S. F. Socialist New Year's Eve Housewarming Party and Dance, 236 Van Ness Ave.

Voice Of Socialism In The West

LABOR ACTION

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of California

Workers Of The World Unite!

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Auto Union Pushes On Under CIO

Demands Conference With GMC Heads On Recognition

DETROIT.—The United Automobile Workers' Union affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization, emerged triumphant in two strikes affecting 5000 workers of the Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Company and 1800 employees of the Aluminum Corporation of America. Both strikes resulted in substantial wage increases and full union recognition.

Though these strikes were comparatively small, affecting directly what may be considered a mere handful of workers, the significance of the victory at this time cannot be over-estimated. Not only has it given fresh impetus to the CIO drive to organize the entire automobile industry but has increased the prestige of the industrial union principle on the eve of the coming showdown in the steel industry.

The United Automobile Workers immediately followed up the victory with a renewed and sharply worded demand for a general conference with the heads of General Motors Corporation to discuss collective bargaining. Former requests for such a conference had been dodged by Alfred P. Sloan, General Motors president in New York and William S. Knudsen, executive vice-president in Detroit, with the suggestion that unions in individual plants take the matter

NEW SPIRIT OF MILITANCY

The successful culmination of the strikes, which are looked upon as the beginning of a major offensive in the automobile industry, has already had a profound effect upon the Detroit workers. A new spirit of militancy and solidarity is rapidly gaining headway. Glenn McCabe, international president of the Flat Glass Workers, who are on strike in the plants of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company and the Libby-Owens-Ford Glass Company, met with leaders of the Auto Workers' Union after the settlement. After the conference, he said:

"We have decided that the only way we can expect to consolidate our gains and protect our future is for our union to join hands and work in close alignment with the UAWA on all matters pertaining to the enforcement of the recognition of our rights."

The Flat Glass Workers have forced a complete shut-down in the two vital plants which furnish 85 per cent of automobile glass.

Simultaneously with the CIO's Detroit victory, the organization's Steel drive had been intensified. The result of the so-called "voluntary" wage increases and bonuses has seemingly been nil so far as prevailing unrest in the steel mills is concerned.

Harry Bridges Held in Tragic Auto Accident

Court Bias is Shown in Case Against Union Leader

LONG BEACH.—Harry Bridges, President of the Pacific Coast Longshoremen, has been charged with "suspicion of negligent homicide" by Long Beach police. He was held in jail over Saturday and Sunday and then released on a writ of habeas corpus under bail.

The car Bridges was driving struck and killed a boy riding an unlighted bicycle on the wrong side of the road. Bridges was well under the zone speed limit and stopped to carry the boy to the curb and call an ambulance. According to press reports, all witnesses agreed to these circumstances, yet the union leader was jailed and held on a serious charge. Such drastic action in a case where no evidence of carelessness existed is unprecedented in this state.

The case is but one more proof of the prejudice of courts which have one law for the rich and "respectable" and another for "agitators."

To Recruit Socialists For Spain

New York Local For "Debs Brigade" To Join Struggle

The organization of a "Eugene V. Debs Column" for service in the Spanish workers' army has been announced by Local New York.

The column is to be made up of skilled technicians, engineers and aviators willing to give their service to the fight for a workers' Spain. Already, although the call was published for the first time in last week's Socialist Call, volunteers are stepping forward in all sections of the country.

California volunteers include a chemical technician, an experienced air pilot and veterans of heavy fighting in the world war.

These men feel that their place is in the front line of the world-wide fight for Socialism. That line is now the Spanish battlefields. Victory in Spain will be a long stride in the international advance.

Volunteers are urged to communicate at once with Labor Action.

Trotsky Is Deported To Mexico

Forcibly Carried On Ship, In Danger of Assassination

NEW YORK.—Further information on the deportation of Leon Trotsky was contained in a statement issued today by the American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky, with offices at 22 East 17th Street, New York City.

The deportation was denounced as a brutal and disgraceful act, but only a climax to six months of relentless persecution by the Norwegian government.

"On the night of Saturday, December 19th," the statement said, "Leon Trotsky and his wife were forcibly carried on board the steamer 'Ruth'. The voyage to Mexico did not actually begin until December 23rd, for the 'Ruth' soon ran aground off the coast of Norway and was not refloated until December 23rd.

"During his stay in Norway Trotsky has been almost concontinuously ill; for one period he lay in an Oslo hospital in danger of death; since that he has been under a physician's care almost constantly. Yet the Norwegian authorities denied him the elementary human right to arrange for medical care on the trip to Mexico.

DANGER OF ASSASSINATION

"Facing as he does on his journey the very real danger of attack and assassination, this gravely ill man and his wife were forced on board ship with so inadequate a guard that he found it necessary to demand the right to arm himself. The government refused him permission to secure bodyguards from his associates. His life has thus been placed in grave jeopardy.

"Trotsky was not even accorded permission to use the ship's radio while en route so that his friends cannot know anything about his condition until he has landed.

"Is there any possible justification for this brutal and disgraceful treatment? The Norweigian government had not even attempted to charge Trotsky with violating its laws, nor had he been indicated, tried or accused by a Norwegian court. The basis for the long internment to which he was subjected was a report of the Central Passport Bureau that Trotsky had made 'such expressions and advices relating to topical political situations as must be designated as a violation of the conditions of **continued residence**'; the Bureau cited as evidence an article (published in America by The Nation, entitled 'The French Revolution has Begun'). Ostensibly the Bureau's report dealt with Trotsky's request for **continued residence**, but became a pretext for virtual imprisonment. No additional charges

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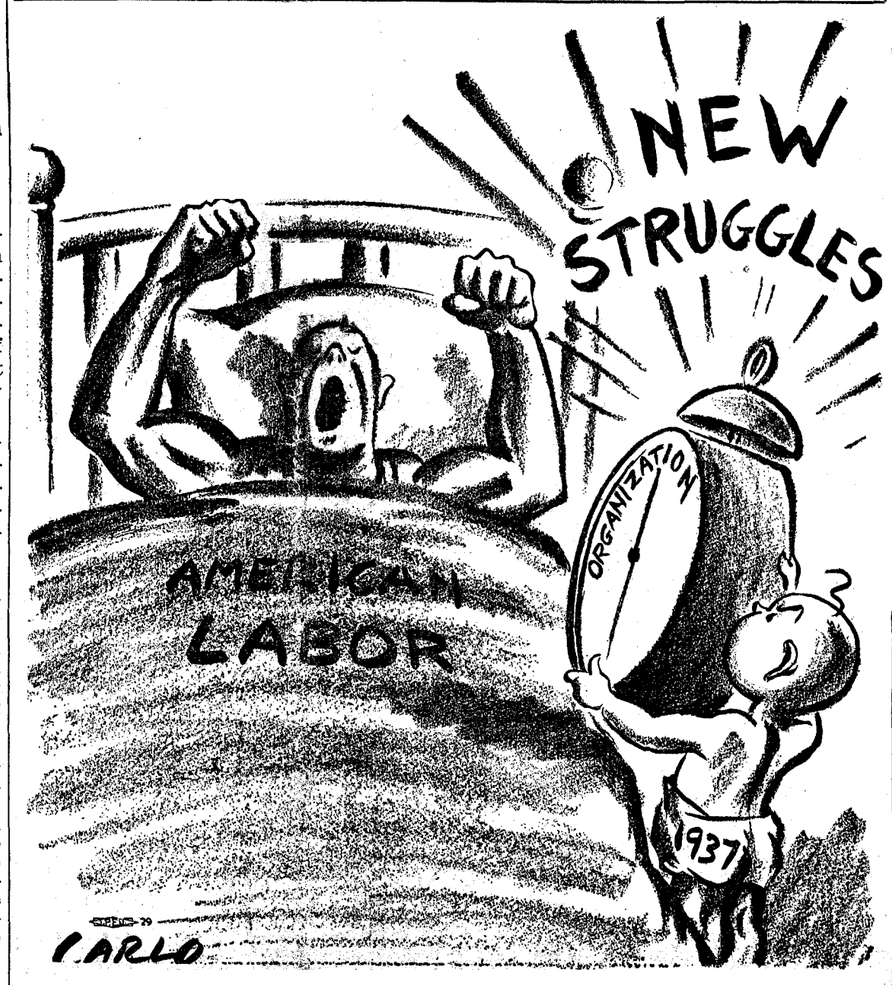
A Big Year Ahead - - - By Carlo



Anglo-French Bandits Move Boldly to Form Four-Power Alliance to Dismember Spain

Deal With Mussolini and Hitler Designed To Aid Franco and Strangle Revolutionary Workers' Movement

Anglo-French imperialism moved boldly last week to unite with Italy and Germany in a Four-Power alliance for intervention in Spain against the Spanish masses.

Labor Action in its issues of December 12th and 19th exposed the real meaning of the Anglo-French moves. Our predictions have been proven to the hilt by last week's developments:

1. The Anglo-French Entente has succeeded in winning Mussolini's consent to Four-Power intervention. In return, the British Tories and the French Peoples Front government took a decisive step toward formal recognition of Italy's conquest of Ethiopia, by withdrawing the legations formerly accredited to Ethiopia and substituting consulate offices. Also, an Anglo-Italian agreement for maintaining common interests in the Mediterranean has been consummated.

2. Backed by Mussolini, the Anglo-French Entente offered to bolster Hitler's regime by economic aid, in return for Hitler's cooperation in the Four-Power "solution" of the Spanish crisis. The Times of London, chief spokesman for British capitalism, devoted a leading editorial to an offer of economic aid to Germany and declared the "hope supported by certain facts" that London-Paris-Rome amity should provide a "fresh approach to Spain." Le Temps, spokesman for the French Foreign Office, proposed a new Four-Power agreement for solving the Spanish situation, in return for which France would aid Hitler to resolve the German economic crisis.

At Expense of Spanish Masses

Just what aid would be given Germany—loans, colonies, raw materials, etc.—was kept secret, but official declarations left no doubt that the "compromise" between Hitler's desire for complete victory for Franco and Anglo-French fears of the consequences of such a victory, is a compromise at the expense of the Spanish masses. The Associated Press authoritatively quoted a French official on December 26th as predicting that "France, Britain, Germany and Italy might unite to force peace in Spain," and that "Hitler would demand some solution in Spain which would prevent General Franco's complete defeat and loss of prestige to Germany, which has recognized his government," so that "We may have to force both sides to cease fighting and submit to compromise in order to save the prestige of European nations which have backed either one side or the other."

What would such a "compromise" consist of? Either, as we have predicted, Spain would be dismembered, with France remaining in control of the territories she now holds so precariously. Or a national government would be established by a coalition of fascist and "anti-fascist" capitalists! In any event, the workers and peasants, who have borne the brunt of six terrible months of civil war, will get nothing for their pains except the continuation of the capitalist rule which led to the civil war.

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Protest Gift Of Hitler's Books To University

DENVER.—The protest against the acceptance by Denver University of 500 books from Nazi Germany is continuing. The Committee, consisting of Carle Whitehead (State Chairman of the Socialist Party of Colorado), chairman; Simon Bloom (member of Local Denver of the Socialist Party) and Frank Monroe, are acquainting citizens of Denver with the facts—ignored by the capitalist press—and are planning to swell the protest begun by a mass meeting of some 250 Denver citizens.

The officials of the university have made no reply to the statement which these citizens, at a meeting on December 6, instructed the Committee to send to the university.

The facts are: That Denver University requested various countries, among them Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, to make that institution a gift of books. Nazi Germany complied and sent 500 volumes. On November 23 these books were publicly accepted in a speech addressed to the German Consul. The request for books was not made to certain other countries, such as Russia, Sweden, Denmark and Norway. The University said that most of the volumes were on scientific subjects, although a "few" were by Hitler, Goebels and other bright lights of the Nazi diadem.

In their statement, the protesting citizens requested that Denver University show itself to be impartial by requesting and publicly accepting books from the previously ignored countries, including Russia.

To date no answer has been received from the university and Denver University still holds the unique position of being the first, and, so far, the only university in the United States, even to accept books from Nazi Germany in a public ceremony, to say nothing of requesting them.

80,000 Going Off Rolls Of WPA To Balance Budget

Workers Alliance Organizes National Fight As Double-Crossed Workers Begin To Ask, "What's New About The New Deal?"

Eight hundred thousand men and women are to be dropped from the relief rolls! That is the real meaning of President Roosevelt's announcement that he will ask only 500 million dollars for WPA to carry through the fiscal year.

This appropriation, unless behind the scenes political manipulation makes Congress cut it still further, will cut the work rolls to 66 per cent of the present totals. In round numbers this means 800,000 family heads cut off from their only means of livlihood.

MAIN OFFENSIVE COMING

The presidential announcement followed a temporary easing off on immediate layoffs under pressure from militant sections of the Workers' Alliance throughout the nation. This retreat was however apparently only a breathing spell before the main offensive. Roosevelt is determined to "balance the budget" at the expense of what he believes to be the most defenseless section of the population.

Action will be postponed in those sections where lay-offs are immediately answered by vigorous protest so that Roosevelt can have a "safe and sane" inauguration unmarred by picketing ex-project workers. In territories where the unemployed are taking the cuts lying down there has been no postponement of the slashing program.

DEEPER CUTS THREATENED

Threats of an even deeper cut than that proposed by Roosevelt are already being voiced on capitol hill. Utah's reactionary Democratic Senator King would like to cut the 500 million six month appropriation in half. This would boost lay offs to more than a million and a half.

Moreover the worthy senator has discovered a dire plot on the part of the unemployed. Their protest is organized! Says he, "There will be a cloud of letters descending on congressmen. I suspect these letters are inspired by persons in the WPA organization (treason!) as many of them appear to be form letters. If I find the flow of these letters to be universal—that it is a concerted effort to propagandize Congress, I shall not hesitate to introduce a resolution asking an investigation."

WHAT IS NEW?

All rights "to propagandize congress' are reserved to Wall Street, any infringements will be dismissed with an "investigation."

What's so new about the New Deal?

Undismayed, Workers' Alliance officers are planning regional conferences in every section of the country to plan for a "Day of Demonstration" January 9th and to organize a "Pink Slip Pilgrimage" on Washington.

As a consequence unemployed organization is now booming as WPA workers lose faith in Roosevelt promises and turn to their own defense weapons.

WPA Is Hit By "Sit-In" At Chicago

Socialists Fight For Militant Policy In Struggle

CHICAGO.—This city's complacent labor movement was startled when a few upstart unions of WPA workers made the headlines by a sit-in demonstration against lay-offs which "held" the WPA offices for almost a week.

Thirty men and women, with not enough chairs to seat them by day, sleeping on cold stone floors at night—kept the Works Progress Administration headquarters in a state of siege, while outside in the corridor a crowd of never less than fifty stood guard against any possible attempt by police to evict the sitters-in.

Although the demonstration ended as unexpectedly as it began, without winning its demands despite claims of a "victory" by some of the leaders, it will go down in history as Chicago's first sit-in.

Another militant feature of the demonstration was the fact that four unions jointly sponsored it, and that workers' organizations were appealed to—with good results—for support.

FIGHT FOR MILITANCY

Those who fought vigorously for a militant policy were two Socialist leaders of the sitters-in, Harold Gibbons and Ruth Cook, and two other Socialist Party members who led the outside support, Daniel House, University of Chicago student, and William Jones, Negro comrade who took care of financial secretarial work. They were opposed by Robert Foley, leading Communist on the sit-in steering committee. Several times Foley exhibited his eagerness to end the strike by claiming a "victory." On one occasion he excitedly read the sitters-in a release from Washington stating there would be no more lay-offs and attributed it to the sit-in protest. An examination proved

(Continued on Page 2)

SOCIALIST RED SUNDAYS

In Spain and in America

By AL FURTH

Red Sundays in Madrid and Barcelona mean that the armed workers' patrols are alertly defending their positions. Prior to the revolution Red Sundays meant taking bundles of revolutionary papers and covering the working class districts to bring the message of struggle to the workers.

The struggle against the exploiters in this country and the final battle for Socialism will not be a pink tea affair either. But leading up to the final conflict our weapon is the Socialist press. Recently the Socialist Party acquired a "Big Bertha" when Labor Action was established. Today it is our duty to get this weapon into the hands of the workers in the west. Today the Socialist Party must, more vigorously than ever, carry on the propaganda struggle for Socialism and clarify the political issues facing the workers.

Each Sunday in San Francisco small groups of Young Socialists can be found "holding the fort." From house to house, bundles of "Labor Action" under their arms, go these comrades bringing the message of Socialism to the workers.

All week long the workers are busy in the shops, but Sunday is their day of rest. Sunday is the day workers have a chance to read. Instead of the bosses' papers let's bring them Labor Action. Let our slogan be "arm the workers with Labor Action."

Organize for "Red SUNDAYS."

'Mr., Can You Spare a Dime?'

Plight of Homeless Millions

By PAUL KOLINSKI

"Mister can you spare a dime?" Have you ever been accosted by such a plea? Giving a helping hand to the unfortunates does not solve the problem of the homeless population.

The transient population prior to 1929 was estimated at 500,000. It has increased to an estimated army of from 3,000,000 to 5,000,000. Members of this homeless army can be found everywhere, wandering from city to city, pleading for assistance. Youth from poverty-stricken homes of the city and from the farm, unemployed workers, single and with families, dispossessed of their worldly belongings, migrate in search of employment and a new home. They hitch-hike, ride freight trains. The more fortunate drive $15 automobiles, begging gasoline as they go along.

The migrating population are undesirable folk, cast-offs of the economic system of capitalism. Hounded by the police from place to place; often beaten by railroad dectectives; when arrested in many states they are sentenced to forced labor on municipal owned farms and to road building. Many are killed in train wrecks and in freight yards trying to catch trains. In rain, heat, or freezing cold the homeless are on the move; sleeping in box-cars, old shacks, or even in the open; living on hand-outs of food. The municipal relief measures only permit 24 to 48 hour stops in the larger cities. Small communities have no accomodations of any sort for the transient.

When a migratory worker finds employment the employer takes undue advantage of the situation by paying him the lowest wage possible and working him long hours. Whenever the worker objects to his condition he is abused and is forced to quit, or is fired. The employer, to save his face, defends himself with such statements as: "He is nothing but a bum. Can you imagine it, I gave him a job and he refused to work." In the case of migratory farm workers who organize to demand better living conditions and wages, the hue and cry is "Agitators." The police are used by the employers to disperse the workers.

With his meager earnings the agitator, bum, or whatever name you desire to call him, congregates in the larger cities where he can find cheap lodgings and restaurants. The food sold in these restaurants is often unfit for human consumption. The lodgings are unclean and vermin infested. He loiters around employment offices for work. Sometimes he is lucky to acquire work for a fee of 10 to 20 per cent of his first months wages, works a few days and gets fired. Eventually, going broke, clothes becoming shabby, the transient again must repeat the story: "Mr. can you spare a dime?" And, if he is fortunate, after asking 25 to 50 people, he receives the requested dime. Sometimes the "law" sees him begging. He is arrested or run out of town and is on the move again. Eventually, a broken human derelict, the migratory worker finds an end in a pauper's grave.

NEW ADDRESS

New address for State Office, Labor Action, Young People's Socialist League, and San Francisco Local of the Socialist Party after January first will be 236 VAN NESS AVENUE, San Francisco.

"4 Days That Shook The Waterfront"
SEE
"The Notebook of An Agitator"
PAGE 3

Imperialists Plot Against Spain

(Continued from Page 1)

British Government Favors Franco

If any one still doubts that this is the content of the Anglo-French scheme, his doubts should be removed by the blunt words of Augur, unofficial spokesman of the British Foreign Office, writing in the New York Times of December 26:

"Frankly speaking, the British Government and majority public opinion (!) in this country would not object to the Insurgents winning with German help." Their objection, Augur makes clear, is simply to "the prospect of a lasting establishment of Germans on Spanish soil." Thus, the British seek merely for German guarantees against such lasting establishment; and in turn Britain, and her ally France, will cooperate wholeheartedly in imposing on Spain a conservative regime committed to capitalism.

Will the four imperialist powers succeed in imposing their will on Spain? Franco, of course, will follow Germany's wishes. But, equally, the "anti-fascist" bourgeoisie of both the Valencian and Barcelona governments will cooperate with the Anglo-French scheme. Indeed, the recent plot, involving over a hundred rightist leaders in Catalonia, and implication in which forced Juan Casanovas, President of the Catalan Parliament, to flee to Paris, was simply an attempt to murder the workers' leaders and thus facilitate a quick peace with Franco. Not only will the "anti-fascist" capitalists not stand in the way of the Anglo-French plan; they will gladly accept the assignment of carrying out that plan.

Counter-Revolutionary Task Facilitated

In this counter-revolutionary task the "anti-fascist" capitalists will be enormously aided by the fact that they are in the Peoples Front Governments in the Valencian and Barcelona capitals, and that these governments are, of course, limited to capitalist-democratic programs. The recent ministerial crisis in Catalonia enormously strengthened the right which, with the backing of the Stalinists and the Soviet officials, expelled the P.O.U.M. from the government and exacted from the C.N.T. promises to subordinate the trade unions to the government.

On the other hand, the possibility of working class resistance to the terrible betrayal which the European chancelleries are preparing, is weakened immeasurably by the strangulating bonds which tie the workers' organizations to the capitalists in the Peoples Front Governments. For the sake of this false "unity," the workers' parties gave up all the revolutionary weapons which would have strengthened their class and united it with the peasanty: workers' control of production, freedom for Morocco, workers' committees in factory, field and militia, land to the peasants, etc. Thus weakened, the proletariat is in serious danger of succumbing to the combined forces of their "own" bourgeoisie and the Anglo-French-Italian-German alliance.

The POUM Leads The Fight

The P.O.U.M. has taken the lead in warning the workers that "strangling the Spanish revolution" is the aim of the Anglo-French plan. Significant of developments in the P.O.U.M. is the reappearance of Juan Andrade, its ablest theoretician, who had been in eclipse during the past months. Now Andrade is hammering away with a daily political article in "La Batalla." The demand of the Stalinists for the suppression of the P.O.U.M. press, the attack upon the P.O.U.M. by Consul-General Ovseenko, the consequent expulsion of the P.O.U.M. from the government, appears to have awakened the P.O.U.M. to full realization of the imminent danger facing the P.O.U.M. and the preparations being made to crush the Catalan proletariat. If the P.O.U.M. has really ceased its gyrations, and sticks to its present course, and raises the struggle around the concrete developments, much may be done in short order to rouse the Spanish masses to guard against the imperialist and domestic capitalist schemes.

Where is the Soviet Union in all this? It has agreed to the Anglo-French proposal for forcing an armistice and plebiscite upon Spain. Stalin's puppet parties in all countries are covering up the counter-revolutionary nature of the Anglo-French plan. For example, the "Daily Worker" in an editorial, December 25th, perverts completely the significance of the Anglo-French moves and supports them! After hailing the recent steps taken by the French and British officials, the "Daily Worker" says:

"Only more collective steps by France, England, the United States, in collaboration with the greatest peace force, the Soviet Union, can speak to the fascist war-mongers in terms strong enough to halt whatever adventure their feverish and troubled brains may be plotting."

It is clear from this foul stuff that the Spanish proletariat will get no aid from the Soviet Union in preventing the unfolding of the Anglo-French plan.

But the workers throughout the world who are unfettered by Stalin's bonds can and must come to the aid of their Spanish brothers. The decision of the New York organization of the Socialist Party to organize batallions for Spain is a splendid step in this direction; the more revolutionary workers, skilled in military technique, who will be in Spain at the show-down, the more difficult will it be to force through the Anglo-French plan.

At the same time we must rouse the workers in America, through our mass meetings, our press, our daily contacts, to realization of the deadly plot directed against the Spanish workers. Through rousing of the American proletariat, we shall, by the thousands of channels linking them to the Spanish workers, convey to our fighting brothers a warning of the fate which is being prepared for them.

Trotsky Is Deported To Mexico

(Continued from Page 1)

were made public or to Trotsky during the ensuing months.

NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE

"Yet the Norwegian government deported Trotsky, and deported him in the most outrageous manner. Not until two days after he had been deported did his associates, or even his attorney learn that he had been forcibly carried aboard the 'Ruth' at the port of Fragestrand, on the night of December 19th. What happened to Trotsky's archives, his possessions, etc., we do not yet know; but Trotsky's request to communicate with attorney or friends to make arrangements for his belongings was refused. Even after Trotsky was on the ocean, the Norwegian Labor Party officials, who constitute the government, lied to his attorney about his whereabouts.

"We, together with all progressive forces in the labor and liberal movement of the world, register our shocked protest at this outrageous conduct of the Norwegian government. We hold the Norwegian government strictly responsible for any harm that may befall Trotsky on the voyage.

"Now more than ever we must ask all friends of the right of asylum to come to the aid of Trotsky. Preparations to assure and safeguard Trotsky's place of asylum necessitate very heavy expenses on our part. Send all funds to this committee, Room 511, 22 E. 17th St., New York City."

Archbishops Reject Pacifist Position

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a recent statement, rejected the doctrine of "full Pacifism" from the point of view of "practical realities." The head of the Church of England was joined by the Archbishop of York in the statement that said "circumstances might arise in which participation in war would not be inconsistent with their duties as Christians."

"The Archbishop of York," the statement continued, "expressed disagreement with the extreme Pacifist position as being based on incomplete understanding of the implications of the Gospel as contained in the New Testament."

Publishers Fight Guild

Organized newspaper publishers were asked to refuse to deal with organized editorial workers, in a recommendation issued by the board of directors of American Newspaper Publishers Association.

Any agreement that contained regulation of pay on a time basis, or arbitration of the causes of dismissal of editorial employees, should not be signed, according to the board.

Farm Tenantry Growing

While census figures show that 2,865,155 farms are being operated by tenants, the number is increasing by 40,000 each year, according to estimates by the Department of Agriculture.

CORRECTION

In last week's column a paragraph giving credit to the Dominguez Hills Circle for raising more than a hundred dollars for Labor Action appeared. This was a bad misprint. The credit for that splendid job is due to the Rosa Luxemberg Circle of Berkeley. And while we're mentioning the Berkeley Yipsels we want to pat them on the back for the fine job they have been doing in selling Labor Action and mobilizing support for it.

Big Issues At Student Convention

Delegations Reflect Social Upheaval On Campus

Ed. Note: This article was received from a California YPSL delegate now in Chicago for the American Student Union Convention.

CHICAGO—Three to four hundred students, fresh from a semester's work in high schools and colleges throughout the country, are meeting here to determine the fate of the militant nonpartisan student movement for a year to come, and to review the achievements of the American Student Union in its first year of existence.

Elected by ASU chapters from New York to California, these representatives of student youth are reflecting the social upheaval on the campus by their serious interest in political and world affairs.

Raccoon coats, baggy trousers, school pennants, and decorated flivvers—those reminders of the rah-rah days when students did not care what they did with their money or their intellects—are conspicuous by their absence.

Although it is too early to report on the proceedings, the air is filled with discussions on what evidently will be the two main issues: the ASU's stand on the struggle against war and the labor party question.

LABOR (AND STUDENT) PARTY

Communist students, in their anxiety to make the Labor Party, when and if it comes, actually a populist party of class collaboration, are eager to have mixed class groups like the students "in on the ground floor." (To do this they are even willing to sacrifice student unity).

However, all other elements among the delegates are determined to keep the Student Union a united front student rights and anti-war movement of students of all political beliefs, and it appears certain that any attempted commitment of the ASU to a particular political party will be defeated on the floor, if it even gets that far.

Another question worrying the Communists is the very obvious contradiction between their "new line" of supporting "good wars" and the Oxford Pledge not to support any war engaged in by the government, which is part of the ASU constitution.

COLLECTIVE INSECURITY

While it is likely they will be forced to support the Oxford Pledge now as they did last year, for fear of utter isolation from the anti-war forces, there is a strong possibility that an attempt will be made to emasculate its effect by a "supporting" resolution calling for so-called "collective security."

This will be bitterly combatted by this year's strong bloc of Young Socialist delegates, true to the Socialist traditions of 1917 when the Party refused to be taken in by talk of a war "for democracy" and "to end war."

The Young Socialists, however, while opposing these maneuvers against the present ASU position, would like to see the latter changed. This change they state in a mimeographed declaration, must be accomplished by discussion among the membership, of which very little took place prior to the convention. For that reason they are not advocating a mechanically imposed change at the convention, but will ask for more adequate pre-convention discussion in the future, at which they will fight for their position.

STRIKE MILITANCY

In addition to the war and labor questions, which possibly may not even reach the floor, other controversial issues will be the question of mass action vs. lobbying tactics for the American Youth Act, an omnibus Youth bill for student aid and work relief, and the character of the annual Great Student Strike against War. Last year this "dress rehearsal for what we will do if war comes" was deprived of some of its militancy by instances of colloboration with the school administration and Wilsonian war slogans such as "Stop the Aggressor." The lack of a clear line on whether the ASU was "For Peace," i.e., for the status quo which must inevitably lead to another war, or genuinely and militantly against imperialist war weakened the strike in some localities.

The broader question of what place programmatic positions such as the one on war can have in a united front organization, will be raised by the Young Socialists in discussions among the membership.

CHICAGO SOCIALIST NOTES

Burt, Trager, to Be Feted

Chicago Socialists will welcome their new national secretary, Roy Burt, and the new Socialist Party national labor and organization secretary, Frank Trager, at a reception on Saturday, January 23, at 1160 West Grand.

The affair will include an Italian spaghetti and wine dinner given by the comrades of the local Italian Socialist Federation.

County Meeting Records Progress

Progress in the Chicago Socialist movement was noted at a county delegate and membership meeting held last week in that city.

It was reported that the county offices had been moved to larger quarters at 35 South Dearborn and that a full time county literature agent had been appointed.

The Clarence Senior Testimonial and Farewell Dinner was reported to have been "a success from every point of view." Over $600 was raised for the Senior Purse.

On the trade union field advances have been particularly marked. Socialist Party members took the lead in securing a vote of censure by the normally conservative Chicago Federation of Labor against its delegate, who supported reactionary measures at the Tampa A. F. of L. convention.

It was announced that hereafter all Socialist trade unionists are to hold monthly meetings, and organize Socialist Leagues where two or more Party members belong to the same union.

The county central committee upheld the expulsion of Kruhe, a Stalinist "borer from within," who recently had a letter printed in the Daily Worker, for breach of Party discipline. His "appeal" consisted of a denunciation of "Trotskyism."

The meeting closed with a discussion of the national executive committee decisions, which were reported on by Roy Burt, new national secretary.

Appeal Association Meets

The Socialist Appeal Association, organized to boost the Socialist Appeal and popularize its principles, met here to discuss a program for the Socialist Party which appears in the current issue.

Al Glotzer reported for the Association action committee on the program, after which Melos Most spoke on the decisions of the Socialist Party national execcutive committee meeting. A lively discussion followed.

F. L. Governor Runs Out On Labor Demann

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 19.—Several weeks ago, the Minneapolis Central Labor Union passed a resolution opposing the calling of a lame duck session of the legislature, and notifying Governor Hjalmar Peterson of this decision. The recent state convention of the Workers Alliance of Minnesota also took this same position.

SOCIALIST WARNING VERIFIED

The Socialist Party in the last election, while giving critical support to the Farmer-Labor ticket, warned the workers against just such tricks as the Governor is playing now. "In view of the program and record of the Farmer-Labor Party," we said, "we urge the greatest amount of vigilance in compelling these officials to carry out their election pledge for . . . the passage of social legislation."

Erber Speaks At Chicago On Spanish War

CHICAGO.—A mass meeting to greet Ernest Erber, national chairman of the Young People's Socialist League recently returned from Barcelona, who will speak on "What I Saw in Spain" will be held here on January 7 at 3206 Wilton Avenue.

The meeting will be of special interest to Chicago workers because of Erber's reputation as a keen observer, his unusual experiences in Spain, and the fact that he had an access to the different working-class organizations there.

Local Cook County of the Socialist Party, which is sponsoring the meeting, intends to make it a demonstration of more than just moral support for the embattled workers of Spain. "At this meeting," county secretary Arthur G. McDowell reported, "funds will be raised for transmission directly in the name of the Socialist Party for buying arms and supplies for the Spanish workers."

"Sit-Down" Epidemic Hits Toledo

Dismissal of 4,000 On WPA Brings Quick Reply

By Lou Sherman

TOLEDO.—The sit-down epidemic has hit Toledo. First it was the 1500 glass worers who are holding down the Libby-Owens-Ford plant in Rossford, near here.

Now the Lucas County Workers Alliance members are making preparations for squatting at WPA headquarters, vowed not to leave until Workers' Alliance demands are met.

The sit-down is in answer to the move of WPA officials in Washington who have announced that the 4000 WPA workers scheduled to start work immediately on a number of projects must continue to go jobless because—the conservation department must survey the projects for wild-game life!

The stupidity of the maneuver was apparent to even the News-Bee, local pro-Administration sheet. The News-Bee scored the Administration for placing wild-game life ahead of human life.

ORGANIZED ACTION

Aroused by the sabotage, the Workers Alliance called an emergency meeting, voted for the sit-down. After they make themselves at home in the administration building, telegrams will be dispatched to Hopkins and Roosevelt, demanding immediate action in starting the project. Support of organized labor and liberals is being mobilized.

The sit-down proposal is the latest tilt in the battle of the Lucas County Workers Alliance vs. the WPA Administration. The WPA scored in the first round with a mass lay-off of 4000 workers before Christmas.

Coming out strong in the second round, the Workers Alliance threw a picket-line around WPA headquarters, demanding reinstatement of laid-off workers. Calling themselves "Project 403" (403 is the lay-off slip), the picket line wrapped itself around the building and forced WPA officials to go to work between signs which read, "We voted for Roosevelt; We got Landon's Program" and "A Christmas present from the WPA—4000 layoffs."

The Action Army

By FRANK STERN

Until this morning we were scared that there wouldn't be any material for a column because all our boosters were hanging around the fireplace waiting for Kris Kringle to come down with his whiskers full of soot and his bag full of goodies. We think that all that did come down the chimney was a cold draft because the Action Army boys were rudely reminded of their revolutionary duty and got to work.

But the thing that warmed the cockles of our heart almost as much as the subs and contributions in the morning mail was the batch of letters protesting the vicious slanders of the business manager which the editor (?) put into the editorial column last week under the heading "congratulations?" Keep the protests and subs rolling in comrades. But concentrate on the subs.

Heading the list this week is that plugging comrade down Los Angeles way, Ernest Peri, whose half dozen subs get him another weekly first prize and puts him in first place for the monthly prize of Trotsky's "History of the Russian Revolution" with a total of 34 subs for the month. With only three more days to go it looks like Ernie has the prize in the bag, but who knows what may happen.

Starting January first a brand new competition starts with the same prizes being given. Everybody is eligible with the exception of the Labor Action staff. Winners of monthly prizes cannot repeat but are eligible for weekly prizes. Start the new year right by enrolling in the Action Army.

Apropos (notice the fancy language) of our appeal for Xmas gifts for Labor Action comes a letter and sub from Joe Brinocar of Springfield, Illinois, with the following comment: "It is not from any Christmas spirit on my part that I am enclosing a sub for Labor Action—but only because I like the paper."

Ernie Norback of San Francisco who is running around in a daze getting the new headquarters ready for the New Year's Eve housewarming and dance at the new party headquarters, snapped out of it long enough to drop into the office with a brace of subs, and Earl Chester of the Frisco Yipsels who runs an upsy-downsy in a downtown office building took time off during his lunch hour to do the same.

Ben Maxon who is here on a visit from Los Angeles mixed duty with pleasure and earned the right to get into the honor roll of the Action Army.

From Vancouver, B.C. comes an order for a weekly bundle (with cash paid in advance by Al Ferguson) with the comment that "yours is the one revolutionary paper in a welter of reformism."

And John Enestvedt formerly of Brookwood writes from Sacred Heart, Minnesota, "The paper is swell, I just can't miss any issues." Thanks John—we'll see that you don't.

Also heard from this week are Ches. Johnson of Minneapolis, A. Schreiber of Detroit, Frank McClelland of Webster Groves, Mo., Binkley of Cobb, Calif., Jean Rudd of Denver, and Norman Thomas of New York.

We'd like to see more of the western branches and locals coming through with bundle orders. Though the response so far has been gratifying there are still many locals in the west who are not doing their part to build Labor Action. Your credit is good comrades. Just send us a post-card telling us how many papers you can use, and we'll ship them to you.

And you Action Army members start the new year right by doubling the score on subscribers to Labor Action. Let's go for a real revolutionary upsurge in 1937.

WPA Is Hit By "Sit-In" At Chicago

(Continued from Page 1)

that the release bore a date almost a week old (2 days before the sit-in began) and had since been contradicted by the administration's own actions!

On another occasion Charles Miner, local WPA deputy administrator, spoke to the demonstrators saying that "all in need will be cared for." When questions from the floor made him admit that this was a "supposition" and not a promise, Foley immediately rose and declared, "I want to point out the constructive features of Mr. Miner's talk."

AGREEMENT VIOLATED

The matter of what to do in case of expulsion of the corridor guard was also an important one in the sit-in, which was, according to the steering committee itself, a demonstration of militant tactics rather than a strike. Gibbons favored having the corridor guard seat themselves on the floor and force the police to carry them out if necessary. Foley proposed their walking out "in dignified fashion." A compromise was finally reached, and a written agreement drawn up, that the majority should walk out but a few remain at the door and refuse to leave of their own will.

Foley immediately proceeded to violate the agreement he himself had signed, by secretly sending out instructions to his friends that pact should be disregarded.

Branches and members of the Socialist Party and Young People's Socialist League were active in picket duty, fund-raising, and other work for the sit-in.

THE FICKERT-MOONEY REINCARNATION

A Story With A Moral - - Earl Warren

By MARC F. CHLEMENS

Borne out of the past, 1916, through the portals of memory bolstered by newspaper files, comes the story of the man and labor leader, Tom Mooney, who San Francisco's then District Attorney Fickert attempted to use as a political stepping stone. This proved a stepping stone for Mr. Fickert alright—a stepping down stone.

From a leading figure politically and socially, until he wantonly and deliberately trop upon the soul of labor, to the present day and time, Mr. Fickert's background and history reads like a Horatio Alger book in reverse.

1916-1936, 20 years; a score of years ago, Mr. Fickert stood upon an ambitious pedestal. As he later showed, with feet of clay—clay of selfishness and self-advancement at the cost of life and happiness of those very persons responsible in large part for his attainment of the District Attorneyship of San Francisco.

And in 1916 he was regarded, and not without reason, as potential gubernatorial timber. His was the governorship of the State of California, if he had only kept his political nose clean.

Fickert's Downfall

This article is not aimed as an attack upon Mr. Fickert, but it will be necessary to delve into his lack of forthrightness and personally weak resistance to the political business element that would, if it could, always hold labor in subjection.

But Mr. Fickert's political elevator went down, and even most of his closest allies, knowing that he was washed up by his relentless and vindicative attacks upon Tom Mooney and Labor, began edging away from him at the time.

For the past ten years or longer, it is reliably reported, the one time District Attorney of San Francisco, has been living on the "charity" of "friends," who it is said in turn, gave him money to stay away from them. This might not be a bribe, that they wouldn't be seen with him. Although it might be interpreted as one would pay insurance against contact with a plague.

And whether the story of Fickert of today, 1936, 20 years after his persecution-prosecution of Tom Mooney, as merely a bulbous nosed, drunken bum who sometimes makes a cheap hotel, but ordinarily hangs out in flop houses, is entirely true or not, it seems sufficient to observe,

There is it seems a suspicion there must be fire where there is smoke. Also, that it doesn't pay to try to take Labor for a ride with a District Attorney for a Chauffeur.

Fickert and Warren

Of course there is no comparison between Mr. Fickert and Mr. Warren—much.

It is a peculiar thing though, that in 1936, Mr. Earl Warren is the District Attorney of another bay city, Oakland, California. And, further, it is only a coincidence that Mr. Warren is also politically ambitious.

There is it seems a suspirion entertained in the minds of a great many thinking people who vote that here is an unusual fellow who has shown an aptitude for obtaining convictions in cases, although and similar cases in Oakland and elsewhere have been thrown out of court or dismissed for lack of evidence. It might be entirely fair to state that some of these people harbored the quaint notion that Mr. Warren may have a "very hypnotic effect" upon the judge trying his cases.

Others have been reported as feeling that if Mr. Warren had placed a certain judge on the bench, through his efforts, it would be no more than "right" that the judge should make known his "gratitude."

Strange Coincidence

It is merely an additional coincidence, that Mr. Warren should also be a leading figure politically and socially. And, tut tut, the fact really shouldn't be considered, that Mr. Warren is also eyeing the governorship of the State of California. As to HIS looking through furniture catalogues, to better familiarize himself with what will be the right size desk to rest his feet on in the governor's office, this is due, undoubtedly, to mere curiosity.

Far be it from the writer of this article to say that what has been enacted before (1916), is being reenacted (1936 style). Neither would the writer say that Mr. W. is an understudy to Mr. F., but——.

It is an uncommon thing, this memory business, like the elephant labor doesn't forget. 1916-1936 and 1936-1956. There is a funny thing. There is exactly a score of years represented in the interim of both of those figures. And this article was not planned to be a horoscope, but it might be of interest to know whether in 1956 somebody in Oakland will ask, "Who is that strange looking bird going down the street, who looks like he'd contracted swingingdoor-itus?" And then, the other person would answer, "Well, that's a fellow by the name of Warren. Used to do some district attorneying about these parts about 20 years ago."

Stepping Stone—Down

The person who answered, may have been in a reminiscent mood, when he added, "Yes sir, it's the way the world has always been. What you put into it, you get out of it. As you sow, so shall ye reap. That fellow, you were asking me about, at one time had a good chance of being the Governor of the State of California, but he tried to use the soul of labor for a stepping stone."

"A stepping stone?", his questioner asked.

"Yes." And there was a strange laugh. "A stepping stone alright,—stepping down."

It is pretty well conceded that if Mr. Warren wishes to seal his political doom, all he has to do is to listen to the Lorelei call of "certain" ship owners and party leaders: and continue his ambition-blinded course in the prosecution of men without evidence against them.

It is common talk in the street, that there may be a recall against Warren, thereby keeping three innocent men; Frank J. Conner, Earl King and Ernest C. Ramsay from being sucked into a lethal political machine, where they may be killed, in order to satiate one "man's" political gloatings.

SOCIALIST YOUTH

The Minneapolis Y.P.S.L. is getting into mass work. A large group of comrades are at present active in the Minneapolis trade union movement. Recently, one of our comrades was involved in a sit-down strike in a local garment factory which was won in short order. Other Yipsels are active in the Stenographer's Union, the Soda and Beverage Dispenser's Union, the Federal Worker's Section of Local No. 544, etc. The Circle is putting on a subscription drive for LABOR ACTION and expects to go over the top in short order.

The Minneapolis Circle of the Y.P.S.L. meets every Tuesday evening at 8 p. m. at 631 3rd Avenue South. Open meetings take place on the last Tuesday of each month. The Y.P.S.L. study class in the history of the Three Internationals takes place every Sunday evening at the same address at 8 p. m.

The St. Paul Circle of the Y.P.S.L. meets every Wednesday evening at 147 W. 5th St., St. Paul.

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The Notebook of an Agitator

Four Days that Shook the Waterfront—The Sailors' Union Captured—They Haven't Got the Right Color Yet.

The four days beginning on the afternoon of Thursday, the day before Christmas, and ending abruptly on the afternoon of Monday, December 28th—S.U.P. time—deserve to go down in the history of San Francisco alongside the famous earthquake. And as the earthquake is never mentioned by native sons without a certain embarrassment, so it is very likely that the sailors who sail the ships will not want to talk about what happened on December 24th.

For on that date the sailors who sail the sailors—in other words the waterfront "fraction" of the Communist Party—"captured" the Sailors' Union of the Pacific. And that was a boat ride the off shore sailors will not soon forget and will never want to talk about. To be sure it only lasted for four days. But many a rugged seaman, who has sailed windjammers and kept his spirits up and sung a merry song through perilous seas and hurricanes galore, grew sick and faint on the voyage. They quaked with fear and never smiled until the look-out sighted land, two points off the starboard bow. The famous imaginative picture of Christopher Columbus and his hardy crew, kneeling in thanksgiving for a safe arrival after storms at sea, would not do justice to the jubilant feelings of the west coast sailors Monday afternoon when they walked down the gang plank, off the C.P. ship and safe at last. The ship is moored fast to the dock, hatches battened and gear squared up, and all hands accounted for. So now the story can be told.

Athletes Need Practice

It happened this way. All athletes must keep in training, and the Communist Party, which holds the all-time record for capturing and wrecking unions, is, in a way, an athlete. A prize-fighter, as they say, has to get a fight under his belt every now and then or he goes stale, and the Stalinite party has to "take over" a union every so often in order to keep in shape to fulfill its historic-mission. They marked "next" after the name of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific sometime ago, and have been reconnoitering, or "casing," the job ever since.

Three things stood in their way: (1) The conservative class-collaborationist policies of the so-called communists do not square with the militant traditions and sentiments of the sailors; (2) the rank and file don't want to be "captured"; (3) the leaders of the union know what the score is and do not want any part of C.P. policy or C.P. "control."

Last week the athletic commisars decided to hurdle all these obstacles in one leap. A special combination of circumstances arose which seemed to present the opportunity. Some of the special circumstances were accidental. The others were created, or, to speak plainer English, framed. Things happened rapidly and rather hectically, and some of the sailors, like rescued victims of a ship-wreck, are still a little dizzy and hazy in their recollections. But here is about the way the story they tell pieces together:

The Sailors' Agreement

Harry Lundeberg, Secretary of the Sailors' Union, negotiated an agreement with the shipowners for submission to the membership. There was nothing wrong about that; it has been the practice of all the unions in the Maritime Federation to negotiate separately; three other unions were actually negotiating at the same time. The solidarity obligation of the Federation is for no union to sign an agreement until a settlement is made with all.

There was nothing wrong about the agreement, either. It secured concessions which the people who wanted to stall off, postpone and finally prevent the strike—and they were not Lundeberg and his friends—never dreamed of getting when they were denouncing the sailors as "strike crazy" and "the obstacle to settlement." As a matter of fact the agreement negotiated by Lundeberg contains the best and clearest provisions for union recognition and control of hiring ever put on paper, and every informed unionist knows it.

But the Communist Party, which opposed and tried to prevent the strike and fought the militant class struggle line of Lundeberg, couldn't get any credit from a good agreement secured by strike action and negotiated by Lundeberg. Consequently they launched a hue and cry against it.

That is the real reason behind all their ballyhoo of the past week. They put insinuations into circulation about "one-man negotiations" and broadcast the infamous lie that the Sailors were planning to make a separate settelement, although the union had made a public statement that it would not sign any agreement until all the unions had negotiated satisfactory settlements.

The sailors, who are too well known for their patience and good natured tolerance, finally got mad and put out a bulletin in reply to the slanders. This famous "Bulletin No. 32" stated the facts in forthright language and expressed the true sentiments of the sea-going sailors. That put the fat in the fire. What's this? These damn sailors are beginning to talk back! Don't they know the "party" has a monopoly of the publicity business? Hell began to pop in earnest. The frame-up machine went into action and the stage was set for the "raid" on the Sailors' Union.

What was the game? The game was to represent the sailors as strike breakers in a deal with the bosses and to frame Lundeberg as a betrayer of the workers' trust. That was the dirty game, no less. And for this nefarious business the trustworthy San Francisco Chronicle, which has dealt the sailors many a blow below the belt in the past, was pressed into service again.

The Framed Headline

The Chronicle was "accidentally" supplied a copy of the sailors' bulletin. Then it came out in its first edition early in the evening of December 23 with the screaming headline: "LUNDEBERG FOLLOWERS JOIN SHIPOWNERS IN ATTACK ON BRIDGES."

That Chronicle headline was not an honest headline written by a disinterested editor honestly reporting the news. The Chronicle headline was framed! It was framed to put Lundeberg and the sailors in a false light before the workers, create demoralization in their ranks and prepare the way for the "raid" on the sailors union. Lundeberg was out of town—on a train to the northern ports to report to the membership. The "party fraction" was mobilized. A special meeting of the Sailors' Union was hastily engineered in an atmosphere of panic. An attorney, who is as handy in a union as a sailor in a law office, misrepresented the position of the absent Lundeberg. The militants were caught off guard, disorganized and thrown into confusion.

The Union "Captured"

By four o'clock of the afternoon of December 24 the following results emerged to confront the groggy sailors: "Bulletin No. 32" had been repudiated; a resolution had been adopted in which the proud Sailors' Union of the Pacific humbly apologized for answering the slanders against it; and a new publicity committee had been elected to convey to the world at large the excuses of the sailors for living. It was a field day for the dry-land sailors, the meddling lawyers and the framers of crooked headlines. The Sailors' Union of the Pacific had been "captured."

And it remained captured for four days—four days that shook the waterfront and brought the noses of the humiliated militants down to their knees in a sort of circle. The new "publicity committee" began issuing press releases and bulletins, apologizing on behalf of the Sailors' Union to all and sundry and rubbing it in on the chagrined and embarrassed militants who built the union in bitter struggles and love it as their life. The fog hung heavy over the embarcadero. As one old-timer expressed it: "The Sailors' Union was lower than a whale's belly."

The Fog Clears

But the sun is persistent, and along about Sunday afternoon the fog began to clear. One militant after another began to come to, and to ask: "What happened? Where am I?" That was a bad sign for the people who had slipped them the Mickey Finns. Lundeberg came back to town roaring like a bull about the dirty tricks played in his absence and the misrepresentation of his position. The framed Chronicle headline began to appear in its true light and purpose. The hour for the regular Monday afternoon meeting drew near—and with it the reckoning.

When the minutes of the special meeting with their shameful record were read at the regular meeting, Lundeberg took the floor to present a resolution. It carried the signatures of about 30 union members whose names are the militant banner of the union. Lundeberg spoke. Others followed him. The organized "booing squad" of the Communist Party was silent—the sailors, sobered up and on their guard, were in no mood for monkey business.

Then the vote. Lundeberg's resolution was carried with a mighty roar. The opposition—who had been in "control" of the union for four days—mustered only 66 votes out of more than 1,000 present. The proceedings of the special meeting were declared null and void. The new 4-day "publicity committee' was fired. "Bulletin No. 32" reaffirmed. The union was "uncaptured," the real militants were back at the helm and the surroundings began once more to appear the same to the sailors who had just returned from wild and unfamiliar seas which they had never wanted to sail in the first place.

What of the Future?

It was a wild ride while it lasted. And it is a warning to the sailors that it is still possible in these days to get shanghaied and it is better to be on guard in the future.

As for the 4-day "publicity committee" of the raiding party, they deserve a break—at least a quotation in recognition of their literary endeavors. In the "West Coast Sailor," Bulletin No. 36, issued under date of December 28—the day they ceased to be—they published an overture that turned out to be a swan song. They said: "We know that our efforts in the issuance of **future** strike bulletins shall be successful only to the extent which the rank and file cooperate with us."

That's a fine sentiment, pals. But, as the saying goes,

"Why worry about the future?
The first will soon be last;
The future will soon be present
And the present will soon be past."

In the meantime, I notice that the latest number of the Maritime Worker is changed from arsenical green paper to white. They haven't got the right color yet.

—J.P.G.

The Capitalist Conspiracy Against Spanish Workers

The British-French Scheme to Dismember the Country

By ALFREDO ROJAS

Paralyzingly cold weather has settled down on the high plateau on which Madrid is perched and, coupled with the strengthened defenses of the capital city, will slow down military operations. Even with steadily increasing numbers of German and Italian troops, General Franco may not launch a decisive assault until the Spring.

The real and most pressing danger to the anti-fascist cause now comes from the European chancelleries and their allies behind the anti-fascist lines. Nor is the most pressing danger now coming from Germany and Italy.

A far more immediate danger is the British-French scheme for intervention "to end the bloodshed." The unofficial but thoroughly authoritative spokesman for the British Foreign Office, "Augur," writing in the New York Times of December 17, states that "The dust raised by the British constitutional crisis has served to hide from the world the outstanding fact that the Anglo-French Entente has now become something more than a mere unwritten agreement to cooperate," and that the Entente is "immensely stimulated" because the United States "approves their proposal to intervene as mediators in Spain."

"Augur" reveals that "the British have been working to promote local armistices between the Rebels and Loyalists. The offer of the Basque regional government at Bilbao to conclude a Christmas armistice was directly due to discreet intervention by British agents who hope this may lead to a complete suspension of hostilities."

"The French," adds "Augur," are "exercising similar influence in Barcelona, where their success is less marked because the desires of President Luis Companys of the Catalan Generalidad to end the bloodshed have been overawed by the Communists and anarchists."

Imperialist Scheme To Dismember Spain

Behind "Augur's" discreet words lies a bold and ruthless imperialist scheme for dismembering Spain. The Anglo-French Entente plan, after securing the agreement of Germany and Italy, is to force an armistice in Spain. The armistice would be followed by a plebiscite, ostensibly to determine the will of the Spaniards, but actually designed to preserve the status quo. Thus, the Franco regime would be left in control of the territories it now holds by military force, while the rest of Spain would be divided up between a Basque capitalist republic—separated geographically from the east coast—and another republic comprising Valencia and Catalonia. Both the French-English-German-Italian bloc and the Franco regime would be prepared to overawe any attempts of the Mediterranean and Basque workers to go forward to complete the social revolution.

A week ago the Anglo French proposal may have seemed futile, since Italy and Germany had committed themselves officially to Franco. But the Anglo-French scheme "saved face" for the Italo-German bloc by leaving Franco with part of Spain in his grip. In the face of the firm defense of the Spanish workers, moreover, both Italy and Germany have begun to move toward a common front with France and England.

Italy and Britain will soon publish the text of an Anglo-Italian agreement of common interest in maintenance of the territorial status quo in the Mediterranean, according to the New York Times of December 19 and 20. Thus isolated on this question, the German semi-official "Diplomatische Korrespondenz" published a statement, conciliatory toward England, conceding the main line of Britain's policy. The Anglo-French scheme is becoming the basis for imperialist intervention against the Spanish workers.

Both the anarcho-syndicalist C.N.T., and the Marxist P.O.U.M. have quickly recognized the ominous significance of the Anglo-French proposal, as "an effort to strangle the Spanish revolution," as the P.O.U.M. bluntly termed it. But the Spanish liberal-capitalist parties have welcomed the Anglo-French proposal, while Caballero's government has accepted it in principle, as has the Soviet government.

Exploiters Triumph In Catalan Crisis

It is in the light of this developing imperialist scheme for strangling the Spanish workers, that one must evaluate the recent ministerial crisis in Catalonia. As "Augur" reveals, the President of Catalonia, Companys, leader of the liberal-capitalists, "desires" "to end the bloodshed," i.e., sees eye-to-eye with the Anglo-French scheme. No wonder, for only imperialist intervention can prevent Catalonia eventually from becoming a socialist state. Only imperialist intervention can wrest from the armed workers their arms. Precisely the realization of this situation was behind the capitalist counter-revolutionary plot to assassinate the workers' leaders, set up an independent state and make peace with Franco, which was uncovered by the C.N.T. on November 27, and for complicity in which over 100 leading liberal "anti-fascists" are now held in Montjuich Prison.

But as "Augur" says, Companys is prevented from following the French leading-string because of the opposition of Communists and Anarchists. The Communists to whom "Augur" refers are the members of the P.O.U.M., who more than any other party or organization have criticized Companys and the capitalists and the imperialists.

Companys and his associates, therefore, have launched a whole series of attacks upon the P.O.U.M., hoping that if this smaller organization could be weakened and isolated, and perhaps eventually suppressed altogether, the problem of coping with the powerful C.N.T. would be facilitated. On many questions the C.N.T. has followed the lead of the P.O.U.M., particularly on the crucial question of refusing to turn over to remnants of the military caste the decisive control over the workers' militias. The C.N.T. also agrees with the P.O.U.M. that the social revolution must be made if fascism is to be finally conquered.

P.O.U.M. Out of Catalan Government

Various attempts at pogroms against the P.O.U.M. have been thwarted, the C.N.T. coming to the defense of the P.O.U.M. against the opposition.

Finally came the carefully-planned resignation of Companys' associate, Premier Tarradellas, with a declaration on December 14 that he was resigning because he refused to accept further responsibility for "the action of irresponsible, uncontrolled groups." Many thought he was referring to the anarchists. Yet once again Tarradellas heads the government and the anarchists are again represented. The real purpose of the maneuver was to discredit the P.O.U.M. by driving it out of the government and at the same time to exact from the anarchists new pledges of subordination of factory committees, the militias, etc. to the authority of the Catalan government.

The maneuver succeeded. Despite their previous agreement with the P.O.U.M. and their excoriations of the rightists, the C.N.T. finally agreed to the exclusion of the P.O.U.M. The bait to which they finally succumbed was the turning over to the C.N.T. of the Ministry of Defense, formally in charge of Catalonia's armed troops. But this is only the prelude to Company's attempt to subordinate Catalonia's troops to the Madrid general staff and thus deprive the C.N.T. of the prize for which it prostituted itself.

The question immediately arises, however: How could the bourgeoisie—which on September 25th fawningly prostrated itself before the workers' organizations, begging only for minority representation in a re-constituted cabinet—force the C.N.T. to agree, against the will of the C.N.T. to the exclusion of the P.O.U.M? The answer is that the rightists alone could not. Only the support of the Stalinists and the Soviet officials in Spain enabled them to have their way.

News Suppressed

The American "Daily Worker" has suppressed all news of the counter-revolutionary plot exposed on November 27; has suppressed all news of the attack against the P.O.U.M. made by the Russian Counsul-General Ovseenko on November 28th—an attack which, calling the P.O.U.M. the usual slanderous terms employed by Stalinism against revolutionaries, was picked up by the Catalan capitalist press, but scotched by the defense of the C.N.T. Furthermore, the Daily Worker has suppressed all reference to the threat of Soviet Consul-General Ovseenko that all Russian aid would be cut off from Spain if Catalonia granted the demand of the C.N.T. and P.O.U.M. for asylum to Trotsky.

No wonder that the Daily Worker keeps silent. For not even the brazen Stalinist penprostitutes can find words to defend the reactionary Soviet alliance with the Catalan capitalists against the revolutionary workers.

Even though the C.N.T.—which like all anarchist organizations, despite its often-perspicacious proletarian instincts, lacks a Marxist rudder to guide it in the maelstrom—has entered the new Catalan government, the Anarchists' fundamental hostility to the liberal capitalists and the frequency of the clashes between them, give the Stalinists little assurance that they will be able to drag the C.N.T. along much further. This is the explanation behind the vicious attack on the C.N.T. in the Daily Worker of December 18:

"Unable themselves to confront the workers desiring unity, regardless of their political affiliation, those Anarcho-Syndicalist leaders who have fought against a unified command, centralized discipline, and the strengthening of one central state power to defeat Fascism, find the Trotskyite counter-revolutionaries (the P.O.U.M.) valuable forces to instigate rifts in the anti-Fascist front."

Yes, it is true that the P.O.U.M., and following it the C.N.T., have refused to accept a unified command and a centralized state power—in the hands of the capitalists! Instead, they have demanded a unified command and an all-workers government. There are only two kinds of states, Marx taught us: either the capitalist state or the workers' state. Stalinism has openly avowed the latter for Spain!

Responsibility Of P.O.U.M.

The P.O.U.M. itself must also bear its share of responsibility for the success of the maneuvers of the Catalan bourgeoisie. The P.O.U.M.'s mistake in entering the Catalan cabinet on September 26, instead of refusing to enter anything but an All-Workers Government, facilitated the schemes of the capitalists. That the P.O.U.M. is excluded from the present government is no great tragedy at all; the tragedy lies in the fact that the P.O.U.M. first permitted itself to rehabilitate this government during the last three months.

Yet, even though not setting its own course, the P.O.U.M. is now placed in the position where it may begin the task of building the factory and militia committees, uniting them in local, regional and national networks, bringing them together in a Congress of Delegates, and thus create the only possible conditions under which all power can pass to the elected representatives of the toiling and fighting masses.

They Cooked Some Peppery Dishes For New Year's Dinner

Crary Trimble

It is appropriate at this time of year to burst with self-congratulatory happy thoughts about what we have to be thankful for in the year just past, and to burble happy thoughts about the prospects of the splendid New Year facing us. The memory of that big Christmas dinner, of the presents, the friends, the firesides, causes editors of the capitalist press to write fat columns that reek of smugness.

Not being a capitalist editor, I can afford to permit my column to dwell on the lean and hungry. Of course one mustn't be narrow minded. Somewhere along in the great year 1936, Roosevelt promised that no one should go hungry. In fulfillment of that promise several thousand WPA workers have just spent a happy holiday season just gorging themselves on the "separation" slips; the unsavory Copeland Act, only temporarily postponed in effect, has been set before the seamen as a New Year's dish by super-chef Roosevelt; unemployed workers who have been living on weekly government commissary rations have been returned to sweet charity and the glorious memory of a basket-full of goodies once a year; workers in the agricultural industry are offered a diet of yellow-dog contracts. Yes, we have all been well fed this Christmas.

And now, as we sit around the fire, let's thank God we're not like other people.

Let's be grateful we're not in Spain where workers are being "forced to give up their security" for a bloody civil war that is so much more terrible than the kind of slaughter their imperialist bosses would have herded them into (yes, we've seen the news reels, too). We live in America where agricultural workers are gassed and shot down because they strike. Isn't the American way better It's so much less trouble for the capitalists!

Aren't you glad you don't live in Germany where innocent workers are imprisoned, herded into concentration camps, denied the right of free speech? How about it Tom Mooney? And you share-croppers in Arkansas? And you prisoners of the Sacramento and Modesto frame-ups?

Isn't it nice we have the American standard of living? How about it, victims of Salinas? Aren't you glad your strike was broken in the good old American manner? And you, workers of the merchant marine, aren't you grateful to a government which subsidizes your bosses so they can declare dividends, lockouts, and things? And how about it, fellows in the automobile industry, aren't you glad prosperity has come back? Oh, haven't you heard? Well, just turn to the financial page, boys, and you'll find your industry is one of the more prosperous. That's why bosses can't afford to pay union wages—a lot of people read that financial page.

And in this holiday season of "peace and good will toward men" aren't we glad we're not like those nasty warring European nations with their border fortifications, their fire-eating orators, and their super-treaty armies. Aren't we glad our leader, Roosevelt, has been far-sighted enough to keep our army and navy at top strength—just in case? Surely WPA workers must be grateful that their sacrifice (in order to balance the budget) comes before a sacrifice of our guarantees of peace?

I'd better stop writing or I'll convince myself. And I've spent all my space on 1936. It is customary to issue glowing predictions about the year to come. All I can say is, "You ain't seen nothin' yet!"

Union Recognition Issue In Strikes

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Comparative figures recently released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that union recognition and the closed shop, rather than wage and hour demands, have now become the most important factor in American labor struggles.

From 1916 to 1932, 69 per cent of all strikes in the country were waged on the hour and wages issue. In June 1936, only 36.3 per cent of the strikes involved hours and wages. In this same month, 51.8 per cent of all strikes were based upon the issue of union recognition and the closed shop.

PARTY BRANCHES TAKE NOTE

The District Committee of the YPSL has voted to give organizational assistance to any Socialist Party branch or local in the Western Federation of the Socialist Party in building circles of the Young People's Socialist League. Communications should be addressed to the Youth Editor of Labor Action.

The Party At Work

L. A. Socialists Cooperate With Strikers

The regular Sunday evening Forum of the Los Angeles Central Branch of the Socialist Party was cancelled for December 27th in order to give full cooperation to making a success of the maritime strikers' mass meeting held that evening at Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles. This action was taken by the Branch in response to a request from the Joint Strike Committee of San Pedro for Socialist cooperation on the meeting.

Glendale Becomes Active Again

Comrade David Stevens, organizer in Los Angeles, has arranged for a series of weekly Socialist educational meetings to begin about January 6th in Glendale. Glendale comrades are arranging for the hall and are cooperating to lay the basis for the development of a new and active local there.

Subjects for the lectures will be: Spain, Moscow Trials, Popular Front in France, and War. Following the lecture series, a class will be formed, and out of it the nucleus for a Socialist Party local. Meanwhile, new recruits are centering their activity on distributing Labor Action and getting subs. Organization work among the unemployed will be one of the first projects of new members who qualify for work in this field.

California Recruits For Debs Column

Even before any formal machinery was organized on the west coast to take enlistments, applicants have already made known their desire to join forces with the technical experts, engineers, and aviators who will become the "Debs Column" of the International Brigade to assist the Workers' Militia of Spain.

From Los Angeles comes word of two applicants, one a pilot and the other an engineer who served in the World War. In San Francisco a member of the YPSL, with training in chemical technology and some experience in artillery technique, has applied.

New Recruit From San Bernardino

An urgent appeal for a Socialist Party organizer to work in the San Bernardino area was received about two weeks ago in the State Office.

Ward Rodgers, formerly state organizer of the California Socialist Party and now Industrial Director of the Central Branch in Los Angeles, went immediately to San Bernardino to help lay plans for organization work there. Meanwhile, the comrade who called our attention to the possibilities for Socialist organization in San Bernardino has applied for membership in the Party and has offered to cooperate in every way possible to build Socialist influence there.

Western States Federation Of the Socialist Party

News from the Front

A meeting in Oklahoma City, Tuesday evening, December 22, was the climax of the first ten days run of the Red Special on its tour of the states in the Western Federation. Comrade Douglas Anderson, National Organizer, reports a successful trip so far with enthusiastic reception everywhere to the renewed emphasis of the Socialist Party on work with the mass organizations of the working class.

From Oklahoma City Comrade Anderson goes to Dallas, Texas, and from there the intensive work of the tour begins in earnest. The truck will work in Texas for about two weeks. Anyone wishing to get in touch with Comrade Anderson after December 28 for about ten days may write to him care of J. M. Jewell, 2026 Flint Street, Waco, Texas.

Meanwhile, comrades in New Mexico are keeping in touch with the Red Special and with the Federation Secretary in regard to plans for organization work in that state.

The meetings have so far been financially successful, but we hope to increase the financial returns in order to help raise money for a Red Special sound truck to be used for permanent organization work under the auspices of the Western Federation.

New Mexico Representative to Executive Committee

The SEC of New Mexico has elected the third member of the Executive Committee of the Western Federation. Complete directory of the Executive Committee members of the Federation will be included in the next issue of the Western Socialist, monthly Bulletin of the Federation.

Comrade Hale Duncan has been appointed Federation Correspondent for New Mexico.

NOTICE:

Labor Action wishes to serve the west. In order to be "The Voice of Socialism in the West", it must carry news of labor and Socialist activities! PLEASE send in news from your locality. Appoint a local or state correspondent to be responsible for weekly news releases. Deadline for news is Saturday of each week. You will also help to increase the effectiveness of the Federation if you keep the Secretary posted.

New office of the Federation Secretary after January first will be 236 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California.

Colorado Notes

Comrades of Colorado have been saddened by the death of James H. Trevithick, secretary of Local Pueblo, from pneumonia. It was through the hard work of Comrade Trevithick that Local Pueblo was organized some months ago. He was formerly a minister in Wyoming and lost his church because of his fight for the poor and underprivileged. He leaves a wife and ten children. The family is in need, and Local Denver is collecting a purse to send to them. Any comrades who can help, please send their contributions to Socialist Party of Colorado, Room 205, 1026 17th St., Denver, Colo.

The State Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of Colorado will hold its quarterly meeting at state headquarters, 1026 17th St., Denver, on Sunday, January 24, 1937.

Local Denver is planning to start the new year with a new series of propaganda meetings. The first of these will be held on January 8th at state headquarters.

Comrade Mary L. Geffs of Greeley, Colorado, one of our most faithful socialists, has, at 82 years of age, begun to work for a branch among the young people of Greeley, and especially among the students of the Teachers College located in that city.

Comrade William B. Butler, of Local Goldfield, Victor, Colorado, has ordered, at his own expense, 200 copies of "What is Socialism?" to distribute among the gold miners.

Buckharin Reported Arrested

The British United Press Agency reported on Nov. 25. a new "plot" in Moscow in which members of the Academy of Sciences are implicated, including the well-known Russian geologist Volgin, and Bukharin who was a short time ago "cleared" of charges arising from the last Moscow Trial.

The same report asserts that Gamarnik, the head of the Political Department of the Red Army and 64 officers of the General Staff have also been arrested. The Manchester Guardian Weekly for November 27, confirms the report that Bukharin is once again under fire on charges of conspiring to protect "Fascists, terrorists, Trotskyists, and Rightists."

No official confirmation has yet been made. The rumor relating to Gamarnik's arrest is probably unfounded. If we have made an exception to our rule of providing only fully substantiated reports, it was in order to bring once again to the attention of the American workers the scope and persistence of the rumors that are flooding the European press, which reflect the panic in Moscow and the indubitable continuation of mass arrests and persecutions by the Stalinist bureaucracy.

DAN COMMENTS

Taking cognizance of these rumors, Theodor Dan writes in Sotsialisticheski Vestnik for Nov. 25 in the same vein as did Abramovich in the previous issue. Says Dan: "We do not know whether a new trial of the old guard of Bolshevism will be held; perhaps it has already been held 'behind closed doors?' We do not know whether mass shooting of old Bolsheviks will again be organized; perhaps, some of them are already resting in a grave with a Cheka bullet through the base of the skull? (Dan is obviously referring here to a rumor that Radek, Pyatakov and Sokolnikov have already been shot.—Ed.) We know nothing about all this, just as none of the citizens of the Soviet Union knows. We are merely assuming that the most ordinary horse-sense will impell the Leader of Leaders to refrain from a public repitation of the executioner's tragi-comedy of the Trial of 16 and the slaughter that followed it".

LABOR ACTION

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The New Year

As we enter into 1937 there are plain indications of things to come.

In American politics the gilt of the New Deal is already beginning to peel from the Democratic administration. 1937 will see an increasing tendency to listen to business and to hamstring labor. The double-cross of Madame Perkins in breaking her promise to postpone the Copeland Maritime Acts until their vicious black-listing provisions could be eliminated is only a beginning. Army and Navy appropriations will hit new highs, relief appropriations will be slashed again and again.

As a consequence labor, unemployed and employed, will be forced to ever increasing militancy. The maritime and auto strikes are but ripples as compared to the strike wave of 1937. The new year will mark a show-down between the hitherto almost untouched mass production industries — autos, steel, textiles, oil and electric power —and labor organized industrially. In that show-down capitalist government, Republican and Democrat, will line up on the side of the bosses and labor will win or lose on its own power.

Looking beyond our borders, international war on a world scale is a near certainty in 1937.

In this forecast there is but one solution, one hope. Only Socialist understanding of the class struggle, the alliance of government with the ruling class, and the necessity for workers' conquest of power can provide a clear guide in the struggles to come. Only a tremendous growth of Socialist conviction can steel the workers to resist the imperialist war ahead.

1937 is, then, a year of opportunity and of trial in crisis for the Socialist Party of the United States.

The Debs' Brigade

American Socialists are enlisting in the fight for a workers' Spain. Aviators, engineers and technicians are volunteering for the fight against fascism and capitalism which may well mark the turning point in world history.

Now word comes from Washington that the Administration is seeking some pretext for denying citizenship to the volunteers in this fight for factories, land, bread and freedom for the workers of Spain.

The Democratic Administration whose war appropriations have hit a new high, whose War Department has mapped complete plans for compulsory mobilization in the war they choose, would permit no freedom of choice to others. It was a Democratic Administration which robbed Eugene V. Debs of his citizenship because he refused to support our entry into the World War, so that Morgan and his clan might collect their debts from the Allied nations. That war was compulsory. All wars for profit are wars in which workers are drafted whether or not they wish to serve.

It is legal to fight against yourself and your fellow workers; it is illegal to fight for them. That is capitalism stripped bare.

We are concerned with a higher law than the paper defenses of capitalism. The life and death struggle of the workers in Spain is our struggle. Their victory is our victory.

The Debs' Brigade must not and will not be stopped.

They Want To Kill Trotsky

The International man-hunt for Trotsky completely exposes the corruption which has changed the Communist International from the vanguard of world revolution to a savage and unscrupulous defender of things as they are.

Plainly and without equivocation the Stalinist pack is howling for Trotsky's blood. They do not want to let him speak in self defense. They want to kill him. The louder and more frenzied grows their bloodlust—the more certain it is they are desperately afraid.

It was the economic pressure of the Soviet Union officials which forced the capitalistic Norwegian Government to entomb Trotsky for months—stopping his powerful pen—burying him alive. It was this same pressure which forced the shameful, secret shanghaiing of Trotsky on the steamer "Ruth." There, defenceless, still silenced by the denial of the wireless to him, Trotsky may or may not be still alive.

There is an obvious conclusion from this sordid drama, a conclusion which free minds, radical or conservative, cannot escape. The Stalinist officials are afraid of what Trotsky would say. They have sacrificed working-class unity, they have violated every principle of the rights of political asylum, they have even intruded into the Spanish Civil War on the side of the Catalonian capitalists—all to silence a single man.

The secret they are trying so desperately to hide is betrayed by their own actions. Trotsky is a revolutionary Socialist; Stalinists are not. It is as the symbol of this glaring difference that Trotsky is hunted. The man-hunt will fail.

One man's blood cannot hide the shame of the Soviet Bureaucracy or kill the Revolutionary Socialist movement that is older —and newer—than either Trotsky or Stalin.

That movement cannot be assassinated inside—or outside the Soviet Union. The bureaucrats of the world have always used terror to damn the tide of history. The bureaucrats fall—history rolls on.

Let's Add This Up

Some future archaeologist will find a curious contrast in the year 1936, providing that copies of Labor Action and the Communist Press survive the ravages of time.

Curious fact number one will be that the Communists who received 80,096 votes claimed a smashing "victory for progress," while the Socialist vote of 187,000 was regarded by the same gentlemen as a stunning defeat and an indication that Socialist radicalism had "fenced them off from the masses."

Curious fact number two will be that the Communist Party spent $2.02 per vote for its 80,000 while Socialist expenditures amounted to only 11 cents per voter, a figure well under that of Republican and Democratic per capita.

If our future scientist concludes from this that the Communist Party must have been much weaker than the Socialist, he will have reached a false conclusion from apparently conclusive evidence. The figures mislead. We freely admit the superiority in volume and quantity of the C.P. press and propaganda machinery. Its ability to raise a $157,275 campaign fund cannot be overlooked and greatly overshadows the Socialist war chest.

However, every dollar of the $21,000 Socialist fund went to the campaign for Socialist candidates; the Communist fund bought votes for Roosevelt, not Browder.

The Morning After The Famous Victory

Swing Toward Reaction Causes Consternation

By GLEN TRIMBLE

The liberals and the three-out-of-four year radicals are pretty disappointed these days. They are hurt and reproachful. They voted for Roosevelt "to force him to the left" and now Heywood Broun is plaintively reminding the President of that fact, and even Earl Browder is forced to admit that the election returns were "not such a great victory for progress."

Somehow Roosevelt does not seem to know the difference between the X of Broun and the X of Gerard Swope. It's all very sad and disturbing. Liberals and labor leaders are discovering that the President meant what he said about balancing the budget and did not mean what he did not say (the liberals said it "for him") about a definite plan for strengthening labor's power and living standards as against business power and concentrated wealth.

The second term is not yet begun but already the exodus of idealistic "New Dealers" has begun in Washington. Rex Tugwell, bogey man of Chambers of Commerce, has quietly crept out of politics into an executive job in a molasses factory. Lesser lights are rapidly fading out before the dawn of a "back to normalcy" regime which has already chosen a balanced budget in preference to the needs of the unemployed. A strait-jacket series of maritime laws are announced to enforce government rule of the seas in time of war in preference to the rights of maritime workers to free and independent organization. And a "pool plan" is put into operation for public and private electric power production rather than a campaign for public ownership in the only field in which the New Deal ever seriously considered such a program.

Swing to Reaction

These evidences of a swing toward reaction have caused consternation in the left wing of the Roosevelt camp. Yet had they remembered even a little of current history or understood even the ABC's of the economic system on which our politics are based, they need not have been surprised.

Every Republican and Democratic candidate has had liberal and "left wing" supporters (even Landon had a handful) who promised a new day if their candidate were chosen. To go back only to 1916, there was Wilson who "Kept us out of War" in his first term and at the very time he campaigned on that slogan was definitely pledged to plunge us into war in his second. There was Harding whose "Back to Normalcy" meant a savage anti-labor, anti-union regime. Our financiers "Kept Cool with Coolidge" by feverishly building up the house of cards which was to topple after the President "chose not to run" and escaped the crash which he knew was coming. That crash put Mr. Hoover,not a chicken, into the pot. In 1932 the Democrats could have elected anyone; they elected Roosevelt.

This brief excursion into recent political history is designed to prove that old party candidates have always served big business—capitalism—and have always betrayed the hopes of their liberal and labor supporters. Of course I know that some not all, of these "practical" idealists supported the Democratic candidates during the twenties. That makes them double suckers. Not only did they commit the "crime" of picking a loser, they picked gentlemen who supported Landon in 1936. Their principles were no different then than now; the difference was that they were engaged in the favorite American pastime of getting votes from workers and campaign funds from employers on the promise of protecting each from the other.

Votes Not Needed Now

After the polls are closed the votes are not needed for four years and even then it is money that buys them, so money rules and liberals wonder why such nice men are such reactionary presidents. They are wondering now about Roosevelt. Perhaps in the "morning after" of campaign frenzy they will face the questions Socialists asked repeatedly during the campaign. What, actually did the New Deal give labor? Were the smashing of the San Francisco general strike, the sell-out of the general textile strike (executed personally by Roosevelt), the automobile "merit clause," the surrender to the Supreme Court —reasons for labor gratitude? What did labor win, that it did not have to fight for every inch of the way against both employers and government?

This is not an accident. So long as workers choose the candidates of the siamese-twins of capitalism they will get capitalist rule. Some may be more generous with crumbs than others, but the table of plenty which modern machinery makes possible for all will be reserved for the few.

This is the lesson of every election. Liberals may never learn it and continue to approach elections with hope and look back at them with dismay, but workers live every day in the struggle for existence. The enemy is the boss. In politics it is the bosses' parties. The answer is a fighting workers' party, and the Socialist Party gives that answer.

25,000 At New York Meeting Support Asylum For Trotsky

NEW YORK.—Demands for the full right of democratic asylum for Leon Trotsky and for an international commission of enquiry to investigate the charges made against Trotsky during the recent Moscow trials were enthusiastically endorsed by more than 2,500 workers, friends and sympathizers who jammed the main ballroom of the Center Hotel, New York, last Friday night, Dec. 18.

About 1,000 others had to be turned away from the doors. Hundreds stood in the aisles and along the walls to hear Norman Thomas, Max Eastman, Suzanne LaFollette, Max Shachtman, James T. Farrell, speaking under the auspices of the American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky.

Nearly all the program was broadcast over Station WQXR.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

A resolution adopted by a thunder of "ayes" and opposed by half a dozen weak "nays" hailed "the progressive action of President Lazaro Cardenas of Mexico in extending to Leon Trotsky asylum in Mexico." It condemned "all reactionary attempts to prevent Trotsky from receiving sanctuary."

"Trotsky has repeatedly requested an impartial investigation of the Moscow trials," the resolution declared, "and we here pledge our cooperation in securing it for him."

George Novack, secretary of the Trotsky committee, announced that the campaign for Trotsky's asylum and for an impartial investigation of the trials had only begun and that the committee would push its drive with multiplied vigor an a national and an international basis. Nearly $1,000 was collected at the meeting to help this drive.

SPEECH OF THOMAS

"I am here tonight," declared Norman Thomas, "because I am profoundly concerned for the preservation of civil liberty and the increase of working class unity which depends upon mutual understanding and fair play. These things are put in grave jeopardy all over the world by the attempt of the Soviet Government to deny all rights of asylum to Leon Trotsky anywhere in the world, and by the unbridled vehemence of Communist attacks not only upon him but upon all those who defend the right of asylum."

Thomas described Trotsky as "one of the principal architects" of the October Revolution. "I am not a Trotskyist," he said, "but it needs no argument to support the assertion that Trotsky has a secure place for all time among the outstanding leaders of the workers. We are asked to believe that this man—theoretician, organizer and historian of the Russian Revolution—contrary to the teachings of his whole lifetime, has become an utterly unscrupulous assassin willing to ally himself, if necessary, with Hitler for the achievement of his end. And all this on the basis of the Moscow trials."

ANALYSIS OF TRIALS

The Socialist leader then briefly analyzed the trials, cited a number of glaring discrepancies of fact in the testimony, and characterized the conclusions as "wholly untenable in law and in justice."

"It is on evidence like this that the Communist Party seeks to brand one of its greatest founders as an assassin and to stir up the workers of the world against him everywhere. Both the Stalin government and the Communist Party by this policy must share responsibility for the bitter division of the working class which they then deplore and lay at Trotsky's door.

"It is Communist agitation which is responsible, for instance, for the vehement opposition of some sections of the working class in Mexico to the offer by the Mexican government of asylum to Trotsky. These sections of the working class are not acting on full knowledge of the facts but only on Communist propaganda."

INJURED FIGHT FOR SPAIN

The sudden staging of the Moscow trials last August, Thomas said, "inevitably diverted the public mind from the Spanish situation and made more, not less difficult, the winning of effective unity in support of the Spanish workers. I mention this because so often and so incorrectly we Socialists have been charged with greater interest in the Trotsky trial than in Spain. It is not we who marked time on the Spanish situation while the trial of men who had been safely in prison for a year and a half was carried on!"

Thomas declared that defense of the right of asylum "was never more necessary than it is today. If the Stalin government can successfully deny the right of asylum to Leon Trotsky it will have created a precedent that Mussolini, Hitler and other Fascist dictators can use to make the whole world a prison house with the keys in their hands. Under these circumstances no one would suffer more than the Communists themselves.

LABOR UNITY UNDERMINED

"Moreover, the nature of the attack upon Trotsky and upon those of us who support the right of asylum for him tends to undermine any probable basis for working class unity such as the Communists profess to favor. In this matter a party of the workers is adopting against one of their former leaders, tactics as ruthless and unscrupulous as any which this world of hate and intolerance now reveal. Not on such a basis can we ever build that fellowship of free men which is our ultimate hope.

"It is for these reasons that we are met, first, to defend the right of asylum for Leon Trotsky and second, to urge that for the sake of the things we hold most dear, a way be found to set up that proper inquiry into his acts which Trotsky has openly sought."

GOOD FAITH QUESTIONED

All the speakers dwelt at length on the failure of the Soviet government to ask for Trotsky's extradition from Norway, pointing out that such a demand would have involved placing the charges against him before a Norwegian court. This the Soviet government was unwilling to do.

"This opens to the most serious doubt the good faith of the charges," Thomas said.

Suzanne LaFollette, noted author and veteran fighter for the defense of all political prisoners, characterized Trotsky as "one of the greatest of all living men" and emphasized that the attack upon his right to asylum and his right to be heard jeopardized these rights all over the world. Miss LaFollette was chairman of the meeting.

Yipsel Conference At Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Circle of the YPSL is engaging in a varied series of activities during the present Christmas season. A closed Political Conference in which the problems of the party and the league were thoroughly discussed was held during the week-end of December 26-27. The conference closed with a two hour report on the tasks and perspectives for the YPSL and the SP for the coming period.

The Yipsels are also holding a novel class which is meeting every morning during the week of December 28—January 4. During the mornings, the class studies the theory of Marxism, and in the afternoon, the class as a whole visits the picket line of various striking unions and participates in the actual picketing.

An open meeting is being held on "China Rises Again," Carlos Hudson as the speaker, on Tuesday evening, December 29, at 8 p. m. at 631-3rd Ave. South. Questions and discussion will follow.

Wages and Profits

The business revival has virtually all gone to swell profits. The A. F. of L. reports that the living standards of the average worker is 3 per cent higher than in 1935, but that part of this gain is due to longer hours.

Profits of large corporations, however, are 55 per cent above 1935, and dividends declared in October were the largest for that month since 1931. This is the trend that workers who voted for Roosevelt endorsed.

SIDELINES

By JONATHON DOE

Watson, the Bicarbonate!

As this is written, the ship-owners are still trying to digest their Christmas dinners and can't be bothered negotiating with maritime workers who either have better digestions or lighter dinners. We are really worried about the internal condition of the ship-owners. They've been trying to digest the hiring hall for months and it still keeps repeating on them.

Requiescat in Hades

Arthur Brisbane is dead. It is customary to speak well of the dead. If for instance, the dear departed had murdered his grandmother and stole pennies from a blind man, you ignore such minor details and point out that he loved flowers. We don't want to be an iconoclast or offend our more sensitive readers, and in line with this resolve, we wish to suggest an epithet for the Hearst columnist:

"Here Lies a Great Real Estate Operator."

On second thought, we realize that this scarcely does justice to such a complex character. Brisbane's greatest contribution to mankind was scientific. Whether it was the Cosmic Spaces or bigger and better bombing planes, or the latest and most deadly poison gas, Science, pure and impure, was his passion. His own theoretical contribution was popularly known as "the Brisbane Theory," or "Getting Back to First Principles."

Ex-readers of the Hearst press may remember it. Brisbane formulated his theory (or shall we say "posed the question"?) as follows: If Primo Carnera were to get into the ring with a Gorilla, he (Primo) would get knocked cock-eyed.

Of course this wasn't really a theory; it was merely a hypothesis, because Primo never got into the ring with a gorilla, though on several occasions he was knocked cock-eyed. Nevertheless, the "Brisbane theory" has always fascinated us. We have always wondered what would happen if both Brisbane and Hearst were to get into a ring with a gorilla. It is because now we will never have the opportunity of watching this little experiment that we mourn the passing of Arthur Brisbane.

The Heathen Chinee

The Chinese, as Bret Harte observed many years ago, are hard to explain. Marshall Chang Hsueh-liang, Manchurian war-lord, kidnaps Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, then releases him. Chiang flies to Nanking and Chang follows. Chiang says it's all his fault. Chang says, "No, you're another. I did it with my little hatchet." Then he urges Chiang not to allow their sublime friendship to stand in the way of Chiang ordering off Chang's sublime head.

If you can make any sense out of this, you are one swell Marxist. It reminds us somehow of the Moscow trial.

Minnesota Labor Notes

Casket Workers Strike

As the strike of the casket workers enters the seventh week, several new developments are revealed. The union leading the strike, Local 1859 of the Furniture Workers Union, reports that there is a definite alliance between the casket firms and the largest undertaking firms of this city. This tie-up has enabled these companies to make capital of the strike by one of the most unconscionable methods in the repertoire of business, which is of course saying a great deal. The method in brief is this: The companies claim to the bereaved persons buying caskets that due to the strike there is a shortage of wooden caskets, but that, "fortunately" they still are able to secure steel caskets, but at a higher price. The client of course is not inclined to haggle ,so he takes his gouging without protest. The fact of the matter is, that the hugely increased price of the steel caskets over the price of wooden caskets is wholly unjustified; consequently, we find the companies and the undertaking firms reaping a ghoulish profit on the need of the dead and their bereaved relatives.

It has only lately been disclosed that the three casket making firms of Minneapolis own a chain of funeral parlors through which they sell their products, in the same manner as the breweries set up saloons to palm off their wares on the working man, this latter tactic of exploitation being illegal now in Minneapolis. Local 1859 is taking the necessary steps to halt the practice of the casket and undertaking companies. It introduced a resolution at the Central Labor Union meeting Wednesday calling upon the state officials to make an investigation of the undertaking and casket trust in this city. In the meantime it calls upon all friends of union labor to not patronize the unfair firms, but to go to St. Paul where costs are not exhorbitant for their funeral needs.

Teamsters Council Moves

Because of the increased growth of the driving crafts in this city, next month will see all driving crafts unions moving from their present quarters in the Central Labor Union Building to the headquarters of General Drivers Union, 544. This latter headquarters occupies as much space as the C.L.U. does, and with the moving of the Teamsters Joint Council to the Drivers Hall at 257 Plymouth Avenue, it will mean that the T.J.C. will have the largest office space in the Minneapolis labor movement.

The building housing the General Drivers Union will be taken over completely, with the three floors and basement being remodeled to fit the needs of the T.J.C. Upon the completion of the remodeling the T.J.C. and Local 544 will have one of the finest union headquarters in the country. Other union besides the teaming crafts which have offices in the building are Local 1859, Furniture Workers Union, and Local 160, Northern States Electrical Workers' Union.

Strike of Machinists

Machinists Local 382, has turned the lock-out of 30 of its members employed at the Imperial Machine Company into a strike, with demands that the 30 men be reinstated and union conditions established in the plant. The strike is now going into its second week, with no present sign of a settlement. The company is using the American Express Co. trucks to remove its scab products, driven by "union' drivers. These drivers are not 544 men of course, but are members of the Railway Express Clerks Union, affiliated to the A. F. of L. The machinists promise that an investigation of these caricatures of union men will take place shortly.

Forced Labor For Women In Nazi Germany

BERLIN, Germany.—Although Nazi women now escape compulsory labor, they cannot long expect this condition of affairs to endure, according to the chief of the Reich Labor Service, Konstantin Hierl.

In a speech before students at the Central School for Women Labor Service Directors, he warned that "labor service for our young women is at least as necessary as for our young men who in any case go from school into military service.

"Although the women's labor service now is on a voluntary basis, next year an important step will be made in the direction of introducing a compulsory system."

SOCIALIST CALENDAR

SAN FRANCISCO:

Socialist Party Local: Wednesday, January 6, at 8 p. m. first regular business meeting in the new headquarters at 236 Van Ness Avenue. Election of officers will take place.

Socialist Study Classes: Every Monday, 6:45 p. m.—Socialist Fundamentals.

Every Monday, 8:30 p. m.—History of Socialist Thought.

Every Thursday, 8:00 p. m.—Trade Union History and Tactics. Discussion led by Barney Mayes. (Class now studying the Copeland Act.)

BERKELEY:

Socialist Party Local: Meets every Thursday at 8 p. m., 2533 Telegraph Avenue.

PALO ALTO:

Socialist Party Local: Meets every second an fourth Wednesday of the month at 915 Chaning Avenue, at 8 p. m.

STOCKTON:

Socialist Party Local: Meets every Monday at 8 p. m., at 284 N. Sutter Street. First and Third Monday regular business meetings Second and Fourth, open educational meetings.

OXNARD:

Socialist Party Local: Meets every Monday at 8 p. m. First and third meetings, regular business meetings; second and fourth meetings, social and educational.

LOS ANGELES:

Socialist Party Local: Meets every Thursday, 8 p. m., at 116½ West Ninth Street. Because of New Year's eve, next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 29.

Socialist Party Jewish Branch: Meets every Thursday, 8 p. m., at 126 North Saint Louist Street.

Sunday Evening Forum: Every Sunday, 8 p. m., at 116½ West Ninth Street.

HARBOR CITY:

Meets every Wednesday evening at 8 p. m.

NOTE LOCALS: Send in corrections for the Calendar and any weekly changes or additions. Copy must be in the State Office Saturday.

PEARLS FROM THE PRESS

By CARL O'SHEA

That's a good thumbnail description of the Tampa A.F. of L. convention—"Not a callous in a carload."

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Dr. Crafts sez: Contrary to the popular idea, there has been too much wealth widely distributed in this country, especially since the beginning of the century, for the good of the people materially, morally, and spiritually.

* * *

Yah, for a while back there, as many as three hundred guys had a sawbuck in their kick.

* * *

Whenever anybody begins to worry publicly about the moral and spiritual good of the people, I always begin to look sharp.

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Hugh S. Johnson sez: There is no more considerate and understanding man in America than the President when he is playing ball with people who he knows want to play ball with him.

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That's just what's got us worried.

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Since the elections, the President isn't playing ball in our league at all any more.

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Chicago news item: Stanley McCormick, a mental incompetent and member of the Chicago harvester family, is back in the big money again. During the past three years, his estate which is managed for him has increased from $25 to $50 million.

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There is rugged individualism for you.

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But maybe he is an Aryan or something. Anyway, it shows where initiative and hard work can get a person.

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But note this item from Los Angeles: A 79-year-old man appeared before municipal court Judge Dawson and begged to be given thirty days in jail. "I'm broke and it's cold," he said.

* * *

He shoulda kept his nose to the grindstone—like Mr. McCormick.

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Southport, N. C., news item: Hooded night riders who hold prayers after flogging their victims were reported active in this community Wednesday night.

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Well, just so long as they pray, it is all right.

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Flasher, N. D., news item: A 42-year-old WPA worker and father was in a critical condition today after attempting to end his life by slashing his throat. Physicians said the man ascribed his act to financial worries.

What? Financial worries on a WPA wage?

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The Rev. Whats-his-name ought to call in his Suicide Prevention Society and see what he could do about THAT.

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From The Rotarian: WARNING —A short man of swarthy complexion, about 45 years of age, who assumes a rather meek manner and poses as a college professor, is going about the United States attempting to secure money on his claims to be a Rotarian, and on the pretense of having had an auto wreck.

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Looks like the brothers were being taken over the hurdles.

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New York news item: Industrial stockholders will receive approximately three billion dollars in dividend disbursements for 1936, the greatest total in the history of the nation. . . . Employees, too, will share in the prosperity. Wage increases of $130,000,000 already have been voted or are being considered.

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That is certainly fair. Forty million people get 1-24th of the amount that a few million investors receive.

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It's a great life—if you fight for Socialism.