

Masses Show Will to Fight De Gaulle

But the Generals Are Still Poised to Impose Bloody Dictatorial Rule

By George Lavan

MAY 28 — The noose of dictatorship has been lowered onto the shoulders of political democracy in France. Never since Louis Napoleon destroyed the Second Republic in 1851 and Hitler's flunkey, Marshal Petain, destroyed the Third Republic has the French working class stood in such deadly danger. Confronted with would-be dictator de Gaulle, capitalist politicians of France are surrendering with a speed that would put to shame the politicians of a Central American Republic faced with an army coup.

The only thing which prevented a complete sell-out today by parliament to the threats of de Gaulle and his sinister following of militarists, the racist colons of Algeria and assorted fascist and semi-fascist elements was the last-minute mobilization of the French working class. The transfer of the scene of battle from the floor and corridors of the National Assembly where the result was a foregone conclusion to the country itself was announced by the most tremendous demonstration seen in France since the end of World War II. Some 200,000 workers, marching twenty abreast through the streets of Paris to the site of that Bastille destroyed by their revolutionary ancestors, chanted "De Gaulle Shall Not Pass."

Thus the working class served notice of its will to fight to the end against the imposition of a dictatorship designed to smash its organizations — that is a fascist dictatorship.

The mighty demonstration achieved in action what the conflict between the top bureaucracies of the Social Democratic and Communist Parties had hitherto prevented — a united front. For all reports agree that the overwhelming bulk of the demonstrators were the rank-and-file members of these two largest organizations of the French workers.

This gives hope that the sound instinct of the masses for united action against the terrible danger confronting them will prevail over their leaders' previous inability or refusal to agree on joint actions.

Workers' Ranks Unite

This was also foreshadowed by incidents in yesterday's general strike called by the largest union federation, the Communist-led CGT. Though only a partial success nationally, and disappointing in Paris, the strike did show the workers' power in many areas. Particularly in the north where the miners came out 75% strong. Most significant were those places, where disregarding their national leaders' orders, workers belonging to the Socialist-led Force Ouvriere, joined the CGT strikers. For example in Toulouse, Communist and Socialist workers marched arm-in-arm on an arsenal. However, it was today's tremendous demonstration in Paris which serves notice that despite party and union divisions, the French workers want to stop de Gaulle by fighting together against him.

This is a momentous fact. It means that if the betrayal in parliament goes through and de Gaulle becomes premier, his battle is far from won. He will have terrified parliament into acquiescence, but not the workers. Unless completely derailed by their leaders, the workers will still be in a position and mood to fight.

Though by becoming premier de Gaulle would have won the first battle, inflicting a grave defeat on the French working class.

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Socialist Fund at 99% With 3 Days to Go

By Murry Weiss
National Fund Drive Director

BULLETIN — Los Angeles has gone over the top with \$5,000 or 109% of its \$4,600 quota.

MAY 28 — With three days left to go, the \$20,000 Socialist Expansion Fund drive has reached 99% of completion and 100% victory is assured by the May 31 deadline.

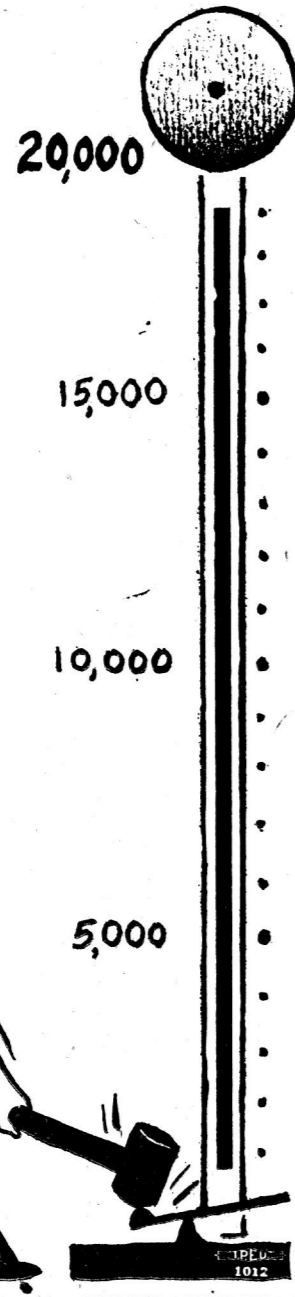
At this date thirteen SWP groups have come in 100% and five of these — Denver, Pittsburgh, Detroit, South and Oakland — have gone over the top. (See Score-board page 4.)

The spring Socialist Expansion Fund Drive began March 1 as the first of two fund campaigns in 1958 aimed at stepping-up the activity and broadening the influence of the socialist movement in the United States.

The main feature of socialist expansion efforts for 1958 was the launching of a movement for placing socialist candidates on the ballot in the fall congressional and state elections and above all trying to achieve United Socialist Tickets wherever possible.

It is felt that if socialists could get together and hammer out agreement on a minimum platform of socialist struggle for peace and against the cold war, for a planned economy of abundance instead of capitalist depression, for an end to Jim Crow and to the witch hunt, for a new independent party of labor in alliance with the working farmer and the Negro people, it would point the way to the 1960 elections and the development of a broader, more influential and re-surgent socialist movement in America.

Already United Socialist Ticket movements have been launched in California and Illinois, and a United Independent-Socialist Ticket Conference is scheduled for June 13, 14 and 15 in New York City. (See Story this page.)



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Drive Opens for United Socialist Ticket in N.Y.

High Court OK's Scabs Suing Union

The United States Supreme Court ruled, May 27, that a scab who has been kept out of a plant by strikers can sue the union for damages in the state courts. Prior to this ruling the practice was that only the National Labor Relations Board ruled on claims for back pay and other damages made by such creatures.

Technically, this union crippling ruling means that under the Taft-Hartley Act, there is no uniform federal policy in such cases and the various state courts have control.

The test case involved Paul S. Russell who tried to drive his car through a United Auto Workers picket line at a copper company in Decatur, Alabama during a strike in 1951. The pickets stopped him and he sued in the Alabama courts claiming that the union had cost him five weeks pay by keeping him off the job during the strike. He also asked for punitive damages. The Alabama jury awarded him \$10,000.

VOTE IS 6-2

The UAW took the case to the Supreme Court. The vote against the union was six to two with Justice Hugo L. Black taking no part in the case. Justices Burton, Frankfurter, Clark, Harlan, Brennan and Whittaker constituted the majority and Warren and Douglas the minority.

The dissenting opinion pointed out that "There is a very real prospect of staggering punitive damages accumulated through successive actions by parties injured by members who have succumbed to the emotion that frequently accompanies concerted activities during labor unrest."

"By reason," continued the dissent, "of various liability for its members' . . . conduct on the picket lines the union is to be subjected to a series of judgments that may and probably will reduce it to bankruptcy."

Over twenty other suits have been brought against the UAW as a result of the Decatur, Alabama strike alone. The damages claimed total \$1,500,000.

Britain Admits Inciting Soviet Border Incident

MAY 22 — The British government officially admitted yesterday that its air and naval forces have been deliberately engaging in provocative violations of Soviet frontiers.

The official admission came from a government prosecutor in the opening of the trial of two Oxford students charged with violation of the Official Secrets Act. Former members of the British navy, the two students wrote an article for the Oxford undergraduate magazine describing how British planes and boats deliberately invaded Soviet territory. These dangerously aggressive acts were committed, they explained, to gather military intelligence on the basis of Soviet responses to the provocations. The issue of the magazine in which the article appeared was devoted to the problem of banning the H-bomb.

GOVT. SECRETS
Publication of the article brought strong protest in England against such practices and (Continued on Page 2)

The Next Task



A Big Step Forward

An Editorial

The announcement of a conference to put a united independent-socialist ticket on the New York ballot this fall should be greeted with enthusiasm by all those who are working for a meaningful revival of the socialist movement in this country.

The issuance of the conference call marks a renewal in a key state of the socialist tradition of challenging the two Big Business parties at the polls. By implementing the call, New York socialists not only have the opportunity to spread the socialist message at a time when popular interest in political issues is at its height, but also the means to remove socialism from the realm of abstract propaganda.

Adoption at the conference of a clear-cut, militant program on the principal issues of the day, and launching of a united socialist ticket will help reactivate the many convinced but presently unaffiliated socialists throughout the state. Equally important, such a ticket can provide an inspiring alternative for the growing thousands who, though not convinced socialists, are thoroughly fed up with both the Republicans and Democrats.

A united socialist ticket can rally the active support of those who oppose the bipartisan cold war and who are building the growing movement for a halt to nuclear tests; those who recognize the need to resist the anti-labor drive and the witch hunt; those who are demanding full equality for the Negro people and those who are seeking an effective program to combat the ravaging effects of the present recession.

Reject "Coalition"

The united character of the projected campaign is particularly heartening. Those who are initiating the movement have differing views on a number of political issues. But they are demonstrating their capacity to act together on the most central of issues — opposition to the capitalist system and its political parties. In short, they are agreed that the interests of labor and the minority people and the cause of socialism can be advanced only through independent political action and not through futile efforts to achieve a "coalition" with capitalist politicians.

This growing recognition by social-

ists that there is no profit in "coalition" policies does not spring from any empty dogmatism. For decades the trade union officialdom, and even sections of the radical movement, have followed the road of "coalition." The results have been plain to see.

Despite its enormous potential political strength, labor has suffered continuing setbacks as a result of reliance by the union officialdom on capitalist political "friends." The threat of impending anti-labor legislation and the failure to win even modification of the Taft-Hartley law are cases in point. And the current Congressional refusal to action anti-recession measures drives home the point.

Show New Road

Those in the radical movement who have supported this course have argued that to remain on the path of independent political action would result in isolation. But "coalition" politics can only contribute discreditment to the socialist movement and to the demoralization of many of its supporters. The initiators of a united socialist campaign are offering the road out of this blind alley.

The fact that they are recommending to the coming conference that it nominate a full slate of candidates for the major state offices demonstrates that they mean business about independent politics and are not interested in any token campaign limited to one or another single office. Such a campaign would in reality mean tagging along in tacit support of one or more in the endless parade of capitalist "lesser evils."

The proposal for a united socialist ticket could not have come at a better time. The fact that America is not immune to the laws of capitalist crisis is being revealed today in dramatic fashion. The swiftly growing crisis of Wall Street's foreign and domestic policies will provide an expanded new audience ready to consider socialist alternatives to the reactionary policies pursued by the Republicans and Democrats.

For our part, we of the Militant pledge our maximum resources to rallying support for the kind of a fighting, united socialist campaign that New York has needed for a long time.

Call Issued for Parley To Draft Platform and Nominate Candidates

NEW YORK, May 26 — Plans for an effective state-wide socialist election campaign in New York were made public today with the announcement of a call for a conference to nominate a united independent-socialist slate of candidates for U.S. Senator, Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and Comptroller.

Initiators of the movement are calling for a campaign of socialist opposition to the bipartisan policies of cold war, witch hunt and suppression of civil rights. They brand the Republican and Democratic parties as "seeking to crush labor, the family farmer and the small business man; and with impoverishing and corrupting the nation's educational system."

SET PARLEY JUNE 13-15
Declaring that "a united Independent-Socialist ticket in New York State can provide the long needed impetus for a revival and reinvention of independent political action," the sponsoring call was issued by a group of individuals including independents and leaders and members of various organized socialist groupings. The group scheduled the conference at the Great Northern Hotel in New York on June 13, 14 and 15, "for the purpose of adopting a platform and designating candidates for such offices in the 1958 elections as the conference shall set forth."

Initiating sponsors of the projected socialist ticket include: Dr. Corliss Lamont, philosopher and lecturer at New York University, who was the American Labor Party's 1952 candidate for U.S. Senator; Dr. W. E. DuBois, world-famed historian; Mrs. Muriel McAvooy, widow of the late ALP leader, Clifford T. McAvooy; Dr. Howard Selsam, author-philosopher and director until its closing last year of the Jefferson School; Joyce Cowley, 1957 New York mayoralty candidate of the Socialist Workers Party; Russ Nixon, national legislative representative of the United Electrical Workers Union (independent); Richard De Haan,

No Sign of End To Recession

MAY 28 — President Eisenhower said today that he thinks the recession has "largely spent itself." But the specialists on the Wall Street Journal don't agree. Analyzing the Commerce Department's monthly business size-up, the Journal concludes "there is still no clear sign the recession is at or near bottom." Key to the situation, it points out, is the fact that in the major producers' and consumers' durable goods field, "little, if any improvement was evident in April." It further notes that manufacturing orders appeared to drop only slightly, because government orders had increased. However, orders for non-defense goods took a further drop.

chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance; George Stryker, Long Island socialist; Henry H. Abrams, Dr. Annette T. Rubenstein and John T. McManus of the National Guardian, all three prominently identified with the American Labor Party until its dissolution in 1956.

HITS CAPITALIST ANARCHY

The conference call presents a detailed indictment of the capitalist system. Pointing to the industrial progress achieved under a planned economy, the call declares: "In a world in which a billion people are engaged in building a socialist order as an alternative to capitalist anarchy, American capital-

(Continued on Page 3)

Text of Call to United Socialist Conference

(The following is the text of a letter sent out to some 800 New Yorkers requesting their endorsement for a call to a conference to launch a united independent-socialist ticket in the 1958 election. It is followed by the text of the conference call itself.)

Dear Friend:
During the first few months of this year, a group of individuals including independents and leaders and members of various organized socialist groups, have been meeting to discuss the possibilities of effective united independent-socialist electoral participation in the 1958 elections in New York State.

The result has been the enclosed draft of a Call to a Conference this spring to undertake to put on the ballot in November independent Socialist candidates for the four top State offices and U.S. Senator. We are sending you the proposed Call in the hope that you will endorse its main purpose and join with the undersigned in sponsoring the Conference.

A united Independent-Socialist ticket in New York State can provide the long-needed impetus for a revival and reinvention of independent political action not only in our state but elsewhere throughout the country. We believe that thousands of people in our state would rally to the support of such a campaign. We believe that this effort is necessary this year to introduce vital issues and prospects which will otherwise be absent from the political argument in the forthcoming elections. Further, if a minimum of 50,000 votes can be won at the ballot-box, an independent political medium of great, new significance can be given ballot status in our state for future elections.

If you agree with the purpose of the proposed Conference we urge, in addition to your own concurrence in sponsorship, that (Continued on Page 3)

