

# THE FIGHTING WORKER

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## Uncle Sam, Britain And The War

The first World War started with the main imperialist conflict between England and Germany. When it ended the main rivalry among the capitalist powers was between Great Britain and the United States. Uncle Sam gained a greater victory at the expense of England, than England gained at the expense of Germany. American imperialism gained tremendous markets everywhere, became the most powerful nation on earth. And these markets were taken away primarily at the expense of John Bull.

The Anglo-American struggle continues as the key to understanding the imperialist conflicts from that period to the present.

Now the present war is started again by the two former main enemies of the first war. America is not yet in the direct military conflict. But as the strongest imperialist power and as the main antagonist on a world scale to the declining British Empire. America's role in the war still remains (outside of the role of the world workingclass) the decisive question for the redivision of the earth.

### PARALLEL ACTION

The outcome of the first World War revealed that in spite of the blunders of young American Imperialism it was strong enough to avoid subordinating itself to the British Imperialists—as for instance France did then and does now, and as Austria did in relation to Germany in the first War. If it had subordinated itself to Britain, instead of carrying on parallel action with Britain, the U. S. would not have been able to come out of the war as the Number One imperialist power.

The struggle for the control of Europe today is related to the coming show down between America and Britain for political domination of the world. It complicates American strategy. It is not excluded, and is rather a likely variant (as we stated in the FIGHTING WORKER during the Munich affair) that the FORM of the struggle may again be one of parallel action with Britain. Such parallel action between the two giants against a third bloc of rivals would in no way eliminate the basic conflict between the U. S. and England. In the end it could only intensify the antagonism due to the fact that capitalism as a whole is in decay.

Subordination of Uncle Sam to John Bull is excluded. In any "bloc" with England, the U. S. will use "parallel action" with England in order to work toward weakening of the British Empire, as she did in the last World War, to get a stronger position in Asia, and to crush the threat of any NEW POWER that may subsequently challenge America. This is the path that the United States under Roosevelt seems to be following at present.

During a war in which the U. S. is pursuing parallel action with Britain, it can well be assumed that America will gain great economic concessions and trade rights within the British colonies, take over the defense of Asiatic markets against Japan, will attempt to break the British tin and rubber monopolies, will ease Britain out of the Western Hemisphere entirely, etc.

This line of march is, of course, not finally decided. Imperialist alignments can shift almost overnight. In order to reorganize the world to the needs of the American dollar, the U. S. may seek an alliance with Germany and Russia. This would give the U. S. a tremendous battering ram against the British Empire. But this depends also on whether Germany and Stalinism can be brought into line.

In either case, however, the U. S. strategy will not be to HELP England, or to HELP Germany. It will only be parallel action to help American imperialism, and to weaken ALL the

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## Neutrality Fight Covers Up Real War Moves

### Claim New M Day Plans will Set Labor Back 50 Years, if Enforced

Strong resentment by the majority of the American people against the imperialist war, has forced the New Deal to tone down its propaganda and to cover up its war moves for the time being.

Behind the scenes, however, the war moves have taken on increased momentum. As soon as the "neutrality" legislation is out of the way the Roosevelt government plans to ask for more emergency powers to prepare for

war.

Authority for these statements is the Kiplinger Washington letter, confidential news-organ for the big capitalists.

Senator Pat McCarran, a Nevada Democrat, has already revealed part of the scheme. The "Industrial Mobilization Plan, Revision of 1939", which McCarran has made public for his own reasons, calls for such curtailment of civil liberties in the United States that, according to the Senator, "If it is ever put into effect it will cost organized

labor everything it has fought for and won in the last 50 years."

### END OF LABOR'S GAINS

The latest edition of the M Day plans, approved both by the New Deal Navy and Army departments, includes administrators to handle labor, to decide on what jobs are to be taken, which workers are to work in which factories, etc. The document reveals that the famous War Resources Administration, which Roosevelt suddenly dissolved a few weeks ago, will again be resurrected. It is a basic point in the M Day plans.

The very unneutral position of Uncle Sam comes to light more sharply every day. Under capitalism it is excluded that any imperialist nation can either remain neutral or keep out of the war.

Roosevelt made a big fuss over the U. S. ship seized by the Germans, City of Flint, even though as a rule the German Navy has been more courteous than Britain to Uncle Sam's ships. Ships are held for as long as 5 and 6 weeks in England before being permitted to proceed.

### FULL STEAM TO WAR

The new "neutrality" act, passed by the Senate and almost sure to be passed by the House, is so full of loopholes it is a joke. The provision of the bill that all belligerents must pay for American goods in cash, can be evaded by a dozen different methods. Canadian firms are excluded from the cash and carry provisions.

American ships will proceed, under the law, practically to any place on the globe. The President will decide what are the combat zones.

Unlike the 1914 period, U. S. war plans are far less disguised than 25 years ago. Without a strong enough opposition from the working class, the Roosevelt War Deal is moving full steam ahead to get into this war and redivide the earth to the needs of American Imperialism.

### FRUIT GROWERS WRATH

The Fruit Growers Association in California, has offered a vast sum of money to certain movie producers not to film the excellent book by John Steinbeck, Grapes of Wrath. The book deals with the tear-rending misery and starvation of the migratory workers in California.

FOR A NEW COMMUNIST  
(4th) INTERNATIONAL

## WAGE HOUR MEASURE AIDS FEW, BUT CUTS WAGES FOR MILLIONS

On October 24th the Wage and Hour Law became one year old. Under the provisions of the law new wage increases of 5 cents an hour came into effect for approximately 690,000 workers, and hours were reduced from 44 to 42 a week, affecting about 2½ million workers throughout the country.

In a majority of cases the 42 hour schedule was accompanied with a wage cut.

A hopelessly inadequate "police force" of 10 men to check over the whole country on inefficiency and laxness in the enforcement of the law, opens violations to such an extent that Porto Rico, for example is practically excluded from the law, makes the law itself a mockery. Furthermore there are hundreds and hundreds of exceptions which were granted by former Administrator, Andrews.

While the Roosevelt administration is claiming credit for thus "aiding" millions of workers, wage cuts and dismissals for hundreds of thousands of WPA workers have been put through. The lay offs on WPA and the increase of hours to 130 a month will help cut wages of the 40 million workers not affected by the present law. Thus while Roosevelt "aids" 3 million workers with one hand, with the other he creates lower wages and living standards for 40 million.

The whole history of capitalism shows that so-called "minimum" wages introduced by law tend to become maximum wages in fact.

### COV'T CONTROL OF LABOR

The Wage-Hour law was adopted, just like the National Labor Relations Act, to head off growing pressure of the working class. At the same time it has been cleverly put to use to help one section of the capitalist class

against another, to equalize competition and strengthen the hand of the big industrialists. For instance in the textile industry the

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## How Not To Fight War

The Trotskyites claim to be "against the war and against the Roosevelt war plans." In fact, they claim to be the only "anti-war party" in America.

The October 31st issue of their paper in dealing with the New York City elections, is very enlightening on this question:

"For all other councilmanic and other posts (except the two posts for which Trotskyites are running for), we ask the workers of New York to vote for the candidates of the American Labor Party... We support them in spite of their program..."

It happens that the American Labor Party, just 27 days before this editorial, passed a resolution calling for the support of the "democracies against totalitarianism and pledging aid to Mr. Roosevelt's war plans, which are proceeding under the flag of 'neutrality.'"

Furthermore every single candidate of the American Labor Party must endorse this resolution or be withdrawn from the ballot. Every single candidate, in other words, (and the Trotskyites state this themselves), is pledged to support of the Roosevelt War Plans.

But this is a small matter for Messrs. Cannon and Schachtman! Revolutionary in words, support of the war mongers and social-patriots IN DEEDS—that is the way the Trotskyites fight war!

## BUILDERS of the FUTURE

Undoubtedly the youth of America will appreciate the great sense of humor of the Federal Government in conducting an extensive advertising campaign which asks: "HOW MUCH HAVE YOU EARNED TOWARD YOUR OLD AGE SECURITY?" and then states: "The amount of your old age insurance check will depend upon the wages credited to your old age insurance account. Mail, write, or phone to your local Social Security Board and find out where you stand."

Grim jest, indeed, for the millions of youth who could never find jobs; for the other millions who slave at sub standard wages; and for all who are about to be slaughtered in the war that the U. S. bosses and their Roosevelt Administration are preparing! Old age security, indeed!

Compare what is given out as "insurance" with the sum of more than two billion, four hundred million dollars which the Army and Navy is demanding for next year — "even if no further expansion of either service is ordered", to quote our leading militarists. The outlay of this sum would exceed the peace-time record of about one billion, eight hundred millions for the current fiscal year, which included initial funds for expansion of the air corps.

### CLASS STRUGGLE IN JAIL

Quite an interesting angle to the war in Europe is the fact that when Polish soldiers are captured by the Germans they are placed in prison camps where they are compelled to work in mines or do some other heavy work for which they receive only rotten food and lousy beds. But when Polish officers are captured (and this relationship works on both sides, according to agreed "international law") they cannot be forced to work; they must be given adequate food and lodging in keeping with their noble rating; and if they voluntarily agree to work they must be given wages equal to that which they earned previous to their capture.

Such procedure on the part of all warring imperialist camps is based on the international solidarity of the capitalists in all countries against the exploited soldier-workers and soldier-peasants of all capitalist nations, including their own. For while German imperialism treats Polish officers so well, the German workers behind and at the front lines are existing on ration cards and various "substitute foods." Moreover this class procedure is carried through for the purpose of maintaining discipline in the army. It teaches the soldiers that ALL officers are to be obeyed and respected.

### A SALUTE FROM THE "ENEMY"

Not any different were the full military honors given enemy German aviators who were shot down in Scotland by the Royal Air Force. The German caskets were draped in BRITISH-MADE swastika flags. Wreathes were placed over their graves by the aviators who shot them down. The British aviators, who are drawn from the upper classes as a rule, appreciate the patriotism of their German confederates. They show that they understand each other.

The soldiers at the front must learn a lesson from their very class-conscious masters. They must create their own international class solidarity of the EXPLOITED AGAINST THE EXPLOITERS — of ALL countries. They must clasp hands across the trenches. They must not shoot each other. They must fraternize. They must leave the front, arms in hand, and go back home to deal a crushing blow against their main enemy — their "own" capitalist class!

# The Way Out For The Jewish People

(We publish below the 2nd and concluding installment of an article on the Jewish Problem. The first installment appeared in THE MARXIST a few months ago.)

## ZIONISM

How shall we approach the question of solving the world's oldest and most aggravated minority problem? On the basis of the facts outlined above, it seems to be clear: unity of the Jewish masses with the working class and the rest of the oppressed people in a common struggle for economic security, for jobs, the right to organize and strike, civil liberties, the right to worship, etc. These facts do not indicate the solution to lie in the establishment of a Jewish "national home", either in Palestine, Biro-Bidjan, the Guineas, or anywhere else.

On the one hand it is physically impossible to establish such a "home", and on the other hand, it evokes no real-felt sympathy on the part of the overwhelming masses of the Jewish people. The question of a "national home" must not be confused with the refugee problem. Everyone recognizes that the Jewish, as well as the other refugees from Fascist murder, must be taken care of — homes found for them, jobs, etc. But this does not at all mean that the whole Jewish people must take refuge in a "national home".

Zionism has been an organized movement since 1897, and despite the negative encouragement given it by Fascism and anti-Semitism, it makes no appreciable headway. The most exaggerated claims of Zionism still do not show more than 450,000 Jews colonized in Palestine — out of a total of 16 million throughout the world.

Yet the Zionist movement proposes to continue along this line; shutting its eyes to the palpably impossible task of uprooting 16 millions of people in twice as many countries, and settling them on a territory the size of Vermont, with an economy barely developed to sustain the native Arab population.

Zionism prostrates itself before the imperialists, licking tyrants' boots, as a result it plays with the lives of Jewish workers in the interests of imperialism. Now it is England, another time France, Turkey, or the Czar. At the present moment, as a result of the blow from England through the infamous "White Paper," Zionism is orientating the American Jewish masses upon the good will of Roosevelt's New Deal imperialism.

While Zionism is thus misleading the Jewish masses and separating them from their natural allies — the working class, it is at the same time playing the role of England's policeman in smashing Arab aspirations toward national independence. No Hessian stated his position more callously than Zionism in its official organ "Dos Yiddische Folk" Dec. 9, 1938: "there were however those Arabs who did desire peace, but on the conditions that the two peoples shall conduct a war against England with the aim of driving her out of Palestine. Such a peace offer we naturally rejected. For we do not believe in betrayal."

For Zionism, a struggle against British imperialism is "betrayal"

Here is proof positive that Zionism is not only unable, but unwilling to solve the Jewish problem even within the limited framework of Palestine.

The simple fact is that Zionism is petty bourgeois in character, and pro-capitalist in leadership and policies. Its policies are based on the good-will of the Hitlers, the Chamberlains, and Roosevelts. Its principal "solution" being a homeland in Palestine, it cringes and scrapes, cap in hand, before the butchers of Jews and non-Jews alike.

Every trace of nationalism and backwardness in the Jewish people is exploited by Zionism for its own end, negatively complementing the fascist pogromists. Zionism disrupts the natural process of assimilation and unity between Jewish and Gentile workers. It diverts a class struggle question into nationalist channels. Such is the nature of Zionism.

## THE ONLY WAY OUT

However bleak the situation for the Jews at present, there still remains a very tangible and not too distant ray of hope. In Czarist Russia, when pogroms and anti-Semitism were

organized state institutions similar to present day Germany, the basis for solving the Jewish problem was automatically laid with the overthrowing of Czarist feudalism and capitalism.

Lenin and the Bolshevik Party understood the problem far better than the Zionists, "Labor" or otherwise. They broke through the obstacles erected by Zionism and the Bund (Jewish nationalist labor party of Russia, later to become counter-revolutionary) and joined hands with the Jewish masses on the simple program of "land, bread, peace" which later proved their irresistible revolutionary character.

In all the past decades of Jewish tears and despair, there is no greater consolation — and historic lesson — than the glorious achievements through the October Revolution. With one stroke of the revolutionary axe, decades of oppression and pogroms were hacked away. The Jews became more free than they ever were in their entire history. For the first time since their exile, the Jews were once more a free and united people, their culture restored and protected by the workers revolutionary government. Anti-Semitism was vigorously suppressed, and later became a capital offense.

All of this is history now; its object lesson for us is that it was made possible by the establishment of a workers council government.

## STALINISM

We do not wish to imply that the Jewish question in the Soviet Union has been solved. This question cannot be solved within the framework of an isolated Soviet State, anymore than all other questions confronting the working class. Indeed anti-Semitism still crops out here and there in the Soviet Union. Twenty years of Soviet power could hardly be enough time to eliminate root and branch the heritage of centuries of feudalism and capitalist ideology. Moreover, since the degenerating influences of the Stalinist bureaucracy have permeated all Soviet institutions, anti-Semitism has received a corresponding encouragement.

In this respect, the Jewish masses are not the only victims. Similarly persecuted are the Russian masses. Nevertheless, the persecution of minorities in the Soviet Union is not so acute as in the capitalist countries.

The victorious working class revolution lays the basis, but only Socialism with the elimination of class divisions, economic insecurity, national prejudices, and geographic boundaries, can solve the problem in its entirety.

Zionism futilely prattles about "national statehood" and is still as far as ever from realizing it. On the other hand, Stalinism in the process of warping and undermining the workers state, took the step a few years ago of setting up a Jewish autonomous republic in Biro-Bidjan. If the Jewish masses desired this step it should be done. But this was not the case.

Situated between Siberia and Japan, Jewish Biro-Bidjan may well become the first line trench. Workers cannot object to Biro-Bidjan on that score, however. For the defense of the Soviet Union must be as much the concern of the Jewish part of desired this step it should be done. But this was not the case. the working class as any other. Class conscious workers object to Biro-Bidjan on the grounds that it artificially retards the process of assimilation which is natural with the elimination of social and economic restrictions.

## UNITE AGAINST CAPITALISM

We must smash any attempts, Zionist, "democratic," or Fascist, at dividing the working class into "Jews and non-Jews," "Jews and Aryans," "white and Negro", etc. Just as the white worker must fight for the Negro worker, so the Gentile worker can not win emancipation unless he fights anti-Semitism.

As one of its important tasks, the working class as a whole must demand an "open door" for Jewish as well as all other refugees. It is a fatal illusion to rely upon the good graces of people like Roosevelt and the so-called democracies. Everyone still remembers the incident of a ship-load of 1,000 refugees who were shunted from port to port for a whole month without finding an open door — while all the great "friends of the oppressed," Roosevelt as well as Stalin, looked on without a bit of help.

The Jewish people and especially the Jewish working class have a tradition of great struggles. But thanks to such forces as Zionism, the Jews bow their heads in humility. During and after the first World War Zionism tricked hundreds of thousands of Jews into acting as agents for British imperialism, into helping to check the struggles of the Arabian masses for liberation from British imperialism. In fact the "national home" in Palestine was

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## DEBATE

"Resolved that the Soviet Union is a Warped Workers State"

November 19, 1939

1241 N. California, Chicago

Hugo Oehler, R. W. L. — Affirmative

M. Olay, Libertarian — Negative

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# Uncle Sam, Britain And The War

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other imperialists, including her "allies".

All these rivalries, of course, are subordinated to the main struggle, between world capitalism and the extension of the October Revolution.

It is not excluded however that when this war is over (providing the proletariat does not clean house) the main imperialist struggle will again be changed. One thing is sure, though. In such a case it will be America and not England that will have the new antagonist. Britain is an Empire in decline. No matter what happens in this war it will come out greatly weaker.

## THE NAZI PRESSURE ON STALINISM

The Soviet Union is being pushed towards war. Each concession by Stalinism to the Nazi butchers in Berlin, each capitulation, helps suck the Workers State more and more into the latest capitalist bloodbath.

It would be folly to think, as the bourgeois press would have us believe, that Stalin was the real victor in Poland, that it is Stalin who plays the tune to which Hitler must dance. Such ideas are ridiculous. Stalinism makes pacts with the imperialists not because it is strong, but because it is weak, abysmally weak. Having given up any attempt to organize the workers for world revolution, Stalinism can stave off its inevitable destruction only by giving one concession after another to the imperialists. First it was France and Britain; now it is Germany.

Over the head of Stalinism Hitler constantly dangles the threat of coming to terms with John Bull for a joint attack on the Soviet Union. If, hypothetically, Stalin could fling in the face of the mad-butcher of Berlin the threat of an uprising, or at least the vast revolutionary consciousness of the German and other sections of the proletariat — if Stalin could do this, he would need no alliances with imperialist nations, and if he were forced momentarily to form one he would always have a sufficiently strong club not to have to make important concessions.

But as it is Hitler wields the club. The City of Flint incident clearly reveals this. Under Nazi pressure the Stalinites gave up the ship to Germany, even though for years Stalin has tried very hard to court the United States. Various reports, many of them no doubt true, claim that the Soviets are sending millions of dollars in gold to Germany in exchange for machinery, are leasing out submarines for German use, are sending large supplies of food to Germany, etc.

Despite the wishes of the bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, the Workers State, because of the fatal policy of the Stalin cancer, is being drawn into the war as a tail to the German imperialists.

## THE IMPERIALIST WAR AND ASIA

The defeat of the Chinese Revolution in 1927, the defeat of the German revolution in 1933 and the rise of Hitlerism to power, and the defeat of the Spanish revolution, have made possible the gigantic imperialist conquests from 1931 on, and now the World War.

We are today rapidly approaching the 2nd phase of this war, a phase that will inevitably involve the four remaining

## WAGE, HOUR MEASURES

(Continued from Page 1)

law hurts the Southern mill owners and aids the Northern owners considerably.

The political significance of the act is that it sets still another precedent for full government control of the labor movement, especially during war times. What can be raised a few cents today can be cut drastically tomorrow. The appointment of Col. Fleming, an army man, to replace Andrews as head of the Board sharply emphasizes this course.

The entry of the U. S. into the war will see slashing attacks on the labor movement. The Wage and Hour Board will play a very important role in these attacks. So long as the pressure of the workers, through strikes and other independent class action, is great, the Board will make concessions to it in order to check this militancy. But once this

"neutral" nations: United States, Japan, Italy and the Soviet Union. The European phase of the war is only a part of the conflict. It is a struggle for the domination of Europe, a struggle to put the European continent in order, as the first part of the battle TOWARDS THE REDIVISION OF THE EARTH, PRIMARILY ASIA. Asia is the aim and objective of the six imperialist powers.

The real stake in the present war — and this will come out more clearly as time goes on — is the vast markets and resources of China, India, Soviet Union etc.

The four European imperialist powers, England, France, Germany and Italy, are playing a desperate game for the key position in Europe, as a first step before the battle for Asia. Japan is attempting to consolidate an Empire on the Asiatic continent before the other imperialists are ready to drive toward Asia.

### DOLLAR DOMINATION AIM OF U. S.

The United States has already consolidated a strong position on the Western Hemisphere.

It is in the strongest position for the new move to divide the Asiatic booty. It is ready, as no other imperialist power is ready, to strike out to ORGANIZE THE WORLD TO THE NEEDS OF THE AMERICAN DOLLAR.

The imperialists of the earth have their eyes set on the plunder in Asia. But unfortunately for them the question of America, Europe and Asia, will not be settled by the imperialists. Their dreams are doomed to failure. The final word in this conflict is reserved for the proletarian revolution, which will wipe out capitalism itself.

## THE JEWISH PROBLEM

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only given them on condition that they act as British policemen in that area.

In the present new imperialist war there is a danger that part of the Jewish masses may again play a similar role, as agents either for British or for American imperialism. But if the post-war period proved anything at all it proved that the Jewish people can not liberate themselves within the framework of imperialism. They can change their masters but they must remain forever slaves unless they unite with the workers and other oppressed for the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism.

Fight for jobs, for democratic rights, for THE RIGHT TO LIVE!

Organize Workers Defense Guards to defend workers from Fascist attacks!

Join the Revolutionary Workers League; build the new Communist (4th) International!

Here lies the road to a solution of the Jewish question!

# How Britain Treats Negroes in Colonies

By Simon Williamson

In the past, miserable economic conditions prevailing in the British West Indian colonies, made it necessary for the native population and their relatives abroad to organize economic defense groups.

Approximately two years ago the agricultural workers of the island of Jamaica became dissatisfied with the intolerable life the British and island administration was forcing them to lead and struck to improve their economic and social life — oppressive conditions and wages as low as 12

militancy is sufficiently checked, we can expect wage cuts and other anti-labor decisions from this board as well as the other governmental agencies for controlling labor.

cents for an 18 hour day.

The administration of the colony, with the backing of the Empire, lost no time in taking advantage of the hatred existing between blacks and mulattoes. The mulattoes, who enjoy more privileges than the Negroes, were armed and sent into the country to break the strike and put down the alleged rebellion. The result was that scores of innocent black women and children were killed, along with the men strikers, and maimed for life. The leaders of the alleged uprising were jailed and the demands of the working people were forgotten.

In 1938 the British sought to placate the natives of Jamaica for the wrongs that they had suffered at their hands. It was announced that the island government was prepared to spend 500.00 pounds on a back-to-the-land scheme as a step toward solving the island's unemployed problem. The plan was an attempt to curb the militancy of the hitherto agricultural laborers on the absentee-owned plantations.

### DEMAND INDEPENDENCE

The government's plan was rejected; and the natives continued to show signs of discontent, and at times, their relatives abroad in New York, under the leadership of The Jamaican Progressive League would demand a sizeable portion of independence and self-expression. The British, on the other hand, were disturbed and awaited an opportunity to suppress the native's organized desire. The recent development of Hitlerism in Europe has given the Empire the desired excuse.

Since Britain finds herself at war with Germany it has become necessary to clamp down on the movements that seek a degree of economic betterment and independence for the West Indies. William Grant, one of the leaders of the agricultural strike, has been given a ten year sentence, and all groups working in the interest of labor have been suppressed in the British West Indies. Jamaica and Trinidad, once the scenes of labor strife, are blacked out as camps of military preparation.

The native worker, who was denied economic advantage, is being called upon to defend the disadvantages forced upon him. And strange as it seems, he is getting into the uniform of the system that oppresses him. He does not seem to remember the past and plan annihilation of his oppressors at home. He is contented to march away to "hang out his washing on the Siegfried line" in an effort to help destroy the oppressed of another land.

Thus, the British Empire that has joined with the French Republic for the purpose of "stamping out Hitlerism" in Europe is applying Nazi methods in the suppression of abolitionist movements and free-expression among its black subjects in the West Indies.

(Note: Comrade Williamson, a leading figure in the Negro labor movement, is not a member of the R. W. L.)

# FOR COMPLETE LIBERATION OF LATIN AMERICA FROM US IMPERIALISM

## "HAM AND EGG" PIPE DREAM UP FOR VOTE

Stockton, Cal. — The "Ham and Eggs" proposal is nearing the referendum vote November 7th. The battle over this issue is causing a little "war" in California.

The bosses of California, for their own reasons, are fighting "Ham and Eggs" viciously. The Stockton City Council issued a statement to all employees of the city telling them that they would probably lose their jobs if the plan is carried. State Attorney General Warren has warned that "Ham and Eggs" will mean an end to unemployment compensation. Quincy merchants have posted signs in their stores stating that they would refuse to honor "retirement warrants." A committee of bosses in San Francisco is issuing hundreds of thousands of leaflets denouncing the "counterfeit money" plan.

Under the terms of the act the State will issue "retirement warrants". Every person over 50, who does not employ labor and is willing to quit his job, or is now unemployed may apply for a pension of \$30 a week. The \$30 will be paid to him every Thursday in warrants of \$1, \$5, or \$10 denominations.

The retirement warrants are to be accepted by all local and state government agencies in California in lieu of taxes, etc. The hitch is that every week a 2 cent warrant redemption stamp, which must be paid for in good American dollars, must be placed on the warrant. At the end of 52 weeks the warrant may again be turned into dollar bills by presenting them to the State.

### AN INFLATION SCHEME

The idea is supposed to be that if the government is willing to take these warrants then, of course, store-keepers, landlords and others will accept them and they will pass as good money throughout the state. Thus, by

the simple expedient of printing some warrant money, California will grow rich; sales will go sky-high; thousands of new men will be employed, etc. At least that's what the "Ham and Eggs" leaders are telling the people. Many labor unions are foolish enough to support this pipe-dream.

Actually the "Ham and Egg" proposal, even if it carries and even if they try to put it into force (it will still face the courts and big banks), merely means a giant inflation scheme. Prices will go up and real wages go down so fast that far from putting more men to work, "Ham and Eggs" will retire thousands. The new warrants will do just what the continentals — the printed paper money — did during the revolutionary war. They won't be "worth a continental." They will soon be exchanged 2, 3, and 4 for a "good" dollar.

The significance behind this movement is the enormous dissatisfaction of the people of California after 10 years of misery and depression. They are so sick of their present condition that they are willing to try anything.

### REAL SECURITY

Workers of California must counterpose to the "Ham and Eggs" plan, as well as the reactionary anti-labor methods of the California employers, concrete demands for:

Trade union wages on WPA; adequate cash relief for all unemployed, with a \$30 weekly minimum for each family; pensions for all people over 50 equal to trade union wages and to be raised by a tax on employers; workers defense squads to defend the agricultural, maritime and other workers from the terrorism of vigilantes in California; and the demand for Workers Control of Production for Use.

Real security, not just pipe-dreams, is possible only under a Workers Council Government.

## COTTON WORKERS STRIKE ON WEST COAST

Stockton, California, Oct. 18 — Thousands of cotton pickers in this area are out on strike against the low wages of 80c per hundred pounds being paid by the cotton growers. The strikers are demanding a rate of \$1.25 per hundred pounds.

The brutality and strike-breaking of the police is hard to describe. All sorts of people are being rounded up, drunkards, hooligans, as well as honest unemployed workers, and being threatened with jail terms for being vagabonds unless they agree to take jobs scabbing. Over 150 strikers have been arrested by the Sacramento, Stockton and Madera police. Gangs of vigilantes, organized by the Associated Farmers are spreading wild terror throughout the area with the aid and connivance of the police.

At Madera a few days ago a large mass meeting in the local park was attacked by these vigilantes while police politely turned their backs. Scores were injured, including an investigator from the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee.

### RWL MEMBERS ARRESTED

Two members of the Revolutionary Workers League were arrested, along with many strikers, for giving out literature.

The strike is under the leadership of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of the CIO. Unfortunately, many of the local strike leaders, even though they are supposedly fighting the reactionary farmers association, are themselves spreading vicious "anti-

Red" and "outside Jew agitators" propaganda, just as the large landowners are doing.

Such tactics will only break the ranks of the strikers. Thousands of Mexican workers are very sensitive to any kind of race prejudice. Thousands of former landowners or share-croppers from Oklahoma, Kansas, etc., who are derisively referred to as "Okies", will also be antagonized by the shameful talk against "outsiders", talk which can benefit only the growers.

With tomato pickers getting only 30 cents an hour and paying \$1.05 a day for lousy board, and grape pickers working around the same low level, and only working a few months out of the year, there is a great need for solidarity and militancy amongst the agricultural workers, dozens of thousands of whom are former croppers and small landowners who have been forced off the land by Mr. Roosevelt's "aid" to the farmers.

Spread the cotton strike!

Organize Defense Squads to smash the vigilantes and the Associated Farmers!

### JUST OFF THE PRESS New Pamphlet

## THE STALIN-HITLER PACT

5 CENTS EACH

## Democracy -- It Just Ain't

In a few months, or possibly a year from now, when the war drums start beating in the United States, they will be telling John Worker that he is being drafted to fight for "democracy". But here are just a FEW samples in the last few weeks of the type of "democracy" he will have to defend:

While police stood by, hundreds of armed vigilantes, put white bands on their arms in Madera, California and attacked a peaceful meeting of cotton strikers. Dozens of people in the crowd were badly injured by flying clubs, brass knuckles, chairs, etc. Earlier in the week 75 strikers were beaten up by roving bands of vigilante hooligans, organized by the Associated Farmers...

In Washington, D.C. the United States Chamber of Commerce demanded that workers on relief and WPA be prohibited from voting by law...

### TWO-SIDED JUSTICE

In Crystal City, Mo., Frank Patek a member of the Federation of Flat Glass Workers was severely beaten by hired thugs because of his activity in the union...

In Ocala, Florida two policemen, who pleaded guilty to charges of taking two young Negro boys out into the woods, beating them severely, and then hanging them from a tree (not by the neck, although they threatened to do that too) were let off with \$50 fines...

In Minneapolis, however, 8 workers who fought for shorter hours on WPA were found guilty in a monster frame-up trial, of "conspiracy"...

And just to show that what's sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander 22 coal companies, 24 company officials, and 23 peace officers who interfered — to use a mild term — with attempts of their workers to organize ("conspiracy" in other words) were freed without trial in Harlan County, Kentucky...

### CHICAGO CLASS

Every Thursday night at the Chicago headquarters of the R. W. L., 1904 Division Street, a new type of forum will be run. The first part of the forum will be given over to the famous radio program, Town Hall, and its prominent speakers, who will speak on all sorts of political and social questions. Following the radio broadcast an RWL speaker will give a Marxian analysis of the question just discussed.

Tea and cake will be served. Admission is free for unemployed.

### JUST OUT

November Issue

## International News

Theoretical Organ of

## International Contact Commission

The Ukraine — An Answer to Leon Trotsky's Polemic

The Cheka and the G. P. U.

The Negro Question in the United States

Great Britain Needs a War

French Group Endorses 14 Points

5 cents a copy

FOR A WORKERS  
COUNCIL GOVERNMENT

# Illinois Jobless Meet, Take Step Forward

## Correct Positions Weakened By Plan Of Action

Meeting for the first time in a central plank of the organization since the split from the Stalinite dominated Workers Alliance of America, the Illinois Workers Alliance, which changed its name to the Illinois Workers Security Federation, adopted some progressive points in contrast to their previous program.

The effect of the ruinous policies of the Stalinists and the war crisis was noticeable in this convention. Where before the delegates were counted in the hundreds now there were only twenty. Enthusiasm such as occurred in previous conventions was lacking considerably.

The resolutions adopted were few but their content was a step forward from the old program. On the war question the resolution recommended by the resolutions committee stated that the "war was an imperialist war on both sides; that America would enter this war for imperialist ends; that the Illinois Workers Security Federation would call upon the workers, before and during U. S. participation in this war to struggle to eliminate the cause of war and unemployment, capitalism; that in the event U. S. does enter the war the IWSF calls upon the American workers to fraternize with the so-called enemy, the workers in other trenches and work to transform this war for profit into a war against the profit system."

The content of the document was watered down, however, when an amendment against lifting the embargo was incorporated into the document. The obvious contradiction between the amendment and the resolution and their amalgamation testifies to the confusion of the convention. But even with this it is a step forward from the out and out support of the democracies held previously.

### WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION

A resolution stating that the

should be the struggle for the elimination of unemployment, which could only be done away with by eliminating the system of production for profit in favor of a system of Workers Control of Production for Use, was passed unanimously.

Another resolution passed unanimously stated that the IWSF advocates as the only method of struggle the militant and independent action of the working class, strikes, demonstrations, hunger marches, etc. This is a far cry from the belly crawling resolutions in support of FDR, petitions to congress, etc. that the Stalinites so anxiously put forward.

But the reformist carry overs of the Workers Alliance and the "immediate — demandism" of the Socialist party still plays a powerful countering force.

With these militant resolutions adopted the convention adopted a program of action that is typical of the reformist unemployed organization of the not so distant past. Outside of a hunger march to Springfield to take place sometime in December, the whole activity reads of petitions and appeals. No attempt is made to involve the unemployed in actions on their specific problems.

The contradictions between the resolutions and the immediate plan of action will be brought into light as the conditions of the unemployed worsen and impel them into struggle. With the unemployed movement in a state of lethargy much energy and time will have to be spent to revive it. And above all the precondition for a healthy movement is an organization that carries a class struggle program to the unemployed. The IWSF has taken a step in the correct direction by the passing of such resolutions. Now it must learn to concretize this in the day to day struggle. It must develop them in life. This first of all means the rejection of the type of action that is being carried out to-day.

# Support The Twice A Month Fighting Worker

Six months ago sympathizers and friends helped us raise \$300 to put out our printed theoretical organ, THE MARXIST. Now the RWL is prepared to take the next step forward — a TWICE A MONTH FIGHTING WORKER. The Marxist will now be combined with INTERNATIONAL NEWS, theoretical organ of the Provisional Contact Commission.

We now appeal to our sympathizers and friends to help us in a new and greater campaign. Help us collect \$300 to assure the publication of our paper TWICE A MONTH!

Mail in your contribution NOW — DON'T DELAY!

If you haven't already bought a subscription to our paper, get one now. Rates are \$1 a year for a combination of BOTH the NEW TWICE A MONTH FIGHTING WORKER and the INTER-

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