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UNITE!

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MINERS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF U.M.W.A.

Future Depends on Autonomy and New Militant Leadership

Twenty-five hundred members of the United Mine Workers of America, representing 600,000 workers attended the 50 year jubilee convention of the UMWA at Columbus, starting on January 23rd.

Most of the convention was merely a political fireball for John L. Lewis, president of the miners. Lewis condemned Roosevelt's failure to keep faith with labor, introduced Senator Wheeler, who has Lewis' blessings for the Presidency, and Hugh Johnson, anti-New Deal columnist and army general.

Most of the resolutions passed were merely evasion. The question of political action in the presidential campaign was referred to the Lewis-dominated executive board. The question of lack of safety in the mines was "settled" by advocating passage of the Neely bill in Congress.

MAIN PROBLEM UNANSWERED

No action was taken on the sell-out agreement made by Lewis last April in signing a two year contract with the operators. The problem of unemployment amongst the miners, a key problem because thousands of mines are shut down, was only discussed generally, and no independent working class action was mapped to combat this capitalist condition of decay. Lewis' only answer to the problem was to propose a tax on fuel oil because it competed with coal.

What the workers in fuel oil industries should do Mr. Lewis did not say, but it is evident that his only solution is to fight the battle of one capitalist industry against the other.

PRESSURE OF RANK AND FILE

At one point in the convention there was an "uprising" of delegates who shouted "we want autonomy". Mr. Lewis "settled" this argument by telling the

PROGRESS UNDER CAPITALISM

Women's stockings made of coal, so durable that they would never wear out, were put on the market for one day recently, but then withdrawn because there wouldn't be enough of a profit in women's hose that would last so long. The manufacturers according to Dr. Louise Stanley immediately changed their formula and are now making stockings that will wear out and have a big turnover sale.

miners that they will get autonomy in their districts when "you're ready for it."

Lewis' administration of the United Mine Workers is one of the biggest disgraces of labor history. All districts that don't support Lewis have their autonomy taken away and are from then on administered by officials appointed by Lewis. Usually more than half the districts are thus under John L.'s direct control.

(Of course, even this stratagem doesn't always win elections for Lewis to the presidency of his union. Far too often he just has to steal the elections, as he did against Voyzey, Brophy, Howatt, and any number of others, by es-

(Continued on Page 4)

'3d Term' Issue Reveals Crisis in U.S. 'Democracy'

Iron Heel Dictatorship Being Prepared

John L. Lewis' speech before the United Mine Workers convention denouncing President Roosevelt for not having "kept faith with labor" and publicly withdrawing support from the New Deal, reveals a sharp crisis within the Democratic Party, the "liberal" party of American capitalism.

Both "left" winger, Mr. Lewis, and right-winger, Mr. Garner, who supported Roosevelt for the Presidency in 1936 have now called it a day. The United Democratic Party of 1936 is thus split wide open.

The bourgeois press tries to make out that the issue is over

such things as "third term," "economy," "bureaucracy," "New Deal brainlessness," etc. Nothing could be so misleading. The "third term" issue is an ISSUE precisely because there is a crisis, not the other way around.

And the crisis is really the crisis not of the ruling Democrats, but of bourgeois democracy, of the whole "American system". Both Mr. Lewis and Mr. Garner are smart enough to hear the rumblings of new things to come, are quick enough to jump off the bandwagon and start off independently on a "new" course.

IDLE MEN, MONEY, AND PRODUCTIVE FORCES

In what does the crisis exist?

American production has reached levels above even the 1929 levels due to the war, but meanwhile general profits are much lower than 1929 and there are at least 10 or 12 million unemployed. Not that the capitalists give a hang about the unemployed, but if they are to avert revolution, they must throw relief and WPA crumbs to the jobless; thus adding billions to the budget and raising taxes.

The internal debt has reached close to 50 billion dollars, taxes are very high — relatively, and what is of utmost importance is that new machinery for production has been introduced into American economy at a far more rapid rate than Uncle Sam could find markets for his produce. As a matter of fact Uncle Sam's markets have fallen considerably. And so the American capitalists are living through a crisis of idle money, idle means of production, and idle men. After ten years American capitalism must take sharp measures to save itself.

What it intends to do is really very simple:

1—Continue pumping billions into industry in one form of subsidy or another (and no matter, by the way, WHO is elected).

2—Prepare for a war to reorganize the earth and steal the world markets for America's needs.

And 3—Restrict, or "coordinate", the labor movement to the point where labor will be forced to accept the costs of these things without fighting back. (Inflation, lower pay, cannon-fodder, etc.).

MUST SHIFT TO RIGHT

In 1933 Mr. Roosevelt saved capitalism by granting a number of important reforms to head off working class action. But in 1940 even Mr. Roosevelt can see the handwriting on the wall: AMERICAN CAPITALISM IF IT IS TO "PROSPER" IN THE WAR SITUATION MUST MOVE TO THE RIGHT.

At the same time layers of the

(Continued on Page 4)

RED FRONT GROWS; REVOLT SWELLS IN GERMANY

FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF NAZI-GPU WORK

How the Stalinites and Nazis are collaborating in hunting down revolutionists; how the German Gestapo hands over German militants to the Stalinist G. P. U. in Russia; and new bubblings of the class struggle, are described in the latest letter from the German Red Front, affiliate of the International Contact Commission:

"In mid-November," the letter states, "about a thousand political prisoners were released from the concentration camps, but brought by the Gestapo to the Russian border, where they were received by the GPU. Most of them were arrested and thrown into concentration camps or handled even worse."

"Included among these comrades were leading members of the Red Front".

"Throughout Germany", the letter continues, "martial" law reigns; illegal leaflets and illegal newspapers are high treason and are to be punished with death. The Stalinites work hand in hand with the Nazis to expose our illegal organization. The men and women workers in the factories are guarded by armed S. A. and Stalinite spies. A word of opposition is punished with dismissal and penal servitude.

REBELLION IS SWELLING

"But despite all, the stream of rebellion is swelling, and the Red

Front is growing powerful with it."

"The plainly apparent betrayal of the Stalinites, which we so long ago prophesied, and our clear line and political position, have secured for us the sympathy and interest of the broadest masses of workers, who today stand clearly and without doubts,

in their overwhelming majority, against Hitler and against Stalin. Even though today the organization must remain confined to small numbers, due to this overwhelming pressure, nevertheless the day can and will soon come when all this will be changed from top to bottom, and our time will begin. We are fighting on."

Leninist League Fights British War Drive

Word has been received from the Leninist League of Scotland that in spite of the great hardships progress against the imperialist war is being made and the organization is growing.

The comrades write in a letter dated January, 1940, "Despite our many difficulties in the present situation, we continue our activity. Our past activity and our consistent Leninist line is now having its reward. New comrades are being drawn toward us."

"Our task lies along a hard and weary road; many of us have been sorely tried in the past, perhaps we will be even more sorely tried in the future, but we have dedicated ourselves to the task that lies ahead — the world for the workers. Our respective nations may yet be at war with each other. If that should happen our task will be made easier, knowing we have comrades in U. S. A. who

will keep the banner of revolutionary internationalism aloft."

REPUBLISH PAMPHLET

The comrades are republishing the R. W. L. pamphlet, "The Workers Answer to Boss War", with the 14 Point Programmatic Declaration of the International Contact Commission, as an appendix.

The comrades of the Revolutionary Communists of Germany also report that their forces are continuing revolutionary work despite the war and the concentration camp which has taken a heavy toll on their comrades. The next issue of the INTERNATIONAL NEWS will feature a special article just translated from their German organ, "The Marxist." It presents a road to power in Germany and is titled, "Against a new November, for a German October."

ROOSEVELT'S "SOCIALISM"

Four large industrial companies and one big utility company are the main beneficiaries of Mr. Roosevelt's Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), according to the Chicago Tribune. The Aluminum Company of America, for instance, buys about 35% of TVA's electric power at the ridiculously low rate of about one-quarter of a cent a kilowatt hour.

The average rate for most working class families is about 20 times as great, four to six cents a kilowatt hour.

BUILDERS of the FUTURE

The M-Day plans have been constantly improved upon since the last time American youth died in a war to "make the world safe for democracy." At present, plans are afoot in this session of Congress to improve even more upon these devilish plans.

Taking his cue from Roosevelt's recent speech calling for additional money for "defense" which is to be taken from WPA funds at the expense of 600,000 WPA jobs, Congressman May, Democratic chairman of the House Military Committee, notorious reactionary and militarist who sponsored the May Bill in past sessions of Congress (also part of war-time mobilization plans), is now sponsoring a proposal to turn the Civilian Conservation Corps into an open military force.

The implications of this proposal are very serious. In an article in the Nov. 4th issue of *Collier's*, Walter Davenport has this to say in regard to the CCC and M-Day plans: "Not in all our history has any aggregation of young men been regarded by the Army with such covetous eyes. There are about 300,000 of these lads, eighteen to twenty-five years old, already inoculated with military training, already tempered to camp-life.

YOUTH FOR CANNON — FOODER

"Ever since the CCC came into being, the Army wondering what to do with its excess of officers, has been crying (not always silently) for control of the corps. Reserve and active officers assigned to command of camps and areas have gone as far as they dare in teaching the boys to be soldiers. . . . But now the General Staff proposes to seek voluntary enlistments in the CCC. The plan is to train them for noncombatant work (now!-Ed.) — engineer, pioneer, depot and supply troops. Some of the members of the High Command believe that a hundred thousand of the CCC lads will join up."

At least 2½ million youth have already received semi-military training in the CCC camps during the past years. All of these youth, those who are already out of the camps and those who are yet there, are youth without jobs, who accepted the CCC as a form of relief. As a reserve force for military conscription their position is quite precarious as things stand now. With the open conversion of the CCC into an active link of the war machine, millions of this country's lost generation will be given the alternative of joining the army to die later for the bosses, or wandering aimlessly about without hope of any relief. This fits perfectly into F. D. R.'s proposal to Congress which calls for a decrease in National Youth Administration funds.

That is the method of the American capitalist agents, Roosevelt, the Army staff, and Congressman May, in putting the squeeze play on the discontented youth of America, reckoning on them like so many more slaves to serve their rotten ends. May's new proposal, moreover, if passed, will mean the beginning of peace-time conscription. THIS CAN ONLY MEAN THAT THE BOSSES AND THEIR GOVERNMENT EXPECT THE UNITED STATES TO BE A BELLIGERENT POWER IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE!

"THE MAIN ENEMY IS AT HOME"

To the capitalist proposal to "solve" the youth problem by military regimentation and imperialist war, the young workers

The Shop Committees and the Trade Unions

Under the leadership of the reformists the control of the unions has been taken away completely from the rank and file, and placed into central bureaucratic domination. As long as this condition exists, as long as there is no democracy in the union, a gigantic obstacle stands in the way of effective action against the exploiters. The road toward working class rule, toward industrial democracy, toward human rights based on social ownership of the means of production, lies through the WORKERS CONTROL OF THEIR OWN MASS ORGANIZATIONS.

One of the most important steps in the trade union movement toward this objective is the establishment of a democratically elected Shop Committee in every mine, mill, and factory. Because the members of the Shop Committee work in the same plant, are so close to the rest of the workers, have the same interests, etc., they are the "big stick" in spreading the union, maintaining the gains already won and fighting for others.

Where the plant is still unorganized the establishment of a Shop Committee, a nucleus of the first union men, is a base for the organization of the rest of the men, a big step toward complete unionization.

Where the plant is already partly organized but where there are divisions in the ranks of the workers, the Shop Committee is an effective instrument to unify the activity of the workers. In such instances progressives must fight for a Shop Committee elected by ALL the workers in the plant, those in the two or more rival unions, as well as those who are unorganized. The Shop Committee must work out collective plans for job control and involve all the workers, regardless of their present differences, in the struggle against the boss and his attempts to divide the forces in the plant and thus rule against all. Unity in the shop on this basis is the firm foundation upon which unity of the class will be achieved and one powerful industrial union in the industry, and one national confederation of trade unions, will be built.

In strikes and in other class actions the Shop Committee becomes the main instrument of the working class to fight and defend its interests against the exploiters. It organizes Workers Defense Squads and other instruments to defend the strikers and spread the strike.

The Shop Committee is the instrument by which the UNION IS BROUGHT BACK INTO THE FACTORY from the swivel chairs of the bureaucrats in the union front offices. No official who is for the workers can possibly be opposed to this. The Local Unions can be democratic only when and if they permit democracy in the plants, the right for the Shop Committees to settle all problems that affect their plants — subject, of course, to the approval of the men themselves.

As a corollary to the Shop Committees and another key element in union democracy and the struggle against the boss, the workers in each plant must demand a Steward System of democratically elected Stewards in each department to take up the grievances of the men and other problems as they arise. The Stewards in nine cases out of ten are the most militant and best developed trade union elements in those unions where they are democratically elected. Those bureaucrats who permit the Steward System to be dissolved, in effect, are strengthening the boss' position.

The democratically elected shop committees and the stewards are the natural organizational forms that develop into WORKERS COUNCILS and eventually, where the workers are strong enough, bring into life their slogan for WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION FOR USE. In this role the shop committees will be a vital sector of working class rule against the exploiters, of the new working class state that will replace capitalism.

counterpose their own solution, and students of America must militant struggle against the abominable capitalist system, for its revolutionary overthrow. We must let the bosses know right now that we shall flatly refuse to fight for them against other regimented youth. We must prepare to use the military training that will be forced on us against the bosses and their system.

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF MARXISM

Dialectical Materialism

Outline of the May 3-7 Insurrection — Barcelona

Outline of Volume 1 of Capital Militarism and Youth under American Imperialism

10 cents a copy

SHALL WE HELP WALL STREET IN ITS WAR PREPARATIONS?

Now that the 2nd World War — imperialist war — has started in Europe and the war in Asia continues, the exploiters in America are openly preparing to take part in the mad race for profits and the redivision of the earth. This is a war of plunder in which the workers of the United States, as well as the workers of every other capitalist country, have nothing to gain and everything to lose. The workers have no fatherland in any capitalist country. They have no national interests.

Sad to say, however, many labor "leaders" are already lined up to support the Morgans and Rockefellers in the imperialist war, to peddle "Liberty" Bonds, smash strikes, and keep the working class lined up behind the capitalist war. Of course today, these labor agents in our ranks — Lewis, Green and all the rest — tell the trade union members that they are against war — BUT, if the United States must "defend" itself they will fight. Meanwhile, however, they utter not a word against the big war budgets; they do not organize a single strike or any other action against shipment of war supplies to the warring powers, against America's M Day plans and other war steps, against the fingerprinting of and spying on men in the essential war plants, etc. etc.

During the war the trade union bureaucrats, who sell out to the bosses in peacetime, will be a most important factor for the capitalists. If the organized trade union movement cannot be lined up for the slaughter and the working class made docile, made to suffer the lowered standard of living and made to act as cannon fodder — without this docility induced by the labor fakers the Morgans and Rockefellers would have their hands full.

The rank and file workers in the trade unions (and outside) must make it clear now that they will not support the bankers, the industrialists, the politicians and their henchmen in any kind of a war that they drag the American people into. They must prepare to strike the war plants, must fight for all war funds to the unemployed, and other such demands.

Naturally with their control of all avenues of expression the capitalists will more than justify, in words, the war as a just war and good war, just as they did the last war. Under no circumstances, however, should the workers fall for this. The working class has only one war to fight — the class war for working class emancipation, the emancipation of mankind from exploitation of man by man.

THE INDUSTRIAL UNION AND THE VANGUARD

The Revolutionary Workers League of the United States, the revolutionary Marxist organization, fights for the trade union program outlined above. We will take our place with the rest of the working class against capitalism. We are opposed to any political or other organization dominating, controlling, or using the trade union movement for its own ends. Our members, as trade unionists, fight side by side with all workers on the battle fronts of the class war, and through democratic channels endeavor to ideologically influence the masses to carry out the program of Marx and Lenin.

There is a proper and essential division of labor between the unions of the workers and the political party of the workers so that in no way do they contradict each other; on the contrary they supplement each other.

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COMMISSION IN THE WAR**

In other section of this paper we publish letters from the German Red Front, and the British Leninist League, affiliates of the International Contact Commission.

The Revolutionary Workers League salutes the work of its sister-organizations (as well as of the R. K. D., which also supports the 14 Points) in their present hour of crisis.

Some of the outstanding leaders of the Red Front are in concentration camps. Hundreds of their members have been mobilized into the army. Maintaining contact among the comrades is a very difficult matter. Distribution of a mere leaflet is punishable by death.

But despite all these difficulties the work continues. "We are fighting on," says the Red Front.

No other international organization can claim affiliates on both sides in the present war working for the defeat of their "own" country. The 2nd International supports British imperialism; the 3rd International tail-ends German imperialism. The London buro (including its American sections, the Lovestoneites and the sympathetic Socialist Party) are social-pacifist. They do not present even an iota of class struggle propaganda — or work.

The Trotskyites who do not present the Lenin position of defeatism, have almost completely disintegrated in Europe. In the U. S. they face a split at their April convention of large proportions. Politically they were long ago bankrupt.

In the midst of this crisis in the labor movement fortunately there is no crisis of Marxism. The revolutionary Marxists, small in number but ideologically strong, the International Contact Commission, keeps "FIGHTING ON."

**THE PANIC IN THE TROTSKYITES
AND THE CRIES FOR UNITY**

At the Socialist Workers Party membership meeting on January 17th in New York, James P. Cannon, Trotskyite leader is reported to have said about the R. W. L. that it is "moving politically towards us and we are moving towards" them. Whether this report is true or not, many Cannonites, now in the midst of a vicious struggle with the Shachtman-Abern group over the Russian question, have been talking about a merger of their own caucus with the R. W. L., if Shachtman should split.

These comrades do not understand their own position. We regard both factions of the Trotskyites as hopeless centrists. The petty-bourgeois position of Shachtman FLOWS, and is only a RATIONALIZATION of the centrist errors of Trotsky and Cannon in relation to Russia. (See the article in the February 1st issue of the FIGHTING WORKER and of the INTERNATIONAL NEWS.)

Unable to put up an effective political battle against Shachtman (Max has a two to one majority in New York and is in almost full control of the youth), Cannon is trying to kill two birds with one stone. Use the R. W. L. comrades to fight and expose the right wing — Shachtman; and at the same time, liquidate organizationally the Marxian forces on the left.

A PROGRAM IN A NUTSHELL

FOR THE VICTORY OF THE SOVIET UNION.

FOR THE DEFEAT OF STALINISM BY THE JOINT
ACTION OF THE RUSSIAN AND FINNISH WORKERS.FOR THE DEFEAT OF BOURGEOIS FINLAND,
AGENT OF WORLD IMPERIALISM.FOR THE VICTORY OF THE FINNISH PROLETA-
RIAT AND THE EXTENSION OF THE OCTOBER REV-
OLUTION TO FINLAND.**Defense of Finland Aids
Imperialism and its War****«DEFEAT OF RUSSIA» IS THE SLOGAN
OF ALL REACTION****Defend the Soviet Union Despite and
Against Stalinism!**

What is involved for each participant — directly or indirectly — in the war in Finland? One glance will reveal just why the slogan for "the defense of Finland and the defeat of the Red Army" is so reactionary.

What is involved, first of all, in the political-military strategy of the imperialists?

Stalinism, in concert with Hitler, is taking advantage of the dissatisfaction of the masses in India to help break away this cornerstone of the British Empire from Britain — even though Stalinism will inevitably attempt to stifle the revolution in India. For Hitler the break up of the British Empire is a key phase of the war. German imperialism is anxious to involve Stalin directly and openly in the World War so that Russian troops can attack Afghanistan, threaten India, and thus relieve pressure from the German armed forces in the west.

BRITAIN AND "INDEPENDENCE"

For England and France, therefore, it is not only important to aid Finland against Russia in a costly Baltic adventure, but also to prevent more open measures in Asia against the British colonies. At the same time England hopes to gain a foothold in Finland to be used against Germany. Britain refuses to fall into Hitler's trap. It does not declare war on the Soviets, but it gives all aid to Finland to keep the war going as long as possible. And it uses the "smallness" of Finland and its "independence" as a propaganda point to stir up world opinion in its favor; even though England has taken away more real independence of more small nations than any power on earth.

For the Soviet Union, Finland represents only one of the many links in the chain that World Imperialism — British, American, as well as German — has been forging around Russia for 22 years, in preparation for another counter-revolutionary attack to destroy the Workers State. The big airfields in Finland, the fortified Islands, the ports in the Arctic are vital spots in the plan of World Imperialism to unite and smash Russia. More than ever today world imperialist intervention is threatened. To defend itself against Germany as well as all other imperialists, the Soviet Union must be assured that this gateway to Leningrad, Finland, will not be the tool of counterrevolution.

**COULD HAVE DEVELOPED
REVOLUTION**

But for Stalinism, Finland could have been won over to the Workers State without armed intervention, by revolutionary means. A long mobilization on the frontiers on Finland, and the economic costs of mobilization for Rytti, etc., plus revolutionary agitation WITHIN Finland, undoubtedly would have developed the proletarian revolution there. Stalinism, however, is in the Napoleonic dilemma: on the one hand, to exist, it must kowtow to German Imperialism as yesterday it did to

French Imperialism, and throttle the revolution of the working class; on the other it can not permit the nationalized property relations in Russia to be destroyed or diluted with too many capitalist elements. Otherwise there will be a capitalist restoration in Russia and an end to Stalinism, which has its roots, like the trade union faker in the trade union, inside the WORKERS' property relations of transition economy.

All this political-military strategy, however, while important is not the main factor involved in the Russo-Finnish war. For warped as the Soviet Union may be it represents a POWERFUL POTENTIAL BASE for PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION.

Take a trade union analogy. The bosses have faith in their lackeys — their Greens and their Lewises. But capitalism can only allow the unions to exist under developing capitalism, or where decay has not yet substituted Fascism for bourgeois democracy. But in the latter crisis of capitalism the trade unions themselves must be smashed, despite the Lewises and Greens. Stalinism, too, has been a good agent, objectively, of world imperialism in undermining the Workers State, but so long as that state and those property relations exist the capitalists know that a critical period will soon come when Stalinism will be unable to control the floodgates of revolutionary initiative of the Soviet masses; that the masses in Russia will re-conquer Workers Democracy and act as a base for world revolution.

**COUNTER-REVOLUTION AND THE
IMPERIALISTS.**

In this war-turn world with proletarian revolution and colonial revolt threatening everywhere the defeat of this potential base of revolution is the most important task of the imperialists — American imperialists most certainly included. The task of the Finnish capitalists in this war, working under orders of Bank of England and Wall Street, is precisely to weaken the Soviets for the final smash.

German imperialism, while it uses different methods because of the alliance with Stalinism, is working for the same aim. The hundreds — or thousands — of "specialists" sent in by Germany to help Stalin in his planning commissions; the alleged 200 miles of territory within the U.S. S. R. now being policed by German troops, and other concessions all act as a base for counter-revolution.

The war in Finland, understood in this light, is much more than a war for "independence" of "little countries". It is a most vital part of the struggle by world imperialism to head off world revolution. The defense of Finland thus really means, defense of the war plans of the capitalist powers. The slogan for "the defeat of the Red Army", thus means opposition to proletarian revolution. It is the battle cry of all reaction!

For the victory of the Soviet Union, despite and against Stalinism, that must be the cry of the working class.

THE NEGRO WORKER

The extent to which business has "recovered" from the slack of 1939 and the extent to which the working class has had its lot "bettered" by that recovery is greatly out of proportion. Financial experts talk of the "sharpest recovery on record", of "booms", etc., but millions of workers are still starving and unemployed, and are not living in any "atmosphere of tempered optimism" which one financial expert said that the capitalist class is living under.

The continued existence of unemployment, in spite of our "recovery" is felt sharply among the Negro workers, who are the first and the hardest to be hit by the perpetual crisis of capitalism. A survey by the Hyde Park-Kenwood Council of Churches and Synagogues under the direction of Dr. Fred Eastman, revealed that 57% of Chicago's 200,000 Negroes are unemployed. Of those employed thousands are receiving wages far below the subsistence level, i. e. domestics who are paid \$7 a week.

RACE DISCRIMINATION

In the conclusion of his investigation Dr. Eastman painted no rosy picture for the future. To quote a Chicago paper, "conditions among the Negroes are growing worse, according to the investigation, with opportunities for employment diminishing. Race discrimination in many quarters is reported to be on the increase."

This is the plight of one-tenth of the American working class. Nowhere outside of Nazi Germany does the "race" question play so important a role in employment as in America. The chauvinistic approach and double exploitation of one group of American workers in an attempt to divide the working class will be felt more and more by the working class as time goes on. The plank for the "emancipation of labor in the black skin" is a vital part of the struggle to emancipate labor of all colors.

50 YEARS OF THE UMWA

(Continued from page 1)

Establishing non-existent delegates from non-existent locals, doing fancy counting of ballots, and even burning up ballot-boxes that go against him.

HILLMAN VS LEWIS

The open demand for autonomy and the strength it mustered, plus opposition to Lewis' political stand, indicates that there are strong forces in the United Mine Workers opposing Lewis, forces that probably are being organized by Sidney Hillman, vice-president of the CIO, to support Roosevelt. This struggle will undoubtedly grow in the near future.

There is a possibility, however, that the struggle which both Hillman and Lewis have prepared, the fight over which capitalist candidate to support in the next election, will break all traces and settle into a conflict by the rank and file against the leadership and for a democratic union that will really try to solve the problems of the men in the mines, instead of using the men as puppets for Lewis' or Hillman's political ambitions.

'THIRD TERM'

(Continued from page 1)

working class and oppressed masses are moving to the left.

For the war needs of American imperialism and as a sign of this understanding, Roosevelt has taken the following steps to the Right:

1 — Prosecution of trade unions — Minneapolis frame-up, the frame-up on the anti-trust laws of building trades unions in the AFL, the statement "You can't strike against the government", etc.

2 — Drastic relief cuts — 500,000 more to be cut off WPA and a warning to everyone that more will come. "The Communities must take over our burden." In other words, according to Roosevelt, more cuts will come soon.

3 — A mild attempt at economy, although continuing the policy of large subsidies to big industry.

4 — The biggest war budget in history and an aggressive struggle in Asia and Latin America to gain new markets for Uncle Sam.

Unfortunately for Mr. Roosevelt and his party, his political machine is too encumbered with "left" wing liberals and a hodge-podge of elements for him to make this turn to the right effectively. Unless some big event intervenes the Wall Street Crowd will have to get a new puppet for 1941 in the White House, to TRY to complete the shift to the right more painlessly.

INDEPENDENT ACTION NEEDED

What is clear to the working class now, however, is that

Roosevelt never did and never could serve the working masses. He was merely a charming, docile tool of Wall Street who granted reforms so long as working class pressure was great and Wall Street could still afford it: and is laying the basis for a big drive on labor now that Wall Street needs more sharp attacks.

These eight short years should teach the workers of the United States the clearest lesson of our times: no matter by what label he may go or how liberal a bourgeois politician may be, he will always and invariably serve the interests of the capitalists. The only defense of the working class is in independent class action and its own party, a New Party of Revolutionary Marxism.

JUST OUT

International News

Central Organ

International Contact Commission

FEBRUARY ISSUE

The Social Revolution and Stalinism

On the Invasions of Poland and Finland

Against a New November; for a German October

A vital problem of the German Revolution

PRICE 5 CENTS

SUPPLEMENT

Letters of the L. R. W. P. and the Contact Commission

An Answer on the Russian Dispute

5 cents each

Chicago's Jobless Must Scuttle Kelly's Starvation Budget

Chicago — The drive of the bosses on a national scale against the gains that the workers have made in recent years is revealed in the slash in the budgets of the unemployed workers on relief, a slash which will be used to force lower wages for the whole working class.

Starvation in such cities as Cleveland and Toledo are headlined in the boss press due to the fight between the local, state, and national administration. Whenever one section of the bosses sharpens its political axe and exposes the suffering of the unemployed it is not in the interest of the unemployed but to further their own factional interests. Suffering is really nation-wide. It is most acute here in Chicago.

The Chicago Daily News, a Republican sheet has constantly harped on the undue suffering of the "relievers" in this city primarily because it would like to see a Republican administration dole out the starvation rations. But acute sufferings experienced by workers in other communities are usually hushed up by Mr. Knox's "News".

LESS MEAT FOR THE "SKELETON"

Chicago's unemployed face an unusually severe year. Funds allocated for relief will be sufficient to last until June on the 70% of the "skeleton" budget, and then funds will be lacking until the state legislature meets again in 1941. A special session of the State Legislature is scheduled soon, but Governor Horner is not contemplating placing relief as part of the call for the special

session.

The lack of a correct political line and a fighting spirit on the part of the unemployed organizations has resulted in withering away of their base to where there are scarcely 500 organized workers on relief or WPA in Chicago today. The Workers Alliance of Cook County, caught in the meshes of the change in policy of its Stalinist leadership, has begun making militant gestures such as picketing the City Hall, but its membership, lulled into inactivity by years of trust in the New Deal and its Chicago counterpart, the Kelly-Nash political machine, has failed to respond.

The Socialist-controlled Workers Security Federation has only 3 locals meeting regularly out of 14 that are supposed to be functioning.

The need for a fighting organization of the unemployed is today greater than ever. An organization based on a policy fighting independently against the bosses agents in the city administration regardless of Republican or Democratic fronts will attract the masses of unemployed workers.

DAVID REY

The R. W. L. learns with great satisfaction that Comrade David Rey, one of the outstanding leaders of the left wing of the P. O. U. M. during the Spanish civil war days, although sentenced to death months ago, is still alive and may yet escape the executioner.

The Main Enemy Is At Home

Cleveland Uses Old Trick to Steal Pennies from Unemployed

Workers Forced to Re-Apply and Wait Weeks for Relief

Cleveland, February 1 — On December 11th the City Council, Mayor, and the EDCR officials announced that relief would be restored on the 15th of December, after a 3 weeks relief shutdown. But from then on they have been busy re-iterating that questionable statement, because the truth doesn't square with the facts.

Here are the facts: relief has been restored to the ones who had been getting one-third orders during that period of starvation, but the other thousands who had been totally cut off had to be re-interviewed at their homes before they received any orders.

In the face of a reduced staff, plus hundreds of other unemployed workers waiting to be certified each case worker has more clients than he or she can visit in six weeks time, even if they had nothing else to do. The policy commission, Jones, Cronin and Co.

LECTURE, DEBATE, CLASS SCHEDULED IN NEW YORK

The New York comrades of the R. W. L. have a busy month before them.

On Sunday, February 18th at 8 P. M. at Irving Plaza Hall comrade Jules Bertman will debate I. Ziegler of the Socialist Union Party on the question, "Resolved that the Dictatorship of the Proletariat is Necessary to Attain Socialism." Comrade Bertman will defend the affirmative position.

On March 1st at the same hall, 8 P. M., comrade Bertman will speak on the subject, "America Prepares for War."

Starting on Friday March 16th at the New York headquarters of the League, (108 E. 14th St.) the comrades have organized a class on the "Elements of Marxism" to run for ten weeks. Comrade Sol Stevens will lead the class.

YOUTH UNIT IN BOSTON

A unit of the Young Workers League has been set up in Boston as a result of the recruitment of three additional young comrades. The new unit is a big step in the direction of receiving the Young Workers League as a national revolutionary movement of youth in the U. S.

The March edition of the "Young Worker", published through the efforts of youth comrades in three cities will soon be off the press.

in conforming with the resolution passed by Council have set forth a new set of CORRECTIVE policies.

ANYTHING TO FORCE END OF RELIEF

The case worker now asks the following type of questions: How did the client get along during the period of crisis? If they could get along for a month then surely they don't need any relief now. If a client makes the mistake of saying he got a couple of days work, or if relatives took care of him — that means weeks of investigation.

Those people who were getting supplementary relief (that is, where one of the family is on WPA, etc., but the pay isn't sufficient for even a starvation living) were first cut off completely and then after weeks of stalling when they became indignant they were told to swear out warrants for the arrest of any of their children working who refuse to turn in all of their pay but \$2.50 for carfare and \$5.00 for lunches and spending money per month.

POLICE QUIETLY INTIMIDATE

This last category was so large and so many warrants were issued that police department quietly investigated. An Association of Unemployed representative making an inquiry was told that there would be no prosecutions except where children over 21 refuse to contribute \$9 a week toward the family. This procedure is to be continued as a means of intimidation and undoubtedly will be done quietly.

The general policy at the intake, where people apply for relief, is one of extreme viciousness — even referring people to illegitimate jobs such as policy racket, panhandling, prostitution for the women, etc. etc. — plus outright, boldface lying to the unemployed as to their moral and legal right to get a subsistence living.

Mayor Burton is using the plight of the unemployed deliberately to further his own political ambitions and to force onto the city a tax levy of 8.2 mills on March 26th when the people vote for it. The present situation may therefore be expected to last — and grow worse — until that time.

The Association of Unemployed on Direct and Work Relief which led the struggle to restore relief 6 weeks ago is exposing the "political football" and preparing for the coming struggles.

RWL Pamphlets

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FIGHT AGAINST THE ROOSEVELT WAR PLANS

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