

May Day---A Youth Day Against War and Fascism

By GIL GREEN

MAY DAY, 1934, has special significance for the millions of working and student youth of this country and of the entire world. For May Day is International Labor Day, and internationalism this year is more important for the young toiling generation than ever before.

May Day, 1934, takes place at a time when the whole world is on the verge of a new imperialist war—a new war for profits. While in the past years the capitalist statesmen and journalists spoke much of peace and disarmament, today they openly speak of the coming war and make no bones about preparing for it. Although the United States still covers its war preparations with pacifist phrases, open war talk is also becoming the order of the day for this country.

The special foreign correspondent of the New York Times, Mr. James, wrote on March 11, 1934: "Hopes of disarmament are thinner now than than at any time since the orgy of militarism which ended in 1918. Army and navy budgets are growing all over the world." This is further stated in a special feature article in the Sunday "Times" of April 15, 1934: "The world is not disarming but rearming."

The New York Times, the paper of Wall Street, knows whereof it speaks. For the above applies first and foremost to the United States, especially since its "New Deal."

The last session of Congress went to great pains in surpassing its previous efforts in arming the United States to the teeth. It carried the Vinson Navy Bill, which calls for 65 destroyers, 30 submarines, 1,184 airplanes for equipment on ships under present construction, and a new 15,000-ton airplane carrier. This program will cost from \$475,000,000 to \$570,000,000. Added to previous naval allotments it makes a grand total of about \$1,000,000,000 for a super-navy "second to none."

Although the United States, as all other imperialist countries, tries to make the masses believe that

these increased war budgets are solely for "defensive" purposes, the true meaning of the above naval program is admitted by none other than Yates Stirling, Jr., Rear Admiral, United States Navy. This Admiral says, in advocating the above program: "For the purpose of an overseas campaign against an Oriental foe, our battleships are not an asset but a liability. They are now a purely defensive weapon." So the honorable Admiral wants a larger navy, not as our statesmen love to tell us for the protection of our homes, wives and children from the cruel foe, but for purely offensive purposes in the Far East!

Thousands of Schools Closing

At the same session Congress appropriated some \$348,000,000 for the army. This includes larger appropriations for the Citizens Military Training Camps and increased allotments for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps in Junior High Schools and Colleges. This at a time when thousands of rural and city schools are closing throughout the country for lack of finances.

The army budget does not of course include another small item—some \$300,000,000 for six months of the Citizens Conservation Corps. As everyone knows, these corps include more than 300,000 boys from 18 to 25 years of age who work for a dollar a day under army supervision. What a huge military reserve for the army!

All of the above has certainly kept the munitions industries humming. The Vinson Naval Bill when carried immediately boosted the stocks of the U. S. Steel, Bethlehem Steel, etc. Already reports begin to filter thru of munition manufacturers activities in bribing Congressmen for increased war orders, of huge profits, etc. The Boeing Airplane Company admitted a profit of 90 per cent on government airplane orders. And this while millions of young men and women are unemployed and hungry. Yes, Roosevelt has certainly given the munitions industry a New Deal.

WHAT does all this mean to the American youth? It means a new imperialist war. A war for the revision of the territories of the globe among the imperialist giants. A war in which American youth will give their lives to make the markets of the world safe for Wall Street investments.

Behind closed doors the war is being planned. That war will come, is definite. The only questions to decide is against whom and how soon. Japan and Germany with the open support of Great Britain are preparing for an open attack against the Soviet Union. Tension grows between all imperialist powers—U. S. and England and Japan; France and Germany; Italy and Germany; England and France, etc. The dies are cast. It is only a matter of time. That is why May Day 1934 is of

special importance for the youth of America. National hatred, chauvinism and patriotism are growing everywhere. The imperialist powers are working overtime to whip up the backward nationalist sentiments of the youth into a war frenzy. Germany's mad man rails against the Jewish people and for war against the Soviets. In the United States race hatred is being created against the Negro people with the aim of destroying the growing unity of Negro and white toilers. Anti-Semitism is growing, and new fascist organizations are being built among the youth (Forest Legion, White Legion, American Legion Juniors, Silver Shirt Juniors, etc., etc.).

Anti-War Youth Movement

But if war preparations and nationalist incitement are growing, May Day will also prove that the united front of youth against war and fascism has also grown. Since the historic Paris International Youth Conference and the U. S. Congress against War and Fascism held last Fall, a powerful united front anti-war youth movement has been created. Hundreds of organizations and tens of thousands of youth have affiliated with the Youth Section of the American League against War and Fascism. These include YMCA's, YMHA's, Settlement and Community Houses, church groups, Socialist youth groups and hundreds of school organizations.

But this movement is only beginning to develop and grow. Anti-war committees are being set up in factories and on ships. State and city anti-war conferences will be held throughout the nation during the month of May. The recent youth anti-war actions were only rehearsals for the powerful mass anti-war and fascist demonstrations to be held throughout the country on Decoration Day—National Youth Day.

THIS is the significance of May Day, 1934, for the American youth. It is a day which must be a mighty answer to the war-mongers, to the fascist inciters. On this day the youth will show their growing solidarity with their class brothers in other lands. They will demonstrate against the preparations for war and fascism at home and against fascism abroad. They will demand the freedom of Thaelmann, leader of the German working class. They will demonstrate their support to the Cuban youth, heroically fighting against American imperialism. They will demonstrate their defense of the Soviet Union and their support of the Chinese Soviet Republic.

Young workers, young farmers and students! Join the ranks of the marching millions on May Day, 1934! Show the ruling class that you do not accept national boundaries and national prejudices! You have but one fatherland—the Soviet Union! You have allegiance to but one class—the international working class! Build the united front anti-war movement of the working and student youth and make National Youth Day a powerful anti-war day!

Smash the ugly head of fascism with the mighty fist of proletarian internationalism!

Plan Forced Labor On Colorado Water Works

TRINIDAD, Colo.—Work on the city water works here will be done by forced labor from federal "transient camps."

The principal work will be the building of a higher dam. The workers are to be paid from 90 cents to \$1.05 a week plus their food and lodging.

The R. F. C. issues relief checks to the local unemployed at the rate of \$9.60 a month for a family of six, \$6.40 to a family of four. Because aged workers 65 years and older receive a "pension" of \$5 a month, they are "ineligible" for relief.