orgy of red baiting and labor persecution in the city, is at present directing its attention against liberals on the faculty of Tulane University and Newcomb College. It happens that there are several professors, mainly in the departments of history and sociology, who have dared speak and write on the subject of tenant farming in the South, who have attended liberal and pacifist meetings, who have taught classes of workers without receiving pay for their services, and have even done such "un-American" things as to travel to Russia as a tourist and to read "Das Kapital."

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Socialist Party Calls for Volunteers to Fight Against Fascism With Spanish Workers For Socialist Spain

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Los Angeles, Calif.—"Just a line to let you know I want to be in the 1st Brigade to fight for the Madrid Government. I made Chief Petty Officer in a short while in the U. S. Government during the World War and will be a great help in my line for Spain."

New York, N. Y.—"Three and one-half years, 1906-1909, Czarist army sharpshooter."

Brooklyn, N. Y.—"During my sojourn in China, I went through more actual combat experience than the average soldier got in the World War. I have always had a very definite hatred for the fascists. My father was a personal friend of Eugene Debs. When I saw the article in the paper announcing the 'Debs Battalion,' it struck a responsive chord in me immediately. I am an expert rifleman (U. S. Army Medal) and the coaching of all new members in rifle shooting in our club."

Whitewater, Wis.—"I am thirty-two years of age, have been a Socialist all my life, emigrated from Germany in 1923, participated in the Ruhr rebellion and am a tool and die maker with considerable experience in guns, rifle scopes and ballistics. Am a member of a rifle club, do all the re-loading of ammunition and testing. Am also an expert rifleman (U. S. Army Medal) and the coaching of all new members in rifle shooting in our club."

Washington, D. C.—"I am very much interested in your announcement of the formation of a Socialist column for Spain. There are two of us here in Washington who are ready to go now. I am going down to Richmond this week but they are old service buddies of mine who are experts in their line, radio, machine gun, flying, etc.

"Workers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains — you have a world to gain!"

The Debs Brigade is answering that call. Enlist or send your contribution TODAY!

CALL OF INTERNATIONALISM

These men understand that the war in Spain will go far toward deciding the fate of the workers in all countries for many years to come. Workers' victory in Spain can stop the fascist surge which has bathed Italy, Germany and Austria in workers' blood. It can open a new and far more hopeful period in the world drive which began when Karl Marx wrote the fateful words:

"Workers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains — you have a world to gain!"

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Butte Labor Calls Lay-offs "Inhuman"

BUTTE, Mont.—Characterizing the WPA lay-off in Montana as "inhuman," the Butte Trades and Labor Council condemned the national administration's relief policy in a telegram sent to the State's representatives in Washington, and to Harry Hopkins.

The telegram reads: "Slashes in WPA inhuman. Unions deplore Federal action and register our bitterest condemnation. We urge you to have National Administration modify its former order curtailing employment."

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DEBS' HISTORIC SPEECH AT CANTON

The Leader of American Socialism Spoke Against Imperialism War

Sunday afternoon, June 16, 1918—in the midst of America's participation in the World War—Eugene V. Debs stood up at Canton, Ohio, and delivered his historic speech against the war. With the world on the verge of another imperialist slaughter it is well to remember what the grand old revolutionary fighter said and did in 1918. The speech is reprinted here from the pamphlet, "The Heritage of Debs," published by the National Office of the Socialist Party.—Ed.)

DEB'S HISTORIC CANTON SPEECH

Sunday Afternoon, June 16th, 1918. (The speech as printed in this pamphlet is an abridgement of the original. Omissions consist of local and out-of-date references and repetitions.)

Comrades, friends and fellow-workers, for this very cordial greeting, this very hearty reception, I thank you all with the fullest appreciation of your interest in and your devotion to the cause for which I am to speak to you this afternoon. (Applause.)

To speak for labor; to plead the cause of the men and women and children who toil; to serve the working class, has always been to me a high privilege. (Applause) a duty of love.

I have just returned from a visit over yonder (pointing to the workhouse). (Laughter), where three of our most loyal comrades are paying the penalty for their devotion to the cause of the working class. (Applause.) They have come to realize, as many of us have, that it is extremely dangerous to exercise the constitutional right of free speech in a country fighting to make democracy safe in the world. (Applause.)

Can't Jail A Movement

I realize that, in speaking to you this afternoon, there are certain limitations placed upon the right of free speech. I must be exceedingly careful, prudent, as to what I say, and even more careful and prudent as to how I say it. (Laughter.) I may not be able to say all I think; (Laughter and applause) but I am not going to say anything that I do not think. (Applause.) I would rather a thousand times be a free soul in jail than to be a scrophulous and coward in the streets. (Applause and shouts.) Those prison bars separate their bodies from ours, but their souls are here this afternoon. (Applause and cheers.) They are simply paying the penalty, that all men have paid in all the ages of history, for standing erect, and for seeking to pave the way to better conditions for mankind. (Applause.)

If it had not been for the men and women, who, in the past, have had the moral courage to go to jail, we would still be in the jungles. (Applause.) * * *

Compromise Brings Trouble

There is but one thing you have to be concerned about, and that is that you keep four-square with the principles of the international Socialist movement. (Applause.) It is only when you begin to compromise that trouble begins. (Applause.) So far as I am concerned, it does not matter what others may say, or think, or do, as long as I am sure that I am right with myself and the cause. (Applause.) There are so many who seek refuge in the popular side of a great question. As a Socialist, I have long since learned how to stand alone. (Applause.) * * *

I never had much faith in leaders. (Laughter.) I am willing to be charged with almost anything, rather than to be charged with being a leader. I am suspicious of leaders, and especially of the intellectual variety. (Applause.) Give me the rank and file every day in the week. If you go to the city of Washington, and you examine the pages of the Congressional Directory, you will find that almost all of those corporation lawyers and cowardly politicians, members of Congress, and misrepresentatives of the masses—you will find that almost all of them claim, in glowing terms, that they have risen from the ranks to places of eminence and distinction. I am very glad I can not make that claim for myself. (Laughter.) I would be ashamed to admit that I had risen from the ranks. When I rise it will be with the ranks, and not from the ranks. (Applause.) * * *

Parasites At Home

I hate, I loathe, I despise junkers and junkerdom. I have no earthly use for the junkers of Germany, and not one particle more use for the junkers in the United States. (Thunderous applause and cheers.)

They tell us that we live in a great free republic; that our institutions are democratic; that we are a free and self-governing people. (Laughter.) This is too much, even for a joke. (Laughter.) But it is not a subject for levity; it is an exceedingly serious matter.

To whom do the Wall Street junkers in our country marry their daughters? After they have wrung their countless millions from your sweat, your agony and your life's blood, in a time of war as in a time of peace, they invest these untold millions in the purchase of titles of broken-down aristocrats, such as princes, dukes, counts and other parasites and a no-accounts. (Laughter.) Would they be sat-

isfied to wed their daughters to honest workingmen? (Shouts from the crowd, "No!") To real democrats? Oh, no! They scour the markets of Europe for vampires who are titled and nothing else. (Laughter.) And they swap their millions for the titles, so that matrimony with them becomes literally a matter of money. (Laughter.)

Scoundrel's Refuge

These are the gentry who are today wrapped up in the American flag, who shout their claim from the housetops that they are the only patriots, and who have their magnifying glasses in hand, scanning the country for evidence of disloyalty, eager to apply the brand of treason to the men who dare to even whisper their opposition to junker rule in the United States. No wonder Sam Johnson declared that "patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel." He must have had these Wall Street gentry in mind, or at least their prototypes, for in every age it has been the tyrant, the oppressor and the exploiter who has wrapped himself in the cloak of patriotism, or religion, or both to deceive and overawe the people. (Applause.)

Mooney's Crime

What is Tom Mooney guilty of? I will tell you. I am familiar with his record. For years he has been fighting bravely and without compromise the battles of the working class out on the Pacific coast. He refused to be bribed and he could not be browbeaten. In spite of all attempts to intimidate him he continued loyally in the service of the organized workers, and for this he became a marked man. The henchmen of the powerful and corrupt corporations, concluding finally that he could not be bought or bribed or bullied, decided he must therefore be murdered. That is why Tom Mooney is today a life prisoner, and why he would have been hanged as a felon years ago but for the worldwide protest of the working class. (Applause.) * * *

Wipe Out Militarism

Are we opposed to Prussian militarism? (Laughter.) (Shouts from the crowd of "Yes, Yes.") Why, we have been fighting it since the day the Socialist movement was born; (Applause) and we are going to continue to fight it, day and night, until it is wiped from the face of the earth. (Thunderous applause and cheers.) Between us there is no truce—no compromise.

But, before I proceed along this line, let me recall a little history, in which I think we are all interested.

In 1869 that grand old warrior of the Social revolution, the elder Liebknecht, was arrested and sentenced to prison for three months, because of his war, as a Socialist, on the Kaiser and on the junkers that rule Germany. In the meantime the Franco-Prussian war broke out. Liebknecht and Bebel were the Socialist members in the Reichstag. They were the only two who had the courage to protest against taking Alsace-Lorraine from France and annexing it to Germany. And for this they were sentenced to 2 years in a prison fortress charged with high treason; because, even in that early day, almost fifty years ago, these leaders, these forerunners of the international Socialist movement were fighting the Kaiser and fighting the junkers of Germany. (Great applause and cheers.) They have continued to fight them from that day to this. (Applause.) Multiplied thousands of Socialists have languished in the jails of Germany because of their heroic warfare upon the despotic ruling class of that country. (Applause.) * * *

Our So-Called Democracy

Why, the other day, by a vote of five to four—a kind of craps game—(Laughter) come seven, come seven—(Laughter) they declared the child labor law unconstitutional—a law secured after twenty years of education and agitation on the part of all kinds of people. And yet, by a majority of one, the supreme court, with just one exception, wiped that law from the statute books, and this in our so-called Democracy, so that we may continue to grind the flesh and blood and bones of puny little children into profits for the junkers of Wall Street. (Applause.) And this in a country that boasts of fighting to make the world safe for democracy! (Laughter.) The history of this country is being written in the blood of the childhood, the industrial lords have murdered. * * *

They tell us that we live in a great free republic; that our institutions are democratic; that we are a free and self-governing people. (Laughter.) This is too much, even for a joke. (Laughter.) But it is not a subject for levity; it is an exceedingly serious matter.

To whom do the Wall Street junkers in our country marry their daughters? After they have wrung their countless millions from your sweat, your agony and your life's blood, in a time of war as in a time of peace, they invest these untold millions in the purchase of titles of broken-down aristocrats, such as princes, dukes, counts and other parasites and a no-accounts. (Laughter.) Would they be sat-

Suppression Helps Us

Every move they make in their game of greed but hastens their doom. Every blow they

strike at the Socialist movement reacts upon themselves. Every time they strike at us, they hit themselves. It never fails. (Applause.) Every time they strangle a Socialist paper they add a thousand voices proclaiming the truth of the principles of Socialism and the ideals of the Socialist movement. They help us in spite of themselves.

War Makers Make "Peace"

Socialism is a growing idea; an expanding philosophy. It is spreading over the entire face of the earth. It is as vain to resist it as it would be to arrest the sunrise on the morrow. It is coming, coming, coming all along the line. Can you not see it? If not, I advise you to consult an occultist. There is certainly something the matter with your vision. It is the mightiest movement in the history of mankind. What a privilege to serve it! I have regretted a thousand times that I can do so little for the movement that has done so much for me. (Applause.) The little that I am, the little that I am hoping to be, I owe to the Socialist movement. (Applause.) It has given me my ideas and ideals; my principles and convictions, and I would not exchange one of them for all of Rockefeller's blood-stained dollars. (Cheers.)

It has taught me how to serve—a lesson to me of priceless value. It has taught me the ecstasy in the hand-clasp of a comrade. It has enabled me to hold high communion with you, and made it possible for me to take my place side by side with you, and made it possible for me to make the people free. (Applause.) And for this reason the truth must not be permitted to reach the people. The truth has always been dangerous to the rule of the rogue, the exploiter, the robber. So the truth must be ruthlessly suppressed. That is why they are trying to destroy the Socialist movement; and every time they strike a blow they add a thousand new voices to the hosts proclaiming that Socialism is the hope of humanity and has come to emancipate the people from their final form of servitude. (Applause.) * * *

Hate Only The System

We do not attack individuals. We do not seek to avenge ourselves upon those opposed to our faith. We have no fight with individuals as such. We are capable of pitying those who hate us. (Applause.) We do not hate them; we know better; we would freely give them a cup of water if they needed it. (Applause.) There is no room in our hearts for hate, except for the system, the social system in which it is possible for one man to amass a stupendous fortune doing nothing, while millions of others suffer and struggle and agonize and die for the bare necessities of existence. (Applause.) * * *

It is the minorities who have made the history of this world. It is the few who have had the courage to take their places at the front; who have been true enough to themselves to speak the truth that was in them; who have dared oppose the established order of things; who have espoused the cause of the suffering, struggling poor; who have upheld without regard to personal consequences the cause of freedom and righteousness. It is they, the heroic, self-sacrificing few who have made the history of the race and who have paved the way from barbarism to civilization. The many prefer to remain upon the popular side. They lack the courage and vision to join a despised minority that stands for a principle; they have not the moral fibre that withstands, endures and finally conquers. They are to be pitied and not treated with contempt for they cannot help their cowardice.

An Eternal Obligation

But, thank God, in every age and in every nation there have been the brave and self-reliant few, and they have been sufficient to their historic task; and we, who are here today, are under infinite obligations to them because they suffered, they sacrificed, they went to jail, they had their bones broken upon the wheel, they were burned at the stake and their ashes scattered to the winds by the hands of hate and revenge in their struggle to leave the world better for us than they found it for themselves. We are under eternal obligations to them because of what they did and what they suffered for us and the only way we can discharge that obligation is by doing the best we can for those who are to come after us. (Applause.) * * *

Wars of Plunder

Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder. In the middle ages when the feudal lords who inhabited the castles whose towers may still be seen along the Rhine decided to enlarge their domains, to increase their power, their prestige and their wealth they declared war upon one another. But they themselves did not go to war any more than the modern feudal lords, the barons of Wall Street go to war. (Applause.) The feudal barons of the middle ages, the economic predecessors of the capitalists of our day, declared all wars. And their miserable serfs fought all the battles. The poor, ignorant serfs had been taught to revere their masters; to believe that when their masters declared war upon one another, it was their patriotic duty to fall upon one another and to cut one another's

throats for the profit and glory of the lords and barons who held them in contempt. And that is war in a nutshell. The master class has always declared the wars; the subject class has always fought the battles. The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has had nothing to gain and all to lose—especially their lives. (Applause.) * * *

History Makers

And here let me emphasize the fact—and it cannot be repeated too often—that the working class who fight all the battles, the working class who make the supreme sacrifices, the working class who freely shed their blood and furnish the corpses, have never yet had a voice in either declaring war or making peace. It is the ruling class that invariably does both. They alone declare war and they alone make peace.

"Yours not to reason why;

Yours but to do and die."

That is their motto and we object on the part of the awakening workers of this nation. * * *

What a compliment it is to the Socialist movement to be persecuted for the sake of the truth! The truth alone will make the people free. (Applause.) And for this reason the truth must not be permitted to reach the people. The truth has always been dangerous to the rule of the rogue, the exploiter, the robber. So the truth must be ruthlessly suppressed. That is why they are trying to destroy the Socialist movement; and every time they strike a blow they add a thousand new voices to the hosts proclaiming that Socialism is the hope of humanity and has come to emancipate the people from their final form of servitude. (Applause.) * * *

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Socialists Are Men!

If you would be respected you

have got to begin by respecting yourself. (Applause.)

Stand up squarely and look yourself in the face and see a man! Do not allow yourself to fall into the predicament of the poor fellow who, after he had heard a Socialist speech concluded that he ought to be a Socialist. The argument he had heard was unanswerable. "Yes," he said to himself, "all the speaker said was true and I certainly ought to join the party." But after a while he allowed his ardor to cool and he soberly concluded that by joining the party he might anger his boss and lose his job. He then concluded: "I can't take the chance." That night he slept alone. There was something on his conscience and it resulted in a dreadful dream. Men always have such dreams when they betray themselves. A Socialist is free to go to bed with a clear conscience. He goes to sleep with his manhood and he awakens and walks forth in the morning with his self-respect. He is unafraid and he can look the whole world in the face. (Applause and laughter) without a tremor and without a blush. But this poor weakling who lacked the courage to do the bidding of his reason and conscience was haunted by a startling dream and at midnight he awoke in terror, bounded from bed and exclaimed: "My God, there is nobody in this room." (Laughter.) He was absolutely right. (Laughter and applause.) There was nobody in that room.

How would you like to sleep

in a room that had nobody in it? (Laughter.) It is an awful

thing to be nobody. That is certainly a state of mind to get out of, the sooner the better. * * *

The heart of the International Socialist never beats a retreat. (Applause.)

They are pressing forward,

here, there and everywhere, in

all the zones that girdle the

globe. Everywhere these awakening workers, these class-conscious proletarians, these hardy sons and daughters of honest toil are proclaiming the glad tidings of the coming emancipation; everywhere their hearts are attuned to the most sacred cause that ever challenged men and women to action in all the history of the world. Everywhere they are moving toward democracy and the dawn; marching toward the sunrise, their faces all aglow with the light of the coming day. These are the Socialists, the most zealous and enthusiastic crusaders the world has ever known.

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LABOR ACTION

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY
OF CALIFORNIA
Published Weekly by
Labor Action Publishing Association
236 Van Ness Ave, HE 7968
San Francisco, Calif.

JAMES P. CANNON.....Editor
GLEN TRIMBLE.....Associate Editor
FRANK STERN.....Business Manager

Subscription Rates: \$1.50 per year; Bundle Rates:
Up to 100, 3c per copy; over 100, 25c per copy.

Signed contributions do not necessarily represent
the policy of the editorial board. In the line of party
democracy and free speech timely articles by socialists
expressing differing viewpoints may be published
on the responsibility of the authors.

VOL 1, No. 7 SATURDAY, JAN. 9, 1937

Capitalism—At All Costs!

The seventy-fifth Congress is in session. With a 5 to 1 Senate and a 3 to 1 House of Representatives, President Roosevelt has a free hand and ample power to secure whatever program he desires.

The first item on that program will be legislation to prevent private shipment of arms to the regularly elected Spanish Government. Germany and Italy are pouring troops into Spain. The Governments of Great Britain and the United States are aiding them by using all possible means to bar workers' efforts to answer the Fascist international attack by Socialist international defense.

This they do in the name of world peace and liberals and pacifists applaud. How wilfully blind they are! Roosevelt makes no pretense of pacifism. He is interested only in choosing the wars of his class. The billion a year spent for armament, the ROTC and the CCC, the "patriotic" education of the nation's schools are all directed to that end. The government makes no secret of its plans for universal mobilization of workers, liberals, and pacifists alike in the war it is preparing for.

The move to block arms shipment to the workers of Spain has nothing to do with peace. It is the declaration of the United States Government that Fascism in Spain is preferable to the threat of Socialism there; that capitalism—fascist or democratic—is always capitalism and must be preserved.

On this ominous note the seventy-fifth Congress opens. Let workers beware! What is true of Congressional attitude to Spanish capitalism is a thousand times more true of capitalism here at home.

Suspended?

The A. F. of L. Convention is gone and forgotten. The pages of the press are filled with labor news, but it is not the stodgy "releases" of outworn labor press services in Washington that accounts for that.

The news of American labor is the steady march of the organization which the Tam-

pa convention tried to bury under a scrap of paper.

General Motors is being "bottled up" and its 69 plants employing 135,000 workers in 14 states may be closed by the time this paper leaves the press. More than two-thirds of the company union officers which the Giant United States Steel monopoly chose as a defense against real unionism have already been won by the aggressive steel campaign. Workers in glass, rubber, textiles, oil and a hundred smaller industries have been inspired to new hope by the power that industrial unionism brings.

The remarkably effective "sit-down" strikes challenge the sacredest of all sacred cows—the right of the employer to use scab workers in "his" factory. Every report strengthens the belief that the present drive on the economic front is wider and more carefully planned and, therefore, will be more permanent in its results than was the great surge that followed the enactment of N.R.A.

For all this the credit belongs to the militant temper of the workers expressed through the Committee for Industrial Organization and its hundreds of aggressive organizers.

Who said they were "suspended?"

Still Dodging

Two weeks ago Labor Action published a challenge by the State Secretary of the Socialist Party, Glen Trimble, to the Communist Party for a series of open public debates on the following propositions:

1. That the 1936 election policy of the Socialist Party advanced the real interests of American workers, while that of the Communist Party did not.

2. That the trade union policy of the Socialist Party is progressive, that of the Communist Party reactionary.

3. That the Socialist Party program is the only genuine defense of the Soviet Union.

4. That the "Peace Policy of the Soviet Union" is a defense of the status quo and a betrayal of the cause of world socialism.

5. That the war policy of the Comintern is worse than that of the "Social Democratic" betrayers of 1914.

6. That the Communist Party is opposed to revolutionary unity of the working class.

7. That the Communist Party has abandoned Marx, Lenin, the class struggle and world revolution.

8. That the Socialist Party program provides the only road for smashing capitalism and winning workers' power.

So long as the Communist Party chooses to ignore this challenge, that organization will stand indicted on all eight counts and on the additional count of failure to make even the first step toward workers' unity—a full, frank discussion of the problems before us.

PEARLS FROM THE PRESS

By CARL O'SHEA

Advertisement in a San Francisco paper:

Exclusive Importations for Gentlemen: Silk dressing gowns, \$185; handkerchiefs, \$15 each. Let's go down and stock up, Butch. Or maybe that first crack about "gentlemen" lets us out.

Whitesburg, Kentucky, news item: Judge Harlan yesterday sentenced Birdie Lee Thurmond to drink a 3-ounce bottle of castor oil in his presence. The judge will try the method on hardened criminals and believes it will prove quite effective.

That's what comes of reading those German newspapers.

Oakland, Calif., news item: The Rev. Robert Rehkgul has launched a movement, the Suicide Prevention Society of America, Inc., to create a nationwide organization for prevention of suicide.

The Reverend has a fighting heart, indeed—for he is going up against the greatest team in the world—Misery and Starvation.

Offhand, I'd say the best prevention for suicide would be a strong fighting trade union and unemployed movement.

Los Angeles Times editorial: The innocent victims of the strike should, of course, be cared for at public expense, but to give strikers the same treatment—is to encourage lawlessness out of the public purse.

Purse on them!

Daily Doubt, from the San Francisco Examiner: Last night the coast committee for the shipowners announced the launching of a comprehensive campaign of public information concerning the strike issues.

What the hell do the gentlemen want, anyway. They've got the press, the pulpit, the radio and the schools now.

But that is at it should be. These organs of the bosses know us and we know them. Between us there is no misunderstanding.

New York News item: Wage increases and bonuses for workers at the General Motors plant this year will total \$12 million dollars... Total dividend payments by General Motors in 1936 will reach \$195 million dollars.

Still one for us and a dozen for them.

Washington news item: The Bureau of Agricultural Economics today forecast a wheat crop in 1937 considerably in excess of domestic needs.

What dreadful news. Looks like another year for the farmers and the workers. Yes, this is capitalism we live under.

Paul Scherrenberg, officer of the International Seamen's Union: Manipulation by communism, in the design of capturing the Seamen's Union for the illicit distribution of propaganda throughout the world, is at the bottom of the maritime strikes on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

Ya, the maritime workers don't

give a darn whether or not they retain control of the hiring halls and other union conditions.

Headline in C. S. Monitor: DIVERSIFIED CROPS FOR CUBA PUSHED BY US.

I bet our government is recommending a big harvest of crops of Cuban labor and progressive leaders.

New York news item: Winthrop Aldrich, chairman of the Chase National Bank, urged business and industry to adopt a code of behavior but to keep it unwritten.

If I behaved like business and industry, I'd keep my code unwritten too.

A Few Side Remarks On "Public Opinion" - How It Doesn't Work

By CRARY TRIMBLE

In these days of glorification for "John Public" when the shipowners take down their hair and tell the public about what fine up-standing Americans they are and how they want to do right by their

loyal workers; when the Com-
munist are playing up to the prejudices of the "peepul"—it is well to find out just how much weight that "public" has in influencing the decisions of the mighty.

A great new safety valve for public opinion has now been in existence for about a year—the Institute of Public Opinion—and its discoveries are being printed in the San Francisco News with long blurbs about how wonderful it is to have a means of finding out what public opinion wants.

We now know what "public opinion" thinks of a third term for President Roosevelt. We even know that "public opinion" overwhelmingly favors government ownership of all munitions plants, but the bankers want cash and security, and they know that the representatives are not dead to the boys who put them in Washington.

Public opinion may want public ownership of munitions plants, but the munitions plant owners don't, and they help finance the election circuses that get out the votes. Public opinion may want public ownership of munitions plants, but the bankers want cash and security, and they know that the representatives are not dead to the boys who put them in Washington.

Public opinion calls for public ownership of munitions industries.

Analysis of Spanish Military Situation

Journal of P. O. U. M. Estimates Forces

(The following analysis of the military situation in Spain is reprinted from "The Spanish Revolution," the weekly English bulletin of the workers' party of Marxists' Unification (P.O.U.M.), published at Barcelona.—Ed.)

The proletarian armies now have tanks, aeroplanes and cannon, thanks to the untiring efforts of the workers and their spirit of sacrifice.

An attempt is being made by the friends of Spain fascism to charge the anti-fascist forces with receiving foreign help. They maintain that the war machinery which we have provided by our Russian comrades. They know this to be quite untrue, but make this claim in order to justify the German and Italian aid to General Franco. The same newspapers and the same diplomats who, up to the present, have cynically denied receiving foreign aid, now that we are attacking effectively with modern equipment, at once admit the foreign fascist help and try to justify it.

What has been the immediate result of the offensive on all fronts? On the Aragon front the workers are at the gates of Huesca, and their encirclement of this city is almost complete. They have entered the Alcubierre Mountains and are driving the fascists back. Desertions of soldiers coming over to join our forces, bringing their arms with them, have become very frequent. At times there are dozens in a single day.

The proletarian knows where its interests lie; many of the soldiers who have been obliged to fight in the fascist ranks are the sons of peasants who know that under a workers government the land they work will be their own.

Surrounding Madrid

We must recognize that the fascists have had a certain success in their tactic of surrounding Madrid, but this success of theirs has been largely due to a lack of discipline and military cohesion on our part. Starting with the false idea that the civil war would not last long, we have neglected those very measures which would have given us the maximum guarantee of triumphing within a short period.

During these last weeks the fascist generals have exerted a very strong pressure on the Central front. Madrid is the principal objective not only of the militarist and fascist reaction in Spain, but in Europe. Thanks to the European fascist powers, the Spanish militarists are able to prolong the struggle against the Spanish people by using the most modern and efficient engines of war.

The Spanish proletariat understood from the very beginning the political and strategic importance of Madrid. Precisely for this reason the proletariat of all Spain go to the Madrid front to offer their services as practical proof of their solidarity in the struggle. All the workers' parties and organizations in Madrid have reached the unanimous conclusion that it is necessary to take the offensive in the center sections to thwart the plans of the enemy. The combatants understand this necessity perfectly and are acting resolutely in accordance.

Our Offensive

Last week our big offensive began on all fronts. The only adequate means of defense is to attack. Our armament factories are working night and day for the front as a reply to the foreign aid which the fascist are securing.

Fascist Reprisal

A few days ago the town of Rosas was bombarded by the rebel forces. As soon as this information was received in Figueras, a mixed column was mobilized, composed of elements of the P.O.U.M. and the C.N.T., together with some of the U.G.T. Like a torrent the workers and peasants poured to the scene of attack. As soon as the mad intentions of the fascists had become known, our trade union radio in Gerona began to give instructions for concentration. Our party was the first to issue a call to arms. The members of our youth movement marched through the streets of Gerona with drums, trumpets and a red flag at the head of the troops to the cry of "Communists of the P.O.U.M., to arms."

On arriving at Rosas the black-shirts of the fascists manning the cruiser were visible. The fascists were not able to land and their bombardment made no victim. At 5 o'clock the next afternoon, the warship "Comte Mar Vell" also entered the bay. Further forces at once set out for Rosas and other places on the coast. A detachment came from the "Lenn" barracks of the P.O.U.M. in Barcelona. The Italian warship has since left the bay, but continues cruising in the vicinity.

The ill-fated action of the fascists at Rosas, as is now known, was meant as propaganda for the enemy's colleagues in Italy, Germany and Portugal, to show what they thought they could do in reply to our bombardment of Seville.

Such acts have no purpose in themselves and only serve as reprisals.

International Issue

The struggle taking place in Spain is no longer a civil war confined to one country. On the out-

come of the Spanish struggle depends not only the fate of the proletariat in Spain, but throughout Europe. A fascist victory in Spain would mean a fascist future for Europe. Hitler and Mussolini realized this long ago; they realized it in time to foment the military rising before the 19th of July. It has taken Stalin three months to understand this simple fact and Leon Blum has not yet grasped it. In spite of our criticism of the mistaken policy of the Third International, and the dangers of the theory of socialism in one country for the cause of the international working class, we are the first to recognize the importance of the new decision taken by the Soviet Union to offer us its powerful aid against the criminal intentions of Germany, Italy and Portugal.

Russia has realized that the neutrality pact consisted in practice of allowing the intervention of fascist countries. A fascist Europe would menace the existence of the Soviet Union. Russia cannot stand passively aside when her own fate is bound up in the fate of the Spanish proletariat. Henceforth we will fight with renewed courage and optimism, for help is at hand.

Alliance Wins Concessions In Colorado

Members Increased Ten-fold In State-wide Drive

PUEBLO, COLORADO.—With Socialists holding many of the key positions in both state and local organizations, the Colorado Workers Alliance has multiplied by ten its membership in the state, according to reports to the Alliance State Executive Board meeting at Pueblo.

J. Austin Beasley, executive state secretary, Harley Murray, assistant executive and recording secretary, Clifton Johnson, secretary of Workers Alliance, Denver Local one, and William Blue, financial secretary of the Alliance in Longmont, second oldest local in the state, are among the comrades in the State Alliance carrying on the militant and effective fight. Fannie Bradford, Denver Socialist, is chairman of the state Women's Committee.

Secretary Beasley reported to the State Executive Board meeting the following progress since the last board meeting in Denver on October 24:

RECORD OF PROGRESS

Six new locals organized, five of which have a mass membership, and three in the three largest cities in the state.

A State membership jump from 500 to 5,000.

Exertion of mass pressure in Denver to secure an additional relief allotment over the state of \$284,000, money that was "found" by the state relief officials after reports had gone out that all money was exhausted.

Announcements by state officials that WPA lay-offs would stop were followed by unofficial statements that "those laid off would be put back on soon." This preceded the statements of the National WPA office.

Emergency checks were issued to 164 needy cases reported by the Workers Alliance in Denver without investigations.

Pickets in front of WPA offices in Denver carried the message of lay-offs and need to thousands in Denver.

MASS MEETING IN DENVER

A mass meeting called by Organized Labor groups in Denver was participated in by the Alliance officially, and a resolution of cooperation with the Trade Unions adopted. The mass meeting brought 8,000 into the city Auditorium. WPA Administrator, Paul Shriver, was roundly booted as he "explained" the lay-offs.

On the same night, December 12, mass meetings were held simultaneously in Colorado Springs and Pueblo, with Alliance state organizer Harry Alland as main speaker in Colorado Springs.

PROGRAM PLANNED

A program of action adopted by the Executive Board for December and January included:

Continued pressure against WPA officials, with mass picketing by every local.

Continued mass meetings every week, calling on workers to organize to fight lay-offs and inadequate relief.

Delegations to Congressmen and Senators and to State Representatives and Senators will be sent to demand enlarged WPA and adequate relief legislation.

SIDELINES

By JONATHAN DOE

How's Your Phraseology, Comrade?

Radical lingo has always fascinated us. Time was when we used to want to crush our enemies, overcome our weaknesses and all that sort of thing. For years now, though, we haven't had the slightest impulse in that direction.

Ever since the Russian Revolution one of our main purposes in life has been that of liquidation. We liquidate foes right and left, liquidate right deviators, liquidate left deviators, liquidate capitalists, and even sometimes liquidate liquidators. We liquidate our bad habits, colds, in the head, ants in the pantry. We're engaged right now in a mass-pressure campaign with Dorothy Parker to liquidate cellulose because she so ably points out, "it's as bad for us and something we want." We call our organization "The League Against Cellophane and Paper-Napkins." We don't really object much to paper-napkins, but we've included them because we want a broad united front and not enough people feel the way we do about cellophane. There is one thing, though, that still stumps us—"us" meaning me and not Dorothy Parker or the League. We've been trying now for years to liquidate our debts, but in that special field we get exactly nowhere.

Besides our liquidating efforts, we've