

ON MAY FIRST, DEMAND FREEDOM FOR TOM MOONEY,  
WARREN BILLINGS AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS

# Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

Vol. 5, No. 18

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**1886 — FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY — 1936**



## == New York United Labor May Day Parade to Union Square ==

The United Labor May Day Conference appeals to all the workers of New York to turn out in their many thousands to demonstrate this year their solidarity and determination to fight against war and fascism side by side with the workers of all other countries. Let the mighty voice of the New York workers ring out against Nazi and Fascist despotism in Italy and Germany and Austria.

Demonstrate this May First for unemployment insurance and other social security legislation.

WASHINGTON SQUARE is the mobilization point for all contingents except garment workers.

The contingent headed by the COMMUNIST PARTY (OPPOSITION) will form on Washington Square South—from West Broadway to Washington Square East, facing west. All C. P. O. members and friends are instructed to be on location at 9 A. M.

C. P. O. MEMBERS AND FRIENDS PROCEED TO THE POLO GROUNDS IMMEDIATELY AFTER PASSING THE REVIEWING STAND IN UNION SQUARE.

# NATIONALISTS IN BALKAN CLASH

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia—Peasant uprisings against Serbian Fascists resulted in the death of several fascists and one Croat peasant. The Croats are an oppressed nationality in Yugoslavia, wherein Serbians have a larger voice in governmental policies, although not themselves the ruling nationality. Yugoslavia is one of the results of the Versailles treaty.

These killings are the culmination of a terrorist struggle which began with the assassination of two Croat leaders on April 10. The Serbs are now pressing for the declaration of martial law, directed principally against the Croats.

## ARAB-JEWISH RIOTS

TEL-AVIV, Palestine — Racial riots between Arabs and Jews in this city reflected increasing unrest in the domains of British Imperialism, although its expression is still cleverly directed in the interests of England.

11 were killed and more than 50 were hurt in riots and counter-riots. The government issued martial law orders, coupled with a declaration of "impartiality," and the situation is temporarily "in hand." The Arabians maintain that the Jews are acquiring too much land, and are being favored by Britain. Especially do they request the limitation of Jewish immigration, which has increased since Hitler's rise to power. A delegation of Arabs presented these demands to the British High Commissioner who referred them to the Colonial Office in London.

The Jewish elements counterposed their demands: removal of governmental offices from Jaffa (of mixed population) to Tel-Aviv (Jewish "capital"); feeding and housing, at government expense, of all Jews forced to flee from Jaffa to Tel-Aviv.

While the nature of the reports make it seem like a struggle between an Arabian proletariat and a Jewish bourgeoisie, this is not strictly true. Both races have class divisions, which the Colonial Office of Britain deliberately blurs, fostering intense nationalism and racial opposition to split the forces which might unite to overthrow the real enemy—England. It is the latter which, playing one against the other, maintains its rule over both.

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# French Communists Gain; People's Front Saves Radicals' Strength

Early returns from France indicate a general trend towards victory for the People's Front, plus a tremendous gain for the Communist Party candidates as such. The arrangement reached between the Radicals, the Socialists, and the Communists, was for separate runs on the first ballot for each party, and then mutual support on the run-off to get a "people's front" in office.

Significant in these partial returns are the gains of the Communist Party, which are estimated to give them fifty to sixty seats in the Chamber of Deputies. (They had 10 in the past Chamber, a result of the "class against class" policy). Although elections afford the merest surface indication of class trends and forces, this is undoubtedly a reflection of the earnestness of their campaign for unity.

The biggest losses for any single party seem to be accruing to the

# DEMANDS STATE RUN MUNITIONS

Washington — Denouncing arms manufacturers as warmakers, the Senate Munitions Committee called for the complete nationalization of the industry. A minority, while agreeing with the criticism of the munition makers' methods, held out for rigid Federal control.

Hinting that regulatory measures are easily evaded, the majority, headed by Senator Nye of North Dakota, recommended "government ownership of facilities adequate for the construction of all warships by the United States Navy Department, also all gun forgings, projectiles and armor plate, and of facilities adequate for the production of powder, rifles, pistols and machine guns necessary for the United States War Department."

The committee minority opposed nationalization on the ground that it would prejudice the armament needs of the nation. It argued that the cost to the nation in times of war would be prohibitive, the peacetime schedule being incapable of rapid expansion.

Every member of the committee concurred in the following indictment of the munition industry: Bribery of officials is the most popular sales method of the different companies; Disarmament proposals always meet their bete-noir in the stubborn opposition of munition agents; Arms concerns "scare nations into continued frantic expenditures" by playing up their antagonisms. The war spirit is generated this way; The War, Navy, and Commerce Departments are corrupted by the munition companies. This is effected when the munition manufacturers seek to persuade government officials to help them peddle munitions in foreign countries; Commercial interests often take precedence over

Greetings from  
**J. S. D.**

## FORD OFFERS "HOPE"

Washington, Pa.—Now Henry Ford will tell one.

In between dances at Washington and Jefferson College's annual revival of the quadrille, the automobile manufacturer, in gay spirits, delivered a message of hope to the assembled youths:

"There is no field overcrowded with ability. There are greater things to be done than ever."

Ford, from his great knowledge as a millionaire, blamed the relief system for the nation's "laziness."

ledgers of the Radical Socialists. Those candidates who failed to make demagogic use of the alliance with the workers parties in the People's Front, for the most part failed of re-election. Others, like Edouard Herriot, may refuse to participate in the run-off, because that would mean Socialist and Communist support. This is a partial reflection of the confusion of policy within the ranks of the Radical leadership, desiring, on the one hand, the votes the Communists and Socialists can throw to them, and on the other, fearful of any "left" mandates. While the Radical Socialists suffered a loss of popular votes in the first ballot, they will probably not lose seats because of the People's Front, i.e., organized working class votes, thrown to them by the S.P. and C.P. Thus the turning away of the masses from these capitalist politicians is checked by the workers parties.

The campaign was accompanied by the most ambiguous programs seen in recent French elections. On the major questions, all parties (including the C.P.) are reported to have skirted the issues and resorted to vague phrases.

"national policy" in the minds of the munition makers. From the last point it can be seen that the majority in the Senate Munitions Committee has been motivated not by general humanitarian considerations, but by narrow patriotic ones alone. In fact, even if their intentions were entirely commendable, their nationalization proposal could do no good. It would only serve to give the munition manufacturers more direct control over the government than they now enjoy. For this reason the whole scheme should be taken with a grain of salt. Far from being a step toward socialism, it represents a dangerous evolution toward a more centralized state apparatus and a more efficient war machine.

# FERRERO DENIED HABEAS WRIT

Vincent Ferrero and Domenick Sallitto have been released on \$1,000 bail after three months detention at Ellis Island. Writs of habeas corpus in their behalf were dismissed by Judge Caffey of the Southern District in New York City on March 26. Intention to appeal was filed immediately. It took almost two weeks to enter the petition for appeal on record and to have bail set by the court. Bail was readily posted by the New York Dressmakers Joint Board, I.L.G.W.U. and both cases are now to be put on calendar with the Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Ferrero-Sallitto Defense Conference has issued a pamphlet which gives a concise outline of the facts involved in the two cases. Groups and organizations interested in the fight against deportation and in helping in the struggle to save Ferrero and Sallitto are urged to order bundles of this pamphlet for distribution. Copies will be forwarded by the Conference upon request. Address requests to Ferrero-Sallitto Defense Conference, P. O. Box 181 Sta. D., New York, N. Y.

Now that the two cases have gone to the Circuit Court of Appeals, the Ferrero-Sallitto Defense Conference wishes to impress upon its numerous friends, groups, organizations, and trade unions, the urgent need of assistance in carrying the fight on to victory. According to court rules, the records of the two cases must be printed and this will require a large sum of money. Funds are badly needed. We appeal to all lovers of justice, labor unions, and groups for contributions to keep the agitation alive with mass meetings, and continued protests to the Labor Department at Washington.

Greetings from  
**LERMAN BROS. Stationers**  
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NEW YORK, N. Y.

Greetings to  
**WORKERS AGE**  
from  
**BRANCH 386 W. C.**

Greetings to  
**WORKERS AGE**  
from  
**MR. SACHS**

MAY DAY GREETINGS  
*Liberal Press, Inc.*  
80 FOURTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY

# On the LABOR FRONT

## GANGSTERS RULED ROOST

At the hearings held by the State Division of Licenses to determine whether "private detective" agencies should be relicensed, the rule of gangdom in the strike-breaking racket was revealed. The American Confidential Bureau, Inc., which supplied "guards" in the recent NY building-service strike, was seized by these same gangster-strikebreakers because their pay was not forthcoming. Such eminent underworld characters as Spinelli, an associate of the recently arrested Luciano, Brocco an associate of Salvatore Spitalo, and others, were members of a gang which took the agency out of the hands of a Captain Lynch. The latter had originally offered the agency 500 men for \$1.00 a head—"fine appearing men for the Park Avenue section." Once Lynch and his crew were ousted, the rival gang ran things to suit themselves—and the real-estate owners.

## COLORADO BARS LABOR

Colorado's governor issued a martial law order to turn back all alien and native laborers attempting to enter the state. The governor claimed that the railroads and the beet sugar firms planned wholesale importations of "cheap labor." The various firms involved denied this and stated that they were hiring their workers from the Federal and State relief rolls. The chairman of the board of Great Western, however, stated that "we'll employ all the beet labor available." The National Guard has been called in to enforce the governor's order.

## WEST COAST AGREEMENT

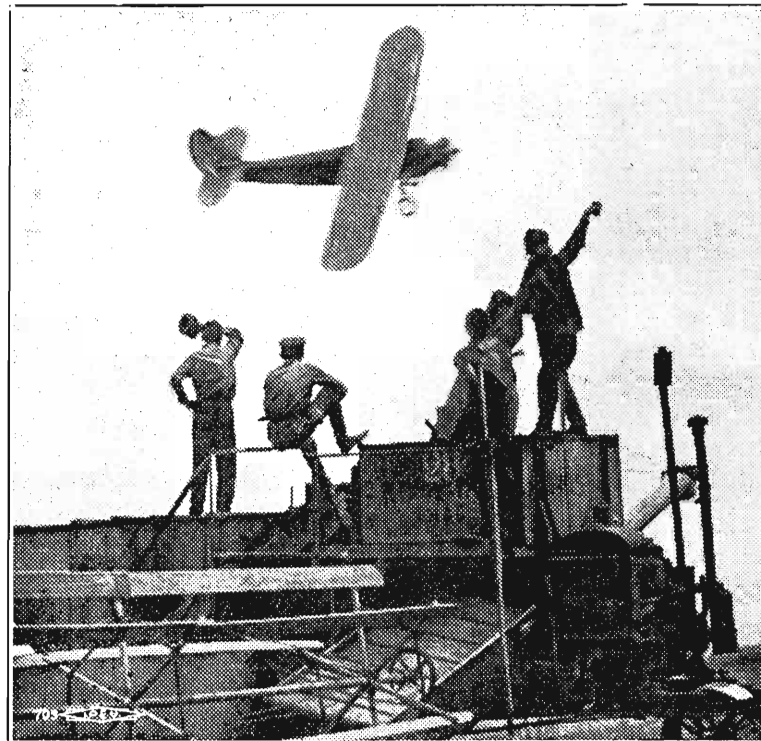
The 1934 award was made the basis of an agreement between the Longshoremen's Union and the Waterfront Employers Association in San Francisco. The men had been locked out for a week, when, after refusing to handle the cargo of a ship that had been struck in the Eastern Ports as a protest against the low wage agreement, the employers retaliated by refusing to hire thru the union hiring hall. Judge Sloss, Federal arbitrator, said the award had not been in effect since about Nov. 1935, and demanded that the union agree not to stop work during disputes over "hot" cargo. Enforcement of the 1934 award means maintenance of the principle of hiring thru the union hall, a victory won thru the 1934 strike.

## UNEMPLOYED SEIZE LEGISLATURE

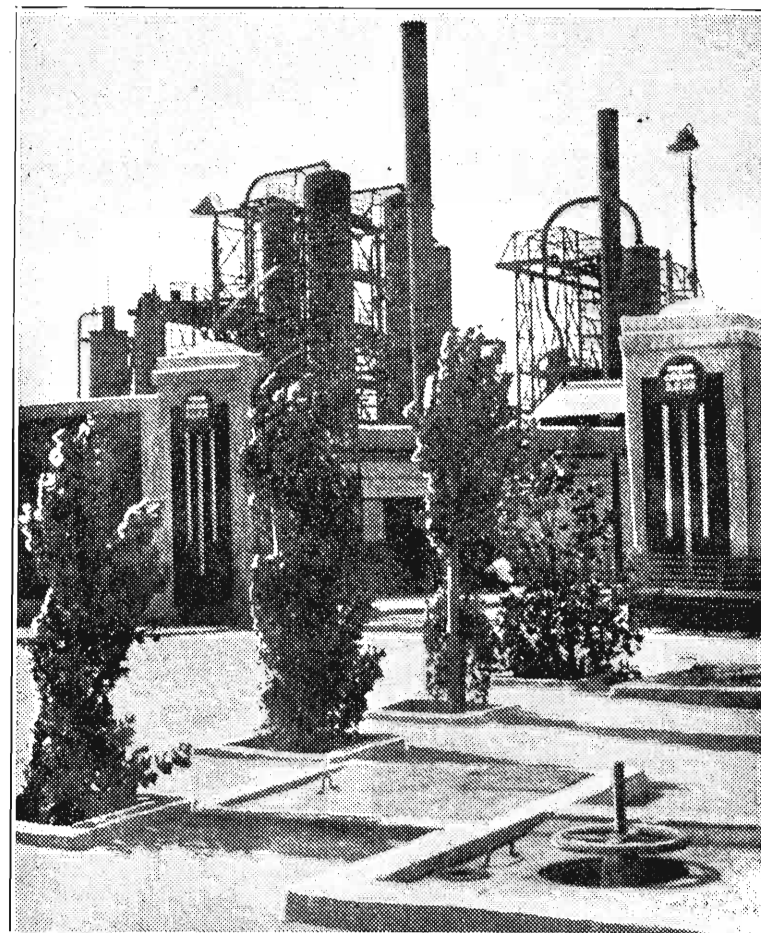
The Workers Alliance of America, now the unified organization of the unemployed, took over the Jersey Assembly in the struggle to force the Legislature to pass a bill for relief.

## UNION ORGANIZER KIDNAPPED

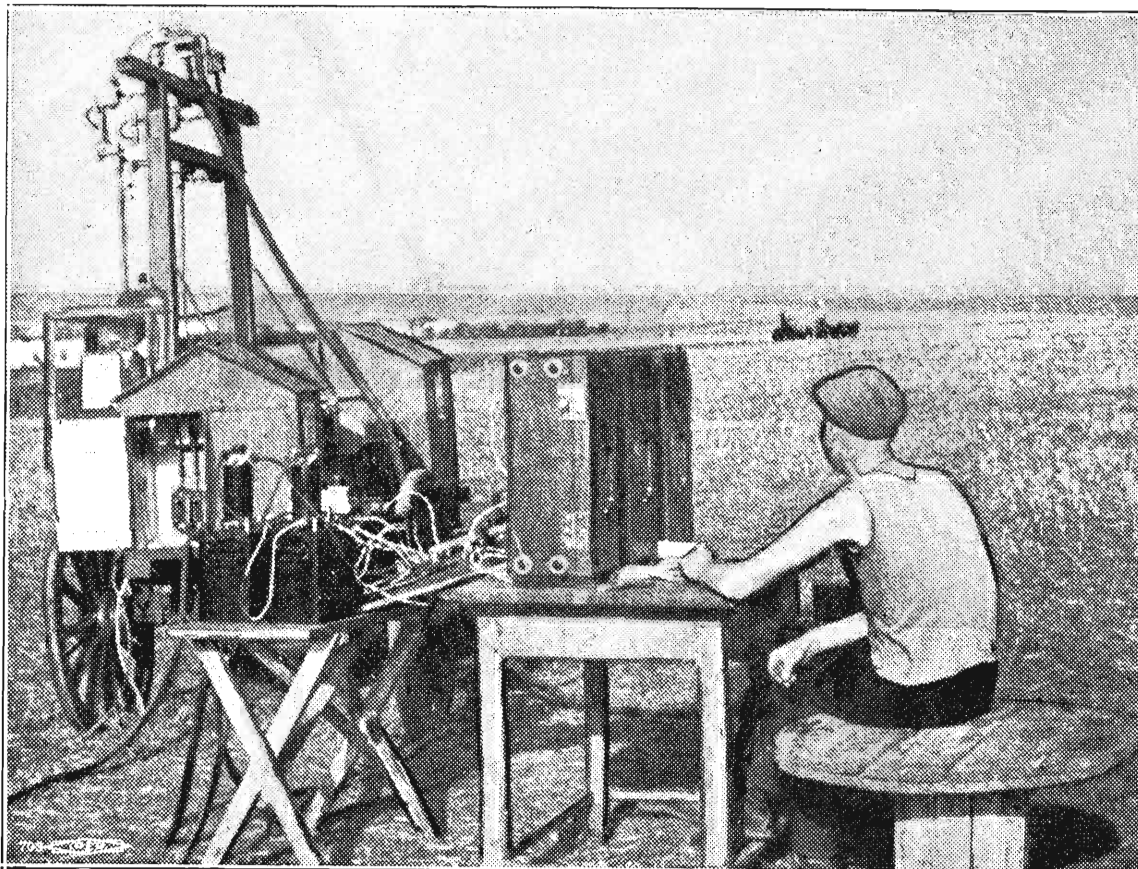
The American Federation of Hosiery Workers, now in convention at Philadelphia, sent appeals to the Department of Labor and to the governor of Tennessee, for the arrest of three men who kidnapped and slugged Matt Lynch, an organizer of the Union in Tennessee. George Gooze, a Southern Representative of the A. F. of L. said that he would "as soon live under the worst foreign dictators as attempt to function as a labor organizer in certain sections of the South." The Union is planning a big drive to organize the southern mills, in which they will also have to struggle against those state governments which are using Federal funds to build mills which will be turned over to manufacturers as an inducement to come South.



Russian peasants salute Red Army plane



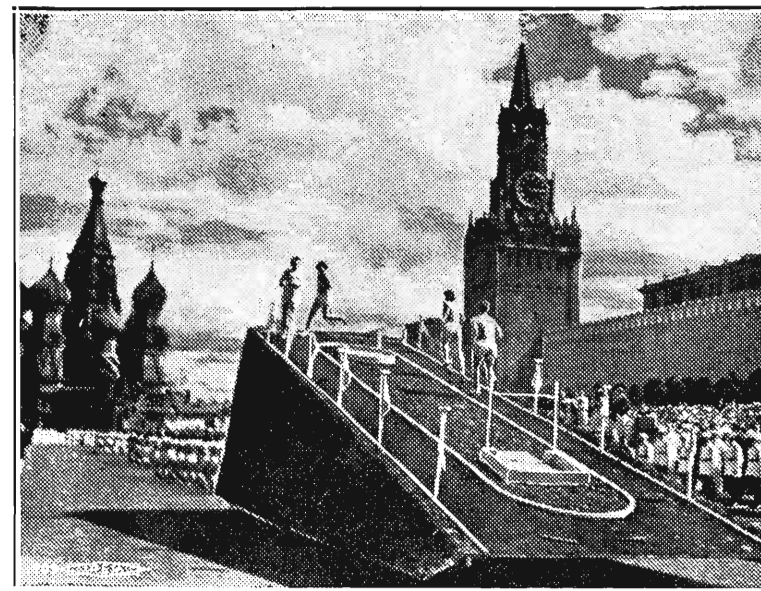
An oil gusher—Russian style. Note trees in foreground



Russia's collectivized agriculture is being electrified

# On the occasion of MAY DAY WORKERS AGE

extends Communist greetings to the workers and farmers of the SOVIET UNION vanguard of the international proletariat



A sports event on the Red Square



Parachutists ready to defend Soviet Union



Relaxation after a day's work on a collective farm



The future Marshals of the Red Army



### C. I. O. TURNS TO STEEL UNION WITH PLAN FOR ORGANIZATION

Washington—Steel workers were offered the cooperation of the Committee for Industrial Organization in their attempt to organize the industry, a communication from John L. Lewis and Charles P. Howard to Michael F. Tighe, President of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel & Tin Workers, reveals.

\$500,000 goes along with the Committee's offer of physical assistance. The only requirements made of Tighe are that he adopt industrial unionism as the organizational form of his drive and that he appoint capable and respected organizers.

The Committee for Industrial Organization discussed the matter privately with the head of the Amalgamated Association before making its proposal public. It will be recalled that a similar offer was made to President William Green a little while ago.

Sections of the letter follow: "The unions making up the C.I.O. will pledge financial and organizational aid to an early joint campaign to organize the steel industry, on the same two conditions that we have already proposed to President Green. That is to say:

1) "We require assurance that all steel workers will have the right to remain united in one industrial union. As applied to the joint campaign now proposed, this means that the industrial jurisdiction of the Amalgamated Association must be respected, and the members organized must be protected against future division because of jurisdictional claims of craft unions.

2) "Leadership of the campaign must be such as to inspire confidence of success, and unions contributing to the campaign should be represented in its direction. "We propose that a joint committee be established, on which the Amalgamated Association will be represented as well as the C.I.O. and other unions willing to contribute to a joint campaign."

The C.I.O. declares that it wrote to Green first "because of the fact that recent conventions of the A. F. of L. have instructed President Green to inaugurate an organizing campaign in the steel industry." Their present offer will be acted upon at the April 28 meeting of the Amalgamated Association.

Green's answer to the C.I.O. proposal ignored the industrial unionism proviso, but indicated that the offer of trained organizers would be considered by the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. A. O. Wharton, president of the International Association of Machinists, did refuse to contribute any funds or organizational assistance to a joint A. F. of L. campaign.

#### HAIL WORKERS AGE

Fighter for Revolutionary Unity

#### GROUP OF YOUNG COMMUNISTS

#### GREETINGS!

to WORKERS AGE In its struggle for United May Day

#### NEW WORKERS SCHOOL

Did you do your share for \$5,000 fund?

#### National Committee LITHUANIAN WORKERS SOCIETY

hails WORKERS AGE For holding aloft the banner of revolutionary internationalism!

#### THE PROGRESSIVE GROUP

of PAINTERS' DISTRICT COUNCIL NO. 18

Greets

WORKERS AGE ON LABOR'S INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY

## WORKERS OF AMERICA! WORKERS OF THE WORLD TOILING WITH BRAIN AND BRAWN!

The Dressmakers' Union, speaking for its 105,000 dressmakers, greets you on this 50th anniversary of the International Workers holiday - MAY FIRST!

In 1886, the first May-Day celebration in the United States was the result of the demand for an 8-hour-day. Soon, the International Working Class movement adopted this day as a holiday when the workers throughout the world demonstrate their united force and voice their demands for a better life.

It is, therefore, fitting and proper that, on this historic holiday, we sound the call—

- TOILERS OF THE WORLD UNITE
- AGAINST ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION!
- AGAINST POLITICAL OPPRESSION!
- AGAINST BARBARIC NAZISM!
- AGAINST MEDIEVAL FASCISM!

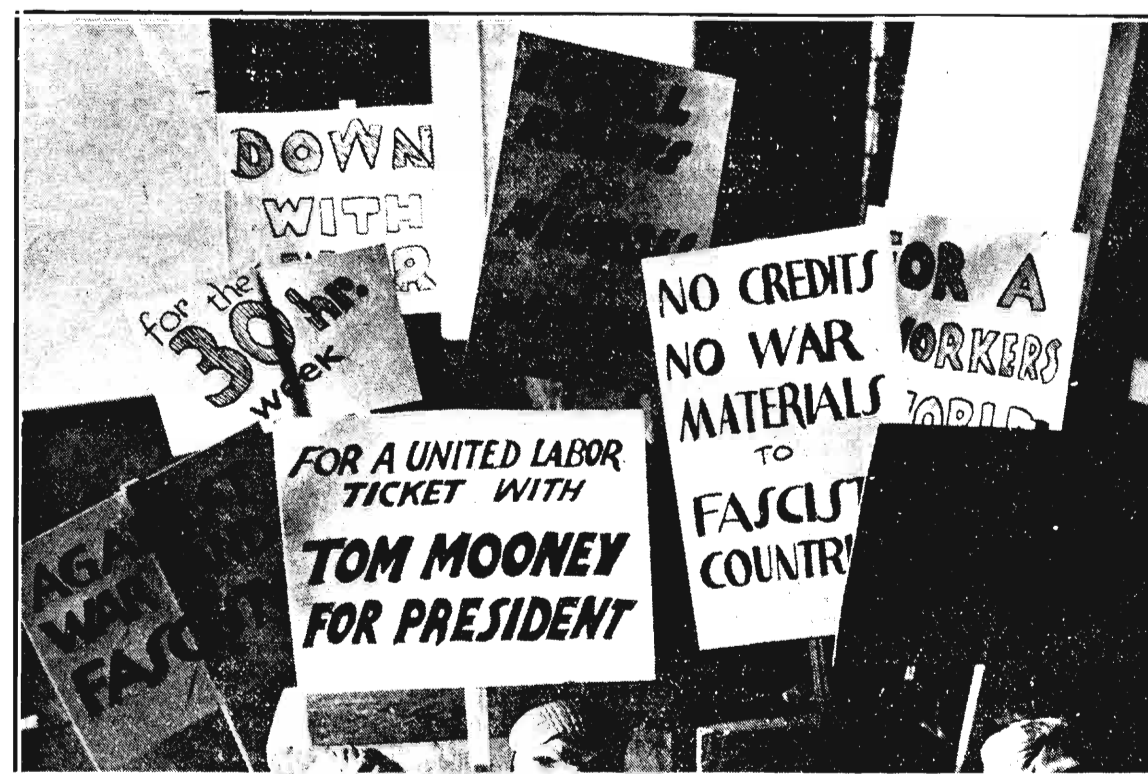
A united, aggressive working class is the only weapon to prevent GREEDY MUNITION-MAKERS AND IMPERIALIST VULTURES from plunging us into another bloody repetition of 1914!

WORKERS OF THE WORLD,  
WE SALUTE YOU!

Joint Board Dress & Waistmakers' Union  
I. L. G. W. U.

JULIUS HOCHMAN, General Manager  
BEN EVRY, President  
PHILLIP KAPP, Secretary-Treasurer

### ALL SET FOR THE MAY DAY PARADE TO UNION SQUARE



## The Socialist Party Primaries in N. Y.

By A. E.

Election primaries are usually disregarded in working class politics in determining policy and party leadership. This tradition had been true of both the Socialist and Communist Parties for a good many years. The recent New York primaries, however, saw a reversal of this attitude in the Socialist Party elections. Both the Militant and Old Guard factions engaged in a bitter campaign to secure a legal status before the eyes of the public. Both factions girded themselves for the fray prior to the voting and urged their respective memberships to win vindication before the voters of New York. The winners—the Militants—now proclaim themselves justifiedly the Socialist Party of New York deserving the support of all good Socialist voters. They have received the endorsement of both party membership and voters. The Old Guard has reversed its pre-election statements that "the enrolled Socialist voters . . . control the party." It now inveighs against that "faction which . . . violated an unwritten law of the party since its origin, that the membership organization, not outsiders, should determine party policies, principles and control." This is the old story of the fox and the sour grapes.

#### Slim Margin for Militants

The actual results of the primaries are significant in more ways than one. From a numerical angle, the totals show a sharp decline from previous primaries. The entire vote throughout the state was about 7700. The Militants led

by about 700 votes, although they trailed the Old Guard in the up-state returns by 4 votes. A closer analysis of the city returns reveals that the Old Guard won Bronx County by 29 votes and lost out in Brooklyn by 62 votes. The latter county represents the highest concentration of enrolled Socialist voters. The vote in New York City indicates that the Militants led by approximately 700 votes and thus ensured their state victory. If Algernon Lee's statement, that the enrolled voters are 75% non-party members, is true, one can begin to realize how steep has been the decline in Socialist Party membership. This decline becomes more accentuated when one realizes that the total party membership in the state is divided between the two warring factions.

#### Right Wing Organized

The primaries have very naturally caused the two factions in the Socialist Party to react in different ways. The Old Guard continues to bluster, threaten and organize. They have organized the Interstate Conference of their factions from New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania pointing towards the national convention as their last stand. This group continues to maintain an uncompromising position, refusing to recognize the authority of any decision be it that of the Socialist Party membership or the enrolled voters. The perspective of the Old Guard has become very challenging and threatens to lay the basis for a real thoroughgoing national split. Louis Waldman was cheered to the raft-

ers by the Old Guard membership when he stated: "Unless the national convention seats the New York delegation and the party ceases to be a wing of the Communist movement our conference will be the beginning of a new Socialist movement. . . . One thing is sure. Wisconsin cannot remain with Krueger, and if McLevy and Stump leave, Wisconsin cannot remain. In New York we will continue to function as the Socialist Party and the united front begun by Thomas for May Day with the Communist will continue from now on." This split orientation is directed towards isolating the Militants from those sections of the party which have gained parliamentary successes. Their objectives is to corral this group into a separate organization based on their principles of reformism. If this is ever achieved, it will merely be the preliminary step for a nation-wide third party alliance such as Hoan has already consummated in Wisconsin with the LaFollette machine.

Whether the Old Guard can achieve its ends will depend a lot on what Daniel Hoan, the political axis of S.P. affairs, decides to do. The right wing realizes this fact very well, playing up the speech of Hoan against the Communists in the New Leader. They quote with great glee and emphasis such statements of Hoan's as: "The Communists are the deadliest of enemies of the Socialists"; and "We are unalterably opposed to any form of dictatorship either of the proletariat, of plutocracy, of the press, of so-called law and order leagues, or of any other kind or nature." This is very embarrassing for the Militants who can not afford to reprint such statements or proclaim these ideas of Hoan as their own.

#### Militants Strengthened

The victory in the primaries comes as an added weapon in the fight of the Militants to receive national recognition and secure national power. In addition to the decision of the N.E.C., they can now vaunt their independent power as gained in the election. They have both the moral and legal right to proclaim themselves the Socialist Party of New York. This is cause for great rejoicing in their camp and amongst their followers. Legal rights, after all, still play a decisive role in a Social Democratic Party! To have beaten the Old Guard, however, is

## Railroad Unions Set Up Committee For the Liberation of Tom Mooney

"The Railway Clerk" for April 1936, reports having set up a special body to conduct a campaign for the freedom of Tom Mooney. We reprint the item in full. Other organizations are urged to set up similar committees.

Acting on the initiative of the New Orleans Convention of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, a group of officers and members of the Standard Railway Labor Organizations in the San Francisco Bay District have formed an organization known as the Railroad Employees' Committee for the release of Thomas J. Mooney.

It is the hope of the sponsors of this new defense committee that a mobilization of railway employees and their organizations throughout the country will give a new impetus to the long struggle to free Tom Mooney. The purpose of the committee, as its name implies, is to devote its energies to the release of America's most famous political prisoner, who for nearly twenty years has languished in prison because of his activities in behalf of organized labor. The new committee is composed

exclusively of railroad employees and the representatives of their unions, and is dedicated to the one purpose of working for the release of Tom Mooney. Its first contribution was made by delegates to our New Orleans convention who contributed in excess of \$200.

The long legal battle to free Tom Mooney has entailed a tremendous expense that has been met by the nickels, dimes, and dollars contributed by the thousands of workers and liberals throughout the country. The lawyers handling the latest phase of Mooney's legal battle—his petition for habeas corpus writ—have been greatly handicapped by a lack of funds.

G. F. Irvine, chairman of the California Legislative Board of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, is chairman of the new committee. H. C. Carrasco, division chairman, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, is secretary-treasurer. Headquarters of the Railroad Employees' Committee for the Release of Mooney are located in Room 818 Pacific Building, San Francisco, Calif.

to have accomplished one-half of their task. Their other objective, assuming that they want and desire a Marxist party, is to achieve a revolutionary membership both in New York and in the nation. What effects therefore will the primaries have upon this aspect of the question? Will the primaries speed up the process of leftward developments or act as a retarding influence? The answer to this lies solely in an understanding of the forces that made for the Militants' victory.

An examination of the votes in many districts underscores the basic fact that the Militants have won and have been able to outstrip the Old Guard because of the name of Norman Thomas. Any cursory survey of the statistics reveals that the Militants were able to take districts in the City which are regular right wing strongholds in the party organization. The most glaring example of this is in the Yorkville district where no right wing has ever been defeated in organizational struggles. Yet the Militants were able to walk off with the honors because of the tremendous attractive powers of Norman Thomas as a personality in the eyes of many Socialist voters. Throughout the campaign the Militants showed that they were very conscious of their main drawing card and constantly charged the Old Guard with using Thomas's name, fraudulently, to bamboozle the voters. They have used the name of Thomas for all it's worth: paid homage to him as their leader, and stuck with him to the bitter end. This means that all the fine and pretty principles the Militants have been proclaiming as opposed to that awful "reformist" organization, the Comintern, can become

just so much humbug. Through Thomas, the Militants are going to continue to play the game for all it's worth. And it's worth Dan Hoan!

#### What Next?

Thomas damns the united front, always covering himself with May Day, Scottsboro, etc., praises Dan Hoan to the skies and ignores the latter's venomous castigation of the Communists. The Socialist Call, taking its cue from the master, writes a crawling review of Dan Hoan's latest book filled with nothing but hollow praise of a rather hollow book. This is the great revolutionary force that is supposed to be the revolutionary rallying point in the American labor movement. In reality, its direction is more and more towards an acceptance of the fact that its existence as a respectable and large section of the Socialist Party depends on Thomas and his following. The Militants, instead of regarding this alliance as a temporary organizational measure, are becoming permanently dependent on Thomas et al. and are declaring a "moratorium" on revolutionary principles. This will, in all probability, reach its climax at the national convention where the Militants will ditch their "Draft Program" and adopt the defensive strategy of pushing for the re- adoption of the Declaration of Principles in opposition to the Old Guard's attempts to abolish the Declaration of Principles as adopted in Detroit. This means dissension within the Militants and should bring a recrystallization of left forces out of the Militant camp. If such should occur the possibility of creating new revolutionary forces within the S.P. might be revived.

## MAY DAY GREETINGS

to the WORKERS AGE

JOINT COUNCIL KNITGOODS WORKERS UNION  
Louis Nelson, Manager

## WORKERS AGE

Organ of the National Committee, Communist Party U. S. A. (Opposition), 51 West 14th Street, New York, N. Y. Phone: GRamercy 5-8903.

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1886 - 1936

IT IS NOW fifty years since May Day was first celebrated as an international working class holiday.

Looking backward in order to see more clearly ahead, one becomes aware of how symbolical it is that May Day should have been first celebrated as a day of solidarity and stock-taking in the U. S. It is the American working class that has for years been facing the most powerful citadel of world capitalist rule. Hence, it is entirely appropriate to review briefly some of our common and significant proletarian experiences before delving into problems and policies of today and prospects and perspectives of tomorrow.

In more ways than one is May 1 of this year a milestone in the annals of our own class struggles as well as in those of our brothers and comrades in other countries. A mere recital of some of the landmarks of American labor history will confirm this.

At the close of the eighties the present American trade union and political movements were first being conceived and born. Heroic battles against the rising Yankee capitalist octopus soon baptized our youthful, weak, inexperienced but fighting labor movement. The early years of the 20th century saw giant struggles by American unionism in behalf of tolerable working conditions. Recall the inspiring strikes of the coal diggers for the shorter workday—to which May Day was first dedicated as a holiday. These were the days when the first foundations of America's socialist movement were firmly laid. But, all in all, American labor still had its eyes fixed on problems and panaceas within its own national boundaries—practically isolated from international labor, painfully provincial in outlook.

Soon the World War came. At the outset, and for a while, it lent tremendous impetus to the development of American capitalism. Yet, this holocaust, into which the U. S. itself was soon to be pitched, prepared the soil for the flourishing of the germs of decay inherent in the Wall Street economic order. While momentarily fanning the flames of chauvinism, while for the moment sharpening certain divisions in the ranks of the workers, the war, thru letting loose certain powerful social and economic forces, laid the basis for the American working class becoming more homogeneous in its composition and more international in its appreciation of times and tasks.

The Great Crisis followed with ruthless force. Millions of workers were thrown out of the factories and into the streets. The ravages of capitalist economic anarchy spread thru the U. S. as well as other countries with deadly gait and fatal consequences. Illusions toppled headlong. Seemingly eternal privileges of aristocratic labor started to vanish into thin air. Negro and white workers found themselves in the same flop houses, drinking the same foul coffee and eating the same soggy dough misnamed bread. More than ever, native and foreign-born worker were greeted by the same democratic bayonets and republican clubs when they dared strike for bearable conditions and living wages.

Came the New Deal with its Roosevelt myth. The auto workers were doublecrossed by President Roosevelt and President Green. The great general textile strike was broken thru Roosevelt's trickery and the National Guard's brutality. The wave of labor organization slowed down and the trade unions began to consolidate and take stock. The trend toward industrial unionism became marked. Leftward trends now manifested themselves in the Socialist Party. Signs that the C.P. was beginning to recover from its terribly protracted period of ultra-leftist sectarianism multiplied. The C.P.O. was extending its influence as the consistent and determined champion of constructive, militant unionism, of a labor party based on the trade unions, of genuine unity of action—the united front—among all organizations of labor.

May 1st 1936 marks a sort of a point of intersection of lines of development over decades in the ranks of American labor. Today we can see the beginnings—here and there still UNCLEAR—of the maturity of certain meaningful trends in our own class as well as in the lines of our enemy class—the big bosses, the mighty industrial and financial overlords.

May 1st 1936 witnesses labor in a restive mood, increasingly self-critical. It is an historic moment when the cumulative effect of decades of development begins to take shape and form. This is the real meaning of the launching of the Committee for Industrial Organization—to date the most extensive and decisive organized effort for rebuilding the trade unions and organizing new millions of workers on an industrial basis. This is the import of the growing sentiment for a labor party and the widespread belief that, before 1940, labor will be full force in independent political action on a mass scale. Hence, the rising demand for social insurance. Therefore, the significant beginnings of international solidarity on the part of American labor as reflected in the help given to the victims of Fascist terror by a number of powerful trade unions like the I.L.G.W.U. Note the growing admiration for and solidarity with the Soviet Union as a workers' socialist republic. Hence the rising tide of hatred of imperialist war and the mounting desire for peace.

May Day 1936 should be truly hailed a day of monumental significance, as a day revealing, though faintly, the beginnings of better days for the workers of our own country as well as the workers abroad. No one can exaggerate the importance of the C.P., the S.P., the C.P.O. and a number of virile unions closing ranks in a United May Day demonstration, regardless of the still existing numerous differences. It is a sign of the times: the slowly but surely developing unity in the ranks of labor—the first prerequisite for victory in the struggle against Fascism and imperialist war—the monstrous products of capitalism in decay.

May Day 1936—it is a day on which we should all draw strength from our common international experiences, draw inspiration and encouragement from our successes and the proper lessons from our defeats.

## Labor in the Coming Elections

Character and Significance of the Labor Non-Partisan League

(AN EDITORIAL)

IN THE LAST two years the political consciousness of the masses of the workers of this country has matured to a marked degree, and with it has grown the sentiment for a labor party. A series of important factors have contributed towards this end. The repeated disappointment of the industrial workers with one or another feature of the New Deal, coupled with the widespread resentment at the arbitrary and despotic conduct of the Supreme Court in virtually outlawing every form of federal labor and social legislation, has unquestionably operated to convince large sections of the labor movement that more active and independent participation in politics is necessary in mere self-defense. These signs of budding class consciousness have been greatly stimulated, by way of counter-action, thru the brazen activities of the Liberty League, directed so obviously at advancing the narrow class interests of big business at the expense of the masses of the people. In general, the whole social atmosphere of the last two years, with its marked note of economic and political realism, with its open discussion of problems in terms of class aims and interests, has been very conducive to the maturing of the political understanding of the working masses.

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## AT FIRST GLANCE

By Jay Lovestone

THE SELECTION by the Republican Party of Senator Steiwer of Oregon as the keynoter is the most accurate index of what will happen at and come out of the Republican National Convention. Steiwer is one of the extreme reactionaries in the Republican fold. His choice as keynoter is dictated by the huge industrialists of the East, dominating the organization today. His good fortune for the occasion is a matter of accident—his birth in Oregon and his consequent ability to appear as a Westerner. The Republican strategists

are well aware of the fact that they are lost in advance unless they can make some pretense or appear to have some basis of hope for winning the Western tier of states. Hence this supposed sop is thrown to the voters from this section of the country. That this will prove a factor of some value to the Republican Old Guard is already clear from the fact that Borah, who is by far the most influential Western Republican at the moment, has welcomed the selection of Steiwer.

A revealing sidelight of this selection is to be found in the fact that the Oregon Senator is supposed to have been a consistent anti-New Dealer. This is brought home to us by Senator Davis of Pennsylvania in the following words: "Senator Steiwer will make a great keynoter. He was among the first to attack the New Deal when he led the great fight of 1935 against the Roosevelt Economy Act that crucified our war veterans." It is clear that no one can seriously defend the Republican Party against the charge of rankst hypocrisy when it launches such eulogies of Steiwer. As a matter of fact, it was Hoover himself who mobilized soldiers and tanks outside the Capitol against the bonus marchers. One of the lowest cringes of the Republican board of strategy is that the Roosevelt administration has been spending too much money. Now a keynoter is chosen who would have us forget Hoover and momentarily forget this big Republican issue against the big spendthrift administration.

If the Republican Party will continue to make such "wise strategic moves" under the iron fist of the Old Guard, it is a certainty that Roosevelt will not only repeat his 1932 victory, but may even equal or exceed it.

SUPERFICIAL observers might tend to gloat over developments in Spain. Have not a few fascists been arrested? Have not the fascist leagues been practically dissolved? The revolutionary situation in Spain requires much more than superficial examination. The fact of the matter is that it wasn't the parliamentary maneuvers in the Cortes itself which were responsible for the dissolution of the fascist organization, to the extent that they have been dissolved. It was the revolutionary general strike in Madrid. It was the series of mass actions of the workers and peasants which were responsible for the Azana government making whatever move it has made against the extreme right.

The liberal bourgeoisie with whom the Communist Party and Socialist Party are associated in the People's Front, see clearly that Spain is facing a choice. That Spain will remain bourgeois and become increasingly reactionary if the Cortes will have the opportunity and power to determine its fate! Spain will become ever more revolutionary and will go to the proletariat and peasantry if the masses, thru their own organizations, thru extra-parliamentary action, take matters in their own hands. It is on this basis that we find in Azana's organ, Politica, the declaration that "politics must be made in Parliament and must not be left to the streets." Of similar tone and

significance is an article in El Liberal entitled, "Masses Without Discipline—An Estimate of the Revolutionary Struggle of the Workers and Peasants."

The above we expect. This is a clear expression of class interests on the part of the bourgeoisie of a more anaemic right point of view, but nevertheless capitalist point of view. However, what is discouraging is that the Socialist and Communist organs do not, on their part, display anywhere near the clarity of vision, the sufficiency of class consciousness, that the liberal bourgeoisie do. The Azana government has been maintaining a vigorous and ruthless censorship. This censorship aims to keep the workers and peasants of one province in the dark as to what happens in other provinces. The People's Front censor drives concretely and deliberately at the objective of preventing a unification, a coordination of revolutionary opposition in Spain. El Socialista suggests that the censorship be modified, but El Socialista

# Labor Movement Turns Out for Funeral of William Moriarty

By JIM CORK

On Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, workers of Toronto paid honor to the memory of Comrade William Moriarty, outstanding working class fighter, leader of the C.P.O. in Canada and a leading member of its National Committee, who died suddenly on Tuesday, April 14.

On Saturday, April 18, hundreds of workers of every shade of political opinion gathered quietly in the cemetery to say farewell to one whom they felt as their own. Harry Hatfield of the C.P.O. of Toronto, Jack McDonald of the Workers Party, Roger Guyot, friend and C.P.O. sympathizer, Bill Douglas, leading trade unionist, and Jim Cork member of the C.P.O. National Bureau, paid simple tribute to the life of an outstanding revolutionist.

On Sunday, April 19, close to 400 workers gathered at the Toronto Labor Temple in a memorial tribute to Comrade Moriarty. The broad character of the gathering offered eloquent testimony to the respect and esteem in which Bill Moriarty was held by all sections of the labor movement of Toronto. The speakers list included prominent representatives of practically all sections of the labor movement: Harry Hatfield of the C.P.O.; Jack McDonald of the Workers Party; Jack Buckley, Secretary of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council; Alec Lyons, prominent trade unionist; Martin Moriarty, brother of Bill; Tommy Mills of the League for a Revolutionary Workers Party; Graham Spry, vice-president of the Ontario section of the Canadian Commonwealth Federation and Editor of the "New Commonwealth"; Bill Dennison of the Provincial Council of the C.C.F.; Alice Buck of the Communist Party—she spoke for Tim Buck, the Secretary of the C.P. who could not be present; and Jim Cork who acted as chairman.

Bill Moriarty was that rare type of revolutionist who inspired confidence and respect wherever he went. All sections of the labor movement held him in esteem. How well was this fact reflected at the memorial meeting. Speaker after speaker, differing politically as they did with Comrade Moriarty, yet paying eloquent tribute to Bill's capability and realism, his sincerity and life-long devotion to the interests of the working class. The revolutionary movement can ill afford the loss of such revolutionists.

Bill Moriarty's life was lived according to a simple pattern of revolutionary clarity and proletarian integrity. Born in London 45 years ago in a proletarian family he migrated to Canada just before the World War. During the war period he was already an active socialist. With the crumbling of international reformism during the war Bill developed quite logically from left-wing socialism to Communism under the inspiration of the Russian Revolution. He became one of the founders of the Communist movement in Canada and labored heroically in many ways to put it on its feet in the first difficult period. He was the first general secretary of the Workers Party, which became the Communist Party of Canada in 1924. He was a delegate to the enlarged executive of the Communist International in 1925. Until 1929 he was field organizer for the Communist Party in western Canada.

When the split came in the communist movement Moriarty unhesitatingly took up the fight against ultra-leftism and was expelled. He took over the leadership of the C.P.O. forces in Canada and was an active fighter in its ranks to the day of his death.

He was extraordinarily successful as an expounder of Marxist and Leninist principles and tactics. He leaves behind him as not the least part of his heritage numerous young workers who were initiated and won to the movement almost

William Moriarty



Addressing a mass meeting of Russian workers in the Caucasus He attended the 5th Plenum of the Communist International in 1925 as delegate of the Canadian Party.

solely thru his efforts.

For the C.P.O. his loss is irreplaceable. But his comrades, especially in Canada, close their ranks, gain renewed inspiration from a life so worthy, determined, as the best way of honoring the memory of so sterling a fighter, to carry on with even greater vigor the struggle which he carried on to the very end—for the unification of the world communist movement on a correct revolutionary basis.

# LIBERTY LEAGUE AS JEW-BAITERS

Further investigation of the Liberty League by the Senate Lobby Committee disclosed its connections with almost every two-by-four reactionary organization in the country: "Patriotic" upholders of the constitution, "farmers" (tilling the rich loam at No. 1 Wall Street) and a would-be native Nazi organization, the Sentinels of the Republic. All of these organizations are committees of financiers, seeking, but not possessing, as yet, a real mass base. For the most part they represent the extreme reactionary section of the bourgeoisie, who, in a real fascist movement, will never appear so openly.

Correspondence between Runyon and Alexander Lincoln, the latter an investment banker of Boston, raised the Jewish question in typical reactionary fashion. Runyon wrote: "The fight for Western Civilization can be won; but only if we recognize that the enemy is world-wide and that it is Jewish in origin." Estimating, the type of people who would follow in the crusade to "save western civilization," he found "that it is easy to

Greetings of LABOR SOLIDARITY to WORKERS AGE Mlawer Bendiner Branch 639, Workmen's Circle Morris Kliebard, Secretary

awaken old-line Americans of \$5,000 income or less, but hard among the rich ones who are 'doped' by our ignorant (or cowardly) press." When Lincoln replied that: "I think, as you say, that the Jewish threat is a real one. My hope lies in the election, next Autumn, in defeating Roosevelt." Runyon not only hastened to assure him of the urgency of the case but even quoted Lenin on the necessity of action instead of hopes! He concluded that: "The old-line Americans of \$1200 a year want a Hitler."

Among the supporters of the Sentinels are Irene Du Pont, Alfred Sloan, the Pitaicams (Philadelphia bankers), Atwater Kent, the radio manufacturer, Nicholas Roosevelt of the Herald Tribune, and others. It was this organization that produced the anti-administration picture "The Amateur Fire Brigade."

## Fort Wayne Workers

Send Proletarian Greetings to WORKERS AGE on MAY DAY W. B. HUFFMAN M. M. A. GEORGE KELLY MRS. B. Mc N. E. M. HARRY A. ROE PARK KREACHBAUM AUSTIN ARMER BERT ARMER JAY M. ERVIN McNAMARA TOM B.

Proletarian Greetings from Workers in Local 117 ILGWU to the WORKERS AGE Leader in the fight for trade union unity SAM SHPATER W. FRIED A. CARLIN MAX BOBROFF J. BROFFMAN I. BOOKBINDER M. CHESIN ABE POSNER L. KLEINMAN HARRY GIDANSKY S. GRACKY

We greet

THE

# WORKERS AGE

on this historic united May Day

May your efforts for a unified working class

be successful

# DOLL AND TOY WORKERS UNION

LOCAL 18230, A. F. of L.

# Labor in the Coming Elections

(Continued from page 6)

party idea but is decidedly against putting it in practise in 1936 because of the fear of defeating Roosevelt. In fact the Labor Non-Partisan League very largely reflects, in a way making for serious distortion and misuse, it is true, the existing labor party sentiment in its still undeveloped and confused form. The question is hardly exhausted by pointing to the machinations of this leader or that; it is impossible to overlook the fact that these "maneuvers" find a deep echo in the convictions of very significant sections of the working class.

In the movement represented by the Labor Non-Partisan League, there are two distinct and even antagonistic components. Side by side with the old-line Democratic element, made up of those who regard the League as just another way of lining up labor votes for the party, there is what may be called the "labor party" element, which declares that the League is not merely a necessity in the present situation but is also a starting point for a labor party in the future. It is thru this second aspect, by the way, that the L.N.-P.L. will win its main support in the ranks of labor for, while most of the workers are for Roosevelt today, only those who have begun to think of a labor party in a general sort of way are likely to feel the necessity of an "independent," "non-partisan" organization in his support. Today the two antagonistic components of the League are held together by the binding force of the Roosevelt illusion and by the overwhelming fear of a Liberty League victory. But once the 1936 elections are passed and the political scene begins to undergo some fundamental changes, the contradictory elements may very well come to an irreconcilable clash, releasing the more progressive sections of the movement for a direct advance towards independent class politics. In other words, historically and objectively, the Labor Non-Partisan League, or rather certain of its fundamental aspects, may well come to form a transition stage towards independent working class political action in the future. Not the intrigues or the purposes of its leaders count so much as the objective forces of development. We must not overlook the great inherent potentialities in the mere organization of the workers for political action, even tho its alleged independence is largely illusory. The experiences with the NRA should teach us that measures, such as Section 7a, initiated for a definite purpose, that of "pacifying" labor and strengthening the bonds of class collaboration, may be accompanied by quite other and even opposite consequences, in this case, by the unleashing of a gigantic strike wave and a most far-reaching movement of unionization. The long-range consequences of the L.N.-P.L. are by no means determined for good and all by the vague platitudes of Major Berry or even by the mastermind plans of Sidney Hillman, certainly not by the intentions of Jim Farley! From the depths of the American labor movement may come forces and tendencies that will bring more than one surprise all around!

## Lessons from the British Experience

In certain important respects, the situation created by the organization of the L.N.-P.L. resembles the early stages of development of the labor party movement in England, especially the phase in which the Labor Representation Committee was the embodiment. In those

days, Labor candidates still did not always, in fact not even usually, run independently but largely with the help and under the patronage of the Liberals. It was only in Parliament that the Labor group acted at all independently, and even here only organizationally, not at all politically. Can anyone acquainted with the facts miss the degree of analogy between the attitude of the British Laborites towards Lloyd George and his Liberal program of reform, on the one hand, and that of the Labor Non-Partisan League towards Roosevelt and the New Deal, on the other? And yet subsequent events have shown that the Labor Representation Committee, with all its confusion and immaturity, was after all a transition stage towards the more complete class independence of the Labor Party!

## The Formation of the League a False and Dangerous Step

To recognize all this, is, of course, by no means the same as endorsing the League or its policies. It is one thing to make a realistic estimate of the nature and possibilities of the League, once it is already in existence, and it is quite another thing to advocate its formation or to approve its activities. Just the contrary, we believe that the very establishment of the League was a mistaken and dangerous step. For, whatever may be its ultimate and objective consequences, its formation now has unquestionably operated to forestall and prevent, for the time being, a direct and positive development towards a labor party, to drive the movement on to a false and tortuous road along which its goal can be reached, if at all, only at the cost of heavy sacrifice. For some unions, such as the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the I.L.G.W.U., their adherence to the L.N.-P.L. means an outright surrender of their traditional socialist position, hitherto one of their proudest possessions. For the labor movement as a whole, the activities of the League for Roosevelt, and of course necessarily for the Democratic party, are bound to bring chaos and confusion, especially in the ranks of the more advanced sections of the working class and to confirm their dependence upon the existing two-party system, the very bulwark of the political setup of capitalism in this country. It will hardly do for Hillman to plead in justification that "American politics is a dense forest" in which "the road to a labor party is not a straight one" for, by helping to divert labor party sentiment to Roosevelt, he is contributing towards making that forest even denser and that road even more crooked!

## The Cardinal Error of the League Policy

The cardinal error of the policy embodied in the L.N.-P.L. is its readiness to sacrifice the class independence of labor and to dissipate the class consciousness of the awakening workers just for the sake of helping Roosevelt win. But precisely the main problem today is the declaration of political independence of labor, the emergence of the working class as an independent class politically. "The first great step," Engels pointed out, and he was referring particularly to America, "is the constitution of the workers into an independent political party, no matter how, as long as it is a distinct workers party." This is the primary and indispensable task, in comparison with which all other considerations must necessarily take second place. For, until the proletariat has achieved its own independence politically, it cannot make even the first move in the direction of its class emancipation. But even from the point of view

of immediate interests, the abandonment of the idea of political independence constitutes a grave mistake. Experience at home and abroad has abundantly shown that the working class is able to win concessions for itself and to block the way of reaction only to the degree that it becomes a formidable political force in its own right. An impressive vote for an independent labor candidate in the coming elections would be a more decisive factor in halting reaction and gaining a hearing for the demands of labor than any number of labor votes cast for Roosevelt.

For these reasons and for others of equally vital importance that easily come to mind, it is impossible for revolutionary Marxists to go along with the Labor Non-Partisan League and the policy of which it is the embodiment. On the contrary, it will be necessary for us to take a firm stand in opposition, to fight unyieldingly against the stream, but to fight realistically and effectively. Objection from the right will come from Green and Tobin and from such hidebound Republicans as Hutcheson but, from the left, from the point of view of the class conscious proletariat, the only critical voice will emanate from the communists and the Militant socialists, for the Old Guard socialists are obviously preparing the ground for support of Roosevelt in some form or manner, direct or indirect. Upon the communists and Militant socialists, therefore, fall heavy responsibilities to which they must prove equal if they are to help labor find the way to class independence.

## For A United Labor Ticket With Mooney for President

It is necessary, in the first place, to rally all independent labor forces in a united political campaign in this year's election. A national labor party is well out of the question but a united labor ticket or a joint socialist-communist ticket is decidedly within the realms of practical possibility. Not the withdrawal, as some have suggested, of the communist candidates in favor of the socialist but genuine cooperation in a common cause is what is needed.

Such a campaign would have to be waged with an eye to the situation as it is. Under present circumstances, the campaign of any independent labor candidate, whether socialist or communist or joint, would be very largely an appeal to the elemental class consciousness and class solidarity of the masses. In such a situation, it seems to us, our proposal for a United Labor Ticket with Tom Mooney for President comes with particular force, for only such a figure as Tom Mooney, the very symbol of loyalty and devotion to the cause of labor, could conceivably awaken the class feeling of any considerable section of the workers.

It is necessary, in the second place, to group clearly the heterogeneous and contradictory class-political character of the Labor Non-Partisan League movement and to discriminate carefully between its two distinct and antagonistic components. Never for a single moment must we lose sight of the objective consequences that the League, in certain of its aspects, may be made to yield in the way of forming a transition towards genuinely independent political action. Never for a single moment must we forget that the main bodies of organized labor in the League are precisely those that took their stand for a labor party at the Atlantic City convention last October.

In line with such an analysis, it obviously becomes the duty of the class conscious elements in the

labor movement to do everything in their power as speedily as possible to break the unnatural bond uniting the two antagonistic elements in the League and thus open the way for the direct crystallization of labor party sentiment into labor party organization. It is here that the vital importance of maintaining intact the class integrity of the workers parties becomes so evident, for only an independent Marxist force, free from all entangling alliances with the powers of capitalism and therefore capable of uncompromising criticism of the New Deal and the social role of the Roosevelt administration, only such a force can possibly hope to intervene effectively in the deep inner processes molding the future of the movement now embodied in the Labor Non-Partisan League.

## Must Entrench Ourselves in Trade Unions

If the class conscious forces in the labor movement are to accomplish these fateful tasks, they must entrench themselves more than ever in the trade unions, the basic and most all-inclusive organizations of labor. They must set themselves to work with invincible determination to broaden their influence so as to avoid any danger of isolation that may result from a clash with the pro-Roosevelt policy in the unions, so as to win the unions and the organized workers to independent class politics as soon as possible.

Great indeed are the tasks facing us in this country at the present moment. But however gigantic our tasks and however scattered our resources, we can yet prove equal to our responsibilities if we hold fast to the potent weapon of revolutionary Marxism—uncompromising in principle, realistic in analysis, infinitely flexible in tactics!

## Philadelphia Workers

Greet WORKERS AGE on MAY DAY ELIZABETH JASSINOFF G. LEVIN LOVE RON HUR

## GROUP OF DRESS PRESSERS OF LOCAL 60 ILGWU SEND MAY DAY GREETINGS

to WORKERS AGE

NATHAN KALICHMAN A. GLITZER RUBY ROSENGART BURNSTEIN H. OSTROW S. BAIKAL SARANOFF PHILIP EHRlich M. KRIGEL J. GITTELMAN S. STEIN I. POLLACK A. BREITMAN I. SMILLER B. PORTNOY GEORGE SAND S. JAFFEE D. ROSEN PHILIP LATO SAM SCHEINHUNT M. BLATT M. COHEN ABE APELBAUM SPECTOR M. DUCOFF W. BILANKO I. ROTHSTEIN S. COHEN FOAEN M. HOCHMAN J. HANDLER S. MITTLEBERG M. ROSENBAUM GERTNER KAPLAN HOFFBERG SAM LICHTMAN PH. WIENER C. SHWARTZ L. LAUFER M. TENENBAUM

## Workers of Local 9 I.L.G.W.U.

Greet WORKERS AGE A. ZIRLIN L. KAUFMAN SAUL MILLER SYGAL SAM BERMAN SAM SINS SAM ELKIN N. F.

MAX HANNA SILVERMAN LEINER MIKE GECKER H. LOBEL K. KREW K. P. H. SPITALNICK CIPES K. GRUSKIN A. BRENNER I. GITTELMAN J. BORNSTEIN A. RICHER S. OLIVER SAM DuBOIS ALLAN JACKSON MILMAN N. FORMAN H. SINGER JOE KUSHNIR LOUIS HOCHMAN A. SCHWARTZ MORRIS SILVER J. GORETSKY I. LANDSMAN J. SHULGNER LATO GREENBERG EPSTEIN N. WEINTRAUB ABRAMOWITZ S. PUHN A. KALICHMAN NATH WIENER HELEN GREENEY ROTHMAN M. LOEV MAX STEIN PHILIP SHAPIRO

# F.D.'S ARMS PLAN PLEASES D. A. R.

Washington — President Roosevelt's emphasis upon the necessity of maintaining an "adequate" national defense was received this week by the Daughters of the American Revolution with entire approbation. His position was as welcome as it was expected.

Pretending to be afraid lest the "right" people misunderstand his armament policy, President Roosevelt declared in his letter to the Daughters:

"There is much confusion of thought and some unnecessary apprehension on this matter of national defense. There are sincere and patriotic people who have been led to believe that our military and naval establishments are inferior and inadequate. That, so stated, is a totally wrong conclusion. It has been the aim of this Administration to make our national defense efficient and to keep it adequate. Today our defense forces are on a stronger peace-time basis than before. It is our purpose to keep them that way."

Coinciding with this statement the House Military Affairs Committee passed the McSwain bill providing an increase of 4,000 planes. By the terms of this act the Secretary of War was given permission to call into active duty for three year periods more than 1,350 Army reserve flying officers. A student air reserve force was also authorized.

# Washington Convention Unifies Jobless Ranks

By DOROTHY DARE

The main problem before the second annual convention of the Workers Alliance of America, held in Washington April 7 to 11, was the problem of unity; the second, what to do after this unity was achieved. There were in this country several unemployed organizations, each claiming national jurisdiction, and each being the kite of some political organization.

The agreement for unity was made some time before the convention. The National Unemployed Leagues having gone into the Alliance several months previous to the convention, there remained only the ratification of this agreement by the convention as well as the admission of the Unemployed Councils into the merger.

The unity debate was launched shortly after the opening of the convention and lasted until 6 P. M. the following day. There were few opposed to unity. The most outspoken were the delegation from Alleghany County Pa., under the leadership of Lieberman, and the Milwaukee delegation under the leadership of Peters. Patrick of Oregon claimed to have been instructed against unity, but did not speak against it. The result was an overwhelming majority for unity: 130,000 votes as against 21,000 against.

The last two days of the convention were taken up with seating the admitted delegates, with committee meetings, and passing the resolutions, reports and the program of action. The program included a campaign against Negro discrimination and the introduction of a bill in Congress to that effect. In the program of action was included a campaign for the release of the Scottsboro boys and Angelo Herndon. It seems to me,

that Tom Mooney should have been included—no working class organization can afford to forget Tom Mooney. The writer was told that a resolution would be brought in for the release and defense of Tom by the resolutions committee. I went to the committee and asked them if they had such a resolution. I was told that they did and would bring it on the floor. When the final report was brought in I discovered that no such resolution was in. I spoke to chairman Lasser. He asked me to write out a few lines. I did. He handed same to Patrick, the reporter on resolutions, but it was not read. Finally Delegate Olsen got the floor and a motion was passed that a letter of greeting be sent to Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings. It is hard to understand why the radical forces on the Resolutions Committee and in the convention failed to pass a motion that we go on record for the defense and release of these two class war prisoners.

Considerable discussion developed when the following amendment was brought in by the resolutions committee to the original motion that we go on record for a Farmer Labor Party: That the convention endorse the conference for a national Labor Party by 1936 to be called by the Farmer Labor Party of Minnesota and the American Commonwealth Federation.

There was immediately launched a debate which threatened to take a good deal of time. This was at the 11th hour of the convention and there were still reports to be made. The C.P. immediately and without a caucus compromised by making an amendment to the amendment. It asked: the incoming NEB to consider the advisability of endorsing such a conference

if it is called to launch a labor party by 1936, if it has the necessary labor base and is representative of the American Labor movement.

At this point our own delegates to the convention must be criticized for not having brought to the floor the motion that in case no such party is launched we urge the labor political parties to unite in the presidential campaign with Tom Mooney to head such a United Labor ticket.

The sum total of the convention was that the unemployed will now be able to go forward under a united banner towards adopting action, national in scope, and therefore more effective, and that WPA workers will be able to work out methods of organization to suit their needs on a national scale.

The convention culminated in a march to the White House and the Capitol in an attempt to interview Roosevelt. Instead one of his secretaries was seen. During the week delegations had been to see various senators, Hopkins and the rest. If no answer was given now, perhaps these high and mighty gentlemen in Washington will deem it advisable to see us when we return to Washington in the near future in a National Hunger March for adequate social and unemployment insurance, for the passage of the various bills now before Congress, and for the extension of a Public Works Program that will be of benefit to the working masses in cleaning up slums.

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## W.C. and I.W.O. - A Study in Contrasts

Baltimore, Md.—The issue of democracy in the workers' fraternal organizations assumed significant proportions here with Comrade Stanton, active member of the Communist Party Opposition, figuring prominently in this fight.

In Branch 900 of the Workmen's Circle, Comrade Stanton introduced a resolution demanding democracy in the organization for all labor political tendencies, and urging all other branches to do likewise. This resolution was carried.

Almost simultaneously quite a different situation was developing in the English speaking branch of the International Workers Order, of which the same Comrade Stanton is a member for the last three years. He was relieved of his membership rights and declared a "member at large" after being found guilty of three most damning indictments, namely: (1) membership in the Communist Party Opposition; (2) proposing sympathizers of the Lovestone group for membership; and (3) making a motion (and it was passed too!) that a speaker from every labor political group, including the CPO, be invited to present their viewpoint.

The City Executive Committee of the I.W.O., enraged by such independent and democratic action, packed the next meeting of the branch, reversed the proposal (motion No. 3) and declared Stanton a "member at large" i.e. he has the right to pay dues but not to attend branch meetings and participate in its deliberations.

The contrast between the action of the W.C. branch and that of the

I.W.O. does not speak well for the latter. We would suggest that the National Office of the I.W.O. look into the matter and call sharply to order the "enthusiastic" comrades in Baltimore. There is no question but that Stanton must be immediately reinstated and the institution of "membership at large" as a penalty abolished.

**REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS**  
to the  
**WORKERS AGE**  
From some  
Staff Members of the Joint Board Dressmakers Union  
**GERTRUDE SHAPIRO** **BETTY**  
**L. T. JACOB GOLDSTEIN** **ROMA GIOVANNITTI**  
**P. WIESEN** **ANONYMOUS**  
**Y. HASSAN** **W. R. BERT**  
**F. BREDHOFF**

For its years of struggle for  
**LABOR UNITY**  
**WE FURRIERS GREET THE**  
**WORKERS AGE**  
**JOSEPH FARBER** **LENA RABINOWITZ**  
**A FRIEND** **DAVE SANDBERG**  
**BENNY FREEMAN** **SAM ROSENZWITZ**  
**PLOTKIN** **BLANCHE GREENFELD**  
**LILLIE VLAHON** **A FRIEND**  
**FRANK** **J. FEITTELMAN**  
**RED MARY THE FINISHER** **SARAH GROSS**  
**JACK ROSENBLATT** **A. COOPERMAN**  
**R. BRILLIANT** **S. ANTONOFF**  
**CELIA RABINOWITZ** **S. KASS**  
**JOE FLEKER** **RED NAYTON**  
**LENA GREENBERG** **E. BARAZ**  
**MAX EDELMAN** **M. INTRATOR**  
**H. STEINBERG** **PHILIP GINSBERG**  
**SAM COHEN** **LILLIAN MORGAN**

GREETINGS TO  
**WORKERS AGE**  
Fighter for Progressive Unionism  
**PROGRESSIVE GROUP**  
JOINT COUNCIL KNITGOODS  
WORKERS UNION

Comrade O. Schleiffer  
Extends Revolutionary  
Greetings to  
**WORKERS AGE**  
on  
**MAY DAY**  
**BOSTON WORKERS**  
Send Proletarian Greetings  
to  
**WORKERS AGE**  
FRIEND OF LABOR  
**ALEXANDER ALPERT**  
**R. GILMAN**  
**SAM SANDBERG**  
**SOPHIE ZELICOWITZ**  
**S. BLACK**  
**BENJAMIN A. STEIN**  
**WILLIAM FISCH**  
**MASLANKA**  
**SAM LEVIN**  
**SANDY LEAVETT**

**DOLL AND TOY WORKERS**  
hail  
**THE WORKERS AGE**  
Fighter for militant class-conscious unionism!  
Fighter against war and fascism!  
**SAM RUSSO** **A. POLLONE**  
**DANNY MUSACHIO** **R. DOMINO**  
**J. MARANTI** **J. CUNILILE**  
**JACK CANDINALE** **CARBIN CRICHLAUE**  
**LA GUARDIA TUN** **J. RUSSO**  
**M. RUSSO** **J. LA PUZZA**  
**HARRY DOMINO** **J. CARDINALE**  
From a **CARLO TRUPIA**  
**CLASS-CONSCIOUS WORKER** **A. ESPOSITO**  
**M. MOHELIN** **JOE NAPPI**

**KNITGOODS WORKERS EXTEND HAND**  
**OF LABOR SOLIDARITY TO THE**  
**WORKERS AGE ON MAY DAY**

**HENRY HOLDSTEIN** **LEO KARP**  
**ANNA FOX** **NAT YEGLA**  
**JOE LEVY** **FAY KAPLAN**  
**D. L.** **P. TAUBER**  
**SHAEFFER** **A. ROSNER**  
**FRED BRONSTEIN** **J. LANE**  
**LOUIS RAPPAPORT** **FRANCES MUSSO**  
**JOSEPH GULLOTTA** **ANNA MISENOFF**  
**E. I. ITSKOWITZ** **FLORENCE SMITH**  
**JULIA VALENTINE** **FRANCES PISCIOTTA**  
**SAM SINENSKY** **AL LERMAN**  
**ESTELLE BOSSIN** **A FRIEND**  
**ESTELLE GREENWALDE** **JULIUS LEVINE**  
**S. STIEGLITZ** **ABE BERKOWITZ**  
**SOL CIOTTA** **MANNY TATZ**  
**LOUIS LEVENSEN** **H. SPINDEL**  
**EDDIE GELTZER** **BEN ZAUZEN**  
**RAY MICHAELS** **JOE STRAUSS**  
**SARAH MINSKY** **S. ELAZAROFF**  
**ESTELLE SAGER** **B. SCHEIFFER**  
**RUTH LEVINE** **H. NUBBEFLER**  
**SOPHIE STANDING** **W. PETRONIS**  
**GUSSIE REICH** **H. STRAND**  
**JOE KATZ** **R. ELTER**  
**HELEN JAHRE**

## BOOKS of the AGE

**THEORY OF FLIGHT**, by Muriel Rukeyser. Yale University. 86 pp. \$2.00.

(Reviewed by Bertram D. Wolfe)  
This is the first book of a 21-year old poet. It is in the modern manner: close-clipt, vigorous, difficult, urban, social. Miss Rukeyser is a continuator of the school of cerebral poetry and heavily loaded imagery which stems from T. S. Eliot. Her blend of biologic and technologic metaphor is effective and moving, intensely personal and powerfully social.

She was born the first year of the world war, and in every line shows herself the intellectual and emotional child of her time. It is not poetry for the masses that she writes—it is too di cult, oblique, cerebral, and lacking in the simple, singing qualities that such poetry must have, at least until the "new poetry" at present in fashion may perhaps have created a mass audience of its own. Personally, I am sceptical as to whether this type of poetry can ever have a wide mass appeal. Yet such poetry has its own audience and its own function to fulfill and we can as little quarrel with it for not being folk poetry as with a fugue of Bach's for not being a folk-song.

Muriel Rukeyser's first book shows her to be a master of her craft, a mature talent, a genuine poet of undoubted power, one of the most talented and most powerful of the left-wing poets of the school to which she belongs. She should go far.

**LENIN**. By William G. White, Harrison Smith and Jonathan Cape.

Reviewed by Mac Stuart  
This biography is much less a life of Lenin than a record of the important events in the Russian revolutionary movement which punctuated his life. The leader of the revolution himself appears a shadowy gray figure, a sort of disembodied will-to-power, assuming bodily substance as the revolutionary course rises, dissolving away as it ebbs.

It must be granted that to encompass this extraordinary life within the covers of a small book; to be biographer to so difficult a subject as a life of uncorrupted revolutionary passion—is a very hard task, and one must not expect too much. But after that, it is not asking the impossible to expect that Lenin's ideas should be correctly presented, or that the ideological basis of his revolutionary leadership be expounded.

In these two respects the author has not understood his tasks aright. On the minor question of Lenin's contempt for "intellectuals"—one should read again "What's to be done." Here Lenin explained that revolutionary theory comes to the labor movement from without—that the worker's trade unions cannot themselves find the revolutionary path. And he refers to Marx and Engels, and others, as the intellectuals of bourgeois family who brought revolutionary ideas to the labor movement, and broke with their class. Lenin directed to those intellectuals who had not broken with their class a richly deserved contempt for meddling in the revolutionary movement. But that is not the same thing as a blanket indictment of the "intellectuals" by Lenin.

As to the major question of Lenin's program for organization of a revolutionary party, it is wrong to present it as aiming at a party consisting of professional revolutionists, banded together under a collective leadership "responsible to no one but themselves." That, it happens, is the conception prevailing in the Communist par-

## LOSING THEIR CHAINS . . . . . by James Sand

Morris Hillquit: The Self-Made Man as Socialist

(CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE)

In 1907, when Hillquit was at the height of his theoretical powers the most enlightened remark he could make apropos of the manner in which a socialist America was to be brought into being, was this: "What is called the 'Socialist State' is nothing but the present order of things modified in the introduction of the principle of collective ownership in the material means of production. The 'co-operative Commonwealth' must evolve from the present competitive system, and the methods of distribution under the new order of things must take for their starting point the present methods, and modify them in conformity with the new economic conditions and true principles of justice, gradually and progressively." That, it must be admitted, is about as bad as they come in the way of demagogizing Marxist doctrine. Twenty-five years later, his ideas on the methods to be employed in bringing about socialism are as weak as they were before. In a debate with Matthew Woll, in 1932, we have this from his lips:

"They [the two old parties] are not likely to legislate their own class out of existence or even of economic privileges. The hope of the workers, therefore, lies in a political party of their own, challenging the power of the old capitalist parties and electing their own representatives to legislative and administrative bodies in numbers strong enough to control or at least influence their policies."

The remarkable part of that statement is that a mind legally as keen as Hillquit's is unable to realize that if the two old parties will not legislate themselves out of existence, it is also true, a fortiori, that they will legislate a socialist party out of existence before it becomes strong enough to challenge their hegemony.

Nevertheless, there is much that cannot be taken away from Hillquit. It was he who defended Max Eastman, Floyd Dell, and Art Young, in the case of the government against the old Masses. He justly takes pride in these accomplishments in Loose Leaves from a Busy Life. His campaign for the mayor's office in New York City in 1917 is one of the few decent events in an otherwise wholly corrupt era. When socialists were deserting the party line to wave flags for the imperialist war, Hillquit stuck by his guns. His defense of the five S.P. assemblymen in 1920 (a defense of a cause already lost) is masterly. The New York Times was very near right when it suggested that he might have been elevated to the Supreme Court bench had he been willing to yield to the charms of capitalistic society. He did not yield, but neither did he reap the benefits of pushing his opposition to its logical conclusion.

Born in Riga in 1870, he came to America in 1886. And here he made a name for himself such as no Jewish lawyer has ever made. For the first decade of his life in New York, Hillquit was going in the right direction as a socialist. And then he began to acquire riches and status and position. Unlike Meyer London, he did not remain on the East Side when success came to him. He became a West Ender. But he does not like to speak of that in his autobiography. He lays special stress on Cherry Street, the growth of the Jewish Labor Unions, in which he had no small part, the founding of a Jewish daily with Abe Cahan, and the struggles in founding the S.P. Lovingly he recalls that Maxim Gorki made two speeches for him in his 1906

ties today—but it is wrong, and it is not Lenin's conception. An illegal party, or a party during a revolutionary civil war may be forced to operate that way, but Lenin realized that organizational health lies in thoroughgoing discussion from top to bottom of all important questions with the view of arriving at correct decisions.

Finally, how explain Lenin's place in and contributions to the revolutionary movement without explaining Marxism? A Marxist will have to write another biography of Lenin.

**A PITTSBURGH SYMPATHIZER**  
greet  
**WORKERS AGE**

**Group of Members I.L.G.W.U. — Baltimore**  
Send Workingclass Greetings to  
**WORKERS AGE**

We Extend comradely Greetings to Workers Age on May First. May we soon celebrate the liberation of Tom Mooney and all political prisoners.  
**PROGRESSIVE GROUP OF I.L.G.W.U. PHILADELPHIA**  
Anna Solomon, Secretary

**GROUP OF PHILADELPHIA SYMPATHIZERS**  
GREET WORKERS AGE ON  
**MAY DAY**  
**FAY NEPONE** **LEAH NEPONE**  
**RUTH SHTASEL** **NAOMI PREPSTEIN**  
**MARTIN SHAFF** **MORRIS PREPSTEIN**  
**JUDITH PREPSTEIN** **SARAH PREPSTEIN**  
**BLANCHE HORWITZ** **PHILIP SHTASEL**  
**MIRIAM NEPONE**

**GREETINGS OF LABOR SOLIDARITY TO WORKERS AGE**  
from the  
**FURRIERS PROGRESSIVE UNITY LEAGUE OF THE N. Y. JOINT COUNCIL**

campaign for a seat in congress representing New York's East Side. And Hillquit rightly prides himself for befriending Gorki on his visit here when puritan morality ostracized him after it found that he was living with a woman whom he loved.

A member of the National and State executive committees of the Socialist Party for decades, he was always one of the main forces in the writing of national and state platforms. His impress upon the party was enormous, but that only helped to infect it more deeply with the disease of reformism. Hillquit never grew with years. There was a change, but it was from social democracy and compromise to negativism and defeatism.

He would have like to have been a famous professor, perhaps of law, a position to which he was undoubtedly entitled and fitted; or a great social scientist, which was beyond his intellectual powers; or a leader in promulgating social legislation in the national assembly, to which he never succeeded in getting elected, and where he could not have done much had he achieved election.

He was never close to the masses after his early years, and it nettled him that he could not gain any satisfactory contact with the rank and file. He drifted so far from them that he communicated to them ideas without awakening great desire for the cause. He must have known finally that the cause was lost; that the Second International was going nowhere. The tone of his last work makes the supposition very probable.

But knowing his own shortcomings, why, it may be asked, was Hillquit unable to rectify them and align himself with revolutionary socialism? One suggestion that has been made is that the last fifty years in America were an unfortunately bad time for a revolutionary leader. That hardly cuts any ice. Difficulties and obstacles mean nothing to men convinced of the ideas which they are propounding. Moreover, Debs lived during most of that time, and he succeeded in keeping alive some revolutionary fire. And whoever claimed that being a revolutionary socialist was a particularly easy job?

Hillquit could not live down the bourgeois ideals which were early inculcated in him. He let America "get" him, and then he secretly nursed in his heart the fact that it did. His intellect was never great enough to be self-critical of the ideas which bourgeois society handed on to him. Hillquit set great store by wealth and position. He achieved both. But a labor leader must early learn that he must choose between bourgeois worldly goods and his desire to lead the proletariat. If he does not choose early, one of two things can happen: he may sell out the proletariat for the worldly goods, as Powderly did for money and Gompers did for status; or he may surrender the thought of leading the proletariat. Hillquit wanted two contradictory things; he wanted success in America at the same time that he wanted to change the institutions that made that success possible. The result was that his psychology lay with the proletariat, and his sociology lay with the bourgeoisie. Between them he was torn on the rack of indecision.

He led himself astray through his compromise with bourgeois social ideals, and he would have led the proletariat astray if they continued to follow his lead. He wanted to let the bourgeoisie make his cake, and he wanted to let the proletariat eat it. But bourgeois society gives to men only in order that it may take from them. It gave Morris Hillquit fame and fortune, and took from him proletarian socialism.

**May Day Greetings**  
from  
**MISCELLANEOUS LOCALS**  
**JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**INTERNATIONAL LADIES**  
**GARMENT WORKERS' UNION**

# Workers Must Unite Against Fascism

This article is reprinted from the Chicago Federationist (April 11, 1936), official organ of the Chicago Federation of Labor—EDITOR.

By EDGAR ANDERSON

There has always been plenty of reason why workers should organize and fight together against the many hostile forces, which threaten their standards of living. There was reason enough, even in the day of small producers, and much greater reason as the employers of labor grew larger through stock companies and trusts requiring ever larger unions to resist them. Still, the size and the hostility of labor's adversaries of the past are dwarfed in comparison to labor's new enemy, just beginning to take form here, and therefor labor's need for unity and organization is incomparably greater now, than ever before.

This new and terrible threat, not only to living standards, but to the very existence of labor organizations, is Fascism. This monster rose to power in two major countries of Europe, crushing out with terror, torture and death every vestige of democratic labor organization.

Faced with such a threat as this, organized labor must leave no stone unturned to prevent Fascism from seizing power here. Among the most important defense measures is to create a united and active fighting policy throughout the whole labor movement. There is now one tendency in the labor movement that advocates the old methods, the old policies and the old forms of organization. There is another tendency that sees in rapidly changing economic and social conditions the need for new tactics, new objectives and new structure, to correspond with the new conditions.

These differences must be reconciled, because the unity and the extent of labor organizations is vastly more necessary in the struggle against Fascism than it is against even the largest industrial units under our present form of government. Conceive of all the private detective and strike breaking agencies, the police force, a large portion of the army, the vigilantes and gangsters united by an anti-labor dictatorship, to stamp out every independent expression of labor organization by any means at any cost and you begin to realize in some small part the meaning of Fascism to the workers.

If workers of all descriptions, white collar and black overall, agricultural and industrial, conservative and progressive can unite in a common determined resistance against this ruthless labor destroying foe, they can conquer it.

And it is not too much to expect that both the progressives and the conservatives will put aside many of their differences in the face of such a threat as that of Fascism. They certainly will if they are able to profit by the terrible example that has been repeatedly put before them by the development of Fascism in Europe—they certainly will if they observe the recent appearance of a Fascist dictatorship on the South American continent and realize that Fascism is now coming close to home. They will if they are able to, see the numerous and aggressive Fascist tendencies and movements which are growing right here in America and even in Chicago under their very eyes.

It is true that many groups have been branded as Fascist in this country for no other reason than that the brander wanted to call them an unpopular name; but it is also true that there are unmistakable signs of developing Fascism on all sides. Who are the Fascists here? Some say they are the Re-

publicans; some say they are the Democrats. Some say they are the small groups of Europeans in this country who are trying to transplant the politics of their respective countries in American soil. The Republicans deny the charge, and certainly many of them mean it. The Democrats do likewise, and with at least as great sincerity. Still both Democrats and Republicans, who sincerely deny any Fascist sympathies today, will be among its strongest supporters later on.

The European Fascist groups in America should not be overlooked as spreaders of unwholesome and perverted ideas. Nevertheless, the real Fascist menace will not come from abroad, but will grow from an American seed in American soil. I know this is contrary to the belief of many who hold that democracy is so deeply rooted in America tradition, that Fascism can make no headway here. Even if this were true at the present time, it will not be true after more years of depression have given rise to even greater unemployment, suffering and despair.

This may appear pessimistic in view of certain signs of better conditions in industry, but how can we have anything that can properly be called recovery when we still have over eleven million unemployed workers; when the government must supply all kinds of artificial work and relief? Can we expect continued prosperity where the employers purchased giant machinery so that less labor will be required in production which results not in shorter hours and increasing prosperity, but in throwing workers jobless into the streets.

As long as the share of labor in the products of industry does not increase in proportion to the ability of industry to produce, misery and chaos must come out of every advance in modern technique. This is not because machinery is bad for man, but because a handful of insatiable bankers and industrialists insist upon appropriating, for their own private use, a share of the industrial product vastly greater than they are capable of putting to any rational or constructive use. When organized labor proposes to institute the five day week and six hour day without pay cuts to make more jobs for those who want them and need them, what is the employer's reply? If you increase our wage bill you will cut our profits. Why should we run our industry if our profits are not satisfactory?

Under such conditions there is no way to start the factory wheels turning, and there is every indication that misery among the workers and strife between the workers and employers will go on increasing until Americans lose confidence in their present form of government to solve the problems essential to their very existence. Then, in this atmosphere of suffering and doubt, Fascism will grow and those employers, bankers, politicians and industrialists who vigorously oppose Fascism today will grasp at it in desperation to save their precious property and their precious place in the sun, rather than to give to the workers higher wages and shorter hours.

But Fascism has a great weakness. It represents the interests of only an extremely small portion of the population—the huge industrialists and financiers and their highest salaried "hangers on." The great masses are lowered by it to standards of living unheard of since man's productive ability has been raised by modern machinery. This has been demonstrated conclusively by the tremendous fall in the standards of living in the European countries under Fascism.

How could it be otherwise with no labor organizations to protect the interests of the workers against the insatiable appetite of big corporations for more profit? If it is only possible to make the great masses of the people see the extent to which Fascism works against their interests and to see how their interests are identified with complete employment and good conditions for labor, Fascism will not come to power.

In conclusion, let us consider how labor can best use its strength to defeat Fascism. First of all, the organized labor movement must be expanded to include all types and varieties of workers, skilled and unskilled, hand workers and brain workers alike. In the face of this threat of utter destruction, that now confronts the labor movement, it must lose its old time exclusiveness and its insistence upon conditions of organization which are not suited to the needs of certain types of workers. Craft organization is all right where the work is divided into clearly defined crafts, but in other mass production industries where the great majority of the workers have no particular craft the interests of a few craftsmen should not bar thousands of other workers who must be included in the ranks of the fighters against Fascism.

Not only must labor unify and expand its ranks in the industrial field, but it must also enter politics as a force independent of the two old parties which function for the interests of the employer in politics, just as a company union does in industry. It is true that the conservatives in the labor movement do not as yet see the necessity of this, but as the struggle against Fascism develops it will become more and more apparent that little effective opposition to Fascism will come out of the two old parties who do not represent that portion of the population who will suffer from a Fascist dictatorship.

With the terrible object lesson before us of the effect of Fascism upon the labor movement in Eu-

## 'There Is No Hope'

Summit, N. J.—Refusing to be thrown upon the scrap-heap because of his age and the general scarcity of jobs, Max A. Schulz, 51, a German-American newspaper writer, took his life this week by inhaling carbon monoxide gas.

The suicide note that he left behind reads:

"In 1930 I lost my position due to the failure of Hoover prosperity to arrive. From 1932 to the Spring of 1935 I was out of work aside from a few month's work under the CWA. I had some support during 1934 from the ERA at \$3.50 a week.

"There is no hope I can get a position in the not too far future, and I have no wish to go again on relief. Our economic system, which places a man willing to work on the scrap-heap after he passes the age of 50, is no inducement to go on."

## Car Porters Hold Charter Festival

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is celebrating the presentation of its international charter—the first of its kind to be given to a Negro trade union—by arranging for an extraordinary program at its 11th Annual Spring Dance to be held on Thursday night June 4th, at the Renaissance Casino, 138th Street and Seventh Avenue.

Admission fee is 75c and boxes and loges sell for \$4.00. Tickets are now on sale at the headquarters of the union 105 West 136th Street. Reservations on all loges and boxes will remain open until midnight, Wednesday, May 20.

Trade unions and workers organizations are urged to make their reservations early.

rope and with the recent setting up of a Fascist dictatorship in South America we must find a way of making clear to the masses the necessity of preventing Fascism at all costs.

## SERVICE MEN GET INCREASES

An award in the building service dispute was handed down by arbitrator Silcox, granting a two dollar raise, on the average, for the building service employees. Altho he maintained in his decision that a minimum living wage amounts to \$1291.50, that even this is considered a "distress budget," nevertheless his award was divided into nine classifications, six of which are below even this "minimum" minimum. He hoped that "evolution" would rectify this situation.

One of the major weaknesses of the award is that no decision at all was made concerning hours of work. The arbitrator, as a matter of fact, disclaimed all jurisdiction in this field. Thus, the very skimpy pay rise can be and undoubtedly will be, nullified by extension of hours to fifty, sixty, and seventy, per week. Under the decisions of arbitration, signed by Bambrick's union and the Realty Advisory Board, the question of hours cannot be reopened for three years, while wages can be discussed yearly.

Above all, the award maintains and strengthens the open shop principle, and will be used as a precedent by the realtors, who already speak of this as showing "the advantages of arbitration over industrial dispute." The very meagre rise in pay was hardly won by the method of arbitration. If even this concession had not been made, it is obvious that the union men could not have been held at their jobs.

The two factors of open-shop-pism, and therefore no protection for the workers in the maintenance of the pay rise, and secondly the hamstringing of the union on the question of hours per week, makes it clear that this award cannot for long be the basis of agreement in the building service trade. The militancy of the workers displayed in the recent strike is, to all intents and purposes, a futile gesture of the past, if this is the result.

# MAY DAY GREETINGS

from

## INTERNATIONAL

# LADIES GARMENT WORKERS' UNION