

# THE FIGHTING WORKER

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## HILLMAN WORKERS STRIKE

Chicago, September 17 — 750 militant Hillman workers walked out on strike 4 days ago as a climax of a 13 week struggle against the Nitti mobster Max Caldwell and the American Federation of Labor.

The Hillman Company, true to form, tried to introduce a new group of racketeers via the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers A F of L, under the leadership of Emmet Kelly, and called in attorney Eddie Woods, notorious strike breaker of the Newspaper Guild strike to smash the new militant union, now affiliated to the CIO.

### UNION DEMANDS

The Company supervisors went through a series of maneuvers to intimidate the workers into the scab union, but failed. Thereupon, a contract was signed behind closed doors with the AF of L for

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## the « four freedoms » in action

### The Army Aint What It Used To Be.

A brand new reason for the low Army morale has been discovered by Chicago's **Tribune** in a September 12th editorial: the army is "bourgeois"! The editorial says that many workers are exempt because of "defense" occupations and families, whereas the boys of "bourgeois" families cannot claim these deferment bases,

The new soldiers are well educated but are pushed around as though they were "socially and intellectually inferior".

The army regulations are all right for the rabble and proletarians, but not for the "new element", continues Chicago's leading reactionary sheet.

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September 18 — Within the last week the Roosevelt war policy has been stepped up. The undeclared war against the Axis that has been in progress for some time is now out in the open.

### 1—Freedom to blockade Europe proclaimed.

Roosevelt's speech dealing with the recent incidents with Axis submarines was a reply to the Axis position that any ships in designated war zones would be sunk on sight. American imperialism answers that any Axis war craft caught in seas vital to American shipping will be fired upon and sunk.

This means convoys, and Secretary Knox speech to the American Legion stated as much in plain English. In reality, it means that American Imperialism, in addition to convoying materials to England, will take the liberty to place a more effective blockade around Europe.

### 2—Freedom to Exploit Asia

At the same time the United States continues the squeeze-play against Japan. Wall Street demands the open door in Asia, and full freedom to exploit that continent. The United States threatens war on Japan if Tokyo tries to close the door to Asia as United States capitalism has in South America.

### 3—Freedom for imperial activity in the Soviet Union.

On another front the Roosevelt-Churchill clique is moving forward against the Soviet Union. The Moscow conference of the three powers is a demand on the part of American imperialism for more concessions from Stalinism — in return for any "material" aid. Stalinism has already agreed

Continued

## Protest Army Jim-Crow

Chicago, Sept. 18 — The protest against the Jim-Crow and brutal treatment of Negro soldiers in the Army are growing.

Liberals, radicals of all shades, and even "isolationists" (for their own reactionary reasons) have given publicity to the rotten conditions of the Negro workers in uniforms. Various Negro organizations, such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have also protested.

The most promising action is the meeting of Chicago workers called under the auspices of the "Committee for Negro Freedom," which points out the need for solidarity of white and Negro workers in the fight against Jim-Crow.

But to fight effectively against Jim-Crowism it is necessary to understand its cause. It is not only

a ruling by reactionary officials in the War Department, or some Negro-hating local and state officials in parts of the South. Jim-Crowism, which separates the Negro workers from the white, exists all over the country, North as well as South, in industry and agriculture as well as in the Army and Navy.

### CAPITALISM BREEDS RACE HATRED

Why is this? Is it because it is "natural" for all white people to discriminate against the Negro masses? Of course not.

Jim-Crowism exists because there is a class who has a special interest in dividing the masses — the capitalists. These exploiters poison the minds of the workers against each other so they can rule and profit by the division.

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# The Character Of The Red Army

For many years the Red Army has been a mystery to the so-called military experts of all nations. All kind of predictions have been made about the Red Army. Even now, under the test of the Nazi invasion, and in spite of its heroic efforts, it is still to a large extent an unknown quantity, partly because no one can say to what extent the Stalinist cancer has sapped its effective energy.

The key to the "mystery" of the Red Army's strength lies, not in its modern military methods, but in the non-capitalist, transition economy that the Red Army is based upon.

## NOT A CAPITALIST ARMY

The Red Army is dominated and controlled from the top by the Stalinist bureaucracy, and has many pro-capitalist elements in its leadership. But aitho Stalinism acts as an agent of one or another group of capitalists (at present the Roosevelt - Churchill group), this does not make the Red Army capitalist. Just as it is necessary to make a distinction between bureaucratic Stalinism and the Soviet Union, so too is it necessary to distinguish between the Stalinist leadership and the Red Army rank and file.

Similarly, it is a fact that the Red Army has been used by Stalinism for anti-working class ends, as in Spain, just as our own labor fakers use the unions for anti-working class ends. But the transition property relations upon which the Red Army is based give it a vigor in spite of Stalinism.

We are for independent workers' action inside and outside the Red Army, for activity in the Army to win it away from Stalinism, to reestablish its soldiers democracy, to set up once again genuine soviets throughout the Soviet Union.

## FOR IRREGULARS AND MILITIAS

A healthy Red Army would be based on an armed population, and have the backing of irregulars and workers' militias, not only in German occupied territory or besieged cities, but throughout the

land.

At all times control of the armed might must rest in the workers' soviets. The fact that Stalinism and its GPU retain so tightly the control of the military forces (except in the military engagements when they are forced to give the soldiers leeway), reveals the Stalinist fear and distrust of the working class.

If the Soviet masses are effectively to defend themselves and the social system established by the 1917 revolution, they must at all cost oust the Stalinist saboteurs. Only in this way can the the Soviet Union be the vanguard

of the proletarian and colonial revolutions.

This is not to say that there can be no victorious battles under Stalinism, but there can be no **victory**.

The cancer of Stalinism must be removed from the Red Army and the Soviet Union if the October Revolution of 1917 is to be extended beyond the USSR.

Defend the Soviet Union against the imperialists and their Stalinist agents.

The real defense of the Soviet Union is the extension of the October Revolution.

# Labor's 'Holy' War

The most alarming development resulting from the attack of Germany on the Soviet Union is the way in which the British imperialists have been able to swing the British workers behind their own robber war with German imperialism.

Many workers who were apathetic or antagonistic to the Nazi-Churchill war have been deceived that this war now is something different — that Britain has really joined the Soviet Union in fighting a war for democracy.

The chief reason for this is, of course, the fact that the Stalinist themselves have done everything possible to make this British imperialism's "holy war." The hundreds of millions of enslaved subjects in India and throughout the Empire are told this is their fight for democracy. The Stalinists tell the Indian workers they must hold the eastern front for Britain so that troops can be moved to the west for a "**western front of democracy**."

## CHURCHILL — "LABOR'S FRIEND"

No betrayal of the workers could be more crass than this new role of Stalinism. Yesterday Britain's war on Germany was a robber war — today it is a last ditch fight for world democracy. And the Stalinists are aided in this betrayal by those old friends of labor, the leaders of the British Labor Party. The same men who sold out the General Strike in 1926 are now going to lead English and world-wide labor into the promised land. Churchill, who did more to break the General strike than any single man, is now fighting labor's war.

Such tricks can only serve to disgust the worker. And when the Citrines and Bevines establish "unity" of action with the Soviet trade unions, then the situation is really dangerous. The British labor fakers will never give up their hold on English workers voluntarily.

We must realize that they head this movement of international working class cooperation only to guarantee that it shall remain within the bounds of effective service to their real master — the British banker and colony-exploiter.

**DOWN WITH THE WAR AIMS OF THE BOURGEOISIE!**

**FIGHT FASCISM BY FIGHTING CAPITALISM!**

# Defend Odell Waller

Richmond, Va., Sept. 10. — On Monday, September 8 the appeal of Odell Waller for a new trial was argued before the full bench of the Virginia Supreme Court at Staunton, Va. The argument was taken under advisement and no decision has yet been made.

The argument of Thomas H. Stone and John F. Finerty for Waller was to the effect that the defense in the lower court had raised a reasonable doubt as a matter of law.

It was pointed out that the sole eyewitness testimony against Waller was that of a young Negro boy by the name of Henry Davis employed by the family of the deceased, Oscar Davis, both at the time of the shooting and at the time of the "trial".

## JIM CROW JURY

In addition it was pointed out that Waller had been tried by a jury from which non-poll tax payers are barred by Virginia law, that he was tried by a jury composed exclusively of whites and overwhelmingly of landlords, and that one of the jurors had expressed doubts as to his ability to give a fair trial to the accused

## The Army Aint What It Used To Be.

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The **Tribune** is confusing "bourgeois ideology" with "bourgeois class". The army today, especially with conscription, has a greater percentage as well as number of working class youth. Most of these youths are as yet capitalist minded, but they are workers nonetheless. At the same time there is a considerable number of white collar workers.

The **Tribune** thinks the army rules OK for the proletariat. But the workers in uniform are proving they are too smart for this cannon-fodder, do or die stuff. Their morale is low because in addition to the factors of homesickness and rotten army conditions, there is a real **anti-war** sentiment among the American youth.

man.

Readers of the Fighting Worker will recall that Waller shot his landlord when the latter reached into his "gun pocket" with an oath after refusing to surrender Waller's pitiful share of the crop.

## NO RELIANCE ON COURTS

The work of the Waller Defense Committee must be revived and quickened if Waller is to be saved. Workers can have no more confidence in the "impartiality" of the boss representatives on the Supreme Court bench than they had in the local landlords on the lower court. Only mass pressure can save Waller.

Certainly no reliance can be placed upon such creatures as the "Southern liberal", Virginius Dabney, who recently suggested that it might be a good idea to give Waller a new trial so that he might be electrocuted with the "vindication of Southern justice".

This is the person around whom the leadership of the Workers' Defense League build their campaign, refusing a united front with the Waller Defense Committee, without which there would have been no Waller case.

Workers everywhere must see to it that their organizations join in the united front proposed by the Waller Defense Committee to smash the exploitation and oppression of the sharecroppers, and to tear from the hands of the Southern landlords Odell Waller.

## The Fighting Worker

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## MOVIES GO TO WAR

The Isolationist - Interventionist fight has finally reached the movies. The investigation grew out of a resolution by isolationist Senators Clark of Missouri and Nye of North Dakota charging the movie industry with stirring up war hysteria by making anti-German pictures.

The movie industry through Wendell Willkie, formerly that outstanding opponent of the Roosevelt administration, countered with the statement that since the government's policy was to aid those fighting against dictatorships, the movies were only backing up that policy.

Naturally the movies are in favor of defeating German imperialism. The Nazi victories in Europe has removed it as a profitable market from them. They would like to have it back. The isolationists whose main business is on the western hemisphere have little to gain from a European or Asiatic war. They are for the defense of the South American markets with arms if necessary. Once the war is declared, however, they will be 100% behind it. Senator Capper has already OK'd the "shoot on sight" policy.

## ANTI-SEMITISM THROWN IN

The mounting reaction in this fight as well as in many others brings to the fore the racial question, in this case anti-semitism, in order to sow dissension and confuse the issues. The working class must remember that there are bosses of many races and nationalities who exploit workers who likewise are of many races and nationalities. The boss class is united in its exploitation of the working class; the working class must be united in its struggle against the boss class.

The working class must be wary of the isolationist trap. Only those who point out the imperialist character of the war and lead the way to the overthrow of capitalism as the source of all wars, can effectively fight against war.

# Protest Army Jim Crow HILLMAN STRIKE

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For this "grand purpose" the bosses incite native-born against foreign-born, Christian against Jew, Protestant against Catholic, non-union against union workers, soldier against striker, and especially white against Negro.

## BOSSSES WANT LABOR DISUNITY

Especially today the bosses find it necessary to divide the masses, so they can more effectively shove down the workers' standard of living, deprive them of their democratic rights, and push them into the imperialist slaughter.

## SMASH JIM CROW

Wherever possible, the bosses try to turn the resentment of the masses against the conditions, into struggles among themselves. During the Ford strike, the International Harvester strike, the U.S. Steel strike in Buffalo, and many other places, the bosses tried to incite race riots as they did in

## CHICAGO PROTEST MEETING

Against Jim Crow Abuse of Negro Soldiers

Speakers:

Willard S. Townsend, Ulysses S. Keys, Henry Pelham, Enoch Waters, Fred Foster, Frances Gober,

William Avery

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21, 4 P. M.

at the

FORUM HALL, 322 E. 43 St., Chicago.

Admission free.

For Social, Economic and Political Equality of the Negro Masses.

For the Freedom of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Philippines, etc., from American Imperialism.

Fight the Bosses Hunger System — For Production for Use Under Workers Control

have you read

Negro Slavery—Then and Now  
5 Cents Each

Chicago in 1919, but they failed in the face of workers' solidarity.

To fight Jim-Crowism it is necessary to extend the struggle to a fight against the imperialist war

Expose the fakers like A. Philip Randolph, the Pickens (and now the Stalinist misleaders) who call on the Negro workers to support the war of the imperialist oppressors.

Fight against Jim-Crowism by solidarity of white and Negro workers, by protesting every outrage against the workers in uniform, Negro and white. And above all, extend the struggle to a fight to root out the CAUSE of Jim-Crowism, the capitalist system of race-hatred, profiteering and imperialist slaughter.

## 4 Freedoms

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to support national unity and endorses social-patriotism in United States and England.

But in addition to the subordination of the Stalinist parties in the imperialist nations, Roosevelt wants big concessions within the Soviet Union. America's "aid" will be used for counter-revolutionary activity against the workers and peasants. Stalinism, in an attempt to save its own hide is selling the Soviet Union piece by piece. Long ago it sold and bartered Marxism.

**4—Freedom for greater exploitation.**

Within the country every effort, every force and avenue of expression is being organized to obtain national unity under the Wall Street War Mongers. Before this war is over whole layers of the middle class and small business men will be wiped out by the imperialist monopolies. Above all, the degree of exploitation is increasing and price rises have far outstripped the miserable wage increases won by hard fought strikes.

Roosevelt cloaks his imperialist policy with his "Four Freedoms" and his "Eight Points".

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ces accorded a \$2.00 raise.

The Hillman workers rejected the \$2.00 raise, especially with the way prices are soaring. Over 85% joined the big line last Saturday night in a demand for a \$26.00 minimum for men, \$24.00 minimum for women, a 20% increase for those making more than the minimum, a sliding scale of wages as prices rise, a 44 hour week, and other such demands.

The picketing and militancy far exceeded the most optimistic estimate of the strike leaders, all militant rank and file workers. The mass meeting held Monday, Sept. 15, jammed the Midland Hotel and the yelling, raging group of strikers voted to continue the strike in an organized fashion until a victory was achieved.

The company obtained a temporary injunction limiting the number of pickets, but singing, talking to customers, shouting, leaflet distribution and other militant tactics still go on. Flying squads supplementing picket lines have been especially successful in keeping customers out of the stores. Business in the 7 stores has fallen to less than 1/2. The competitors are reaping the harvest.

## HEALTHY RANK AND FILE SENTIMENT

The Hillman workers have shown a fine militancy and a healthy demand for a rank and file controlled local, correctly trusting nothing but their own independent workers action.

The struggles of these workers is a beacon to the hundreds of thousands both in the AFofL and CIO, dominated and coerced by their gangster and reformist leaderships. It is to be hoped that out of this movement, along with many other progressive struggles of this period, will develop a third cadre of rank and file leaders and a progressive group that will fight the war patriotism and class collaboration in the union movement today.