

May Day - A Day of Struggle!

Make May Day Labor's Day!

International May Day is the day when the working class mobilizes its ranks in demonstration and review, and outlines its course of action for the period ahead. Whoever seeks to convert May Day into an innocuous ceremonial parade, is flying in the face of the best tradition and the spirit of the day.

The ruling class throughout the world is on the offensive. In its agony, the dying monster of capitalism is seeking desperately to outlive its time by eating its way through the very vitals of the masses.

REACTION HITS LABOR

The standard of living of the workers, never very high, is being cut to the bone in one country after another. The natural resistance of the toilers is brutally suppressed by the guns and sabers and blackjacks of Fascism or military dictatorship in an increasing number of lands. In the countries of "democracy" as in the countries of "reaction," the real wages of the workers are cut; their working conditions are worsened; advanced social legislation is revoked or rendered meaningless; the situation of the farmers and peasants continues to deteriorate; the political liberties of all the masses are curtailed where they are not abolished outright.

That is the real situation. And added to it is the ever-present danger of a new imperialist war, more imminent now than before, in which the highly-developed technique of capitalism is to be directed to exterminating millions, young and old, to determine which gang of international thieves shall dominate the world and draw tribute from it.

Capitalism in every country is in the death-grip of a crisis. The ruling class knows no way out of it, except to reduce the masses to an even lower level of existence, or to wipe out whole sections of them on the battlefields.

U. S. CAPITALISM CRIPPLED

This is true even in the most powerful and wealthy country of the world, the United States of America. The most productive machine in the world is crippled, although, if it were put to work, it could make possible plenty and comfort for those millions who are unemployed and constantly on the brink of starvation. The increasing ranks of the unemployed want work, demand it, have a right to it, for without it the right to live is an empty phrase. But capitalism and its government cannot give them work. The wealth-swollen plutocracy is interested in production only if profit can be accumulated. They produce only when there is a profitable market. The masses—the market of capitalism—need food, clothing, housing, roads, automobiles and a thousand and one other necessities and comforts of life. But the vast machine for producing them is not at work because—it is not profitable.

May Day, then, must be a reminder to the workers that the ruling class—their ruthless enemy—will not and cannot bring them anything for their growing misery except greater misery and greater oppression.

May Day must be a reminder to the workers that they, and they alone, can solve their own problems, can smash the capitalist offensive and the reaction, can inaugurate a better life in a new society. The workers have no friends but themselves! They can rely only on their own strength, their own organization, their own party!

WHERE ARE WE MARCHING?

Millions are marching on May Day. Where? In what direction? With what leaders?

The defeats suffered by the masses at the hand of reaction have been defeats produced by false leaders, by the Stalinist and Social Democratic parties, which dragged the workers off the road of militant class struggle and on to the road of reliance on capitalism, the road to the abyss.

It is not true that the masses will not fight, fight aggressively, fight with solidarity and determination to win. The workers have not lost faith in their victory. Their misleaders have!

The workers of Spain give us an example of courage and heroism, now, just as the workers of Austria did four years ago. The masses of China are showing that victory is possible, even against a savage, militarily superior foe like Japanese imperialism.

They are showing that it is possible to win in the struggle against reaction. Where they are flung back, it is only because the poison of People's Frontism is blinding and weakening them. The People's Front is the policy of support of murderous capitalism just because it wears a "democratic" mask. It is the policy of support of imperialist war and capitalist governments, just because they pretend that it is a sacred war for "democracy." Born out of defeats, it leads to defeats.

Enough of them! It is high time to turn the tide. Not the "People's Front," which makes the masses

(Continued on page 4)

DOWN TOOLS!



Nazi Shadow Deepens Over Czechoslovakia

Hitler Makes New Threats As Britain Pushes Its Plans to Strike Bargain With Nazis

The Nazi shadow is deepening over Czechoslovakia. In the midst of preliminary negotiations for widening the Anglo-Italian pact into a four-power arrangement uniting England, Italy, France, and Germany, the Nazis have hastened their own preliminary campaign for the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia and the absorption of its polyglot population, including 3,500,000 Germans, into the orbit of influence of the Nazi Reich.

In an arrogant and menacing speech at Karlsbad, Konrad Henlein, fuhrer of the German minority in Czechoslovakia, demanded virtual independence for the German citizens of the country.

Embraces Nazi Leadership

He completely dropped the pretense, until now maintained, that the Sudeten Germans (the Czechoslovak Germans) supported the idea of preserving the state of Czechoslovakia and were not closely wedded to their Nazi brothers across the nearby border. Henlein openly embraced the Nazi faith and openly acknowledged his allegiance to the Reich.

In Berlin Henlein's speech was promptly hailed as a "last warning" to the Czechoslovak leaders.

In Hungary the Nazi-inspired revisionist movement held a mass meeting attended by 20,000 persons at which the demand for the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia was openly espoused. Thus Hitler, employing the power-politics formulae which have brought Central Europe under the Fascist heel, is once more waving the big stick of Nazi expansion in the frightened faces of the French and British leaders precisely at a time when they are seeking a means of curbing him by drawing him into a western European pact.

Directed Against U.S.S.R.

That this pact will be based upon the central notion of giving Hitler a free hand towards the East, i. e., toward the U.S.S.R., was bluntly admitted by Augur, unofficial spokesman for the British foreign office, in a dispatch to the New York Times on April 25. This week Premier Edouard Daladier and Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet of France are going to London to take their orders from Neville Chamberlain concerning the rapid conclusion of a Franco-Italian pact as a preliminary to a settlement with Germany.

One of the main issues upon (Continued on page 3)

S.W.P. Plenum Maps Out Future Party Activity

After four days of intensive discussion, the first quarterly plenum of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party concluded its work with the mapping out of a campaign of activity in the trade unions and the political field calculated to bring the party into the most intimate contact with the problems and the movement of the American working class.

The attention of the plenum was concentrated mainly upon a consideration of the unprecedented social crisis in the United States and the concrete means of setting the working class in motion against the bankrupt capitalist regime. The question of

the party's relation to the growing movement for independent working class political action constituted one of the most important points on the agenda.

Arrangements are being made for submitting full reports of the plenum's work to the membership of the party and the Young People's Socialist League, and for a thoroughgoing discussion of these reports.

In coming issues of the Appeal, our readers will be made familiar with important material dealing with the work of the plenum and the position of the Socialist Workers Party on the burning problems facing the American labor movement today.

**NEW YORK
S. W. P. MAY DAY
RALLY
GERMANIA HALL
144 East 16th Street
Sunday, May 1, 8 P. M.**

Harry Bridges Orders Union-Smashing Drive Against Coast Sailors

**Whole Future of Maritime Unions At Stake On
Clear Cut Issue of Collaboration
Or Class Struggle Policy**

SAN FRANCISCO. — As the time for the termination of the present agreements between the West Coast maritime workers and the shipowners draws near, a profound crisis is developing within the ranks of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific Coast. This crisis which is at bottom a struggle between two irreconcilable policies—the program of intransigent class-struggle as against class-collaboration, has already broken out into a number of bloody clashes.

It will be resolved only with either complete destruction of the unity of the West Coast maritime workers and the triumph of the Stalinist policy of cooperation with the shipowners, or with the defeat of the Stalinist-Bridges machine and the establishment of a clear cut class struggle policy built on rank and file control of all the maritime unions.

Bridges' Order

Events of the past few weeks already foreshadow the struggle that is yet to come. On March 22 Harry Bridges, West Coast C.I.O. director, president of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union and banner bearer for the Stalinist union smashing machine on the West Coast, told a meeting of the National Maritime Union in New Orleans to pull the members of the Sailors Union of the Pacific off ships and replace them. "The only thing to do is stamp out these destructive elements," he declared.

On April 15 Bridges launched a personally conducted attack on picket lines of the Sailors Union of the Pacific in an effort to

carry this program out on the West Coast. When the S.U.P. threw picket lines around the Shepard Line's Sea Thrush at Portland, Ore., and the Timber Rush at Seattle, Wash., Bridges ordered the longshoremen at these ports to smash the sailors' lines.

Backed up by police armed with sawed-off shotguns and machine guns the Portland longshoremen obeyed. In Seattle, however, the I.L.W.U. men balked at such strikebreaking and it was not until Bridges rushed to this city and personally led the attack that he could mobilize sufficient forces to crash the picket line. Three days later, when the Sea Thrush docked in San Francisco, Bridges again ordered his men through the lines of the S.U.P. and again with the backing of the police succeeded in crashing through.

Bogus Ruling

To justify these splitting actions directed against fellow members of the Maritime Federation Bridges points to the National Labor Relations Board ruling which granted collective bargaining rights to the N.M.U. who are running the Shepard Line ships. This ruling was made after balloting the Shepard Line ships but without putting the S.U.P. on the ballot or notifying that union of the action despite the fact that the S.U.P. has a contract with the Shepard line calling for preferential hiring. The Labor Board has practically admitted the weakness of its position and its obvious collusion with the Shepard Line and the Curran-Bridges-Stalinist set.

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SWP Summons Workers For May Day Rally

**Revolutionists Will Not
Attend Patriotic Show
Of The Stalinists**

NEW YORK. — Refusing to participate in the patriotic, war-mongering May Day parade organized by the Communist Party, and denied the possibility of participating on equal terms in a joint demonstration with the Socialist Party, the Socialist Workers Party and its youth organization has been obliged to organize its own independent celebration on May Day this year. The S.W.P.-Y.P.S.L. celebration will take the form of an indoor rally at Germania Hall, 144 East 16th Street, on Sunday, May 1, at 8 p.m. at which the speakers will be Max Shachtman, editor of the Socialist Appeal, Maurice Spector, editor of the New Internationalist, and Ben Herman, district organizer of the Y.P.S.L.

Will Parade

This meeting will be preceded by a parade of members of the S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L., and sympathizers. The parade will start from the headquarters of the Lower East Side branch of the S.W.P., 159 Rivington Street, at 7 p.m. and march from there to Germania Hall. The decision to hold a separate May Day celebration was made only after it became clear that a genuine united front of working class political parties and trade unions could not be arranged.

The Communist Party has made plans for a People's Front-Collective Security-Patriotic demonstration and parade on Saturday.

(Continued on page 4)

Our Greetings and our Tribute

TO PRISONERS OF THE CLASS WAR

May Day, the day of labor, on which the workers of all lands and all races join in demonstrations to renew their pledges of international solidarity and to review their forces in preparation for new struggles for their social liberation, has always been used as a special occasion for remembrance of and greetings to class war fighters and prisoners.

The Socialist Workers Party, carrying forward this tradition of the revolutionary movement in a period of darkest reaction, sends greetings to the fighters against capitalist exploitation and oppression wherever they are imprisoned.

GREET TOM MOONEY!

We greet Tom Mooney, America's outstanding class war prisoner, held in jail for 22 years by the labor-hating reactionaries of California for the "crime" of organizing the workers and leading them in struggle against their exploiters!

We greet Fred Beal, Gastonia textile strike leader, now serving a 10-20 years' sentence in a North Carolina prison on a charge framed-up against him by the southern Bourbon bosses and their lynch gangs!

We greet the Harlan County miners, railroaded to jail many years ago and still incarcerated in Kentucky dungeons for the "crime" of striking to improve their conditions!

We greet all other class war prisoners in America!

Founded on the firm principles of international working class solidarity, the Socialist Workers Party extends the hand of comradeship across land and sea to class war prisoners in other lands.

TO THE FIGHTERS IN SPAIN

We greet the heroic class war fighters in Spain, battlers against fascism, and in particular our Bolshevik-Leninist comrades and the Anarchist workers imprisoned in the jails of Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia by the capitalist government of the People's Front and its Stalinist allies!

We greet the imprisoned Bolshevik-Leninists of Germany, and through them the whole German working class, victim of cruel reaction!

We greet, too, the valiant proletariat of Italy, ground down under the iron heel of fascist dictatorship!

We greet the imprisoned Bolshevik-Leninists in Greece, Bulgaria, Poland and the "free city" of Danzig, and through them the workers in whose struggles they have fought!

TO COMRADE TA TU-THAU

We greet our comrade Ta Tu-thau, jailed in French Indo-China by the People's Front government and now stricken with paralysis as a result of hunger strikes!

To the imprisoned and persecuted revolutionary fighters in the U.S.S.R., victims of Stalin's counter-revolutionary regime, we likewise send our greetings and assure them of our solidarity!

To all other class war prisoners, wherever they happen to be, we send May Day greetings! We pledge ourselves to remember them in our work and to strive unceasingly for their liberation!

To the working class we renew our pledge to fight unwaveringly for the overthrow of the capitalist system which oppresses and exploits them!

To the oppressed masses of the colonies and semi-colonies—to all those fighting for freedom against the rapacious imperialist powers—we send May Day greetings, assurances of our unbounded sympathy and solidarity with them in their struggles, a pledge to aid them in every way possible!

SUPPORT THE NATIONAL STRUGGLES!

In particular, we greet the heroic Chinese masses, battling against great odds to preserve themselves from enslavement by the Japanese imperialists!

We greet the downtrodden people of India and Palestine, terrorized and oppressed by British imperialism! We greet, too, the oppressed masses of all the other British colonies! And all those trodden under foot in the colonies of France, Italy, Holland and Belgium!

Last but not least we send fraternal May Day greetings to the exploited peoples of the Latin American countries, victims of oppression and exploitation! We affirm our desire to enter into a firm alliance with them against our common enemy—American imperialism—for the establishment of a Soviet United States of all the Americas!

Against the black flag of advancing reaction we raise the red banner of the socialist revolution. Never shall it be furled!

Progressive Painters Fight Bureaucrats

GROUPS IN TEN LOCALS MEET TO MAP CAMPAIGN

Thugs Beat Up Militant In Local 51; Members Are Outraged

NEW YORK.—Progressives from ten locals of District Council 9 of the Painters Union met here last Saturday at an inter-local conference of opposition clubs to plan for action against the Stalinist-controlled Weinstock administration in the coming union elections.

All delegates reported sentiment against the Stalinist union wreckers on the upsurge. Good prospects for the fight are in sight, according to spokesmen of the progressives. A whirlwind campaign to "save the union from legalized scab conditions" is reported under way.

Fink-herder



HARRY BRIDGES

Riot at Local 51

NEW YORK.—Growing sentiment among the rank and file for a showdown fight against the corrupt Weinstock administration in the Stalinist "United Front"-controlled Painters Union has driven the latter to employ outright hooliganism against the militants.

Climaxing a whole series of attempts to break up local union meetings to prevent adverse votes, a scene of scandalous disruption was staged by Stalinist administration supporters in Local 51 last Friday night.

Throttled Discussion

A dissident member of the Stalinist-sponsored "Unity" Club in the Local, Tom Luttenberg, who like many of his fellows has become disillusioned with the leadership, requested the floor. The chairman, an administration supporter, granted his request. As Luttenberg proceeded to speak, a motion to close discussion was accepted by the chairman, who then ordered the speaker off the floor in flagrant violation of union procedure.

Luttenberg protested. Immediately the Stalinist hatchet-man in the Local, one Charles Goslin, gave the high sign and the crowd of packed administration supporters set up a howl to prevent the militant from being heard.

Luttenberg Slugged

In the midst of the uproar thus created, Hatchet-man Goslin jumped to his feet and attacked the speaker. A hundred-odd of his cronies followed this lead and slugged Luttenberg and those who came to his defense with beastly violence. Luttenberg lay prostrate on the floor as the Stalinist hoodlums kicked him mercilessly in the face as well as in the body.

Numerous administration supporters were visibly disgusted with this display of Fascist-like gangsterism. As the meeting was adjourned by the chairman, with the scuffle still going on, members in all parts of the hall expressed their determination to clear the Local of Goslin-Weinstock gangster tactics. Undoubtedly, definite steps will be taken in this direction in the very near future.

It is only natural that the Weinstock administration should employ thugs like Goslin as its hatchet-men in the local unions. Hatchet-man Goslin has led similar sluggings on previous occasions. In reward for tough work done in the past, Goslin has just been re-appointed an "organizer" at \$50 a week. His record, which is extraordinarily revealing of the system of shady deals and terror used by the Stalinists to maintain their stranglehold in the union, will be thoroughly illumined in these pages in coming articles.

Appeal to Publish Trade Union Series

A series of articles of extreme importance to trade unionists in New York as well as in the rest of the country, will begin in next week's Socialist Appeal.

"INSIDE THE NEW YORK PAINTERS UNION"

An account of the record and activities of the Stalinist-controlled Weinstock Administration in District Council No. 9 of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers and of the fight of the rank and file militants for a clean and effective union.

Harry Bridges Orders Union-Smashing Drive Against Coast Sailors

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up by offering to grant the S.U.P. two of the five Shepard ships and re-open the case if the S.U.P. will petition for such action. The S.U.P. is insisting that the Shepard Line live up to its contract.

Meanwhile the whole West Coast has been aroused by the union smashing of Bridges. Support for the S.U.P. has appeared from a number of sources. Teamsters have refused to handle the "hot" cargo. A majority of the members of the Marine Firemen, Oilers, Wipers and Water-tenders Association, who are behind the move to amalgamate the three unlicensed crafts on the West Coast, have given their full support to the sailors. The Seattle branch of the Cooks and Stewards Union has rebelled against the attempt of the Stalinist bureaucrats who control

their union, to force them into the C.I.O. without a referendum on the question—thus indirectly supporting the sailors' fight. The San Francisco Labor Council has unanimously endorsed the action taken by the S.U.P. including its refusal to accept the N.L.R.B.'s "compromise" offer.

Opposition in I.L.W.U.

But what is most significant of all is that, on top of the noticeable reluctance of the longshoremen to obey Bridges' orders to work behind picket lines, under the protection of the police, an opposition bulletin has made its appearance in San Francisco within the I.L.W.U.

While not having a clear-cut program this bulletin has exposed a number of Bridges' union-wrecking activities and is demanding unity with the Sailors against the shipowners.

Through the bulletin is revealed some extremely telling facts: The I.L.W.U. treasury is empty and there is neither a strike fund nor any effort being made to build one. (It would seem that Bridges has no intention of fighting the shipowners this fall.)

The old timers who fought in the '34 and '36 strikes are being rapidly replaced by "permit" men on the docks. Permit men have no vote and their right to work depends entirely on the amount of "loyalty" they show toward the Bridges machine. They are the men who are used to smash picket lines.

Fakers' Aims

The action taken by the teamsters and the Labor Council, while being accepted by by well-known labor fakers, is really an expression of rank and file disgust with the Stalinists and Bridges, a disgust which these same fakers are attempting to canalize for their own ends. To prevent this from happening by uniting the progressive sentiment in all these groups and directing it toward a united, progressive, class-struggle program to preserve the Federation is the task of the Socialist Workers Party which is playing a small but ever increasing role in the West Coast situation.

Uniting with the Shepard Line, supported by the National Labor Relations Board and covered by a smokescreen of slander directed by the Stalinists against the West Coast militants, Bridges is attempting to split the Maritime Federation and saddle the member unions with the slavish policies of class-collaboration. He must do this quickly if it is to serve the needs of his masters, the Stalinists. For they on their part must be prepared in the near future to turn over the working class, bound hand and foot, to Roosevelt and his class who are rapidly preparing another world war for the conquest of new markets.

The Opposition

Against this reactionary line-up stand the S.U.P., the majority of the members of the Firemen's Union, the Seattle branch of the Cooks and the growing opposition of the rank and file longshoremen. As yet these forces are not united except in sympathy. They need a clear cut program around which they can unite and rally all the progressive elements which still lie dormant in the maritime unions. Only such a program of unity of the rank and file against the bosses, their agents in the unions—Bridges and the Stalinists, and the bosses' government which serves the shipowners so well, can save the Maritime Federation and with it the hard won conditions of the West Coast maritime workers. Carried out, this program would enable the maritime workers to stand their ground against the inevitable attacks which will be made on their living standards this fall. To fail means death to the Federation.

The members of the Socialist Workers Party have given their full support to this struggle both on the picket line and in helping to expose the reactionary role of Bridges. We have the task now of tying together the different groupings which are groping for a way out and giving to them a clear lead toward unity in the struggle for the preservation of the Federation. It is a great task and one which calls for great sacrifices but it is one that can and must be fulfilled if West Coast labor is not to be driven back into the hands of the bosses to be transformed into cannon fodder for the coming war.

GOODRICH UNION DEFEAT PLANS FOR WAGE CUTS

Akron Bosses Overplay Hand In Rubber Parleys

AKRON.—[With a unanimous decision not even to consider voting on the company's proposed wage-cut program, the Goodrich local union April 23 spiked efforts of boss stooges to get rubber workers' acceptance of wage-cuts. This decision climaxed weeks of frantic propaganda by business men's committees, the chamber of commerce, the mayor and the daily press to intimidate and frighten workers with the loss of 5,000 jobs through decentralization.

In overplaying their hand, the business men's group, with a hysterical campaign that fell short only of vigilante violence, stiffened the spines of countless thousands of workers, and clearly demonstrated the necessity for militant unity against the bosses' solid front. The union resolved to press forward to a written agreement with the Goodrich Company and take no vote until such can be "submitted to the membership in an atmosphere of fairness and freedom."

Want Books Examined

A department of Labor statistician is now in town investigating the wage situation at Goodrich, and his report is expected by the union to have vital bearing on the result of the controversy. In this connection, the statement of President Callahan of Goodrich local is of great significance. He says: "There is only one thing that will give us a true picture. We've got to find out how much raw material is bought, how much finished goods is produced, and what is paid for wages in any given period of operation. The company has pointed out the differentials in wage rates, but has not pointed out the actual cost of production."

This demand—for the company to open its books and reveal its commercial secrets—the union hopes will be fulfilled by Roosevelt's investigating statistician, in line with its general confidence in the Roosevelt administration. But the union is in for a sad disappointment here; for such a far-reaching demand can only be realized when the workers themselves control production and have complete access to the company's books.

Shepard Line Ships West Coast Sailors

NEW YORK.—Picket lines around the Shepard Line "Windrush" were withdrawn last week when the operators decided to live up to the West Coast agreement and shipped the deck and engine departments from the Sailors Union of the Pacific's New York hall. Possibility of a continued tie-up was probable should the National Maritime Union refuse to supply men for the steward's department.

In Baltimore the "Harpoon," another Shepard ship, is clear with a full West Coast crew. Reports from the Pacific Coast state that the "Seatrush," center of fighting on the San Francisco waterfront when longshoremen broke through the S.U.P. picket line, has sailed from San Pedro with a skeleton crew of N.M.U. men. Besides being short of men, the "Seatrush" is undoubtedly short of stores as West Coast teamsters refused to go through the picket lines.

In Seattle the "Timberush" is tied up tight, with sailors, stewards and officers off the ship and longshoremen defying their officials and refusing to pass the S.U.P. picket line.

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

NOTICE, BROWNSVILLE! We start our open air meetings on Friday, April 29 at Pitkin and Bristol. All comrades of the branch and Y.P.S.L. and all party sympathizers, please be on hand at 8 o'clock. We need you all to put these meetings over.—Branch Secretary.

NEWARK

MAY DAY CELEBRATION, Sunday, May 1, P. M., 252 Market Street. Hear John G. Wright on "May Day, 1938," Games, Dancing, Refreshments, Red Puppets, Aspic, S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L..

DOWN WITH
IMPERIALIST WAR!
Socialist Workers Party
AKRON, OHIO

We Have Planted the Banner
At the Gateway to the South
BALTIMORE COMRADES

Hearty Greetings to the
SOCIALIST APPEAL
Socialist Workers Party
LOUISVILLE, KY.

Greetings on May Day
From Two Friends

Greetings!
Socialist Workers
Party
OAKLAND, CAL.

Greetings!
Socialist Workers
Party
CLEVELAND, OHIO

May Day Greetings
From
NORTH JERSEY S.W.P.
252 Market Street
Newark, N. J.

Forward to the Fourth
International!

Greetings!
Socialist Workers
Party
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

May Day Greetings
PITKIN
CAFETERIAS
1781 Pitkin Ave.
457 Sutter Ave.
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

THOMAS PAINE SOCIETY
88 Seventh Ave. South, N.Y.C.
(7th Avenue Subway to
Christopher Street)
Friday, April 29, 9 P. M.
CHARLES YALE HARRISON
"Is the Soviet Union a
Success?"
Friday, May 6, 9 P. M.
HARRY WATON
"What Is the Historic Meaning
of Marxism?"
Questions and Discussion
Sub. 40 cents
Tea and Cake Free
DANCING

LOS ANGELES
PEOPLE'S FRONT, by James
Burnham, 15 cents.
Orders filled promptly. 5 cents
extra for postage. Modern Book
Shop, 509 1/2 W 5th St., Los Angeles

Boston Branch, Socialist Workers Party and Y. P. S. L.

Send Hearty Revolutionary Greetings to the

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Fighter for the Fourth International

GREETINGS FROM LOCAL NEW YORK

Greetings to the
SOCIALIST APPEAL!
UPPER WEST SIDE
BRANCH

For a Workers' World!
Brownsville Branch
Socialist Workers Party

Long Live the
Fourth International!
VILLAGE BRANCH

YPSL
UPPER
MANHATTAN

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO
THE SOCIALIST APPEAL

HAIL THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL!

EAST SIDE BRANCH

Greetings to the Socialist
Appeal on May Day. Long
may it live and grow in
carrying out the tradi-
tional fighting spirit of
May day against imperi-
alist war, Fascism, and
Capitalism.

Louis Fleisher, Morris Ru-
bin, Dave Gordon, Irving
Levy, Al Brenner, I. M.
Stein, H. Ringhil—Sym-
pathizers, Brownsville.

Progressives On Workers'
Education Project W.P.A.
Greet the

SOCIALIST APPEAL
the Socialist Call and
Workers' Age on
May Day

Greetings!
LOWER
EAST
SIDE

Greetings
WASHINGTON
HEIGHTS BRANCH

Greetings
EAST BRONX
BRANCH

YPSL
UPPER WEST SIDE

BORO PARK
BRANCH
(Boro Park Labor
Lyceum)

WEST BRONX
Y. P. S. L.

MAY DAY GREETINGS
TO THE
SOCIALIST APPEAL
ASTORIA BRANCH

TOLEDO, OHIO
Socialist Workers Party

Greetings
to the Socialist Appeal
PHILADELPHIA
Socialist Workers Party

JAPAN STARTS NEW DRIVE IN CENTRAL CHINA

Seeks To Wipe Out The Defeat In Southern Shantung

Drawing on fresh divisions from other fronts, the Japanese military is making a new and desperate effort to retrieve lost ground in Central China. What is even more important, the Japanese are trying to retrieve the prestige they lost so heavily in the eyes of their imperialist rivals as a result of the defeats inflicted upon them in Southern Shantung during the last month.

The new offensive, for which Japan is marshalling fresh and formidable forces, is designed to achieve the long-delayed objective of capturing Suchow, strategic railway junction which commands the Lunghai line across the Central China plain.

Dissensions and Difficulties

For three months Japanese attempts to achieve this have been checkmated by growing difficulties at home, dissensions in the high command and within the government itself, and by the successful guerrilla tactics of the Chinese forces which paved the way for the victory at Taiherchwang, on the north bank of the Grand Canal, three weeks ago.

Whether the Chinese forces will be able to withstand the new offensive does not depend on military factors alone.

The war of China's freedom, like the fight against Fascism in Spain, is fundamentally a political struggle. Japan's military superiority can be counterweighted and overcome only by a surging movement of the Chinese masses led into the broad channels of the anti-imperialist struggle on the basis of a far-reaching social program which will assure them a better life when the war is over. But it is of just such struggle and a program that the Kuomintang and the Chinese ruling class are afraid. That is why a successful outcome for the war under Kuomintang leadership is utterly impossible.

Striking Power

The defeat inflicted on the Japanese at Taiherchwang was a demonstration of the striking power, the magnificent courage and the fighting qualities of the Chinese soldier. It also exploded the shallow myth of Japanese military invincibility.

But the morale and the combative qualities of the Chinese soldier, who is usually of humble peasant origin, cannot be indefinitely sustained in a purely military - defensive war which offers him, at the end, no way out of the social slavery and degradation which have always been his lot.

A radical social program, envisaging the end of the exploitation and oppression of the masses by landlords and capitalists is the only road to a victory for China. That—plus the solidarity of the workers and exploited peoples throughout the world, expressed in action. An inspiring example in this direction was afforded by the action last month of 3,000 Chinese coolies employed in the Japanese-owned Tungun iron mines in Trengganu, Northern Malaya, who refused to continue working for the would-be imperialist conquerors of their native land.

According to a Singapore press message dated March 16, the entire 3,000 quit work and issued a declaration refusing any longer to be traitors by working for Japan's munition factories. They proceeded to Singapore, where they were met by large parties of their fellow-countrymen who supplied them with food and arranged for their accommodation.

Comrades in China Acknowledge Aid

Acknowledgement of the receipt of \$115, representing part of the fund being raised by the Socialist Workers Party for the Communist League of China (Fourth Internationalists) arrived from Shanghai this week.

In a tribute to the spirit of international solidarity displayed by the S.W.P. in this matter, the Chinese comrades express their deep gratitude for the financial aid and transmit their fraternal greetings to the comrades in the United States. "We feel greatly encouraged by your support," they write.

Comrades everywhere are urged to speed completion of the China collection so that we may reach the goal of \$200 quickly.

Left Wing Forces Issues At Canadian Convention

Commonwealth Federation Displays Bureaucratic Methods At Do-Nothing Sessions

By E. ROBERTSON

The emergence of a Socialist Policy Group with a Marxist position on war was the one encouraging event in an otherwise farcical convention of the Ontario Cooperative Commonwealth Federation. In general the recent conference set a record in burlesque politics even for the already comic history of the social-democratic movement in Canada.

The Provincial Council acted as a now-perfected bureaucratic machine, with a 20 percent bloc vote in its own right in addition to its pre-conference control of most of the delegates. By a sys-

tem of maneuvers and delays, of liberal-propaganda speechifying by Chairman Mitchell and his trained-seal executive, and endless debating on pettifogging amendments to the by-laws, the 100 delegates were bored for two days and then forced to adjourn without considering a single one of the pages of political resolutions submitted by the branches they represented. These were referred back to the Council for consideration; since this is the old Council which voted itself back in, with the inclusion of the trade-union bureaucrat Buckley, and the Stalinist stooge, Dennison, the branch resolutions will simply be chuckled into the ascan.

Wife of Ex-C.P. Head Held by the G.P.U.

Nelly Kaufman, Russian wife of De Bouck, former general secretary of the Belgian Communist Party, and her daughter, are being held in Moscow as hostages, according to a recent report in the London Times.

De Bouck was recently expelled from the party for non-conformity. Stalin is holding his wife and daughter in order to prevent him from telling the world what he knows concerning the inner working of the Comintern and the nefarious activities of the G.P.U. with which it is so closely connected.

150 Gather At S.W.P. Dinner

Gala Event To Greet N. C. Members

NEW YORK.—About 150 persons gathered at Marini's Restaurant last Saturday evening to greet members of the national committee attending the first plenum of the Socialist Workers Party, held in New York last weekend.

Max Shachtman, editor of the Socialist Appeal, spoke at some length on his recent trip to Mexico, where with a delegation of comrades from the United States he visited Leon Trotsky at Coyoacan. Shachtman assured his listeners that Trotsky, despite the grievous blows the revolutionary movement has suffered throughout the world, and the heavy blows he himself has suffered, is still imbued with confidence in the power of the working class and views with optimism the coming revolutionary struggles.

V. R. Dunne, leader of the powerful and militant Teamsters Union in the Northwest, confidently predicted that the plenum would take a big step forward in building of the revolutionary party in the United States.

E. Robertson, visiting the plenum as a fraternal representative of the Canadian Fourth Internationalists, presented the greetings of the Canadian comrades.

George Clarke and Burt Cochran, members of the national committee and active among the auto workers in Detroit and Cleveland, spoke briefly.

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Police Seize Arms From Mexican C.P.

MEXICO, D. F., April 18.—The newspaper La Prensa announced today that it had learned police raids on headquarters of the Mexican Communist Party had uncovered arms and explosives. The raids were staged, La Prensa said, on the strength of reports that members of the Communist Party were carrying concealed weapons without permits.

Police seized 187 pounds of dynamite, 18 seven-mm. carbines, 22 Mausers, and 6,000 cartridges. As the police broke in several members escaped carrying two cases of guns.

NAZIS THREATEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

(Continued from page 1)

which Daladier will have to toe the line with Chamberlain, according to Augur, is the Franco-Soviet pact.

Augur was not quite crude enough to say that Chamberlain is going to demand that France terminate its already-nebulous alliance with the Soviet Union. Instead: "Mr. Chamberlain will object strongly if the French continue to allow the Russians to influence their policy in Europe and even internally as at present."

The aim of British "democracy" is to help Franco's victory in Spain, hasten the Franco-Italian understanding which is already under way and then, in Augur's words, "to renew his offer to the Germans of an all-around settlement on the basis of a multiple pact between the great powers of Europe."

By these tactics Chamberlain hopes to postpone war in Europe at least long enough to permit Britain to bring its armaments up to the desired levels and to guarantee that if war should break out the initial explosions, at least, will shatter the land of the Soviets.

This is the meaning of all the maneuvers on the European diplomatic stage. For the workers it must be made to mean an end to the disastrous fraud of "collective security" nurtured at the breast of Stalinism and now fading because that breast is now barren. It must mean a resolute turn toward the struggle against capitalism, "democratic" and Fascist, as the one means of spiking the plans of the warmakers.

Greetings!

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MAY DAY GREETINGS

To the

SOCIALIST APPEAL

from

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SOVIET UNION NOTES

Council of People's Commissars Feels New Blows—Denny Discovers Destruction of Party Apparatus In Soviet Union

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

PURGE IN THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS

On March 28 the Council of People's Commissars elected only a few weeks before (in January) convened in its regular session with Molotov in the chair. The following Commissars received "warnings": M. Bruskin, Commissar for Mechanical Construction; M. Shestakov, Commissar for Light Industry; A. Gilinsky, Commissar for Food Industry; A. Zverev, Commissar for Finance; M. Boldyrev, Commissar for Public Health. Among those who appeared before the Council to report was Otto Schmidt head of the Northern Sea Route Administration who was also severely "criticized." The "warning" to Schmidt, incidentally, has been repeated since then in the press, and his removal is only a matter of time.

Immediately after the session, terse reports appeared in the press revealing the consummation of the purge in two departments, those of Land Transport and of Water Transport.

The Commissar for Water Transport, N. I. Pakhomov, has been removed from his post, and replaced by N. Yezhov who now holds two posts (Commissar for Internal Affairs and Commissar for Water Transport). The appointment of Yezhov obviously implies such an intensification of the purge in the Water Transport Commissariat as will leave not a trace of the former administration.

Parkhomov, the purged Commissar, who has undoubtedly been arrested, was one of the seven of Stalin's "old line Bolsheviks" who had escaped the preceding purge. Of the original pillars of the Stalin administration only six now remain in the Council: V. M. Molotov, K. Voroshilov, Vlas Chubar, M. Litvinov, L. Kaganovich and A. Mikoyan.

The downfall of Bakulin, Commissar for Land Transport, has been expected for some time because of the critical condition of Soviet railways, for which, of course, he is made the scape goat.

Bakulin's successor is L. Kaganovich who now holds that post in addition to being the Commissar for Heavy Industry. The policy of combining the departments will apparently be pursued in the future.

Raskolnikov, the Soviet Ambassador to Sofia has been "recalled."

Dispatches from Moscow for April 10 announce a purge in the Commissariat of Agriculture in the autonomous Tartar republic. Seven functionaries have been shot for "sabotage and adherence to the counter-revolutionary organization of Trotskyites and Rights."

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE C.P.S.U.

In a dispatch to the New York Times (April 23, 1938), Denny comments on the elimination of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union as a political power in Stalin's Russia, in pursuance of Stalin's plan to intrutch himself as a "legal" dictator.

The Soviet press, in the campaign that is being waged around the current "party elections," reveals that in 1937 more than 40 per cent of the party functionaries in the key Moscow and Leningrad organizations had been replaced by "new cadres," i.e., by people who had never held party positions before. It goes without saying that the same process was extended to party units all over the country. If 40 percent of the Stalinist leading cadres were removed in 1937, what will happen when the "elections" are over in 1938?

The very fact that the G.P.U. permitted Denny publicly to announce the demise of the C.P.S.U. as a political factor in Russia is ample enough proof that it is Stalin's intention to complete the job of "renewing the leadership," i.e., completely to destroy even the fiction of the party in 1938.

The resolutions passed by party units, higher party bodies etc. all call for the intensification of the campaign to root out the remaining "vestiges of the counter-revolutionary Fascist spies and wreckers in the party."

SIDELIGHTS ON PARTY "ELECTIONS"

A zealous functionary in Bashkiria overfulfills his directives: "Seyfullin, secretary of the Yanaulsk regional committee of the party, came out at the conference with an anti-party declaration, calling all of the members of the plenum of his regional committee 'enemies of the people.' Unfortunately, such a speech at the conference met with no rebuff whatever. Comrade Zalikin, secretary of the Bashkir provincial committee, who directed the conference, advised Seyfullin to remove all members of the plenum of the regional committee from leadership, and to draw in other communists to replace them...." (Pravda, April 11).

In the Ural machine plant the party election was opened with dances. "The meeting was called for 7 P.M., but at 8 o'clock only 17 candidates and 9 party members were present. Anybody not too lazy was able to gain entry to the hall. There was no check of party documents. The place was cold and uncomfortable. Everybody sat in their coats and hats.... The report of the secretary of the party committee, comrade Vetrov, was apolitical and full of gross mistakes. Vetrov literally devoted only half a minute to the decisions of the January plenum of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. and their fulfillment...." (Pravda, April 13).

The editors of the Daily Worker caught Denny with an attempt to refurbish "the old canard about Joseph Stalin setting himself up as a 'dictator.'" And to disprove Denny they proudly refer to the party elections! Says the Daily Worker: "And when does Mr. Denny attempt this bit of slander? Just when the Communist Party carries out the most democratic elections for its officers of every category up to the very highest." (April 25).

Greetings to the Socialist Appeal!

MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL

Socialist Workers Party

Revolutionary Greetings!

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Socialist Workers Party

FOR THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL!

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AND Y. P. S. L.

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South Side Branch
Boyle Heights Branch
Lenin Circle, Y.P.S.L.
Debs Circle, Y.P.S.L.

May Day Greetings

ST. LOUIS BRANCH

Socialist Workers Party

May Day Greetings

MARITIME SECTION, PACIFIC COAST

Socialist Workers Party

MAY DAY GREETINGS

LYNN, MASS.

Socialist Workers Party

Revolutionary Greetings!

DETROIT S.W.P.

May Day Greeting

Hutchinson, Kansas

Socialist Appeal

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Editor.

HAROLD ROBERTS FRANK GRAVES
Associate Editors.
S. STANLEY
Business Manager.

Meet the Nazi Thugs!

Nazi thuggery has made its appearance in New York. A group of American Legionnaires who went to a Yorkville Nazi meeting were black-jacked and belted by uniformed Nazi gangsters. Last week the offices of Charles Weiss, editor of an anti-Nazi magazine in Brooklyn, were raided by four of the same breed. They beat Weiss into semi-consciousness, scratched swastika emblems on his chest and back, and ransacked the office before escaping.

Their attempt to make Weiss kiss a swastika flag they brought with them brought right to our own doorsteps a repetition of the methods of barbarous cruelty and humiliation which the Fascists have used and are using in Germany and Austria to grind their opponents, militant workers, unionists, and hapless Jews, into submission.

This is not merely an importation of German Nazi methods in this country. Every worker who has ever been on strike is familiar with the black-jack methods of gangsters employed by the bosses as scabs and "deputies" to terrorize strikers. Cops and National Guardsmen wielding clubs, guns, and bayonets against striking or demonstrating workers are nothing more or less than paid thugs of the bosses whose barbarous attacks on workers are cloaked with the fig-leaf of legality.

The most ardent exponents of anti-working class thuggery within the working class itself today are the Stalinists who are trying everything to introduce the barbarous methods of the G. P. U. into the labor movement. Toadying miserably before boss politicians and labor scab, the Stalinists are seeking to employ against all opponents of their policies methods which can scarcely be distinguished from those of the Nazi thugs who beat up Weiss last week.

In our columns during the last few weeks we have carried numerous reports from all over the country of attacks by Stalinist hoodlums and strong-arm men on members of our party and of attempts to drive our comrades and others out of public meetings by main force.

All of this is grist to the mill of Fascism and the working class will pay for it dearly unless we organize resolutely and forcefully against it. There is only one way to meet the Nazis, the thugs, and their Stalinist imitators. They have got to be made to understand that their gangster violence will not be received passively; they will be answered by

vigorous, organized resistance. They will attack workers only at their own great peril.

Working class meetings, anti-Fascist organizations and newspapers must be protected against such attacks—not by fruitless appeals to the boss police who come in nothing loath to beat up attackers and attacked alike or who more often than not condone the attack—but by the strength of the workers themselves. The workers' defense committees that spring into being as a result of almost every strike must be extended and maintained as permanent committees of defense against Fascists, bosses' thugs and Stalin's gorillas in the labor movement.

Kerensky and Stalin

Lackeys always run ahead of their masters. Thus about two weeks ago the Stalinist *Daily Worker* sought to improve on the "case" submitted by Prosecutor Vyshinsky against the Old Bolsheviks murdered by Stalin in the cellars of the G. P. U. after the most hideous frame-up trials known in history.

This organ of truth and enlightenment blazoned on its front page an alleged admission made in the course of a lecture by Mr. Alexander Kerensky, head of the Russian government which the Bolsheviks overthrew in 1917, that he and his confederates, as early as 1927, had been approached by emissaries of Kamenev, Zinoviev and Bukharin with an offer to cooperate with them in anti-Soviet activity. Kerensky was also credited with the admission that he and his White Guard organization had accepted the proffered aid, but that Stalin intervened and ruined all the plans.

Like 99.9 per cent of all Stalinist statements concerning their political opponents, the "factual" element in this story was manufactured out of whole cloth. Had Kerensky made the statements attributed to him by the *Daily Worker*, they certainly would have made the front page of every newspaper. As it was, Kerensky's "confession" stood in isolated splendor on the front page of the *Daily Worker* alone. The falsifiers put it in circulation, as always, on the theory that it takes at least a little time for the truth to catch up with a lie.

In a letter to the *New York Times* last Sunday, Kerensky characterized this piece of mendacity as a fabrication "from beginning to end.... The falsification of my utterances should help public opinion perceive how 'evidence' is manufactured by Communists for the purposes of the G. P. U. in the staging of demonstration trials."

Very true, indeed. But Kerensky's indignation, to put it mildly, is somewhat hypocritical. It was Kerensky himself who in 1917 put into circulation the lie that Lenin and Trotsky were agents of the German General Staff in order to confound the Russian workers and frustrate their revolutionary activity under the leadership of the Bolsheviks. Stalin has taken Kerensky's old calumny, embellished it and expanded it for use against his opponents.

Kerensky has not yet retracted and apologized for his shameful lying. Until he does, it will not be possible to regard his indignation at the Stalinist falsifiers as anything more than the envy of a picayune frame-up artist who has been ousted from power.

T. U. Unity Needed In Coming Class Battles

By ARNE SWABECK

During the two years of conflict between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. enormous changes were wrought throughout the trade union field. The C. I. O. made phenomenal progress in organization, labor militancy rose to new and hitherto unsurpassed heights, the A. F. of L. made some gains; but the efforts—feeble efforts—made to end the conflict and to reach a basis for unification of the two organizations proved unavailing. Now, when considering the relationship between the two bodies, the decision made by the C. I. O. to set up a permanent organization is not at all surprising. It was inevitable.

Many genuine militants may take this whole question quite philosophically knowing that present-day economic and political developments have already set powerful forces in motion which will work their way toward unification. But time may soon become very pressing.

Conflict Overshadowed

During the recent period rapid organization developed so much momentum that the conflict of necessity receded into the background. At any rate it had little possibility of interfering with the progress made. Now, however, these conditions have been altered in a fundamental sense. The stormy offensive for union organization has passed its climax for the time being. The unions are becoming preoccupied with the consolidation of gains made. Above all they are compelled to prepare to meet new problems that are arising out of the changed economic and political conditions.

While the conflict between the two rival movements could not come so much to a head when new mass unions grew up almost overnight in the most important basic industries, and while it was necessary for the C. I. O. to forge ahead independently and unhampered by any demands for capitulation—unity at that time could have been accomplished only by capitulation—it stands to reason that this question appears in an entirely different light now that the class enemy is preparing to assume the offensive all along the line.

When the whole of the trade union movement becomes compelled to engage in bitter defensive struggles against attacks on the wage standard, and against attacks on its very life, a continuation, or a further intensification of the conflict may have fatal consequences.

Independence a Fact

It is true that the C. I. O. decision represents a change only in the formal sense. In reality it has already for some time functioned as an independent and more or less permanent organization. The self-appointed Committee for Industrial Organization laid down general policy for its affiliated unions; it decided on strategy in strikes and in political life and took measures of organization as an independent federation would do. Only this status has been pretty well confined to the higher official circle without the benefit of a regular network of local central bodies and federation conventions through which the membership could exert its influence in determining policy and in selection of leadership.

The power and authority of the self constituted committee could well be envied by the most hardened A. F. of L. bureaucrat. It appointed and discharged organizers and regional directors at will and held several of the newly-organized unions in leading strings. Some of them are still under "provisional government," as this method was once politely called in the miners' union.

Yet, with all the power, authority and arbitrariness of the leading committee, nowhere has rank-and-file initiative found such a mighty outlet as in the new industrial unions. For a long time this has been a matter of serious concern to the leadership. Once these new unions were established it frowned upon the sidestroke—or, to be more correct, it frowned upon the idea of the workers taking possession of the plants and thus violating capitalist property rights. This is of particular importance now when strikes are again beginning to increase in frequency. And, let there be no mistake about it, the C. I. O. strategists have taken this step toward a permanent organization with an eye, not to loosening their grip on the apparatus, but rather in the hope of strengthening official channels for greater supervision and control. Obviously this particular aspect of the question does not bode well for an ener-

getic attempt to solve correctly the many new serious problems now arising.

Those "Too Old"

To begin with, one may mention the very simple question of industry's "old men." Recently this has received more than usual public attention because of the increasing difficulty of workers holding on to their jobs when past the age of forty. Since this condition prevails more in mass production industry than in the sheltered trades, it becomes most pressing for the C. I. O. But even quite recently a number of A. F. of L. strikes have grown out of the issue of seniority rights. What is involved is one of the simple aspects of job security, and certainly this is the concern of the whole trade union movement.

Unemployment is of course a far greater and a far more acute question. According to the almost unanimous estimates of a reliable statistical authorities the unemployment figure had already in February risen above 13,000,000. This cancels out not less than 54 per cent of the decrease in unemployment which occurred from March 1933 to last September. This figure has increased further since February and indications are for an even greater scarcity of jobs. In regard to this question also, the C. I. O. is most acutely affected since the unemployment growth is mostly in mass production industry.

An over-supply of labor power in the market, and factory gates closing, weakens all union morale. A large army of unemployed is a threat to all unions. And, above all, the needs of the unemployed cannot be met by pious resolutions which have even less effect where employers can take advantage of disunity. Nothing less than united

action of the whole trade union movement will suffice.

Bosses On Offensive

It is conditions such as these that facilitate the preparations being made by the class enemy to launch a mighty attack to beat down wages. With profits bobbing to still lower levels, capitalism knows no other way than to seek compensation from the workers' pay envelope. Even a boom in the war industries could only complicate and make union resistance more difficult without united action.

All of these problems, and many more that could be mentioned, almost fade into insignificance when considering the question of the approaching world war. Never does the ruling class need a submissive working class so much as during war times. In this the trade union movement becomes a key issue. By its greatly added numerical and organizational strength it is a much more potent factor than it was in 1917.

The rulers of America will be sure to spare no efforts, on the one hand to compel working class loyalty to the employers, and on the other hand to curb, if not to crush, its independence, for this is what war means in the first instance. But the workers who have much to lose and nothing to gain from a capitalist war need their forces united to fight against it. Their trade union movement, built up through many bitter struggles, is itself a product of capitalist contradictions and an expression of existing and growing class antagonism. Only on the field of the class struggle can these contradictions and antagonisms be solved. Objectively the unification of the trade union movement should be a beginning toward this final end and militants can do a good turn by pressing for a solution of this first problem now.

SWP Summons Workers For N. Y. May Day Rally

(Continued from page 1)

urday April 30. They have announced that Saturday and not Sunday was selected in order that "church and peace groups" might participate.

Fraudulent United Front

The "United May Day Committee" organized by the Stalinists is dominated by C. P. functionaries, such as Louis Weinstock, hiding behind their trade union labels.

The Saturday demonstration will not be a real united front, but a Stalinist-controlled demonstration in support of Roosevelt's war plans. Obviously the Socialist Workers Party, American section of the Fourth International could not participate in such a demonstration.

Offers Made

The Party approached the Socialist Party and the Independent Communist Labor League with proposals for a united front of all working class organizations which were opposed to participating in the Stalinist patriotic demonstration. At first the Socialist Party, through its local secretary, Arthur McDowell, said that the S. P. would celebrate May Day alone. Later the S. W. P. was invited by the S. P. to join in a conference on May Day to which the Lovestonites had also been invited. The S. W. P. accepted the invitation and attended the conference. Present were representatives of the S. P., the S. W. P., the C. L. L. (Lovestonites), the Y. P. S. L. and the youth organization of the Socialist Party.

Objections Raised

Right at the beginning of the conference and before there was any discussion of the main ques-

tion the representative of the youth organization of the S. P. stated that his organization had objections to the Y. P. S. L. (Fourth International) being in the demonstration. This position was supported by Barshop and Russell who represented the Socialist Party. Russell said that the S. P. did not want the demonstration to have a "Trotskyist color," and objected to being mixed up with the Fourth International with which the S. P. was not in agreement.

The S. W. P. representatives took the position that this was a false conception of the meaning of the united front, that we certainly had no objection to the youth organization of the S. P. carrying banners with the legend "Y. P. S. L. Second International."

Ultimatum Issued

As no agreement could be reached it was decided to come together the next day. Later in the day Barshop called the S. W. P. and stated that the Socialist Party would not participate in a May Day demonstration with the Socialist Workers Party unless the S. W. P. agreed to keep silent on the Fourth International and provided the youth section did not appear as the Y. P. S. L., 4th International. At the next day's conference the S. W. P. took the position that to agree to the demands of the Socialist Party would mean giving up our political identity and the organizational identity of the youth organization. This is not required by any correct united front considerations. We made no such demands on any of the other organizations.

REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS

To the

SOCIALIST APPEAL

from

A Group of Members of Teachers Union, Local 5

New York

LaFollette Prepares Third Party Attempt For 1940

By FRANCES MERRILL

Governor Philip LaFollette of Wisconsin climaxed a series of four radio addresses last week attacking the Republican and Democratic parties, including Roosevelt's New Deal, with a call for a conference of "liberals" to meet in Madison April 28 to discuss the possibility of a national third party. While declining to reveal whom he had invited, he said invitations had been issued to 3,000 or 4,000 persons, mainly from the Middle West but including some from the Eastern states.

Since the LaFollettes have generally been considered New Dealers, and their Progressive party supported Roosevelt in the last presidential election, Governor LaFollette's radio lashing of the Administration for its failure to solve questions of unemployment and relief occasioned considerable surprise. It was not surprising, however, to anyone familiar with the Wisconsin Progressive party and the aims of its leaders, Robert and Philip LaFollette, although the motive for a blast at this particular time was not clear until the announcement of the conference.

Third Party Aspirations

Ever since the LaFollettes abandoned their role as leaders of the left-wing faction of the Wisconsin Republican party inherited from their father, in order to found the Progressive party, their aspiration has been a national third party similar to the one in Wisconsin and independent of the two old parties.

The "liberal" Representative J. J. O'Connell, of Montana, has suggested that the conference in Madison might endorse Roosevelt for a third term, nominating him to head a third party. If the conference should do this, it would doubtless be contrary to the LaFollettes' wishes. Governor or LaFollette's attacks last week on Roosevelt's failure to work out a sound recovery program and solve "the fundamental underlying problems that caused the depression," taken in conjunction with Bob's address before the Committee in Chicago, April 24, in which he assailed the Roosevelt armament program, scarcely look as if the LaFollettes were laying the groundwork for an endorsement of Roosevelt.

What They Want

What the LaFollettes want and what comes out of the conference may well be two different things. The LaFollettes and Wisconsin Progressives alone cannot constitute a national third party. But what they want is obvious enough from the program and history of the Wisconsin party.

First of all, they do not want a party that will tail-end either of the two old parties—be merely a left-wing faction for the Democratic party or a participant in some sort of "Democratic Front." They were willing enough to tail-end the Democratic party in the 1936 election, in return for Democratic support of the Progressives in Wisconsin, but at that time they saw no prospect of a national third party of the kind they desired. The Farmer-Labor-Progressive Federation in Wisconsin played

a People's Front role in that election, largely under the domination of the Progressives.

But the LaFollettes, while using the Federation, have been careful not to tie themselves too closely to it. It is not their child, as is the Progressive party, although they made the most of it to keep the Socialists and other miscellaneous liberals and labor groups behind the Progressive machine. It is significant, however, that even after the LaFollettes got the Federation to remove a "production for use" clause from its platform, and although the Federation's constitution forbade support of any candidate not a member of the Federation, the LaFollettes did not join. The Federation was forced to give Philip LaFollette in his campaign for re-election as governor, the left-handed support of not nominating a candidate to run against him.

Not a Labor Party

It is clear also that the LaFollette third party would not be a labor party in the classic sense, or even a farmer-labor party, although it would seek of course to get labor's support. Its basis would be the farmers, small businessmen, and the "liberals," the middle class in short. It would be the sort of party advocated by Bingham and the Common Sense group with a less Utopian program, for the LaFollettes are practical politicians. The Cooperative Commonwealth would be relegated to the distant, very distant future. This is evident from the governor's radio speeches, in which, according to the *New York Times*, "he advocated, without detailing specifications, a program of collective action which would create lasting employment in the creation of national wealth while at the same time leaving private incentives undisturbed."

And how could it be otherwise, since the appeal would have to be made to the Middle Western farmer, who is not a sharecropper or agricultural laborer, but an independent proprietor, and to the small businessman, who may be the enemy of banks, monopoly corporations and Wall St., but not at all of private property and the profit system? Such a party would lend itself, as the Wisconsin Progressive party has, to the sort of attacks on monopoly and the financial oligarchy that also serve fascist movements. A striking evidence of this was found during the last depression when the LaFollette party organ, the *Progressive*, had kind words for Huey Long and the Townsend movement.

Could Not Represent Labor

A LaFollette party, with its appeal to the "little man" and "liberals," would not fail to have its lure for labor and all the exploited. But such a party, having no real class basis, since the middle class has no independent economic basis of its own, would be incapable of representing the class interests of labor. It might be more consistent in its "liberalism," less corrupt, and less subject to the direct pressure of big business and the leaders of industry than the two old parties, but in the end it would have to represent the interests of the bosses, albeit the little bosses, and not of labor.

Tram Workers Strike In Columbus

COLUMBUS, Ohio.—As the Columbus transportation strike entered its second week negotiations were still being carried on between the Amalgamated Association of Street Car, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Operators, Local 1111, and the Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Company by federal labor conciliators.

The strike was called April 17 after the company refused the union's demands. The union asked for a closed shop and wage increases of 10 to 13 cents per hour. Later in the strike the union offered to withdraw the closed shop demand, providing the company would recognize a grievance committee. The company refused to accept the compromise.

Picket lines, established at the beginning of the strike, are being supplemented by members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Peoples Socialist League. As yet no attempts have been made by the company to operate street cars and buses by scabs, and the pickets have successfully kept the cars in the barns.

The resistance of the workers is stiffening as the company continues to refuse to grant the union's demands. A victory for the street car workers would provide an impetus to the organization of labor in this "open shop" city.

New International May Issue Appears

The May issue of the *New International* magazine will be off the press this week. Continuing its high standard, the May issue features many important and timely articles. Among the features of this issue are:

- (1) "Five Years of the New Deal" by Maurice Spector.
- (2) "The London Conference" by Joseph Carter.
- (3) "Why I Quit The Communist Party" by Charles Rapoport.
- (4) "Czechoslovakia after Anschluss" by George.
- (5) "Lenin and Luxemburg" by Max Shachtman.

Besides these features, there are significant articles on "The Proletariat and War," "The Crisis and Spending" by David Cowles, a second article by S. Stanley on India, a special article on Brazil, the second portion of the article by Walter Field on the "Course of Herr Brandler," as well as Archive Material and other distinctive features.

The May issue will be on sale at news stands and book shops at 20 cents per copy. Address subscription orders (\$2. per year) to The New International, 116 University Place, New York, N. Y.

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THE SOCIALIST APPEAL

Make May Day Labor's Day!

(Continued from page 1)

of the people the serf of a handful of "democratic" capitalist politicians, but the United Workers' Front of struggle against capitalist reaction!

Only the militant, United Workers' Front can beat off Fascism. It alone can inspire the masses in China, in Spain, tomorrow in France, and in the United States, to a victorious reply to capitalism. It alone can inspire the masses of the Soviet Union to resist the treacherous work of the Stalin gang, which is undermining the great conquests of the 1917 revolution and dragging the country back to capitalist exploitation.

Let us determine on May Day to reinforce our efforts to break the working class from the leadership of the bourgeoisie and its agents!

LABOR IS INVINCIBLE

The power, the strength, the resourcefulness and initiative of the masses are immeasurable! Let them but use their own power and no ruling class can hold out against their onslaught!

Then rally around the banner of the working class struggle, of proletarian independence, of revolutionary internationalism! It is the banner of the Fourth International, of the Socialist Workers Party, of the triumph of labor's struggle for emancipation! Let us make May Day a real day of labor!

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL

Monthly Marxist Magazine

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Lynn SWP Supports Sharaf Strikers

BOSTON.—Combining forces to aid the C. I. O. Foodworkers Union, Local 701, which is conducting a militant strike against Sharaf's Restaurant in Lynn, Mass., the Boston and Lynn branches of the Socialist Workers Party held a benefit dance at the Boston headquarters last Saturday.

A feature of the affair was a short address by one of the striking food workers, Pappy Carney, who expressed the determination of the strikers to maintain their ranks solidly until they win their demands. Carney thanked the S. W. P. for its support of the strike. Another feature was the presence of several Stalinists, who fraternized with the "Trotskyists" without showing any fear of contamination. It is possible they may be expelled from the Communist party for their attendance—it has happened in Boston before.

The dance, which netted \$85 for the strikers, was a continuation of previous work in support of the food workers. Earlier the same day the union held a tag day in Lynn, which brought in over \$100. Members of the S. W. P., together with a group of Simmons College girls, acted as collectors.