

Roosevelt Speeds War Plans

Revolutionary Course In Spain Can Check Franco

Politicians Scurry For Safe Cover

Scapegoats Sought For Series of Heavy Defeats

Having utilized the People's Front to the fullest extent to insure a Fascist victory the bourgeois politicians of Loyalist Spain began last week to flee like scurrying rats or to cast about for scapegoats upon whom to place the blame for the catastrophes that have befallen the Loyalist cause.

An "exodus of government officials" has begun from Barcelona, the dispatches report. First among them were Jose Antonio Aguirre, ex-president of the Basque Republic, Marcelino Domingo and Manuel Portela, rightist politicians who were clasped to the bosom of the People's Front while it was shooting down in the streets of Barcelona and other Spanish cities revolutionary workers who wanted to steer a course toward a real anti-Fascist, i.e., anti-capitalist struggle.

Prieto Dumped

Premier Juan Negrin has dumped Indalecio Prieto, right-wing Socialist defense minister, whom he hopes the masses will hold responsible for the military debacle. He has assumed "personal command" of the armies for a "last-ditch" fight. That is, Negrin hopes to make sure that it will be the last-ditch and will not leave until he has effectively prevented any resolute turn in policy that could still mobilize the masses for a stand against Franco.

Most significant of all is the summary dismissal of those heroes of the Communist Party and the People's Front, the regular army generals headed by Gen. Sebastian Pozas, who have been removed from the high command. They have been replaced, interestingly enough, by civilian officers who played a role in the first months when raw militia composed of scantily-armed workers turned back Franco's legions.

Pozas Led Terror

Pozas was brought to Barcelona last May to conduct the brutal repression of the Barcelona workers. It was he who brought Catalonia under the heel of G.P.U. terror and assumed full command of all Catalan forces. All the bluster about the front and all the real bloody terror against the workers in the rear are now producing their inevitable results. Franco is cutting through a weakened Loyalist force that has suffered from more than just a lack of mechanized equipment. It has been deprived of the driving

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Palestine C. P. Joins Fourth International

The Communist Party of Palestine has announced its withdrawal from the Communist International and its adherence to the Fourth International according to Jerusalem reports which appeared in European newspapers last week.

Leaflets distributed by the Communist Party denounced the Moscow trials and executions.

W.A.A. Gathers In Convention

Progressives To Urge Militant Program As Reply
To Policies of People's Fronters

NEW YORK.—The convention of the Workers Alliance of Greater New York opened at the Hippodrome on April 7.

This convention marks a year of "successful" People's Front activity on the part of the Alliance leadership, and a year of steadily worsening conditions for the unemployed.

Chief success of the past year was the election of "labor's" Mayor. Thus the unemployed have a "friendly" president, a "friendly" governor, and a "friendly" mayor. Let us see what these political "friends" have brought to the unemployed during the past year.

The "Successes"

First, the Relief Administration appointed by these "friends" cut down the number allowed on

WORKERS HOLD POWER PLANTS IN MICHIGAN

Murphy Steps In Again To Head Off New Sitdown Strike

JACKSON, Mich.—[The first major use of the sit-down tactic in many months: won workers striking against Consumers Power Co. a partial victory when the C.I.O. Utility Workers Organizing Committee was granted exclusive bargaining rights for all employees and the company renewed the contract expiring April 1 until August 4.]

Within a few hours after the collapse of negotiations last Friday, members of the union peacefully took over the plants and service stations in Saginaw, Bay City, Flint and Lansing.

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Mexican Workers Greet Delegates Of The Socialist Workers Party

MEXICO, D. F.—The closest bonds of solidarity were cemented here between the revolutionary workers of Mexico and the United States at a mass meeting organized under the auspices of the Casa del Pueblo, a revolutionary trade union center in the Federal District, to welcome the international delegation of the Socialist Workers Party of the United States.

On two days' notice, an audience of 1,000 workers augmented by truckloads of peasants who came in from the surrounding countryside greeted James P. Cannon, national secretary of the S.W.P., Max Shachtman, editor of the Socialist Appeal, and Vincent R. Dunne, prominent Minneapolis trade union leader.

Against Imperialism

The meeting was arranged for the purpose of assuring the Mexican workers of the solid support of the Fourth Internationalists of the United States in the struggle against Yankee and British imperialism who are resisting the nationalization of the oil holdings of the foreign exploiters.

In the main address of the evening, which was translated by the distinguished revolutionist and artist of Mexico, Diego Rivera, James P. Cannon told the enthusiastic assembly that the S.W.P. stood shoulder to shoulder

Alliance delegations to the relief bureaus. In addition, a new rule was set up that emergency cases would be heard on only two days per week. The former rule that new applicants must be investigated within 48 hours was allowed to lapse, and there are now delays of three to ten days.

The response of the Alliance leadership to these attacks on the unemployed was to hold an election rally for LaGuardia. "Don't do anything that will embarrass our friends," was the rule.

Fruits of Victory

LaGuardia was re-elected. And then came the fruits of his victory. (1) The clothing allowance was cut to practically nothing for the months of February and March, and now for April. (2) The previous policy of paying rent for new W.P.A. workers until they got their first pay checks was stopped.

The response of the Alliance to these cuts was to stage a demonstration in Wall Street against the "sixty-families." Any whisper of criticism against the city, state and federal officials was taboo.

Then came the 10 per cent cut. In the face of a recommendation by the Mayor's Committee for increasing relief by 40 per cent, the Board of Estimate, on motion of LaGuardia, put through the starvation cut. A number of "explanations" have been given for the cut, the most plausible one being that it was made to forestall any effective fight for the 40 per cent raise.

Political Jockeying

Over this cut was waged a political squabble between LaGuardia and Governor Lehman, which was recognized by all informed people as political jockeying for advantage in the coming gubernatorial election campaign.

The Alliance leadership threw themselves into this political fight as partisans of LaGuardia.

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Roosevelt Trims Sails In Oil Fight

Tries Tacking To Meet
Threat of Storm
In Mexico

Pres. Roosevelt, master of mass deception and political double-crossing, has again demonstrated his incalculable importance to the cause of Yankee imperialism. "From the driver's seat of his new car" on his vacation trip, he announced with a professional smile his "satisfaction" with the progress of the Mexican discussions. As a special humanitarian act he let it be known that the companies can count "only" on compensation for their actual investments in Mexico.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who three days before had sent a note to Cardenas demanding in the language of an ultimatum immediate compensation for oil and land expropriations, suddenly declared his "belief" in a rapid, satisfactory and equitable solution.

Silent On Threats

Both, however, kept a significant silence about the threat of an oil blockade and the economic strangulation of Mexico through cessation of American silver purchases.

This silence throws a revealing light on the maneuver. Yielding to the insistence of the oil companies, Washington had proceeded too quickly. So quickly that even Congressman O'Connell was forced to declare: "The transaction reeks of oil and more oil." Hull's ultimatum threatened prematurely to tear the mask of pacifism from the Roosevelt administration, which is preparing at top speed for its imperialist intervention in the next world war. The protests of American trade unions piled up. Even in fascist Chile and Brazil active sympathy for Mexico was manifested.

According to the New York Herald-Tribune, competent func-

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Vast Army Games To Help Make Country War-Minded

Parade Today, Die Tomorrow!

This year's anniversary of America's entry into the World War of 1914-18 is being employed by the Roosevelt administration as an especially appropriate occasion for whipping up mass patriotism in support of the new war of imperialist banditry which is now being actively and consciously prepared.

New York is to be treated today, to a flag-wagging Army Day parade of 25,000, comprised of enlisted armed forces, organized reserves, veterans and members of patriotic societies.

Conscious Preparation For War

That Roosevelt himself conceives this patriotic demonstration as part of his preparations for the coming war is indicated all too clearly in his letter to Rear-Admiral Reginald R. Belknap, U.S.N., retired, who is in charge of the parade.

Roosevelt wrote that the observance of Army Day this year was particularly appropriate because of "the disturbed condition of the world" and would serve to focus the attention of the people on national defense.

Admiral Belknap's views, quoted by the same paper, were even more pointed. He declared that Army Day observance "has a most salutary effect in clearing the air of confusing doctrines which have been preached by those who do not have at heart the best interests of our national defense. By making it (the parade) both interesting and instructive, we mean to stimulate attention to national preparedness."

Meaning of "Preparedness"

How ominous these words sound when it is recalled that "preparedness" was the slogan of American imperialism when the "pacifist" Woodrow Wilson was preparing to plunge this country into the last big robber war!

The workers of America must reply to the patriotic war-mongering of their exploiters with slogans of their own, the slogans of the socialist revolution which alone can save mankind from the horrors of war.

Down with imperialist war!

The enemy—imperialism—is in our own country!

F.L.P. Becomes Cog In Roosevelt Machine

Stalinist-Benson Clique Presents Hand-Picked
Convention With Class Peace Program

DULUTH, Minn.—The Stalinist-Benson clique in control of the machinery of the Farmer-Labor Party utilized the biennial convention, March 25-26, at Duluth, to transform the party into the Roosevelt machine. In the 1936 elections Benson made a deal with Jim Farley whereby the Democrats withdrew in favor of the Farmer-Labor ticket in the state and in return the Farmer-Labor machine campaigned for Roosevelt.

The bloc with Roosevelt has actually been maintained ever since, and the tone of the convention leaves no doubt that a deal with the Democrats is planned for the Fall elections. On the basic questions of war and unemployment, the Stalinist-Benson clique adopted a platform acceptable to Roosevelt.

Praise Roosevelt

The line to be taken by the hand-picked convention was indicated the first day, when a telegram was dispatched to Roosevelt, praising him for a recent speech in which "he lays bare the heart of our present economic stalemate.... and places himself squarely on the side of the democratic philosophy as opposed to the feudal philosophy of special privilege."

The Minneapolis labor movement, unquestionably leader of

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Many-Sided Preparations, Military, Naval, and
Diplomatic, Are Pointing U. S. Toward
New World Conflagration

WILL BUILD SUPER-WARSHIPS

The war preparations program of the "peaceful" Roosevelt administration is being speeded up on all fronts. With the greatest peace-time navy maneuvers in the country's history still going forward along a 5,000-mile line, from Alaska to Samoa by way of Hawaii, the announcement was made last week-end of pending army and air force maneuvers which are to last until Fall.

Described by the *New York Times* as "the largest mobilization and concentration of men in the South since the World War" a single phase of the military exercises, involving "virtually all of the military forces in the thirteen states of the Fourth and Eighth Corps areas," will embrace 80,000 men, half of whom will be National Guardsmen and the others regular army troops and reserve officers.

At least one demonstration of the aerial might of dollar imperialism is being reserved for the inhabitants of New York. Some 350 planes of the army's General Headquarters Air Force—the largest number ever concentrated for maneuvers in the army's history—will fly over a large section of the Eastern seaboard, with operations centered at Mitchell Field, Long Island.

SENATOR CLARK CONFIRMS N.Y. WAR MEETING

The report in the *Socialist Appeal* of February 26 describing a secret meeting in New York of high military and naval officers, financiers, and key officials to discuss a war propaganda campaign in this country was confirmed on the floor of the United States Senate on March 30 by Senator Clark of Missouri.

Senator Clark said that he and not he alone—had positive

At War Conclave?



NORMAN H. DAVIS

knowledge that such a meeting had taken place, "attended by certain eminent naval and military officers of the United States and certain great financiers in the City of New York, in which the proposal had been made that a regular campaign, amply financed, should be undertaken in the way of propaganda to make this country war-minded."

He strongly hinted that Norman H. Davis, President Roosevelt's ambassador-at-large, had presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed a campaign to "educate" the American people into "the use of war as an instrument of national policy."

The *Appeal* also reported a recent meeting between President Roosevelt and four reading newspaper publishers with whom he discussed plans for the propaganda campaign.

Hull Reveals Purpose

Those still clinging to the illusion that the armed might of American imperialism is being primed and augmented for "peaceful" purposes alone, in order to defend America's shores against some "aggressor" from beyond the seas, should take note of the remarks contained in a letter by Secretary of State Cordell Hull to the Senate Naval Affairs Committee.

Hull, according to the *New York Times* (April 2), "opposed a stay-at-home policy for the United States Navy, contending it must be left free to defend the rights of American citizens in any part of the world. The Secretary of State told the Senate Naval Affairs Committee that establishment of a 'naval frontier' beyond which United States warships should not operate would erect 'an imaginary Chinese Wall' and 'expose American citizens anywhere in the world outside this wall.'"

It is only necessary to substitute, in this quotation, "imperialist interests and profits" for "American citizens" and "the rights of American citizens" in order to get a true picture of the purpose for which the growing American fleet, and the Army, and the air force are to be used. Not for any idealistic aims, nor, primarily, for the defense of the United States against an "aggressor"—but for the robber aims of American imperialism, wherever these may be involved.

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Workers Resist Scab-Herding Police in Detroit Battle

Force Closing Of Screw Plant

Thousands Join Strikers To Prevent Movement Of Scabs

DETROIT—Two days of bitter picket-line battles involving injury to 25 strikers and strike sympathizers as a result of clashes with the police, shut down tight the plant of the Federal Screw Workers here last week. Militant members of the United Automobile Workers put to rout the scabs and their police protectors.

The 300 strikers were aided in holding the picket line firm by nearly 5,000, sympathizers, mostly residents of the industrial neighborhood around the plant. Cops and scabs were bombarded with a barrage of bricks from the huge crowd of workers.

Fight Wage Cut

The strike was called Monday of last week by the U. A. W. members when the company arbitrarily cut the wage-scale ten per cent. Tuesday morning, police, using their clubs freely and armed with tear gas, broke through the picket line and escorted 20 scabs into the plant.

At closing time the police again brutally clubbed their way through the picket line and hurried the scabs away.

News of the encounter swept through the neighborhood, and Wednesday found the strikers prepared for a real battle. A first-aid tent was set up, the pickets nailed their placards on heavy sticks, and the huge crowd of neighborhood residents gathered, in solid sympathy with the strikers.

Scabs Escorted

At closing time, the police again prepared to evacuate the strike-breakers from the plant but this time the strikers were ready. When 150 foot policemen and 15 mounted officers attempted to escort the scabs to their automobiles parked five blocks away, they were forced to fight every foot of the way. The battle lasted over 45 minutes and extended over the entire five blocks.

While the scabs escaped, the cops got more than a taste of their own medicine. Five were forced to undergo hospital treatment. "Cracked heads" among the officers were numerous.

Ten strikers were arrested and sixteen treated for injuries at the union's first-aid tent. That the real victory lay with the strikers was shown when the company announced that the plant would remain closed. Negotiations between the union and the company are expected to begin shortly.

WORKERS HOLD POWER PLANTS IN MICHIGAN

(Continued from page 1)

Foremen and supervisors were ejected, but operations were maintained, with power still flowing throughout this vast industrial area.

Governor Frank Murphy, returning from a sojourn in Florida, promptly called a conference between the strikers and the company in Detroit, where the agreement was reached this Monday. Evacuation of the plants was the first demand of the company, and Murphy backed them completely in this. He declared that the seizure of the plants was "indefensible, illegal and cannot be justified." Such aggressive and significant strike tactics cannot be condoned by even a "labor-loving" governor.

The union was demanding the renewal of a contract won a year ago, when a similar strike shut off the power for twenty-four hours, and a guarantee of no wage cuts.

One of the company's chief weapons has been the Independent Power Employees Association, Inc., a paper union fostered by the company. This outfit, equipped with high-powered legal advisers, is demanding a National Labor Relations Board election. The maneuver has only one purpose—to give the company a legal cloak for refusal to sign with the C.I.O. union.

Trailing along on this path is the Electrical Workers Union, an A.F. of L. affiliate, which is also demanding an election and threatening to call a strike if the company signs with the C.I.O. Such tactics are completely exposed when the real union men go on strike and demonstrate

Electrical Workers Score Fine Victory

MINNEAPOLIS.—The electrical workers have smashed the union-busting scheme of the Northern States Power Company, the full story of which was published in the Socialist Appeal of March 26. After all its bluster, the company resumed relations with the union under the existing agreement, and abandoned its demand for the ousting of militant union leaders.

The union, Local 292 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, is in better shape than ever. The crisis precipitated by the company's action in breaking off relations and its demand for ousting of the union leaders, actually served to rally the union membership in solidarity with the leaders, and to cement together the Utilities Section and the Inside Workers, who were in two separate unions a year ago.

The whole membership is toned up by the short and successful fight, and the company is faced with a firm body determined to secure every concession to be gained on the basis of the agreement, which has another year to run.

FOOD WORKERS TO TAKE POLL ON APRIL 12

NEW YORK.—The election of officers in Waiters Union, Local 16, will take place at Palm Garden, April 12. This election is of vital importance to all members of the Union and to the entire union movement of New York. It is a clear-cut fight. All progressive and honest elements in the Union on the one side, and the Communist Party and racketeer combination on the other.

The Progressive Group, gathering around themselves all honest members of the Union, have an excellent chance to defeat the remnants of the Coulcher gang, and their corrupt Stalinist allies. The platform of the Progressive Group calls for one industrial union of all food workers in New York, and is steadfastly opposed to all racketeering elements. It is for democracy in the Union, and against domination of the union by any political organization.

In the election held last year, after the merger of the Stalinist-controlled Independent Food Workers Union, Local 119, with Local 16, members of the latter, having had no previous experience of the activities of Stalinist stooges, elected a number of them to office. A year's experience has convinced the progressives that between Browder's followers and Coulcher's gang, there is no choice.

The progressives have put up a full slate against the Stalinist racketeer fusion slate. They are confident that the members of Local 16 will unite with them in cleaning these harmful elements out of office.

Jersey Law Void, High Court Rules

Leaflet Distributors Need No Permits

JERSEY CITY, N.J.—Handbill distributors "covered" Mayor Hague's City Hall last Saturday as the dictatorial city government found its rigorous anti-handbill ordinance declared invalid by a Supreme Court ruling of March 28.

Distributors, ranging from representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union to the political quack, Jeff Burkitt, were celebrating the demise of an ordinance that had been used with crushing effectiveness against all attempts to organize the workers of this industrial area. Only last December, six C.I.O. members received jail sentences for violating the ordinance.

The decision of the Supreme Court, which held that the town of Griffin, Ga., violated the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press in requiring persons distributing circulars or advertisements to obtain a license, is of national importance to the labor movement. Jersey City, along with Dearborn, Mich., represents, not an isolated instance of repression by city ordinances, but a common practice of city fathers throughout the nation in fighting working class organiza-

Chicago Office Workers Reject C. P. Attempt To Oust Organizer

CHICAGO.—At a recent membership meeting of Local 24 of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, C.I.O., the rank-and-file administered an overwhelming defeat to the rule or ruin tactics practiced by the Stalinist leadership for the past six months.

The test occurred on the proposal of the Stalinist executive board to abolish the post of paid organizer for purposes of economy. The real purpose was to remove the organizer, Sandra Slotkin, because she could not be swung into the line of the Communist Party in its attempt to force its views on the union membership.

Why Stalinists Won

The Stalinists had obtained the majority of the executive board at the last election chiefly because the progressives and militants had organized too late to combat them. The net result of their leadership has been to alienate the general membership to a point where attendance at meetings has fallen to less than half that prior to their administration.

The membership who voted the Stalinists into office are now voting with their feet. The average member had no interest in long discussions on affiliation to the American League for Peace and Democracy, or an investigation into the Women's Charter. He felt that the union had no interest in his problems, his job, wages and conditions.

The present leadership, upon getting into office, began to throw all responsibility for organizing upon the membership. "Every member an organizer" was their slogan. To effect this, rank-and-file organizing committees were set up. At the head of the general organizing committee was placed an incompetent who could not even call a meeting to order, let alone lead the work of organization. The or-

ganizer of the local was pushed more and more into the background.

Committees Disintegrate

Almost every committee rapidly disintegrated and very few members were brought into the local. Although these committees were supposed to be a step in the direction of union democracy, they were allowed no initiative, held no discussions to plan their work, but were called together primarily to be given assignments.

The local has been suffering financially for some time now. Its expenses rise constantly, and it cannot pay the excessively high per capita tax to the International. But the local has a good foundation and good possibilities for growth, which alone can overcome the financial difficulties.

The leadership, however, seized the present situation to strike a blow at the progressive elements. Remove the organizer and save money—that was their solution.

Proposal Voted Down

In this move, they had forgotten to reckon with the membership which has the union at heart. The last meeting was the largest membership meeting in over a year. The members turned out in full force because they understood that without full-time organizers the union cannot grow and overcome its present critical condition. By a vote of two to one, they defeated the proposal of the executive board and instructed the budget committee to include as one of its necessary expenditures the maintenance of an organizer in the field.

The plans of the Stalinists are quite clear now. If they cannot smash the opposition (and that means the majority of the members), they will undertake to destroy Local 24. They will propose to divide our small local

Chinese Garment Workers Strike in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO.—A determined strike by 100 Chinese dressmakers in the factory of the National Dollar Stores, Ltd., supplemented by picket lines around their retail stores in this city, marks a real step forward in the organization of the Chinese workers in this area.

The strike was called by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union after the Chinese owners of the National Dollar Stores, a retail chain of 37 stores, had broken the agreement covering their factory workers. Members of the Retail Clerks

Union, an A. F. of L. affiliate, are respecting the picket lines manned by the Chinese strikers, leaving the retail stores without salespeople.

In face of nearly insuperable difficulties, the San Francisco I.L.G.W.U. Board, under the leadership of Jennie Matyas, I.L.G.W.U. organizer, succeeded toward the end of last year in organizing the National Dollar Store factory, largest Chinese dress factory in San Francisco. Chinese labor, employed mainly by their own Chinese boss class, has long been kept in docile subjection by appeals to national solidarity.

20,000 Furriers Tie Up N.Y. Shops Industry Paralyzed By Strike Action

NEW YORK.—The New York City fur industry was closed down completely when 20,000 members of the International Fur Workers Union answered the strike call issued by the union's Joint Council Thursday last week.

The general strike was voted the previous week, and affected 14,000 fur workers, 2,500 floor boys, several thousand Greek fur workers organized in a separate union, and designers, foremen and pattern-makers.

The strike came after a lock-out instituted early in February by the Associated Fur Coat and Trimming Manufacturers, Inc., followed by weeks of fruitless negotiations through the State Mediation Board and the intervention of Mayor LaGuardia. The union, plagued by unemployment and Stalinist leadership, has consistently avoided any form of militant activity, but has sought the aid of the City administration and the state apparatus.

All such efforts of "mediation" have failed, and the workers face a long fight with the manufacturers, who apparently intend to starve the workers into submission.

Ben Gold, international president of the union, is a well known Stalinist, and the policies of the Communist Party play no small part in accounting for the disadvantageous position the fur workers still find themselves in. Only recently this same Gold instigated a frame-up trial against a leader of the fur workers union in Toronto, Canada, which succeeded in disrupting

Pastor Holmes Confirms 'Appeal' Story On Strong

In our issue of March 19 we carried a report of a meeting held at the Community Church in New York, in which Anria Louise Strong, the speaker, was quoted as saying: "Suppose the Moscow trials are frame-ups—so what?"

Miss Strong has been covering the country assiduously since then, continuing her campaign of "enlightenment" on the ticklish subject of the trial. Her itinerary took her to Boston on March 23.

She Got Indignant

There, speaking before 300 people (whereas she has always managed to attract upwards of 1,200 on past occasions) to hear about her Halliburton-like peregrinations through Stalinland, she once again took up the cudgels in defense of Stalinism. The Daily Worker reported that at this meeting Miss Strong indignantly repudiated our "slandering" charge that she had cast aspersions on the validity of the trials in her Community Church meeting.

"The gang in New York threw a barrage of questions at me, in order to confuse me," Miss Strong explained, in reference to one of our comrades selling the Appeal that she intended to sue our paper for libel.

It was reassuring, therefore, to receive a response to a communication we addressed to the Reverend John Haynes Holmes, who presided as chairman over Miss Strong's meeting in Community Church. "You are quite

into several smaller ones, with the aim of controlling each one separately.

They tried to smash the opposition by calling it "Trotskyite"—but that failed. A leading Stalinist member of the executive board explained to a newcomer that the trouble was being caused by a lot of Reds who had got into the union. But such "explanations" have acted as boomerangs against the Stalinists. They will therefore attempt the other method—ruin Local 24.

Members—On Guard!

The membership must be on guard against any moves for division which the Stalinists propose. Such a policy is suicidal at the present time. Against such policies, and against the bureaucratic control of the leadership, the membership must now organize.

A. L. P. SEC'Y GIVES BACKING TO BEAL GROUP

Rose Sends Letter Of Support To Defense Committee

NEW YORK.—Timidly and half-heartedly, as might have been expected, the American Labor Party has gone on record as being "deeply sympathetic" to the case of Fred E. Beal, leader of the 1929 Gastonia textile strike, who is now serving a 10-20 years' sentence in a North Carolina prison. The sentence, which Beal evaded for nearly ten years by escaping to the Soviet Union, was secured on a frame-up charge.

In a letter to the Non-Partisan Committee which is working for Beal's liberation, and which has received endorsement from numerous working class organizations and scores of liberals and intellectuals, the A. L. P., through its state executive secretary, Alex Rose, declares that "though the sympathies of the American Labor Party may always be found on the side of the downtrodden and oppressed, there are limitations imposed upon our participation in individual cases, in view of the fact that as a political party we have our own program and objective to achieve."

Rose, however, adds that his letter may be used by the Committee for "enlisting the support of any of our affiliated trade unions."

Go Ahead—File!

We can now add our voices to that of the comrade selling the Appeal outside the Boston meeting. In response to Miss Strong's threat of a libel suit, he urged very strongly that she proceed to file it at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Stalinists who arranged Miss Strong's Boston meeting, however, evidently felt that her threat had to be reinforced by something more immediate and substantial. They therefore proceeded to attack our comrades of the Socialist Workers Party, tearing literature from their hands and engaging in their usual repertoire of hooliganism.

We take this form of argumentation as a much more revealing confession than even Miss Strong's inadvertent slip of the tongue at her New York meeting.

Off the Press

LEON SEDOFF Son-Friend-Fighter

Dedicated to the Proletarian Youth by

LEON TROTSKY Published by the Young People's Socialist League (4th Internationalists)

116 University Place New York City

10c per single copy 7c in bundles of 5 or more

ORDER NOW

Newsman On Coast Vote Strike Action

SAN FRANCISCO.—Authority to call a strike against four San Francisco and one Oakland newspapers if they fail to comply with demands presented by the Northern California Newspaper Guild was voted overwhelmingly here Sunday of last week after an enthusiastic mass meeting of the newspaper workers.

A vote of 247 to 16 for strike action followed a report on negotiations, during which the publishers have repeatedly refused to consider the major demands of the Guild.

About 700 workers will be affected if a strike is called. Members of the unions in the mechanical departments were present at the Sunday meeting as observers, and it is likely that the mechanical workers will support the strike, if called.

Steps to set up a Guild newspaper which would be published during the strike have already been taken and a committee is now working out plans for such a project.

Marine Unions Hit By New Fink Hall

Crews Shipped Out By Maritime Body

NEW YORK.—The Maritime Commission struck at the most vital function of the seamen's unions with the opening last week of a government shipping hall, designed to replace union hiring halls in the manning of the 38 ships operated by the commission.

Captain Grenville Conway, local director of the Maritime Commission, stated that applicants would be required only to produce their licenses indicating fitness for duty. "We are not concerned," he stated, "with the union views or affiliations of the men."

Two ships, the Independence Hall and the Algic, have already been manned by this fink hall, after members of the National Maritime Union had refused to sail the ships. The Algic crew refused to work with two stool-pigeons who had been re-employed after testifying against union members in the famous "Algic case."

The crew of the Independence Hall were discharged when they refused to take lines from a tug of the Dalzell Towing Co., on the "unfair" list for discrimination against union members. Officials of the N. M. U. charged that A. F. of L. seamen, on orders from the Maritime Commission, replaced the N. M. U. crew and sailed the ship.

WIDICK SPEAKS TO FARMERS IN OLIVIA

OLIVIA, Minn.—B. J. Widick, labor secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, spoke here before a large group of farmers and unemployed, Wednesday, March 30. Farmers from many miles around turned out for the meeting, in spite of a heavy snow storm.

The meeting was marked by the extreme interest shown in the war question by those in attendance. Comrade Widick was asked many questions pertinent to the plight of the farmers and rural communities in war time.

The meeting was sponsored by the Olivia local of the Socialist Workers Party.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Insertions in this column are 25 cents for five lines. Copy must be in at the APPEAL office before six o'clock Monday evening.

NEW YORK

THE RED PUPPETS—The Lower East Side Branch presents them again in "Fireside Chat" with Roosevelt, Hearst, Browder, Saturday, April 9, 1938. Swing music, bar specials. Sub. 25 cents. Children 5 cents.

BOB STILER, "On the Coming War," plus full length feature film, "Potemkin," Friday, April 8, 8 P. M., Irving Plaza, Irving Pl. and 15 Street. Auspices, Y.P.S.L.

CABARET, SWING BAND, FLOOR Show, Bar and Snacks, Sat. Apr. 9, 9 P. M., 316 Ninth Ave. at 58th St. Cover charge: 35 cents. Upper West Side Branch, S.W.P.

PHILADELPHIA

ANTI-WAR MEETING, Friday, April 22, 8:20 P. M., 431 Pine Street. Speaker: Maurice Spector. Auspices: Socialist Workers Party. Admission 20 cents.

LOS ANGELES

SPECIAL FOR THIS WEEK ONLY, WHAT HITLER WANTS, by Leon Trotsky. 25 cents. Orders filled promptly. 5 cents extra for postage. Modern Book Shop, 504 W. 5th St., Los Angeles

WAA Convention Opens At Hippodrome In N. Y.

(Continued from page 1)

With this record of political "victories"—actually steady losses in relief conditions for the unemployed—the Stalinist leadership of the Alliance comes before the convention.

If this leadership was docile and meek in the face of the steadily worsening conditions of the unemployed, they showed real ruthlessness to critics of their own administration. Leading members who proposed militant policies were brought up on all sorts of trumped-up charges.

Progressives Rally

Responding to the needs of the unemployed and the threat of expulsions, progressive members of the Alliance formed a Progressive Group and succeeded in checking the expulsion campaign for the time being.

Also by their aggressive criticism they have compelled the leadership to make some moves against the 10 per cent cut. Faint-hearted and weak though these moves were, they will have far more effect in winning back the 10 per cent cut than all the behind-the-scenes diplomacy of the leadership.

Threats of "action" against the Progressives at this convention have been made. Whether these

threats will simmer down to the usual slander and red-baiting attacks by the Stalinist leaders, or develop into a move for expulsions, remains to be seen. In any case the Progressive Group must be on guard against any attempt to split the Workers Alliance.

For A New Course

It is now the task of the Workers Alliance to turn its back on the past line of the leadership and consciously seek to restore the morale and fighting spirit of the unemployed by:

(1) Practicing and teaching reliance first and foremost on the organized strength of the unemployed themselves.

(2) Working for the closest cooperation with the organized trade union movement.

(3) Rejecting the People's Front policy of reliance on "progressive" politicians.

(4) Restoring democracy to the organization. The practice of bringing critics of the administration and political opponents of Stalinism up on phony charges must cease.

These two fundamental points: Democratic procedure within the organization, and a fighting policy, will place the Workers Alliance back on the road to becoming an effective organization of the unemployed.

April New International Contains Timely Articles

Leon Trotsky reviews the campaign waged by the Anarchists, Mensheviks and other opponents of Bolshevism around the "Kronstadt issue" in an article entitled "The Hue and Cry Over Kronstadt" in the April issue of The New International, which came off the press last week. The real issues of the Kronstadt revolt 17 years ago are made clear in an uncompromising defense of the actions of the Bolsheviks.

In the same issue, Max Eastman addresses an open letter to Corliss Lamont, replying to Lamont's circular letters attacking the Trotsky Defense Committee. The regular feature, Comments on the current scene by the editor, this month is devoted to the trial of the 21, viewed in relation to the swift-moving events in Europe.

An inquiry into the "peace-loving" nature of the great democracies is made by Maurice Spector and his findings revealed in "The Record of the Democracies." Dave Cowles analyzes the current economic situation and answers the question whether the new depression is "A Strike of Capital?"

In the valuable "Archives of the Revolution" the concluding installment of Trotsky's letter on the problems of the Chinese Revolution, written in 1927, is published.

Other articles by Jack Weber, S. Stanley and Walter Held, and book reviews by W. Keller, George Novack and Bernard Wolfe, round out the 32-page issue.

Single copies sell for 20 cents and yearly subscriptions may be obtained for \$2.00 by writing the New International, 116 University Place, New York City.

Appeal Army

Last week's eight-page anti-war issue of the Socialist Appeal was a success from every point of view. A press run increased by thousands has already been exhausted and orders still come in for more. Unfortunately we cannot fill the orders that came in late. Comments too numerous to list have started coming in, too—all enthusiastic and complimentary. There seems to be a growing sentiment in favor of a six or eight-page paper every week instead of now and then. If you get behind the Appeal as you have this past week, six or eight pages it will be in the not too distant future.

New York continues to lead the field in getting subs and increasing its bundle orders. Here are the increases for the week ending April 1st:

SUBS

Chicago, Ill.	3
Louisville, Ky.	1
Worcester, Mass.	1
Detroit, Mich.	2
Minneapolis	2
St. Paul	1
St. Louis	1
Billings, Mont.	1
Plentywood, Mont.	2
Camden, N. J.	1
Portal, N. D.	1

Akron, Ohio	1
Cleveland, Ohio	2
Newcastle, Pa.	1
NEW YORK	22
TOTAL	42

BUNDLE ORDER INCREASE

Boston, Mass.	25
Louisville, Ky.	10
Wiseton, Canada	6
Billings, Mont.	10
Chicago, Ill.	40
Gardner, Mass.	2
New York City	200
Columbus, Ohio	15
TOTAL INCREASE	308

The above figures do not include the extra copies of the anti-war issue ordered by locals all over the country, nor do they include the copies ordered for promotion purposes. Don't forget that the success of the Appeal drive is a reflection of the Party's success in its Anti-War Campaign.

And don't forget that May Day is only three weeks off. Plans should be made immediately for a mass distribution of the Appeal. We will give you a good paper if you will give us the orders for it. We expect bundle orders to be at least doubled and you can do it.

Socialist Appeal

116 University Place New York City

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New Crisis Looms As Blum Totters Again

RIGHT PREPARES COUP IN FRANCE

National Union Government Will Pave Way For Repression of Workers To Help Capital Meet Deepening Crisis

By ARGUS

As these lines were being written, the cabinet of Leon Blum was about to disappear. Its imminent fall was greeted by the Parisian stock exchange with a sharp rise in the value of the franc, in anticipation of the long-desired government of Public Safety.

A bourgeois correspondent has accurately described the Blum government as a bull being chased by the toreadors of the right wing in the parliamentary arena. Indeed, Blum's financial proposals represent nothing but the "intention... of being defeated" in the least dishonorable way.

The French reaction has permitted the People's Front government only one function: the stifling of workers' strikes. Completely sabotaging all parliamentary activity, the senators of the future National Union shifted in chorus at the government: "What about strikes? What about the sit-downs? The Citroen sit-down strikes have spread until there are now 45,000 involved in strikes around Paris.

Clashes Loom

At the same time the class contradictions advance irresistibly toward a violent clash. A little note in the American press gives the key to the present situation in France: *Le Calais*, in Northern France, "a mass meeting of 1,000 unemployed members... of the Socialist Party declared their intention... to join (the fascist) French Social Party" rather than starve with Blum." Having excluded the Socialist mayor of Calais from their meeting, the demonstrators unanimously "voted a resolution denouncing the People's Front program as 'a dream' and charging it had accomplished nothing."

This symptomatic incident constitutes a most pitiless accusation against the People's Front and reveals its responsibility for the growth of French fascism. The unemployed, potentially the most determined elements of the revolution, are now becoming the first victims of the hampering of proletarian advance by the reformist-Stalinist conspiracy.

A Danger Signal

Desperately seeking decisive actions, the unemployed fall from the dream of "peaceful penetration" of the capitalist state into the dreadful nightmare of fascist "anti-capitalism." The Calais incident is an impressive danger-signal to the French working class. The revolution has lost much time. Now it is threatened with the loss of important parts of its forces to the fascist camp.

But the counter-revolutionary labor bureaucracy turns an unheeding ear to the warning voice of the proletarian masses. Threatened with dismissal by the bourgeoisie, they concentrate their efforts on proving their sincere concern over France's "capacity for defense."

C. P. on Armaments

A decision of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of March 18 invoking Stalin's famous declaration to Laval of 1935, "understanding and completely approving France's policy of national defense for the maintenance of its armed forces at the level of its security," stated: "the C. P. once more emphasizes that the Communist Party was right, and in the present hour, facing the necessity of raising the manufacture of armaments to the heights required by circumstances, associates itself with the declarations of the Trade Union Confederation (C. G. T.), headed by the reformist Jouhaux and the Stalinist Racamond) in favor of augmenting production," that is, the practical liquidation of the 40-hour week.

Confounding the interests of the criminal trade-union bureaucracy and the no less criminal G.P.U. with the intentions of the working class, they continue: "The workers are correct in being ready to act in order to as-

sure the country of the means of defense which it needs, and they are equally correct in demanding that an end be put to the agitation of the saboteurs of national economy and the instigators of civil war, agents of foreign countries."

The "saboteurs of national economy and the instigators of civil war" are none other than the workers themselves, who, tired of dilatory parliamentary tactics, have recourse to direct action. The ranks of the strikers begin to swell as new textile strikes break out in Lille, accompanied by bloody conflicts.

Meanwhile the call of the bourgeoisie for the replacement of the costly People's Front system by "a regular capitalist democracy" freed of the "control of groups, sub-groups, committees, delegations, trade unions and party cells..." becomes increasingly urgent. This government of Public Safety, leaning on the armed fascist detachments, will have to break the power of the mass organizations.

Program of National Union

What the program of such a transitory National Union government has to be is explained by the well-informed Swiss newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. An assemblage of the united right wing parliamentarians, before which Blum appeared with a call for a Union government, presented him with an unambiguous program of action: (1) Break with the Communists. (2) Reconciliation with Franco by means of the strictest non-intervention. (3) Rapprochement with Mussolini through recognition of the Ethiopian empire. (4) Destruction of the C.G.T. "monopoly." (5) Forceful suppression of the chronic sit-down strikes. (6) Formal abrogation of the 40-hour week law.

France's internal and external situation has reached a decisive turning-point. The French bourgeoisie needs complete freedom for maneuvering in its foreign policy along with England. Public expenditures have exceeded 50 per cent of the national income. An "equilibrium" can be reached only through more intensive exploitation of the working class, at a level and tempo incompatible with the hesitant course of the People's Front.

Back At Starting Point

Thus the working class has arrived, after two years of People's Front government, at the starting point of its fight against fascism and reaction. The emphatic promises of workers' and peasants' liberation through parliamentary democracy now face complete collapse. Jouhaux, secretary of the C.G.T., who has broken one strike after another through "loyal opposition" to the People's Front government, now threatens that "if the present People's Front government should resign, his organization would 'set it up again by our own means.'"

It remains to be seen whether Jouhaux will dare to carry through his threats. He knows too well that direct actions of the working class would inevitably get out of hand. On the other hand, even if the bourgeoisie succeeds, with the complicity of the People's Front bureaucracy, in setting up a "moderate," transitional National Union government, its class program will perforce lead to an open clash between the working masses and the bourgeois state with its fascist auxiliaries.

FUND FOR CHINESE COMRADES MOUNTS

The fund being raised by the Socialist Workers Party to aid the Communist League of China (Fourth Internationalists) is still mounting—but not fast enough. We are still quite a way off the minimum goal set, namely, \$200. Following are the results to date:

Previously acknowledged \$143.71
Akron Branch 2.02
Lynn Branch 2.00
Los Angeles Branch 3.80
TOTAL \$151.53

Comrades throughout the country are urged to put the collection over the top by not later than the current month. It can be done. It must be done!

Ta-tu Thau, Indo-Chinese Militant, Held In Prison of People's Front

His right side paralyzed as a result of hunger strikes in the People's Front prisons of Saigon, French Indo-China, Ta-tu Thau, leader of the Indo-Chinese Fourth Internationalists and a member of the Municipal Council of Saigon, is serving a sentence of two years' imprisonment imposed upon him by a People's Front court for his leadership of the struggle against French imperialism.

A broad campaign is being conducted in France by the P.O.I. (Workers' Internationalist Party) and the International Aid for his immediate release.

Ta-tu Thau is one of the veteran leaders of the national liberation movement in Indo-China. As editor of *La Lutte* he has been at the center of all mass struggles in the French colony for nearly a decade.

People's Front Repression

Always the scene of bloody repression, Indo-China has never been ground down harder beneath the heel of French oppression than it has been during the past two years of People's Front rule. During most of this period a Socialist, Marius Moutet, sat at the Colonial Ministry in France directing the blows at the national liberation movement in Indo-China, French North Africa, and other parts of the French Empire.

Directly involved in the persecution of Ta-tu Thau was Assistant Minister of Colonies Viollette, the same "Socialist" who played a leading role in hounding out of the French Socialist Party in 1935 the young revolutionists of the Seine Socialist Youth Federation who are now part of the Revolutionary Socialist Youth, adherents of the Fourth International.

Ta-tu Thau is the outstanding representative of the national revolutionary movement in Indo-China and it is as the symbol of that movement that the People's Front regimes of Blum and Chautemps have relentlessly hounded him.

Arrested and Expelled

Ta-tu Thau, as a young student in Paris, was one of the first Indo-Chinese revolutionists to rally to the Left Opposition, joining the group of *La Verite* in 1929. He participated in a demonstration organized by that group before the Elysee Palace

in 1930 in protest against repression in Indo-China. He was arrested and expelled. Back in Saigon in 1931 he founded *La Lutte*.

La Lutte and the group around it was unique in the international revolutionary movement up until 1937. The newspaper was the organ of a united front between the Stalinists and Trotskyists of Indo-China. They fought side by side in united front actions and elections. Ta-tu Thau led the ticket of this unprecedented coalition in an election some two years ago which made him a member of the Saigon Municipal Council, a body created by the French in a niggardly attempt to satisfy the aspirations of the Indo-Chinese to independence.

The paper, and in particular its editor, became the target of police attacks which grew sharper as the group grew in influence and prestige as the leading factor in numerous strike movements and agitation for political and civil rights. Arrested in 1935, Ta-tu Thau and several of his collaborators were held for several months and then heavily fined.

Moutet Orders Suppression

In August, 1936, after the victory of the People's Front, the *Lutte* group started agitation for the creation of committees of action throughout the country with the aim of setting up an Indo-Chinese Congress. Orders arrived in September from Moutet for the suppression of this movement. The governor-general promptly arrested Ta-tu Thau on September 28. He went on hunger strike for 11 days and was finally released on November 15. During the winter of 1936-37 great strikes swept the French colony and once more Ta-tu Thau was put behind People's Front bars.

The strongest pressure for suppression of the popular movement in Indo-China was brought to bear by the French Communist Party, which had now become the staunchest flag-waver for French imperialism. The Stalinists openly called in their press for police action against the Indo-Chinese revolutionists. Thus spurred, the People's Front police acted and dealt their blows indiscriminately at the Trotskyists and the Stalinists in Saigon and other cities in the colony.

Grand Jury Indicts Two In Rubens Mystery Case

Garber, Sharfin, Known As C.P. Supporters Or Members

By JUNIUS

Arthur Sharfin, member of Section XV of the Communist Party in the Bronx and "fall guy" for the G.P.U. in the Robinson-Rubens frame-up plot, which was and may still be intended to involve the Trotskyist movement in this country in some kind of "conspiracy," has been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in connection with a series of passport frauds.

Sharfin, who has been an employee of the Royal Egyptian Consulate in New York City, helped Adolph Arnold Rubens (alias Robinson), a G.P.U. agent now imprisoned in Moscow, secure the phony passports made out in the name of Robinson on which he and his supposed wife, also a prisoner in Moscow, travelled last fall to the U.S.S.R.

Garber Indicted

Along with Sharfin, a Fifth Avenue photographer named Ossip Garber, also a Stalinist and formerly of Springfield, Mass., has been indicted on a similar charge. He is one of the few persons who has admitted publicly that he knew the mysterious Rubens.

The Grand Jury returned a third indictment which is sealed, and which presumably will remain so until the persons named in it are arrested. There is reason to believe that the contents of this indictment will confirm statements made from time to time in the *Socialist Appeal* ever since the case began—statements backed up by well-authenticated facts—that all trails in the Robinson-Rubens "mystery" lead straight to the lair of the American branch of Stalin's G.P.U.—the Communist Party. The indictments made public show that Garber had used the

name of Jacob Schulman, falsely attesting he had been naturalized in New Haven, Conn., on May 27, 1921. He also had declared that he was married to Massa Woloch, that he had two children, and that he lived at 2427 Matthews Avenue, Bronx. His present address is 2420 Bronx Park East, an expensive apartment house where many Stalinists reside and where the Stalinist Unemployed Councils, of which Sharfin was formerly a leader, once conducted a rent strike.

New Names Enter

The Sharfin-Garber combination is linked by the indictments to passport activities carried on in the names of Jacob Rosenberg, 28 E. 55 Street; Gerald Mark Moren alias Marko Filipovic; Ernest Wekin of "Chiles" Street; Carl Westerdahl of 468 W. 148 Street; and Max Schulman of 2802 Olivine Avenue. Government officials did not reveal just who these people are or even whether they are alive or dead.

It is known that Sharfin was intimately acquainted with one Max Wershow, alias Marshall Shaw. Under the latter name, Shaw was active in the Friends of the Soviet Union. Wershow is the husband of Muriel Wershow, also a Stalinist, who is active in the Bookkeepers Union, having formerly been active in the Stalinist Office Workers Union. It was apparently in the latter organization that she became acquainted with a Stalinist employed by a New York publisher, who has never before been publicly mentioned. Whether this Stalinist, who was acquainted with Rubens, is mentioned in the sealed indictment cannot yet be learned.

Sharfin Evades Questions

Last week Sharfin, who is still at liberty in the custody of his attorney, M. Edelstein, was brought before a Federal Judge

Ta-tu Thau was arrested on May 10 last year and was released on bail in June. In the interim the Stalinist Party in Paris finally succeeded in getting their confederates in Indo-China to withdraw from the united front movement. They quit the group of *La Lutte* three weeks before Ta-tu Thau was scheduled to come before the court. He had assumed full responsibility for the editorship of the paper and was deserted by them just as he was about to bear the full brunt of the action against the group.

On July 9, after conducting himself as a true revolutionist before the court, Ta-tu Thau was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. An appeal only succeeded in adding five years' banishment to this sentence.

He was still out on bail awaiting the result of the appeal when he was arrested for the fourth time following a great railway strike in Cochinchina. Along with him was arrested the Stalinist leader Tao. When they were refused liberation on bail they began a hunger strike. They fought off forced feeding for 12 days before finally ending the strike.

Is Paralyzed

While the "Socialist" colonial authorities in Paris smirked and told protesting militants that Thau was "simulating" his illness, the Indo-Chinese leader was actually paralyzed along his right side. Medical commissions which examined him in prison confirmed that he was in a serious condition. Nevertheless all appeals for his release have gone unheard. Instead, an old sentence from 1932 was invoked against him, increasing his full term to four years.

From his prison Ta-tu Thau has sent out word of his unshaken faith in the proletarian revolutionary movement and of his dependence upon its support to force his release.

We must add our voices to those that have already been raised in behalf of Ta-tu Thau as the representative of the national movement in Indo-China. It is the duty of American workers' organizations to protest to all local French consulates and to the French Embassy in Washington demanding his immediate release!

Fall Guy



OSSIP GARBER

and ordered to answer questions put him by the Grand Jury. He particularly desired to avoid questions relating to his connection with Harry Zukerman, who has charged that it was Sharfin who passed to him the phony Robinson-Rubens passport applications.

Sharfin apparently knew not only Zukerman but also Attorney Peter Targun, of the Tenants Research Bureau Inc., 401 Broadway. Zukerman was employed by that Bureau, and on occasion Sharfin used its address.

Stalinists Keep Mum

Whether Targun has political connections is not yet known, but it is already clear that at the heart of the whole affair are 14-karat Stalinists—Rubens himself, his wife (who is still in Butirky Prison while the G.P.U. tries to decide what to do with its latest frame-up), Sharfin, Garber, Shaw, Helen Ravitch (who accepted the phony passport sent from Washington to "Donald L. Robinson"), Rubens' attorney, and others.

In view of these facts, the *Daily Worker* naturally continues silent as the grave on the subject of the Robinson-Rubens-G.P.U. case. And the "fall guy," Arthur Sharfin, continues equally silent.

Politicos In Spain Flee For Cover

Scapegoats Sought For Series of Heavy Defeats

(Continued from page 1)

power of a revolutionary policy and the upsurge of the masses behind it.

Thousands are fleeing and deserting. There is confusion and demoralization at a time when all forces have to be gathered to make a stand against the Fascist drive and its Italo-German spearheads.

"Anarchist Sabotage!"

The leaders who have been responsible for these defeats now seek by all means to divest themselves of responsibility. "Anarchist sabotage," cried Gen. Pablo Martinez, was responsible for the Fascist victories.

But not all the whining in the world can provide enough of a cover for the foul betrayal and treachery of the Stalinist People's Front which is now leading Spain into the hands of Fascism. The military victory of Franco will be complemented by an accord between "democratic" England and "Fascist" Italy putting a cross, if they can, over the Spanish revolution.

On this last word has yet to be said, by the Spanish working class, and by world labor. The unleashing, even now, of a resolute revolutionary struggle which will hold out to the workers and peasants of Spain the hope of really breaking with the hated bourgeois regime can still turn the tide against Fascism.

International Solidarity

Active solidarity by the world working class, applying its own sanctions against the shipments freely going to Franco, direct aid in providing material support to the Spanish masses, can still become the most potent factor in transforming defeat into victory.

But the conditions of such a victory, as the Bolshevik-Leninists of Spain have ceaselessly said, is the pursuit of the revolutionary aims of the masses and not the abandonment of those aims in favor of a bloc with treacherous bourgeois politicians whose only aim is to preserve the capitalist system and to keep the masses in subjection.

War Movements Gain Momentum

(Continued from page 1)

The Japanese imperialists display growing alarm over the expansion of the armed might of their great rival. Referring to the navy maneuvers, the Japanese newspaper *Hochi* April 1 declared: "It is only too clear the United States is practicing trans-Pacific offensive operations."

Japan is clearly envisioned in Washington as the "enemy." The war propaganda of the Roosevelt administration is built around this prospect. Thus Col. Theodore Roosevelt, former governor-general of the Philippines, speaking April 2 before the American Academy of Political and Social Science in Philadelphia, painted a harrowing picture of the woes that would befall the Philippines if and when they secure independence from the United States.

Apart from "revolution and disorders" in the island, the speaker declared that seizure of the island by Japan was a certainty. "In the Philippines," he said, "there have been increasing signs of apprehension. The people now see that the Japanese menace is not a fable but a fact."

Another War Move

From Washington on March 30 came the announcement that a high ranking navy officer had been assigned to the U.S. legation at The Hague, thus bringing to light, in the words of a staff correspondent of the *New York Post*, "the little-known fact that this country and the Netherlands are cooperating closely in military preparations in the Far East."

The U.S. has had no naval attaché in Holland since 1932 and "the sudden decision to assign an attaché at this time was widely interpreted in diplomatic quarters as meaning only one thing—the State Department and navy want to establish closer ties between

SOVIET UNION NOTES

Stalin's Bloody Purge Surpasses All Previous Bonapartist Excesses; Red Army Decimated; Soviet Transportation Disorganized

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

The Purge in Progress

The current blood purge bids fair to surpass all those that preceded. Hardly an issue of *Pravda* appears without an attack on some department. The "criticism" of the Northern Sea Route Administration headed by Prof. Otto Schmidt has attracted most attention abroad. But it is only one of the departments under fire. In recent days the Soviet press has carried ominous charges against the Commissariat of Transportation, the People's Commissar for Agriculture in White Russia, the Presidium of the Moscow Soviet, its Chairman, H. Sidorov, and its secretary, Dedkov, etc.

The appointment of two new deputy Commissars for Heavy Industry, M. I. Tselishev and P. P. Kucherenko, which is reported in *Pravda* for March 20, denotes still another purge in that department—for the third time since last October!

According to the leading article in the same issue of *Pravda*, 132,000 employees in the trade network have been "brought up on charges for alleged embezzlement and dissipation."

The Purge in the Red Army

From top to bottom the Red Army has been decimated by the purge. As was to be expected, the Young Communist League in the army has been hardest hit. So many Y.C.L. units in the regiments have been left without bureau heads and secretaries that the Central Committee of the party and the Central Committee of the Komsomol have abolished the old restriction that only those who have been party members for at least two years were eligible for posts as secretaries of regimental bureaus of the Y.C.L. Says *Pravda*, "Members and candidates of the C.P.S.U., regardless of how long they have been in the party, are eligible for the post of secretary of the bureaus of the Y.C.L. and in exceptional cases, even those Y.C.L.ers who are not members of the party." (*Pravda*, March 19.)

The same leading article goes on to add that another restriction has likewise been abolished. Hitherto "political representatives" in the Army had to be party members. "Henceforth, according to the decision of the C.C. of the C.P.S.U., the most tested and politically qualified Y.C.L.ers are to be drawn into the political organs of the Red Army as deputies or assistants of the political directors."

The Crisis in Transportation

We have already reported the grave condition of Soviet railways. Numerous items in the official press indicate that there has been no improvement in this field. We cite a few instances.

On Feb. 8, *Pravda* reported that 2,800 automobiles were left standing in the yard of the Gorki automobile plant. On March 17, in the Gorki yard 2,141 cars remained standing. "Some of them are becoming spoiled, others are half-covered with snow and ice... The yard where the finished machines are left standing for months is guarded poorly. Various parts are being stolen from the machines." (*Pravda*, March 18. Our emphasis.)

Flood threatens on the shores of the rivers Volga, Kama, Viatka, Belaya and others in the Tartar Republic, where valuable freight has been stored: 128,000 tons of grain, 13,149 tons of hay belonging to the state and unspecified quantities of kolkhoz hay, together with car-loads of sugar, salt, lumber, cement, alabaster, brick, etc. At the single station of Sosnovka, on the shores of the Viatka river 1,960 cars of lumber are stranded. The same situation exists on the river Sura. Meanwhile the railways are unable to move this freight. Especially criticized for "inactivity" is the administration of the Kazan railway line. (*Pravda*, March 19.)

Stalin's remedy: more executions among the railway personnel.

Hook Blasts Moscow Frame-Ups In New York Radio Broadcast

"Certainly anybody who calls himself a socialist, a friend of the labor movement, or even a liberal, must cry out with indignation against these totalitarian trials which Stalin offers us as proof that he has established socialism." Professor Sidney Hook, of New York University, stated in a radio address over station WEVD, New York, on Tuesday, March 22.

"Between Stalin, the executioner, and the very idea of socialism, there yawns an impassable gulf. Human hopes for a better social order everywhere depend upon an understanding of the truth about the Moscow trials, and the lessons they teach," he declared.

Testimony Proved False

Replying to Mary Van Kleeck, of the Russell Sage Foundation, who presented the orthodox Stalinist position on the same program, Professor Hook pointed out that the logical structure of the three trials rested on eight defendants who alleged they were intermediaries between Trotsky and the other defendants. He showed that in every case the testimony of competent persons and documentary evidence had proven the alleged communications with Trotsky to have been impossible.

"Instead of offering evidence, the last trial unfolded a story compared to which the Arabian Nights is as sober as a grocer's bill. The apologists of the Stalinist trials would have us believe that of the sixty leading political figures around Lenin all but Stalin were spies, assassins, and wreckers. This would be comparable to saying that out of the 56 American revolutionists who signed the Declaration of Independence all but one turned out to be British spies....

"When the Russian Revolution

occurred, its enemies proclaimed it to be the work of madmen, criminals, spies and degenerates. That, it would seem, is about to become the official view of the Russian government. It would also appear that the much-vaunted achievements of the Russian Five Year Plans were carried out under the exclusive leadership of wreckers... Stalin in the past claimed that the defendants were his closest collaborators in all they undertook. If they are guilty, can he be less so?"

Stalin Does Not Believe

That Stalin himself does not believe in the fabricated testimony of the trials, Professor Hook asserted, is indicated by the fact that he offers alliances to countries, such as England, with which Trotsky is alleged to be conspiring for the overthrow of the Soviet Union. "The key to the Moscow trials," he said, "as Blum pointed out in connection with the Menshevik trials, is the necessity of the Stalin regime to find scapegoats for its domestic failures and international isolation."

He answered the argument of supporters of the trials that they were a blow at fascism by citing Mussolini's greeting of Stalin "as a fellow fascist, crude in his ways but traveling in the right direction." He reminded his hearers that Stalin has refused to join the labor boycott of Nazi Germany, still supplies oil to Japan for her war with China, and until a few weeks ago supplied Mussolini with gas, oil and other materials for use against Ethiopia and Spain.

Professor Hook concluded with the warning that Stalin's frame-up and slander methods are being imported into the United States. "The Communist Party, which is the American branch of the Russian foreign office, has begun a campaign to convince us that whoever opposes any of its policies is a Benedict Arnold or an Aaron Burr, i.e., a spy and traitor."

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO THE SOCIALIST APPEAL

Socialist Appeal

Vol. II. - No. 15. Saturday, April 9, 1938
Published every week by the
SOCIALIST APPEAL PUBLISHING ASS'N.
at 116 University Place, New York, N. Y.
Telephones: Local Office: GRamercy 5-9142
National Office: ALgonquin 4-8547
Subscriptions: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for 6
months. Foreign: \$2.50 per year. Bundle order
3 cents per copy. Single copies 5 cents.
All checks and money orders should be made
out to the Socialist Appeal.

Entered as second-class matter September 1,
1937 at the post office at New York, New York,
under the Act of March 3, 1879.

MAX SHACHTMAN
Editor.
HAROLD ROBERTS FRANK GRAVES
Associate Editors.
BOB BROWNE
Business Manager.

Gerson, Meet Gerson!

This is by way of an invitation to Simon W. Gerson, a member of Browder's Communist Party who not long ago secured, and still holds, a comfortable position as assistant to Borough President Stanley Isaacs of Manhattan. We invite the Gerson of 1938, an adept in crooning "The Star Spangled Banner," to meet the Gerson of 1936.

In 1936—so long ago that he may possibly have forgotten it—Gerson thought, or pretended to think, very little of ex-radicals who became pensioners of the LaGuardia Fusion administration. In fact they made Gerson highly indignant.

Thus in the *Daily Worker* of May 10 in that year of grace, when Gerson and his friends still fancied themselves as "Reds" (at any rate, "pinks") we find in his column, "Civic Virtue":

"This is a column about has-beens—has-been radicals now occupying posts in the LaGuardia administration. They're a rather sad lot, these radicals who have tasted of the political fleshpots and found them sweet. Many know better and frequently feel uncomfortable. The social conscience is willing, but the flesh is weak. Most of them try to justify their present situations to themselves with all sorts of quaint theories."

Assuming Gerson to have been sincere—which in the light of his subsequent record we would hardly be entitled to do—Gerson did not think much of the La Guardia administration in those days. He thought still less of the has-been radicals serving it and "going along" with measures such as the sales tax and the beating of unemployed demonstrators.

"Such social conscience as they have left," he declared, "dictates that they cry out against these things. In his heart of hearts your ex-radical in the administration knows that were he not a La Guardia jobholder he'd be protesting these infamies."

We do not for a moment suppose "social conscience" is troubling Gerson any more than it did the has-been radicals about whom Gerson wrote so feelingly two years ago. Having himself tasted the political fleshpots and found them sweet, he feels constrained to silence regarding the present-day infamies of the LaGuardia administration, justifying his position with all those "quaint theories" summed up in People's (pardon—Democratic!) Frontism.

We introduce the Gerson of 1938

Roosevelt Trimming Sails In Mexican Oil Struggle

(Continued from page 1)

tionaries of the State Department, who originally intended to confine themselves for the present to mere economic reprisals, were frightened by the perspective of "unwanted consequences... rupture of diplomatic relations, anti-American... warlike measures, civil strife," which "might have impaired. American relations with other Latin American countries... undoing... patient effort... in developing the 'good neighbor' policy."

At a pace unforeseen by the State Department, there arose the danger of violent collisions, the responsibility for which would have fallen, directly and in the eyes of the whole world, upon the New Deal government.

Cardenas Was Willing

Cardenas was all the more willing "to ease the tension" by an "exchange of diplomatic compliments" since his efforts are directed toward confining the conflict within limits which will preserve the sympathies of the workers for his bourgeois regime, check the warlike Mexican reaction and prevent a final showdown with foreign imperialism.

The question asked by the bourgeois press, "whether the exchange of amenities is merely an interlude in the battle," seems to us very much in order. The fumes of Roosevelt's pacifist incense are intended to divert the attention of the workers from the still existing anti-Mexican economic sanctions through which Yankee imperialism hopes to gain, by diplomatic maneuvers, new concessions to replace the old.

The \$150,000,000 invested in the expropriated oil fields are only a small part of the total two billions of American investments in Mexico, which would be en-

dangered by an incautious or violent move. Moreover, the American oil investments are mostly of ancient date, long since repaid by fabulous profits.

British Are Losers

The real losses are suffered by the British competitors, who have made recent investments. Roosevelt has no inclination to pull British chestnuts out of the fire. And the last resort—a civil war for exclusively "internal" reasons—still remains in Rockefeller's pocket. American arms for the Mexican reaction continue to flow over the Rio Grande.

Another factor has undoubtedly played a certain role in the verbal retreat of the State Department. The apparently successful negotiations between the Mexican government and the British adventurer in international oil intrigues, Rickett, together with a New York financier, Smith, "injected a new element in this situation—the possibility that Mexico could sell her petroleum immediately," thus giving the government adequate funds. (This statement was made by Kluckhohn, oracle of Standard Oil, and he must know.)

Rickett's Role

On whose account Mr. Rickett works is as yet unclear. In any event he freed Cardenas of the necessity of direct dealing with Japan and deprived the "democracies" of Standard Oil and Shell of an important instrument in the deception of the people.

Keeping the anti-imperialist fight always within the bound-

aries of his capitalist regime, Cardenas has at his disposal only a limited range of maneuvers with rival imperialisms. The Rickett deal would give him a certain breathing spell. But, at the same time, it shows that the national bourgeoisie of a semi-colonial country, when it advances two steps in its anti-imperialist struggle, must immediately retreat one step by leaning upon another foreign financial group. It remains to be seen whether the oil rivalries operating behind the scenes will precipitate new internal upheavals in Mexico.

Effect On Workers

From the point of view of the proletarian revolution, the oil expropriations are of two-fold importance: first, the Mexican masses have learned that foreign imperialism is not invulnerable; and second, the taking over of the oil fields by the national bourgeois state will inevitably hasten class differentiation in Mexico. The workers and peasants, now living in illusions of "national unity"—sanctified by the Stalinist Toledano with quotations from Lenin—will learn to understand that the cause of their independence rests not only on the fight against foreign imperialism but also and above all on their class liberation.

In this connection the treacherous role of the American Stalinists merits a few words. In a declaration of the Central Committee, issued April 1, 1938, Foster and Browder addressed a humble appeal to Roosevelt's common sense. Against the imperialist slavery of the Mexican

people, they find not a single word to say. They tremble for only one reason: they fear that Hull's economic war "will weaken and isolate the influence of American democracy (read: colonial exploitation) in Latin American affairs as a factor for promoting peace (that is, the maintenance of American imperialism). It will aid the German, Italian and Japanese instigators of fascism and encourage them to proceed more boldly in Central America and South America along the path undertaken in Brazil."

They merely forget to mention that Roosevelt has, in the meantime, succeeded in buying back the Brazilian pupil of Mussolini and Hitler with thoroughly democratic and peaceful dollars.

For Mexico Liberation!

As faithful lackeys of American imperialism, Foster and Browder climax their appeal with a war cry: "Keep Mexico and Latin America safe for democracy! Enforce the good neighbor policy!"

The class-conscious workers of the United States have as much contempt for the "good neighbor" smile of Roosevelt as for the democratic hypocrisy of the Stalinist leaders. They stand unreservedly for the complete liberation of Mexico from the imperialist yoke. They will not relinquish the struggle against all measures of the Roosevelt administration, economic or military, open or secret—devised in the interests of American landowners, however "honest" or corrupt, and oil magnates, however "democratic" or fascist.

A LETTER FROM CHINA

Following is the second and concluding installment of a letter received from a Chinese comrade in Shanghai, describing the present situation in China. The first installment appeared in last week's issue of the "Socialist Appeal."—Ed.

At first sight, the present situation is quite difficult to understand, for, on the one hand, Chiang Kai-shek, against the will of all other leaders, takes a decided stand in favor of continuing the war, while on the other hand H. H. Kung, who was opposed to the war from the very beginning, is made president of the reorganized Executive Yuan, with Gen. Chang Chun, notoriously pro-Japanese, as vice-president. Both appointments are symptomatic of a desire for capitulation to Japan.

This seeming contradiction is explained by the following facts. Continuance of the war is impossible. In my journeyings over the various war fronts I found widespread apathy towards the war. All classes, from workers, peasants, soldiers and merchants, to the petty bourgeois masses and the bourgeoisie, desire peace. The toilers feel keenly the increased difficulties of living, but none of them show any fear of becoming "slaves without a country." They do not care very much whether their oppressor is the Kuomintang or the Japanese militarists. Their demand is for food.

A Lesson From History

I recall what happened during the German invasion of the Roman Empire, when the slaves and plebeians of Rome even welcomed the barbarian invaders. This attitude originates, in part, from the political backwardness of the toilers. More importantly, it proves that the national struggle cannot abolish the class struggle. It is unfortunate that the Japanese militarists are wiser than the "theoreticians" of the Stalinist international. While the Stalinists trail at the heels of Chiang Kai-shek in demanding that the hungry toilers fight for national independence without struggling to improve their livelihood, the Japanese robbers give some rice and a little money to the refugees. In such circumstances, how can the toilers be expected to risk their heads for the sake of empty national slogans?

Since the retreat from Shanghai there has never been a serious battle waged by the Chinese soldiers. (This was written prior to the commencement of the great battle now raging in Central China for control of the Lunghai Railway, in which the morale of the Chinese troops seems to have been at least temporarily bolstered—Ed.) At the first sound of the enemy's guns, the soldiers throw away their rifles and desert. Their only thought is to secure some money and civilian clothes so that they may run back home. I report this by no means in order to slander the Chinese soldiers, but in order to give you a real picture of the war. I cannot blame the soldiers who—especially those provisioned by the provincial warlords—are so poorly provisioned and have such miserably thin clothing that they cannot

fight in cold weather.

Now the mood of the soldiers is well known to Chiang Kai-shek. He realizes more than the others that continuance of the war, in view of the passivity of the U.S.S.R., Britain and the U.S.A., is impossible. But to end the war now is also quite impossible, for (1) the Japanese insist on Chiang Kai-shek's retirement from politics and (2) Chiang's own army has been all but destroyed in the battles near Shanghai and by the mass desertions at Nanking.

Chiang's Danger

If peace were to be concluded now, the Kuomintang government would be dominated by the Kwangsi clique and other military forces, including the Eighth Route Army. Since the commencement of hostilities both the forces of the Kwangsi clique and of the Eighth Route Army have been greatly strengthened.

Chiang Kai-shek's present position may therefore be described thus: Continue the war until the time for capitulation has ripened. When will the time be considered ripe? When Chiang's twenty new mechanized divisions, now being completed and trained in Hunan province, are established!

When that time arrives, Chiang will continue the war against Japan until the final victory only if the international situation has changed in China's favor. Otherwise, with his new army guaranteeing his superiority over other military cliques, he will make peace with Japan. The latter alternative, in my opinion, is the more probable. That is why Chiang takes a strong attitude in form, but in fact is quite disposed to compromise.

Masses Feared

The Kuomintang still fears a rising of the masses more than it fears the Japanese invaders. All mass organizations are obliged to register with and submit to the control of the C.C. Group, that is, the Sixth Department of the Military Affairs Commission. All partisan troops and political training departments in the army are dominated by the Blueshirts and the C.C. Group. Political prisoners are not everywhere released, but only those fortunate enough to have been imprisoned in such big cities as Nanking and Hankow, or in places close to the fighting fronts. Relations between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party are not good. Only the offices of the Eighth Route Army in the big cities are legalized. Organizations of the Communist Party in various cities are still obliged to exist secretly and illegally, except in the territory occupied by the Eighth Route Army. But the top bureaucrats of the Communist Party, such as Wang Ming and Chou En-lai, enjoy full "democratic rights."

The Stalinists have founded a daily paper in Hankow, the *Hsin Hwa Jih Pao*, which devotes much of its space to attacking the "Trotskyite bandits." It slanders the Chinese Fourth Internationalists as the "hired dogs" of Japanese imperialism. This anti-Trotskyist campaign was started by Wang Ming, who arrived in Hankow from Moscow six weeks ago, bringing with him

two instructions: (1) Attack the "Trotskyite bandits;" (2) prepare the seventh congress of the Chinese Communist Party (the sixth took place in 1928!).

Stalinist Slanders Protested

So far as I know, the shameful slander of the Stalinists has won them nothing, but has lost them the sympathy of many progressive intellectuals. Publication of a story in their daily stating that our comrades in Hsuechow had organized hundreds of peasants to serve as "plain-clothes troops" of the Japanese imperialists, caused many Communist Party sympathizers to send in strong protests to the Hankow office of the Eighth Route Army.

The Eighth Route Army still gets a monthly subsidy of \$800,000 (Chinese currency—Ed.) from Chiang Kai-shek. Numerically, this army has increased greatly, since it has not yet waged any heavy battles against the Japanese invaders. At the beginning of the war, its prestige grew from day to day. But now its prestige is declining, because of the bureaucratic regime instituted by the commanders and the passivity of the U.S.S.R. towards China's struggle.

A few months ago, about 100,000 revolutionary youth went to northern Shensi (territory occupied by the Eighth Route Army—Ed.), but during the past few weeks many of them have returned, disillusioned by the bureaucratic control of the Eighth Route Army. The outlook for this army is not bright. Having abandoned its revolutionary social program, it can be no longer distinguished from the armies of the Kuomintang. Soon its revolutionary authority will be completely exhausted.

Regroupment Begins

Within the Eighth Route Army a regroupment has begun. Many revolutionary elements, led by Chang Kuo-tao and Hsu Hsiang-chien (famous as commanders of the Eighth Route Army when it was known as the Red Army—Ed.) openly opposed the new Stalinist policy of capitulation to the Kuomintang. After an internal struggle, Chang Kuo-tao finally capitulated to Mao Tse-tung, but the influence of the opposition which he led (not by any means Trotskyist) is still growing. Just because of this, Wang Ming and his cohorts need the anti-Trotskyist campaign in preparing the seventh congress of the Chinese Communist Party.

If the war of resistance is continued without a revolutionary social program, that is, if the struggle for national emancipation is not linked with the struggle for a better life for the toiling masses—then the war is doomed to failure and the Eighth Route Army will share this fate. Political leaders of various groups, from the Kuomintang to the Communist Party and the National Salvation Association, blame everything on the backwardness and passivity of the masses. These gentlemen forget only one thing: the Chinese masses are too hungry and too cold to be able to comprehend the ideology of the national struggle. They can fight for the nation only when they are sure that they will be fighting at the same time for the improvement of their own livelihood. A friend of mine very aptly summed up the present situation when he said: The Japanese invaders will be welcomed by the people once they stop looting and ravaging women in the regions which they occupy.

Kuomintang Criticized

To some extent, the democratic movement has arisen in Wuhan (Hankow). In analyzing the reasons for military defeats, people begin again to criticize the Kuomintang regime. The idea that "war is the continuation of politics by other means" is beginning to be understood by many progressive elements. At the beginning of the war, many revolutionists had the mistaken idea that the Kuomintang regime had become all right just because it was waging war with Japan. They did not know a rotten regime can never wage a victorious war.

Our strength (the strength of the Communist League—Ed.) is too small to face adequately these great events. Nevertheless, we have prospects for growth. The disillusioned Stalinist followers and the masses of revolutionary youth are not our recruiting reserves. But still the immediate perspective is not a great one. For in face of the disorganization of the Chinese proletariat and the complete ruin of the national economy, there is no adequate social base for a Marxist proletarian political party.

Comradely,
FU LING.
Shanghai, February 22, 1938.

F. L. P. Becomes Cog In Roosevelt Machine

(Continued from page 1)

was this accidental. Senator Victor Lawson, chairman of the platform committee, stated that the "peace" plank had taken longest to prepare of the whole platform; it is therefore an accurate index of the war line of the party leadership.

At the height of the anti-war sentiment against the Naval Appropriations Bill, there was a temporary cleavage between the openly pro-war Stalinists and the semi-pacifist Benson wing. Under strong pressure from the workers and farmers of Minnesota, the Farmer-Labor delegation came into conflict with the Roosevelt administration on the war question, and therefore into conflict with their Stalinist allies.

But in the last few weeks it has become clear that the two groups have patched up their differences. A "clever" line has been developed to enable the Farmer-Laborites to support Roosevelt in essence and yet to prevent a collision with the anti-war unions and farmers. This line was enunciated on the floor of Congress by Representative John T. Bernard in the Naval Bill debate on March 16.

Bernard At Work

For the record, Bernard and the other Farmer-Labor congressmen recorded themselves against the bill, but Bernard as their spokesman devoted himself to a defense of Roosevelt's main policy, going so far as to declare that "the suggestion that he (Roosevelt) contemplates foreign aggression is a vicious slander."

In the same spirit, the convention platform recorded itself against increased armament, but was silent on Roosevelt's motivation for expansion of war armament. The peace plank "advocates cooperation with all forces genuinely seeking peace" (which by Bernard's definition and the convention telegram includes Roosevelt!); favors "nationalization of all war munition plants" (that hoary demagogic slogan based on the false theory that not all capitalists but only the munitions makers seek war); calls for prohibition of sales to "aggressor warring nations" (thereby enabling the government to choose sides in any war with the prior benediction of the Farmer-Labor Party); digs up the threadbare slogan of the American Legion, "draft wealth in time of war" (precisely the bit of demagoguery which is being employed to make more palatable the Sheppard-May Bill).

Actually, the proposal to "draft wealth" is a transition to open participation in conducting the war. A further step in this direction was taken by the March 26 issue of the *Farmer-Labor Leader*, which featured the proposal of Howard Y. Williams (vice-chairman of the convention) for "democratizing" the

Sheppard-May Bill by having workers' representatives taken into partnership in the conduct of the war!

Stand On Relief

The platform committee had before it the relief demands of the Minneapolis labor movement, but instead brought in a perfunctory plank providing for continuation of W.P.A. and relief. No mention of the pauper's oath, of unionization, of union rates on W.P.A., etc! Walter Frank, himself a Benson man, speaking for the Minneapolis Building Trades Council, received short shrift in an attempt to amend the plank from the floor, being voted down by the trained seals. It was only when the Stalinist floor-leaders took fright at the reception this plank would get in the unions, that Frank was called back to make his motion again. It was then voted up by the same people who had voted it down a few minutes earlier! But that this was pure lip-service was made clear when Frank and others tried to secure a further series of amendments, providing for a State Housing Authority Act, a special session of the state legislature to deal with relief, etc. All such amendments were voted down in short order.

Support Supreme Court

The conservative, not to say reactionary, tone of the convention was indicated by the debate and vote on the proposal of Robley Cramer, editor of the *Minneapolis Labor Review*, to include in the platform a call upon Congress and state legislatures to repudiate the right of the U.S. Supreme Court to veto legislation. "Let's not tear down everything," cried the spokesman for the platform committee. Another spokesman declared "we" wanted judges influenced by "neither money nor votes"—as if independence of the will of the people made judges more impartial! To cap it all, the convention voted to delete a previously-adopted amendment providing for election of federal judges, going back to the position for appointive judges, the "radical" item being to reduce their terms from life to... ten years!

A Packed Convention

Demands presented to the Farmer-Labor State Committee by a committee of the Minneapolis Board of Union Business Agents, for adequate representation of the trade unions at the convention were ignored. Unions were limited to a single vote each while paper organizations and petty-bourgeois war clubs were apportioned the main body of voting power. Of the 1,200 delegates present, 400 were from Stalinist-controlled St. Louis County, casting one-eighth vote each. Yet all votes were viva voce! Every voice was heard except the voice of labor.

National Committee Plenum Meeting In N. Y. Next Week

NEW YORK.—A full meeting of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party will take place here from April 15 to 18 in order to review the work of the three months since the founding convention of the party in Chicago and to take up the vital matters currently facing the party and the working class.

The agenda will include Labor Party developments, trade union problems, and the war crisis, with particular emphasis on specific tactics in the anti-war struggle in this country and the tasks of Fourth Internationalists throughout the world. Some of the sessions will be open to all members of the S.W.P. and the Y.P.S.L. Details will be announced later.

Mass Meeting Scheduled

A large mass meeting at the Hotel Center, 108 West 43rd

Street, will be held Thursday evening, April 14, as a preliminary to the National Committee plenum.

All branch meetings and other party activities for April 14 are being called off, so that the members of Local New York can turn out for the mass meeting in full force.

Among the speakers will be James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the S.W.P., and Max Shachtman, editor of the *Socialist Appeal*, just returned from Mexico, one of whom will report on the Mexican crisis revolving around the expropriation of the oil fields. Other speakers will include Vincent Ray Dunne and Farrell Dobbs, of Minneapolis, and B. J. Widick, Labor Secretary of the party who has just completed a two months tour through the East and the Middle West.

Mass Rally DOWN WITH THE WAR-MAKERS! HANDS OFF MEXICO!

Speakers

James P. Cannon
National Secretary, S.W.P.
Max Shachtman
Editor, Socialist Appeal
Farrell Dobbs
Mpls. Trade Union Leader

Albert Goldman
Labor Attorney
B. J. Widick
Labor Secretary, S. W. P.
Lois Orr
Just Back From Spain

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 8 P. M.

HOTEL CENTER
108 West 43rd Street
New York City