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# Socialist Call

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## 'IT'S REVOLUTION' CRIES CHRYSLER OF SIT-DOWN

### Union Hits 'Nazi'-fied Berkshire

READING, Pa.—"To make the Nazis across the water" come to terms is the key to the gigantic sit-down strike of 10,000 hosiery workers in Berks County.

After a deadlock with the Berkshire Knitting Mills for over four months on a strike that began in October, the union called a general strike of all hosiery

See Page Seven for the story of the Berkshire Empire.

workers in Berks County, with the exception of those working under union contracts. To date 21 mills are closed. Two mills are operating under union contracts.

#### Nazi Bosses

The Berkshire Mills lie just across the river from Reading, and is an empire unto itself. Its owners have been blessed by Hitler, its foremen are open Nazis, some of them former officers of the German army.

The Berkshire has been the dominating figure in the full-fashioned hosiery industry for a long time. Any policy adopted by the firm would affect the policy of other manufacturers in the industry. The wages and hours of the workers in the entire industry were in danger.

Thousands of workers from the Berkshire, reinforced by hosiery workers throughout the East, picketed the mills. During the first days of the strike the crowd at the mills numbered over 10,000.

#### Police Terror

Scores of special mill police, county deputies, and the well-known state police were rushed to the scene within a few hours after the strike had started. Tear gas was freely used. So vicious were the attacks that Governor Earle, in order to save the face of his "liberal" regime, was forced to withdraw Captain Germadt of the state police from the area and replace him.

The state retained its forces on the scene until it appeared that the strike had become demoralized, then they were withdrawn to the barracks a few squares from the mill, where they are on "call."

Each morning hundreds of militant and determined young workers appear on the line to carry on the struggle. The whole history of the strike could be written in terms of hundreds of broken heads, gas bombs, smashed cars, and shooting of pickets. Plus wholesale arrests. It was

### For Workers' Freedom



Young fighters from the military schools of Barcelona going to the front to fight against the Fascists. For months the anti-Fascists forces have been training intensively to prepare their young men for the battle. Unlike earlier contingents, these fighters go out equipped with sub-machine guns which they know how to use.

### U.S. Bosses Jittery At Sit-Downs

Rolling inward from Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, the strike wave rises to its crest in America's Mid-West, in the auto fields of Detroit, in Chicago's loop area.

As CIO representatives and General Motors officials were crossing the final "t" of their written agreement, the United Automobile Workers Union was making its promise to organize the industry by tying up production of the Chrysler, Ford and Hudson concerns.

Over 100,000 workers are being directly affected by the auto standstill. And thousands more are halting the wheels of Detroit's business in dozens of strikes which break out at the rate of two and three a day.

#### Food

During the week, the food supply of Detroit was paralyzed by a strike of warehousemen and truckers. Fifty million pounds of food stuffs, of which one-fifth is perishable, were left lying about undelivered. Unless eggs and butter are delivered, Detroit may have to go without bread, too, for the bakeries will have to close down.

3,000 women cigarmakers sat down in six Detroit factories.

#### Hotels

Rudely interrupting preparations for a peace conference called by Governor Murphy of Michigan, with labor and employer and citizen representatives to be held at the Hotel Staller, the employees of the hotel crippled service with a sit-down. Cafeteria, coffee shop, bar room, and elevator service were halted. Guests in Detroit's swankiest and largest hotel were compelled to carry their own baggage, to tread long stairs, to go hunt for their supper.

The frayed nerves of Governor Murphy are beginning to tingle with dangerous vacillation as he wonders what to do with the growing army of sit-downers. The courts are laying down "the law." And Michigan's "liberal" governor, who up to now has maintained an attitude of impartiality in the strikes, finds himself on the spot as the executive of the state.

#### Injunctions

The matter was brought to a head by the decision of Circuit Court Judge Allen Campbell ordering 6,000 sit-downers to vacate the Chrysler plants.

"Respect for law and order is (Continued on Page Two)

## American Labor Solidarity Aim of Negro Labor Assembly

By JACK FAHY

One more gap on the American labor front was closed last Friday night at the Harlem Labor Center when 153 delegates from 56 unions pledged their efforts to organize Negro workers. The group voted into existence a new organization, the Negro Labor Assembly, which will carry the trade union message to hundreds of thousands of Negro workers in every type of employment.

"We are fighting," said Chairman Frank R. Crosswaith, "to eliminate from the labor movement all practices which have been harmful to the full participation of the Negro in American trade unionism."

Outgrowth of the militant Negro Labor Committee, the Assembly will meet once a month. Three delegates from each of the affiliated unions will convene to formulate plans and policies for enlarging the present membership of approximately 250,000.

The Friday night meeting was addressed by Murray Baron, Manning Johnson, Noah Walters, Morris Feinstein, Louis Weinstock and others.

#### Velvetization Begun

Two years ago bands of scattered unions were making semi-successful attempts to organize Negro workers. Separated or-

ganizers declared the Negro field one of the toughest to penetrate.

But on July 20, 1935, leaders of a score of unions met to consider the problem of effectively organizing Negro workers. In an amazingly short time the Negro Labor Committee proved that the one obstacle to Negro organization was lack of confidence. When colored workers realized the extent of the support offered them by the Committee, they flocked into the various affiliated unions.

#### Built Labor Center

One of the tangible results of the Negro Labor Committee is the Harlem Labor Center at 312 West Street, New York. Known throughout the community as "Labor's Home in Harlem," the spacious quarters are used for social and educational activities.

Driving force behind the Harlem Labor Center is Frank R. Crosswaith. A Socialist for twenty-five years, Crosswaith has earned the title of "the Negro Debs," Socialist Party candidate for many public offices, including lieutenant-governor of New York State and congressman, he has shown himself to be a labor leader who has spent his life fighting in the interests of organized labor. In addition to being chairman of the Negro Labor Committee, Crosswaith

is general organizer of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union.

#### Racketeers

Following the success of the Negro Labor Committee in the organizing field, several racketeers began to capitalize on the movement. In many instances Harlem employers have signed contracts with so-called union leaders, which either specified no minimum wage at all or called for a wage scale much lower than that recommended by the Negro Labor Committee.

Harlem bosses were not duped by the fake unions but willingly supported them. "I promise some interesting disclosures," declared Crosswaith, "regarding these racketeers in the near future."

From Cleveland, Buffalo, Chicago and other cities the Negro Labor Committee has received requests for organization help. American Negroes are awakening to the roll of Labor's drums. The struggle of black and white workers presents the same problems.

Today solidarity is the keynote of the labor movement. The new Negro Labor Assembly is determined to go out and bring in the thousands who never before were offered membership in a militant union.



# Marceau Pivert Quits As Leon Blum's Aide On Spain Blockade

**VALENCIA (By cable to the CALL).—Arrangements have been made to officially present the flag of the Eugene Victor Debs Brigade to the Spanish government. The presentation will take place this week with the arrival of the first large contingent.**

By JACK ALTMAN

PARIS—Marceau Pivert, one of the leaders of the French revolutionary Socialists, has resigned as secretary of Leon Blum, French premier. Pivert disagreed with Blum on neutrality toward the Spanish government. Pivert's action was hailed by the Seine Federation of the Socialist Party.

There is a great deal of discontent in French Socialist quarters with the official attitude of the French government and the parties of the Popular Front concerning the blockade of Spain.

All Paris workers are awake to the necessity of coming to the aid of their Spanish comrades. "Down With the Spanish Blockade" meetings draw huge throngs, the speakers representing all parties, including Marceau Pivert, Jean Zyromski and Fred Zeller.

Interviews Zyromski  
The writer, representing the Socialist Party of the USA, had an interview with Jean Zyromski in the offices of the SFIO (French Socialist Party). Zyromski is secretary of the Seine Federation of the Socialist Party and an outstanding leader of the left Socialists.

In reply to a question concerning the Popular Front, Zyromski stated that he did not like it, but "it is the only possible kind of movement at the present time. The Socialist and Communist parties are both growing rapidly. This is particularly true of the youth movement."

A direct question as to the loyalty of the Communist Party to the Popular Front received the following answer: "Although I do not agree on many questions with them, they are carrying out their part of the agreement. They are, however, too far to the right."

Against Neutrality  
Questioned as to his attitude on the neutrality and blockade acts, Zyromski said: "I am completely against it, as is the entire Seine Federation which unanimously voted against it. I am against it to such an extent that I am speaking together with Anarchists, Syndicalists, and Trotskyites at a public mass meeting in protest. I am going to raise my voice and vote at the Labor and Socialist International meeting in London and let the whole world know where the Seine Federation stands.

"It is rumored that Pivert, who is Blum's secretary, will resign because of disagreement with Blum. [The interview took place before Pivert's resignation.] Pivert and I do not agree on external policy. He is a pacifist. He is not facing the realities of a new world war and the danger to the Soviet Union."

[The conference mentioned by Zyromski was the meeting of the Labor and Socialist International and International Federation of Trade Unions which took place in London last week to discuss a course of action in the Spanish situation. Jack Altman was official representative of the Socialist Party, USA, to the conference. As the meeting was held behind closed doors, no word of its decisions has reached this country as the CALL goes to press.]

For Socialism  
Luis Araquistain, Spain's ambassador to France, told the writer that the Spanish workers would win and build a Socialist society despite so-called democratic England's duplicity. He said that the Spanish masses have confidence in Caballero, and that Caballero will

## WAA Backs Constitution Amendment

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Workers Rights Amendment to the constitution of the United States has been endorsed by the national executive board of the Workers Alliance of America which met in this city last weekend. The amendment would take from the Supreme Court the right to declare social legislation unconstitutional.

At the same time, the board endorsed the President's proposal to enlarge the Supreme Court because it would serve to make effective much social legislation urgently needed by the masses of the people.

The board adopted a program of national action designed to stop the scheduled 600,000 layoffs on WPA, to demand jobs on WPA for 500,000 employables now on relief and to demand an increase in wages for WPA workers and higher relief for those on direct relief.

The board declared: "If the lay-off program of WPA is not changed, the Workers Alliance of America intends to conduct a wave of national action in the near future."

A Bill calling for four billion dollars—three billion for WPA and one billion for Federal grants for direct relief to the State—will be introduced into Congress shortly, which will, provide for 3,000,000 WPA jobs during the next fiscal year.

insist on a vigorous revolutionary government with leftwing Socialists in control.

## Deutsch Asks U. S. Socialists To Fight 'Non-Intervention'

VALENCIA.—Julius Deutsch, one of the leaders of the heroic Austrian workers in their armed fight against Fascism in February, 1934, who is now in Spain aiding Spanish workers and peasants, has issued an appeal to American Socialists and trade unionists to oppose governmental schemes which aid the Fascists in Spain.

"When Malaga fell, the reactionary press said it meant victory for Franco, but today we are taking the offensive on the Madrid, Oviedo, Talavera, Cordoba and Toledo fronts," said Deutsch. "Our military position in Almeria is strong, in fact it is better everywhere than a month ago. The length of the war depends on international factors, especially the control plan.

"In my opinion, the Fascist powers won't submit to control, thus making the new scheme another maneuver. Non-intervention remain a tragic farce, for the democratic powers may carry out control seriously, but Germany and Italy will not stop. Thus it is more than ever the duty of Socialists and trade unionists to oppose schemes which effectually aid the rebels. There should be either complete effective control or none, and Spain's rights to freedom of commerce should be restored."

Deutsch hailed the international conference being called in London to rally aid for Spain.

## National Convention Convenes March 26

CHICAGO—The special national convention of the Socialist Party will meet in this city Friday, March 26, and sessions will continue through to Monday, March 29. All meetings will be held in the Exhibition Hall of the LaSalle Hotel.

A preliminary conference on unemployment under the direction of the National Unemployment Committee will be held through the day, Thursday, March 25.

On the evening of March 25 a mass meeting will be held at LaSalle Hotel. Norman Thomas, Daniel W. Hoan, Devere Allen, Victor Reuther, Howard Kester will speak.

The following is the tentative convention program:

### FRIDAY, MARCH 26

9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Executive secretary's report. Election of committees.

2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Work in Mass Organizations, Labor Unions and Unemployed. Reporters: Frank N. Trager, Franz Daniel, Powers Hapgood, Vincent Dunne, David Lasser. Discussion from the floor.

8:00 P.M. to 10 P.M. Farmers organization. Reporters: Chester Graham and H. L. Mitchell. Discussion from the floor.

### Saturday, March 27

9:30 A.M. to 12:00 N. Labor Party. Reporters: Max Raskin, Alice Hanson, Albert Goldman,

Norman Thomas. Discussion from the floor.

2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. United Front and Peoples Front. Reporters: Harry W. Laidler, Andrew J. Blemiller, Glen Trimble, Herbert Zam. Discussion from the floor.

8:00 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Activity. Reporters: Gus Tyler, Devere Allen, Paul Porter. Discussion from the floor.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 28

9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Fraternal greetings. Meeting of Resolutions Committee. Miscellaneous business.

2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Party Structure and Constitution. Reporters: Roy E. Burt and Arthur G. MacDowell. Discussion from the floor.

8:00 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. Committee reports.

### MONDAY, MARCH 29

9:30 to 12:30 A.M. Committee reports. Convention business.

2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Convention business.

8:00 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. Convention business.

### 300,000

DETROIT—Dues paying membership in the United Automobile Workers of America will reach 300,000 by the end of March, according to an estimate of George F. Ades, secretary-treasurer of the union.

## Union Asks Closed Shop Of Chrysler

By FRANK MARQUART

DETROIT—Every major division of the Chrysler Corporation was brought to a standstill here March 8, when the company refused to recognize the United Auto Workers as sole bargaining agency for all employees.

In this demand the Union merely asked the company to recognize officially what actually exists. For some time the UAW has been represented by 95 per cent of the Chrysler workers.

At the annual election of representatives to the Works Councils or company unions on January 28, 50,809 employees out of a total of 54,245 eligible to vote actually cast ballots for these company union representatives. Out of the 120 employee representatives elected at that time 103 were members of the UAW who had entered the race in the Works Council as UAW members. They had campaigned openly as candidates on a union ticket.

Thus by a majority of 103 to 17 the Company's own Works Council in the various plants were controlled by UAW members, until the workers themselves instructed them to resign in favor of the legitimate union. Chrysler workers have scrapped the Works Council, the only other bargaining agency in Chrysler plants.

### Wagner Act

In this issue the union is making the most of the fact that the Chrysler Corporation is going counter to the ruling of the Wagner Act, which provides that the majority group of workers in any plant shall be recognized as the bargaining agency for the entire group.

The spirit of the strikers is indicated by the fact that of the 4,000 who sat down in the Dodge plant, the union found it difficult to persuade 2,000 to leave for economy reasons. About 9,000 strikers have remained in the nine Chrysler plants in the Detroit area and the food bill runs from \$2,000 to \$3,000 a day.

The men and women of the UAW are learning fast. The function and coordination of the committees is rapidly improving. From the women's auxiliary, which does everything from picket duty to feeding the sit-downers, to the committee appointed to close the saloons around the plant areas, the strike machinery runs effectively.

### Study Demanded

Now that the rank and file are learning how to conduct their meetings and run their shop steward system, many are asking to study economics and labor history. Studies are sorely needed in the Union. The mass of the auto workers are from backward regions and their understanding of labor questions is none too high. Unless their economic and political outlook is raised to a higher level they cannot be expected to become consistent union members. This fact tends to be overlooked by those who feel that organization is all important.

### COOPERATORS

All Socialists who are members of Cooperative Distributors, Consumers Union or some other national cooperative or consumers organization are urged to get in touch with the Socialist Co-operators of New York who have organized to unify and stimulate the work of Socialists in co-ops. Please send your name at once to Benjamin H. Wolf, at 21 East 17 St., New York City.

## Enjoying Fruits Of Their Toil



These chair makers of St. Louis, Missouri, have decided to sit-down on the chairs they make, in the factory where they make them.

# THE SOCIALIST CALL

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Vol. III Saturday, March 20, 1937 No. 105

### THE STATE DEP'T CARRIES ON!

The State Department—that is, the diplomatic corps composed of ambassadors and consuls and under-secretaries in foreign affairs—is one of the vertebrae in the backbone of the capitalist state. This is true not only in the United States but in other capitalist countries as well. In a lead article appearing in LaFollette's "Progressive" the following comment appears *in re* the new neutrality bill:

"What many congressmen did not know when they voted for the measure is that it originated in the department of state, where the dominating clique is largely pro-fascist, according to Washington observers."

An editorial in J. David Stern's New York Post on the action of the State Department in halting medical aid to Spain rubs in the point:

"Secretary Hull's action is a painful episode in the shameful drama of which the Spanish Republic is the center. The democratic Powers continue to embargo the Republic while the Fascist Powers pour thousands of men and million of dollars into the peninsula in violation of their pledges. A civil war has become a war against Spain and the democratic nations have become the passive allies of the Fascists."

The latest shake-up in the State Department does not promise much improvement. Jefferson Caffrey, America's Ambassador to Cuba, who is responsible for putting Fulgencio Batista's dictatorship of the Island Republic in power, will be removed—in order to be promoted to Brazil. He will find his Brazilian bed well warmed by his predecessor Hugh Gibson, who has been working hand and glove with the Brazilian tyrant, Getulio Vargas.

Sumner D. Welles, whose not so fine Italian hand has been behind America's collaboration in the establishment of dictatorships in Latin-America, is looking for a promotion from Assistant Secretary in the State Department to the Under-Secretaryship of State. That means, that Mr. Welles will be able to serve America's financial interest not only in Latin and South America, but also in other areas as well—in his bluntly effective way.

The American State Department carries on its tradition which Caffery once epitomized by telling the Cuban Chamber of Commerce: "Diplomacy nowadays consists largely in co-operating with American business."

### FASCISM BY LAW IN NEW YORK

This title may seem melodramatic to you, but it will become a cold fact if the Wadsworth bill (Assembly Int. No. 1671; Print No. 1860), now pending in the New York State Assembly, should become law. We don't know whether the bill was actually drafted by Assemblyman Wadsworth, an upstate Republican, or by someone else. It certainly follows the anti-union program of the New York Chamber of Commerce. We do know that the bill obviously draws its inspiration from the tactics of Italian and German Fascism. It would do credit to a Hitler or a Mussolini.

To cite but a few of the more dangerous provisions, the bill would:

1. Give the State Industrial Commissioner dictatorial power over all strikes by

- a) Providing for compulsory arbitration of all strikes.
- b) Empowering the Commissioner to completely regulate all activities carried on in connection with a strike.

The rules must provide that no action of any kind may be carried on in connection with any strike declared "illegal" by the Commissioner. This expressly bars even peaceful persuasion of others to continue or join in the strike, picketing, and the display of signs or placards. Violation is also a misdemeanor, with 3 to 5 days in jail as the penalty. Mass picketing is expressly forbidden.

2. Completely cripple the effectiveness of strikes by requiring 24 hours notice in advance to the Commissioner, and consequently to the employer, of any contemplated strike.

3. Completely cripple the effectiveness of unions by forbidding them from taking any action against union members who refuse to participate in any strike called "illegal" by the Commissioner, any provision of a union's constitution or bylaws to the contrary notwithstanding. This places a direct premium upon, and offers an explicit incentive to, scabbing.

4. The bill would also render "illegal"

- a) Any strike for union recognition or for the unionization of an unorganized business.
- b) Any strike for a closed shop.
- c) All sympathetic strikes.
- d) All sit-down strikes.
- e) Any strike wherein one party agrees to arbitrate the dispute, but the other refuses.

5. Cripple the labor movement and give employers an invaluable weapon against them by requiring all unions to file annual reports of their finances. This substantially embodies the other infamous Wadsworth bill, which has been introduced separately.

6. Cripple the formation of a Labor Party by forbidding unions to make any financial contributions to any political party or for any political purpose or for the support of any candidate for public office.

## No Fudge Cake Ala Mode Today



As the strike wave rises in the United States, it lifts itself above the basic industries—autos, steel, maritime, transportation—and sweeps along with it workers in light industry, stores, in offices. The highly exploited girl employes of America's chain department stores are sitting-down to win their demands. Here is a scene in the strike at New York's 5-cent-to-a-dollar stores.

## Be Like The Fighting Irish!

To the Editor:

Do Socialists expect a Sunday School picnic? They ought to rejoice that they haven't the mountainous difficulties of our comrades in Spain. Just think, we are asked to give a few minutes of time, a couple of dollars of our money, and a little perplexed thought, while they imperil their very existence, nay, give their very lives to our great cause. And we talk about "sacrifice for the movement." Boloney!

We kept the Socialist CALL going two years. This, despite our enemy's claim that it would not last ten weeks. Our party persists despite all attempts to isolate and destroy it—in the Midwest auto strikes, the Pacific coast maritime and agricultural workers' strikes, the Southwest tenant farmers, the textile and oil workers' strikes and union movements, the New York City union warfare against racketeering and bureaucracy, etc.

Our party makes a big contribution to Spain in the formation of the Debs Brigade and in the numerous mass meetings, collections and tag days in favor of a workers' Spain. In New York City, besides its union activities our party starts the Three Arrows Co-operative Camp, forms "The Socialist Cooperators," reinvigorates Rebel Arts, carries on a state campaign through the State Committee, and is otherwise active in the conduct of forums and other organizational and agitational functions.

Considering all of these achievements, why be defeatists? Why not be like the legendary Irishmen who enjoy a fight the harder it gets? Why be belly-achers? Why not be Socialists, conscious of the class struggle and all that it implies, in the way of strife and storm?

We Socialists must realize we are in a party of struggle and not a May walk. Blow the bugle call to action, and then more action still!

BRUCE STALLING.

New York.

### Urges Socialist Party Support

To the Editor:

Your paper is one of the few factual informative organs for working men and women.

If the working masses would attempt to read newspaper facts

in the CALL, they would soon learn the cause of the miserable condition which is being forced upon 11 million unemployed and 18 million partly employed (I mean peon wages) in both the business life and the industrial plants of our nation. Instead of reading gossip and the intentional lies giving misrepresentation of our national affairs in every capitalist-kept and dominated daily press, they would go to the ballot-box and help to change this sordid condition that is facing us all.

It's up to the working masses regardless of their present affiliations to change this sad condition. They can do this by heartily joining the Socialist movement in the U.S.A.

P. J. LINDAMAN

Douglas, Arizona

### Irate Subscriber

To the Editor:

Three copies of the SOCIALIST CALL is enough. Please cancel my subscription. I am not interested in the Trotskyist trash of your Zam and Coleman.

J. L. WEISMAN.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

## To Celebrate 2nd Birthday Of The CALL

By JOHN NEWTON THURBER

The Second Anniversary of the Socialist CALL is being observed in New York on Sunday, March 21, at 2 P.M. The observation of the anniversary this year is taking the form of a symposium of leading speakers in the Socialist Party, all of them active in various phases of the rising tide of labor organization in America, who are speaking on the subject: "Which Way for American Labor, CIO or AFL?"

It was decided not to hold a dinner for the anniversary this year, so that many people who cannot afford an elaborate dinner at prevailing prices could participate in the festivities.

Speakers are to include: Norman Thomas, who has just completed a tour which took him as far as Texas and who was on the

front line at the Flint and Anderson, Ind., strikes; Max Delson, who is active in the organization of the Lawyers Guild; Murray Baron, vice-president of the CIO Drive in North Jersey; and James P. Cannon, editor of Labor Action, official organ of the Socialist Party of California, who was active in the recent Maritime Strike on the west coast.

James Casey, former managing editor of the Daily Worker, and Bruno Fischer, first editor of the CALL and now managing editor, will present a statement. The chairman of the meeting will be Carl Fichandler, newly elected chairman of the Board of Directors of the CALL.

The meeting is being held in the Ball Room of the Manhattan Odd Fellows Temple, 105 East 106th Street, New York. Tickets, priced at 25 cents each, are on sale at every Socialist Branch in New York, at the CALL office, and will be available at the door.

### Special Funds

Numerous branches report making plans for collecting a special fund which they will donate to the CALL at this meeting. Such donations are to be credited to the quotas of the CALL Drive for \$10,000.

This will be the last opportunity which will be available to New Yorkers to hear Norman Thomas speak before his trip to Europe. He is sailing immediately after the conclusion of the special convention for a two months tour of Europe, the result of the special fund which was given to him for this purpose at the birthday party in his honor in New York last November 20.

### Fifty Years Ago

From the Reading, Pa. Times, March 12, 1887:

"Brooke Iron Co., Birdsboro, is having labor trouble for the first time, and in a letter to employes urges them to withdraw from the Knights of Labor, which many of them have joined."

And in Reading, Pa., March 12, 1937:

"CIO Organizer George Craig, together with Socialists Bill Sherman and Tarmo Hannula, handed out handbills at the Brooke Iron Co., Birdsboro, urging workers to join an industrial union, the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, a CIO Affiliate."

# CALL Reaches 2nd Birthday; Voice of Socialism in U. S.

By BRUNO FISCHER

Six or seven active members of the Socialist Party gathered in an apartment in New York one evening in January, 1935. With a single exception, all were young.

They had met to discuss the feasibility of publishing a Socialist newspaper. Nominally there was already a Socialist newspaper, with ostensibly a national circulation, published in New York—the New Leader. All of these men had written for it, sold it, supported it. They could do so no longer.

## PARTY FIGHT REACHED CLIMAX

The conflict between the Old Guard and the Militants in the Socialist Party was rapidly coming to a head. And the New Leader was the face of the Old Guard. That it was dull and unreadable was traditional. That it was afraid to print line which might offend the most bureaucratic and reactionary labor leader was expected. That it took an extremely rightwing position, when it dared to take a position at all, was becoming intolerable.

But when it began to attack the national leaders of the party it was supposed to represent, when it filled its pages with hysterical calumnies on Norman Thomas, the national office of the Socialist Party, and the Militants in the very worst manner of the Communist and gutter press, drastic action was urgent. Party members throughout the country refused to distribute the paper. The Socialist Party of the United States found itself without a national organ in which to express itself.

So a few of us met that night twenty-six months ago to discuss the possibility of founding a truly Socialist newspaper. It was a difficult problem. Those of us with newspaper experience knew the expense involved in publishing a newspaper, even a weekly. The New Leader had the wealthy Jewish Daily Forward to support it. We had only our party members, who were already heavily taxed by the party and who, on the whole, were poor workers.

## PLANNED TO START PAPER

Our aspirations were modest. We based our estimates on an eight-page tabloid and hoped to sell five thousand copies.

The older Socialist among us acted as the Devil's Disciple. He had twenty-five years of experience in the party; had been business manager of a Socialist paper; was a hard-headed, practical individual. He wanted the project to succeed as much as any of us, but the cold figures he jotted down for us proved that it could not succeed at that time.

So we made definite plans to get out the paper.

Less than a month later an office was rented and a one-page perspective printed which was distributed throughout the country. I quote from the perspective:

"More than 400 Socialist Party members packed Papae Building in New York City at a mass meeting February 22 and pledged \$6,000 for the publication of the SOCIALIST CALL. Fifty-three Socialists from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C., met the next day and set up machinery to publish the new Socialist weekly. Letters and telegrams supporting the SOCIALIST CALL came from many sections of the country . . .

"Accepting the recommendation of a special committee elected to survey the field of available candidates, the SOCIALIST CALL Publishing As-

sociation chose Bruno Fischer managing editor and Jack Altman business manager."

## CALL TWO YEARS OLD

Exactly two years ago the first issue of the CALL rolled off the press. Its success was immediate. Street sales and newsstand sales were phenomenal. Five hundred New York party members jammed the second floor of the building rented by The CALL and enthusiastically greet-

ed the first issue.

It wasn't an eight page tabloid, as planned. It was twelve pages. The idea was to drop to eight pages after a couple of weeks. That was never done. The CALL remained at twelve pages, on occasion going as high as sixteen, twenty and twenty-four pages.

The hoped-for circulation of five thousand copies was, in retrospect, ridiculous. With the very first issue the circulation reached many times that, the weekly press running, one week during the last election campaign, as high as a quarter of a million copies.

The practical, hard-headed business men were wrong. The

militant young enthusiasts were right.

Not that The CALL during its brief life has had an easy time of it. No revolutionary paper in this country has ever had. There were financial crises during, which time it appeared that The CALL would not be able to print another issue—and as this is being written The CALL is in the midst of another financial crisis. But each crisis was weathered and always the influence of The CALL continued to spread.

## 20,000 HEAR CALL DEBATE

The outstanding event of CALL history was the debate which the CALL sponsored between Norman Thomas and Earl Browder at Madison Square Garden. Twenty thousand people were there, the largest audience to attend a debate in this country, and many thousands were turned away at the box office. As a result of the debate The CALL

was able to give valuable financial aid to the party and its institution, especially during the early period of the reborn Socialist Party in New York.

In the two years since its birth The CALL has undeniably been a tower of strength to the Socialist Party. When the Old Guard attempted to split the party a year later, it would have been a great deal more difficult without The CALL to hold the party together and convert the Old Guard walkout to that of a disgruntled faction which at once sunk into political oblivion.

And during the recent presidential campaign it was the only national paper in the country which warned Americans against placing faith in the vapid liberalism of Roosevelt and his New Deal. Boldly in the midst of mass hysteria and powerful enemies without and within the working class movement, it held high the torch of Socialism.

Today The CALL is two years old. It is not all it should be nor does it do all it should do—nor can it until it becomes a daily paper.

But daily or weekly, it is the national voice of the Socialist Party. And being the voice of the party, it alone of the newspapers of America along with Socialist regional papers, has waged a militant and aggressive fight against capitalism, against war and Fascism—for a workers' world.

## What of Italy? Baron Demand Of LaGuardia

NEW YORK — Mayor LaGuardia was asked to state whether his attitude toward Mussolini and Italian Fascism is the same as that which he recently expressed about Hitler and German Fascism, in a letter addressed to him by Murray Baron, chairman of Local New York of the Socialist Party.

"Your recent denunciation of Adolph Hitler and the monstrous German Nazi regime of course meets with the approval of every American who believes in democracy and justice and who hates Fascism," the letter stated in part.

"Yet you have singularly failed to express sentiments of opposition to Mussolini and the equally monstrous Fascist regime of Italy. And your actions in the past few years, far from indicating a hatred on your part of all Fascist regimes, necessarily imply a sympathy with and approval on your part of Italian Fascism. You have appeared or spoken at meetings within recent years under circumstances which compel that conclusion."

### Helped Fascists

"To cite but a few instances, you spoke at Madison Square Garden on December 15, 1935, at a meeting allegedly called to raise funds for the Italian Red Cross, but which actually was the culmination of a campaign to raise funds for the aid of the outrageous raid by Italy against Ethiopia, and at that meeting you uttered no word of protest against that manifestly imperialist war. You were present, and tacitly approved, when funds were turned over for the support of that raid to the Italian Ambassador. A message from you was read on Columbus Day, 1936, at a meeting of Fascist sympathizers at which the Italian Fascist anthem was played, Italian Fascist uniforms were worn, and the Italian Fascist salute was openly given. You welcomed to this country the new Italian ambassador on November 5, 1936, who had been one of Mussolini's closest lieutenants.

"We feel compelled to ask you to state for the record your attitude towards Mussolini and Italian Fascism."

# What Is Capitalism?

SOCIAL systems, like all other living organisms, pass through a life cycle. There is birth, growth, maturity, senility, death, and finally decay. Capitalist society, which is today struggling in the throes of senility, was, some two hundred years ago, a vigorous, healthy youth, with the bloom of progress on its cheek.

The paid professors of capitalist economics have their way of explaining the misery amidst plenty that prevails in modern society. Their answer is: "Capitalism always was with us; it will always be with us; there have always been rich and poor; there have always been classes."

This glib explanation is as unscientific as it is uninspiring. Capitalism did not always exist. Nor did classes.

There were primitive societies without class division and exploitation of man by man. There was a slave society; and it fell. There rose a feudal society; and it passed. Today there is a capitalist society; and it begins to decay into dust rot before our eyes.

## Capitalist Property

Capitalism is not just another society with classes in it. Capitalism is a particular sort of economic system, out of which has developed a complete superstructure of politics and law and government and thought.

Under the slave system, the chattel was the personal, transferable property of the slave-owner. The slave was captured, bought and sold. The master class counted its wealth in terms of its slaves and its lands.

Under the feudal system, the serf was tied to the soil and was bought and sold with the buying and selling of the land. The serf was as much part of the land as the rocks and the trees and the bushes. He was not separable from the dirt. The feudal lord was first of all a landlord, dominating the serf by virtue of his ownership of the soil.

Under capitalism the producing masses are generally not chattel slaves, nor are they feudal serfs. Under capitalism the worker is a free man; he is legally the property of no man.

Actually, this freedom means that the worker is free to starve to death or to sell his muscle and brain power to some new type of overlord, the capitalist, who has the capital to employ the laborer.

## The Modern Worker

The modern worker, called the proletariat, is one without property or a permanent residence or even a permanent caretaker. The proletarian is a propertyless bit of social driftwood whose labor is at the disposal not of one lord or one master but of the entire capitalist class.

Capitalism is distinguished by the nature of the major exploiting and exploited classes in modern society, by the capitalist and the working class.

The capitalist is one who derives his basic income from the exploitation of labor, through his control of the major means of production necessary for society: Put plainly: the boss owns the shop, the machines, the ground. And if the worker wishes to use these in order to earn a livelihood, he must hand over to the boss most of the wealth he produces.

The proletarian is one who earns his basic income from the sale of his labor-power to the employing class.

From the attempt of the capitalist to derive as great a share as possible for himself, on the one hand, and the attempt of the proletarian to derive the full product of his social labor, on the other, arises the modern struggle of classes.

Capitalist economists have an apologetic explanation of this exploitation. Their favorite example is Robinson Crusoe.

Just imagine Robinson Crusoe and his good-man Friday on their famous island, these "scientific" economists declare. Robinson and Friday fished daily. And they ate what they caught.

But then, one day, the superior intellect of Cru-

soe advised him to turn thrifty. Instead of spending all his time fishing and eating, he practised some "abstinence" and made a fish net. Many days and nights he spent making his fish net.

Then one day, Friday, who had now grown old and weak, unable to catch many fish on the reel, came to Robinson and requested the use of the fish net. Robinson, in that kind manner which typifies Al Sloan, James Rand, Ernest Weir, Pierre du Pont, offered out of the pity of his soul to permit the short-sighted Friday to use the net—but.

But—Friday had to pay a price. Of the fish that Friday caught he had to pay over to Robinson a goodly share.

Now it was Robinson's turn to sit and be baked in the sun, while Friday caught fish every day of the week and fed his capitalist, Crusoe.

This is the general explanation of the origin of capitalist wealth, as dished up by the learned economists of our halls of learning.

An appropriate example indeed of an economic fish story.

Unfortunately for these learned writers of economic fiction, capitalism did not grow up on any island, nor in the imagination of a Robinson Crusoe. It developed in Europe about three hundred years ago—and we know how.

## Capitalist Accumulation

The original accumulation of wealth in the hands of the ruling classes came not out of "abstinence and thrift." History relates that over a period of about one or two hundred years, the methods of producing wealth were continually improving in Europe. The increased wealth did not pass into the hands of those who produced. They were mulcted away into the pockets of the rich.

As wealth increased, so did taxes, and tolls, and fines, and tithes. From the progress of society, only the upper classes directly benefited.

But the increased wealth that passed into the hands of the ruling classes did not provide the basis for capitalist production. Raw wealth, in the form of wheat, potatoes, wine, can not be utilized or even accumulated by the employing class in sufficient quantity for use in capitalist production. Such commodity wealth must be transformed into money form; that is, into gold, silver, copper.

Rapaciously, Europe began to grasp up a stock of precious metals.

First, there was a raid upon the precious stores of the cities of the decayed Byzantine Empire in the East.

## An Era of Plunder

Then, they kidnapped slaves in Africa and set them to work in the silver mines of Spain. Slaves were cheap and silver dear, so they worked them twenty-four hours a day until they died in the harness.

Then, they turned to the torture pillage of the Incas and Aztecs, plundering their stores of gold and silver.

Then, they organized piracy, under governmental auspices, upon the ships of other nations carrying such metals.

Capital came into being sweating blood and filth from every pore. Piracy, plunder, torture, taxes, tolls and fines—these were the methods of thrift practiced by the ruling classes. Such was their abstinence!

The Latins used to say: "Pecunia non olet!" Money does not stink!

How fortunate for the capitalists of the world, or the reek of their wealth would choke their tender nostrils.

With this wealth capital turned to the exploitation of labor. But labor had to be let loose from the lands to be exploited. The driving of the peasantry from the land was the next bloody pillar of capitalism.

(Next week we shall describe the creation of the modern working class out of the old peasant system.)

# Paris Commune—66 Years Later

By GUS TYLER

For two months and ten days, from March 18 to May 28, 1871, the workers of Paris maintained their revolutionary regime. For the first time in its history, the proletariat—the men and women at the bottom of society—had come to the top to establish a "social republic"—without poverty and without classes.

On May 28 the Paris Commune was drowned in blood.

## BISMARCK CRUSHED PARIS COMMUNE

But the Paris Commune was not put down by the French capitalist class alone. It was put down by the armies of France's enemy of yesterday—Prussia.

Like Franco today, so Thiers in 1871 was unable to win the support of the nation in his war against the Paris workers. Like Franco, Thiers was only able to collect some reactionary gendarmes, a handful of French "Carlists" in the form of the religious zealots of Brittany who under the flag of the Republic went out shouting: "Long live the King."

Like Franco, he had to use the Zouaves, France's Foreign Legion in the Moorish wars, as the backbone of his early army. And like Franco, Thiers found all this insufficient to win his war.

Theirs turned to Bismarck, just as Franco turned to Germany and Italy. Only yesterday, French Imperialism and Bismarckian militarism were clashing on the battle fields of Europe. Only yesterday, nationalist hate, ran high.

But today—both Bismarck and Thiers faced a common foe, the armed Parisian proletariat. Against this foe they were able to unite—even in 1871 when the idea of nationalism was the fondest bourgeois ideal.

Bismarck released the army of Bonaparte and sent several crack regiments of Emperor William, to boot—for the slaughter of the Communards. And this filthy tradition, the military handclasp of the international butchers, has been carried forward with glorious shamelessness by Lloyd George, Clemenceau, Woodrow Wilson, Hitler and Mussolini.

## THE CLASS STRUGGLE IS INTERNATIONAL

It was not the ruling class that drowned the Finnish proletarian revolution of 1917 in the blood of 19,000. The job was done by the troops of Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany.

Not the Hungarian Magyar lords who stifled the Hungarian workers' state; but the troops of Roumania, financed by Britain and France.

When there was talk of a German and Austrian revolution, in 1919, the "democrats" Allies dispatched their warning: "We will be in Berlin in twenty-four hours."

Russia had to fight the armies of Italy, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Poland, England, France and—if you please—the United States.

The Austrian Socialists fought in 1934 under the shadow of the Italian and German troops massed on the border, ready to intervene.

And now Spain!

The lesson of the Paris Commune, written in the steel hand of Bismarck, and incarnated with the blood of half dozen workers' revolutions since, reads:

The proletariat of no one country shall be permitted to take and hold power unless it is ready, together with the workers of other lands, to check the armies of the combined capitalist powers of the world. If the bourgeoisie chooses the world for its arena, the workers must learn to fight back internationally.

Despite the absence of a highly matured international labor movement in 1871, workers from all lands joined in the defense of Paris, just as today workers from all lands join the International Brigade, just as workers from America join the Debs Column. As Marx wrote:

"The Commune admitted all foreign-

## Monsieur Thiers An Earlier Franco

ers to the honor of dying for the immortal cause . . . The Commune made a German working man its minister of Labour . . . The Commune honored the heroic sons of Poland by placing them at the head of the defenders of Paris."

## FOR WORKERS' RULE, NOT "DEMOCRACY"

Only a few short days after the Commune had been crushed, Karl Marx rushed his "Civil War in France" to the press. It was his official declaration that the Commune was the property of the International working class.

Just as today the reactionary press of the world fills the air with its horror cries and poison rumor about the godlessness and the cruelty of the Spanish masses in their fight against Franco, so in 1871 the capitalist politicians and their bought journalists hastened to paint the courageous Communards as common cutthroats and incendiaries.

The workers were charged with the murder of noble men, like Clement Thomas, with the assassination of priests, with setting fire to houses. The press was silent about the fact that Thomas was shot by his own men when he ordered them to shoot upon the workers, about the fact that the hierarchical clergy men were held as hostages for Blanqui, about the fact that Paris was in flames because the cannon of Versailles were levelling the city to the ground. To answer the lies of reaction, Marx wrote his brochure in the name of the International Workingmen's Association!

Unlike some of the snivelling pseudo-revolutionaries of today, Marx did not try to defend the Communards by minimizing their cause, by portraying them as fighting for a bourgeois republic, by hiding the class character of the movement behind the skirts of vague liberal phrases. Fearlessly, in the face of a world campaign of calumny, Marx proclaimed the Paris Commune for what it was: a revolutionary struggle of the working class for a proletarian dictatorship to establish Socialism.

Amidst the world campaign of hysteria, when the Communards were seeking asylum in other lands, Marx wrote, boldly: "Yes, gentlemen, the Commune intended to abolish that class property which makes the labour of the many the wealth of the few. It aimed at the expropriation of the expropriators."

Marx was a practical politician as well as a principled revolutionary. He knew that the Paris Commune would in future years raise high the spirits of the battling workers; he knew that the Commune would strike terror into the hearts of the exploiters. And so Marx raised the flag of the Paris proletariat high, so that workers in all lands might see it, and take courage from it: "The old world writhed in convulsions of rage at the sight of the Red Flag, the symbol of the Republic of Labour, floating over the Hotel de Ville."

## PROLETARIAT HEADS PEASANTS, MIDDLE CLASS

In the great French Revolution of 1789, it was the bourgeoisie which elaborated a program of democratic reform against the old feudal regime. The peasants, the proletariat, the petty-bourgeois elements composed the radical section of this revolution; but the bourgeoisie itself was sufficiently progressive to move forward with the revolution and even offer it leadership.

But by 1871, Marx saw clearly that the bourgeoisie was no longer a progressive force in France. The attack upon the Communards in 1871 was a reaffirmation of the reactionary bourgeois tenacity expressed in the July Days of 1848 when General Cavaignac had brutally murdered the restless unemployed.

By 1871 Marx saw clearly that ONLY the proletariat of France could take the leadership in a progressive movement. Marx saw clearly that the proletariat could most easily win the support of the French petty-bourgeoisie and the French peasantry on a program of proletarian revolution and by a complete break with bourgeois compromise.

It was for this reason that Marx, the practical politician, proclaimed quite bluntly the proletarian, the revolutionary and the Socialist character of the Paris Commune. The Paris Commune raised high the banner of liberation not only for the working class—but also for the petty bourgeoisie and the peasantry.

As Marx wrote: "This was the first revolution in which the working class was openly acknowledged as the only class capable of social initiative, even by the great bulk of the Paris middle class—shop-keepers, tradesmen, merchants—the wealthy capitalist alone excepted."

As he further wrote: "The Commune was perfectly right in telling the peasants that 'its victory was their only hope.' . . . The Commune would have delivered the peasant of the blood tax, would have given him cheap government, transformed his present blood-suckers, the notary, advocate, executor, and other judicial vampires, into salaried communal agents, elected by and responsible to himself."

As far back as 1871, long before capitalism had reached the present depths of economic collapse, long before the peasantry was facing bankruptcy, long before the petty-bourgeoisie wavered on the brink of ruin, Marx saw clearly that the non-proletarian elements could best be rallied by a program of a workers' regime, by the program of what Engels called "the proletarian dictatorship."

As Marx put it: "If the Commune was thus the true representative of all the healthy elements of French society, and therefore the truly national Government, it was, at the same time, a working men's Government . . ."

Of this revolutionary government, whose program was the most effective for rallying the petty-bourgeoisie and the peasantry, Engels wrote: "Gentlemen, do you want to know what this dictatorship looks like? Look at the Paris Commune. That was the Dictatorship of the Proletariat."

Today, when the Communist Party and the reformists of the world are using the petty-bourgeoisie as their excuse for forming a People's Front on a non-proletarian, non-revolutionary basis, we are tempted to paraphrase Engels:

"Gentlemen, do you want to know how to win over the petty-bourgeoisie and the peasantry to the side of the workers against reaction? Look at the Paris Commune. That was a real People's movement on the basis of the dictatorship of the proletariat."

## PROLETARIAN DICTATORSHIP AND THE USSR

As the term "dictatorship of the proletariat" issued from the writings of Marx and Engels it was synonymous with the birth of a new freedom. In the more than half a century that has passed, the same term has been cruelly distorted by the misshapen rule of the Soviet bureaucracy into meaning almost the opposite of what was intended.

Aside from the numerous economic measures directed against the ruling class, what was it that Marx recognized to be the essential basis for a new freedom in the political structure of the Paris Commune?

As Engels summarized it: "In order not to lose again its but newly-won supremacy, this working class must, on the one hand, do away with all the old repressive machinery previously used against it, and on the other hand, safeguard itself against its own deputies and officials, by declaring them all with-

out exception, subject to recall at any moment."

Please note! Even after the overthrow of the bourgeois state, the workers must take care to protect themselves "against its own deputies and officials." What a needed warning! How the Russian workers might profit from it today!

What safeguards did Engels underline? "In the first place, it filled all posts—administrative, judicial and educational—by election on the basis of universal suffrage of all concerned, with the right of these electors to recall their delegate at any time. And in the second place, all officials, high or low, were paid the wages received by other workers."

Engels recognized that even after the workers had come to power there was no automatic guarantee that there would be no "place-hunting and careerism." The danger of a new bureaucracy was a real one—unless the officials were directly responsible, even to the point of instant recall, to the masses. The danger was a real one—unless public officials, and those tied into the state bureaucracy, were paid salaries roughly commensurable with that of the ordinary worker.

What a brilliant warning! And what a cruel thought to cast before the eyes of the present unrecalable rulers of Russia with their surrounding clique of high paid chosen men!

"Yes, gentlemen, do you want to see what the proletarian dictatorship looks like. Look at the Paris Commune." And if you want to see a parody of the proletarian dictatorship, look at the Soviet Union today.

## THE END OF NATIONAL WARS OF PROGRESS

The Paris Commune marked the end of an epoch and the beginning of a new era. The great progressive bourgeois ideal of national liberation had already exhausted itself by 1871 in the great French nation. National liberation was sacrificed on the altar of Thiers' murder of the Communards.

As Marx wrote in his last paragraphs of the Civil War in France:

"That after the most tremendous war of modern times, the conquering and the conquered hosts should fraternize for the common massacre of the proletariat—this unparalleled event does not indicate, as Bismarck thinks, the final repression of a new society upheaving, but the crumbling into dust of bourgeois society."

"The highest heroic effort of which old society is still capable is national war; and this is now proved to be mere governmental humbug, intended to defer the struggle of the classes, and to be thrown aside as soon as that class struggle bursts into civil war. Class rule is no longer able to disguise itself in a national uniform, the national Governments are one as against the proletariat."

What a fresh smack to these lines. They read as if they were written for today, to be read by all those self-blinded would-be leaders of the working class who talk of progressive bourgeois wars today, who talk of the bourgeois governments giving their armies to the defense of the Soviet Union.

Read again, you gentlemen, if the bloody facts of the world war, if the hypocritical diplomacy of the bourgeois democratic powers during the last two years have not convinced you! Read again, you who call upon the workers to support new wars of American and British and French capitalism.

A new war of a capitalist country is merely "intended to defer the class struggle."

To "defer it" not for ever, for it will break out again. But to defer it long enough to crush the workers under the military imperialist machine, so that when the class struggle breaks out again, any place in the world, or where the working class is in power anywhere in the world, as in the Soviet Union, the capitalist powers may throw their national differences "aside" and may turn as "one against the proletariat."

Read the lesson and learn, before it is too late to learn!

# Nazi Berkshire Interests Control Hosiery Empire

The "Berkshire Empire" in Reading, Pennsylvania, lacks nothing in efficiency of operation and management. Forethought and planning by its founders have built within this community, agencies that would be the pride and inspiration of any group of workers. The great machine that has been built by the Wyomissing Industries, if converted to the use and welfare of the citizens of this vicinity, could be a great social good toward which we as Socialists aim.

The Empire that has been built out of the silk stocking industry has been built by the sweat of workers, and its profits go into the hands of a few owners. Under a Worker's Government, its vast resources would be given over to the use of workers for the pleasure and welfare of all who have helped in its building.

### Founding of Company

The Schuylkill Valley in Berks County, Pennsylvania, bears a marked resemblance to the vine-clad hills of the Rhine. Seeking it out as a transplanted bit of the Fatherland, industrious Germans brought to it many of their old customs and occupations.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, some of their small industrial concerns began to feel the influence of mechanization, and many new industries appeared to challenge the supremacy of the time-honored mining and metal-working operations which hitherto had formed the major occupations in this section. Included among the new activities were the beginnings of textile trade; new firms engaged in braiding and knitting work.

Seeing in these things a need for good machine building, two

young Germans made careful plans that matured early in 1892, when they turned confidently toward the City of Reading to establish themselves in a machine shop business. Their association was a mutually advantageous. These two were Ferdinand Thun and Henry Janssen.

"In 1906, a full-fledged hosiery mill was incorporated known, then and now as the Berkshire Knitting Mills, Inc., Mr. Gustav Oberlaender, one of the group of young Germans who had become acquainted with Mr. Thun and Mr. Janssen in New York before the partners went to Reading was brought to Wyomissing, taken into partnership, and charged with the management of the Berkshire Knitting Mills."

### The Firm Expands

In line with steady improvements in plant efficiency to handle increased production in later years, a tunnel system was installed to carry all steam, water-return and compressed-air pipes, and cables for power, light and telephone service. This was extended until more than a mile and a half of well lighted and ventilated tunnels connected the various buildings. During this strike and previous strikes, the tunnels have served as the inlet and outlet from the various other factories to the knitting mill, allowing the scabs to enter the mill secretly, thus avoiding the picket lines.

During the World War, the importation of knitting machinery, dyes and other raw materials were practically cut off, since most of the imports were made in Germany. Thus this German-American group thrived, and during the war the 110 per cent "patriots" often pointed to this organization as the "Little Germany across the Schuylkill River."

### The Hands Reach Out

Not to allow their chief business interests to keep them out of touch with other affairs, they have participated in banking, land development, building operations, utilities and manufacturing concerns. To mention only a few, there are the Wyomissing Valley Disposal Company, The Wyomissing Development Company (real estate), the Lehigh Structural Steel Company, the North Wyomissing Heights Water Company, the Peoples Trust Company, the Union National Bank and the Berks County Trust Company in Reading.

"When the American Society of Friends after the World War undertook the feeding of starving children in Germany," the official company history states, "the Gentlemen of Wyomissing could always be counted among the many supporters of this noble cause which resulted in the creation of a great many individual friendships between American and German people. Thun and Janssen, supported by a group of like-minded people, established in 1930 the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation with headquarters in Philadelphia."

This they take pride in printing, but when Berks County workers go out on strike against the measly wages of \$8.50 per week, children just out of high school, they have nothing to offer but police clubs.

### Nazi Backers

Let us see to what further use the Schurz Fund is put. On August 8, 1935, the organized labor movement in Reading, through the daily press, told the citizens of the community what it thought about the tie-up between the Wyomissing Industries, Group and the Nazis of Hitler Germany, in a Resolution which they adopted.

"WHEREAS, the City Council and the School Board of Reading granted a leave of absence to Thomas W. Lantz, director

of Recreation, and Thomas H. Ford, Supt. of Schools in Reading, in order that they might visit Nazi Germany as guests of the Gustav Oberlaender Foundation (Note: The Oberlaender Fund is administered by the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, Inc.), and there study the youth movement controlled by Fascist Hitler, and

WHEREAS, the very thought of inculcating any of the ideas of Nazism into the lives of the children of Reading is repugnant to all decent and liberty-loving citizens, therefore be it resolved that we violently protest against any more city or school district employees being given leaves of absence or being permitted to accept gratuities from the Gustav Oberlaender foundation."

This merely shows how deep-rooted were their plans to develop ideas that smack of Nazism in our own community. It might be added, that many more professional men, deep in the politics of Berks County took trips at their expense. Millions of the dollars of the profits from the Wyomissing Industries, in this way have gone to Hitler Germany.

Thousands of dollars have been contributed to the political campaigns of the Republican Party by them and it was with the support of this group, that former Congressman Esterly was sent to Washington (a former employee of the Wyomissing Industries), his main purpose in being there to control legislation on tariff in connection with imported knitting machinery.

### Control Machines

The Textile Machine Works, which manufactures this intricate knitting machinery ships its machines to all parts of the United States and the world. With the machines are sent expert mechanics to install or add any new parts necessary to the making of a new kind of stocking. Most of these machines are not sold outright, but are sold on long-time leases, therefore putting the lessee in a position of accepting the terms of the owners, or going out of business.

Many of the mills in this vicinity are dependent upon the Textile Machine Works for their machinery.

The Wyomissing Industries, with

## Forgotten Sit-Inners

Forty thousand voices make a big noise at Detroit but ten sit-downers in the boot and shoe trade striking in a loft at Bleeker and Greene Streets New York are very apt to be forgotten. So it seemed last Sunday night. Locked in the building, the steam turned off, the strikers were none too happy in spite of their determination to hold out.

Nine Socialists of the Village Branch on their way home from a Sunday evening forum discovered the plight of the strikers. They inquired if they could be of assistance. Upon being told what the situation was the party members immediately started out on a foraging expedition.

Within half an hour the ten strikers were provided with blankets, food, cigarettes, and... yes, an accordion.

the other mills in and about Reading, forms one of the greatest hosiery centers in the world, and produces the greatest portion of hosiery sold in the United States.

### What Remains for Workers

Just what does this Berkshire Empire, then, with its vast domain mean to the full-fashioned hosiery industry of this country?

The majority of the workers in these mills cannot help but be under the control of the owners, body and soul. Loss of work means loss of the homes, on which their realty companies controlled by the company have mortgages, and their very existence is dependent from the school to the end of their working years, upon the Empire. With this central group setting the standards, other mills must compete, and in this vicious circle of competition, the worker can find but one answer. He must organize his working strength!

He must face the facts that 6,000 pairs of workers' hands today are doing the work, and not the dozen pairs of the stockholders, who could do little more than open the mill doors if the workers failed to run the machines.

He must organize for shorter working hours, and better wages, and a greater goal for the common good—He must work for an Empire of the Workers in which workers control and own the machines—An Empire in which the profits go to the workers and not to the bosses or mill owners.

## May Day Unity Asked by WAA And Socialists

CHICAGO.—The state board of the Illinois Workers Alliance meeting in Chicago over the weekend voted eight to one to protest the disruptive tactics of the Illinois Communist Party which in answer to the appeal of the Socialist Party for a united Chicago May Day Conference and Demonstration, made February 18, finally sent a long and abusive letter (reprinted in the Daily Worker of March 5) which sought not only to slander the Socialist Party but dragged in the Illinois Workers Alliance with a series of false assertions and charges.

The Workers Alliance state board censured the Communist Party by name as disruptive and warned that the non-partisan political character of the Alliance would be maintained and no such stirring up of false issues as tried in the Daily Worker permitted.

### To Renew Demands

Arthur G. McDowell, state and county secretary of the Socialist Party, announced that demands will be made on the Communist Party for a United May Day in Chicago in 1937 on the same basis as the successful united front demonstration held in this cradle of May Day last year upon the initiative of the Socialist Party.

Meanwhile the North American Committee for the Aid of Spanish Democracy, of which both Socialist and Communist Parties are members, will be called upon to repudiate the ridiculous yarn circulated by the C.P. that only \$2 was raised for the Committee through Socialist efforts in Illinois. John Fisher, state chairman of the Socialist Party headed a meeting in Gillespie where over \$600 was raised for the committee, and A. Zager of Waukegan headed the Waukegan committee in raising nearly \$300.

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Chelsea Br. Meets every Wed. at 321 W. 24th St. Walter Goldwater, Sec'y, 344 W. 12th St.

### BRONX

2ND A.D. meets second and fourth Wednesdays, at 1401 Jerome Ave. Sophie E. Nelson, secretary.

8TH A.D. Meets every Wed. 7 West Burnside Ave. (near Jerome) Rm 26. Ruth Auerbach, Sec'y.

AMALGAMATED, Upper 8th A.D. meets every Wed., at 9:00 P.M. at home of Comrade Maximon, 80 Van Cortland Pk. So. Apt. 7-F-22.

### BROOKLYN

DOWNTOWN KINGS. Regular meetings every Thursday at 8 P.M., 42 Smith Street. A. Walsh, Sec'y., 140 Warren Street. Clifford Clark, Treas

BORO PARK BRANCH, 4914 New Utrecht Ave. Meets every Wednesday evening at 8:00 P.M. Edith Feferholtz, Sec'y.

### LONG ISLAND

SUNNYSIDE. Meets 2nd & 4th Wed. at 3908 48th St., Sunnyside, L. I. Emily Oxhandler, Secretary.

### DETROIT

BRANCH ONE meets every Wednesday, 8 P.M., People's House, 3946 Trumbull. Tel.: TERRace 2-8512.

### ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

MEETS every Tues. 8 P.M. 1603A So Jefferson Ave. Bus. meeting 1st Tues. Class in Socialism 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tues. Labor Forum every Sunday 8 P.M.

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**Falcon Call Out**

Spring issue of the FALCON CALL, Socialist children's magazine, has just come off the press. It contains interesting stories by Jack London, Fred Warren, Guy H. Lockwood, and a host of other well-known writers of working

class children's literature. It is also chock-full of pictures, poems, puzzles, and other features of great interest to all workers' children. Individual copies may be secured in the national office of the RED FALCONS of AMERICA, 721 Moxley Building, Chicago; Illinois for 10 cents.

**another hot party**

*for the benefit of the socialist call . . . this time it is in the bronx . . . home of comrade Mitzes . . . 2132 wallace avenue . . . this saturday evening march 20 at 8 p.m. . . . presenting international revolutionary art troupe in "internal gas" . . . refreshments . . . games . . . only 50c.*

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- MEN TO SPAIN—THE EUGENE V. DEBS COLUMN . . . . . *Amicus Most*
- PACIFISM AND ITS CRITICS . . . . . *Devere Allen*
- THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT TODAY . . . . . *G. D. H. Cole*
- CARRYING COLE TO NEW-COMMUNISM *Gus Tyler*
- HONEYMOON . . . . . *David P. Berenberg*
- THE SOCIALIST CONVENTION: AN OPPORTUNITY AND A CHALLENGE *Harry W. Laidler*
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THE PROBLEM OF VIOLENCE.  
*A. J. Muste*

WHAT PRICE LEWIS? THE MOSCOW TRIALS  
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**two times two equals five**

and this isn't higher math, either . . . but the way we're going to make you feel at the rebel press shindig on saturday evening, april 17th, at 107 macdougall street . . . what, with dancing, with games, with refreshments solid and otherwise, with all kinds cut-ups, contests, prizes, if in the wee small hours of the morning you don't stand on a village corner and solemnly argue that "2 x 2 = 5" is the only correct line . . . well there is something wrong with you . . . so don't forget to remember the date and the place . . . and that the chelsea and village branches are throwing the shindig for the sole benefit of the socialist call . . . we'll be seeing you . . .

**CALL Drive Spurs On Second Birthday**

**By the Business Manager**

This issue marks the first number of the third volume of the CALL. Two years of financial stress and strain have been weathered. Two years of important developments in the American labor movement.

Even as this is written there are serious doubts as to whether we will see the light of day in Vol 111, No. 105. With many issues, this has been the case. This week it seems that all of our troubles have piled up and demanded a reckoning at the same time.

The first of last week we sent out most urgent pleadings for our friends to come to our assistance as our bank note comes due. Our tried and true friends were asked to come to our relief.

**Renew Subs**

Readers are urged to check up to see if their subscriptions are about to expire, and to renew now if this is the case. Check the number on your wrapper.

The response to our appeals were good, but not nearly good enough. Our ring of creditors is tightening about us!

This week we are repeating our offer of last week on subscriptions. The best thing you can do for the CALL on its second birthday is to get a new subscription in to us right away. Use the form on Page Seven and rush it to us. The dollar you send in will be credited on the quota for your state.

If your branch owes the CALL for bundles ordered during the past two years, make a special effort to pay off some of it—a birthday present to the CALL!

**Birthday Parties**

We have had word of successful anniversary affairs in various places. New York is having a big affair on March 21. Philadelphia is arranging a series of branch parties for the CALL. Reading raised some money last week which is being used to get extra copies for the hosiery strikers. As soon as hny funds are raised, rush them to us!

Statistics for the Call Drive for \$10,000 for this week: previously reported, \$1236.80; received this week, \$241.93; total thus far, \$1478.73; must be raised in this drive, \$10,000.

Standing of states and districts for the drive thus far:

City or State	Quota	Paid	P.C.
Boston	300.00	160.00	53.33
California	150.00	71.25	47.5
Oregon	50.00	21.00	42.
N. Y. State	400.00	115.10	28.78
Detroit	150.00	41.25	27.5
N. Y. City	2600.00	662.98	25.5
Kansas	50.00	11.50	23.
Cleveland	150.00	33.50	22.33
Illinois	300.00	65.00	21.67
Maine	40.00	8.00	20.
Pittsburgh	200.00	40.00	20.
New Mexico	30.00	6.00	20.
N. Hampshire	35.00	6.00	17.2
New Jersey	400.00	48.31	12.08
Texas	30.00	3.50	11.67
Florida	40.00	4.50	11.2
Indiana	100.00	10.50	10.5
Idaho	30.00	3.00	10.
Virginia	25.00	2.50	10.
Tennessee	30.00	3.00	10.
Pennsylvania	300.00	21.25	7.08
Maryland	100.00	7.00	7.
Iowa	50.00	3.50	7.
Dist. of Col.	125.00	8.00	6.4
Connecticut	600.00	37.59	6.27

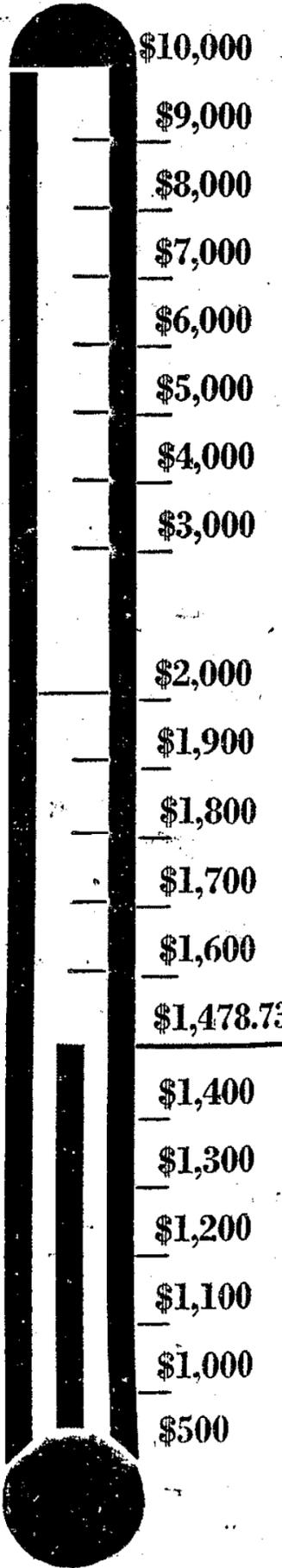
**ARE YOU LISTED?**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
 The following CALL agents have sent in subscriptions this week:  
 Marion Douglas, Westfield, N. J. . . . 4  
 Winston Dawson, Richmond, Va. . . . 2  
 L. V. Farnsworth, Wadsworth, O. . . . 2  
 Adah Straus, Va. . . . . 2  
 Ann Ritter, New York City . . . . . 2  
 Dave Miller, Bronx, N. Y. . . . . 1  
 Jack Schaffer, Brooklyn, N. Y. . . . 1  
 Greg Bardacke, Syracuse, N. Y. . . . 1  
 Jugo-Slav Branch, Chicago, Ill. . . . 1  
 Jerome Tucker, Baltimore, Md. . . . 1  
 Frieda Minowitz, Bronx, N. Y. . . . 1  
 Local Reading, Pa. . . . . 1

Ohio	150.00	7.25	4.81
Massachusetts	400.00	18.50	4.61
West Virginia	35.00	1.50	4.2
Philadelphia	400.00	16.25	4.06
Kentucky	50.00	2.00	4.
Colorado	50.00	2.00	4.
North Carolina	20.00	.75	3.75
Arkansas	30.00	1.00	3.33
Arizona	40.00	1.00	2.5
Oklahoma	40.00	1.00	2.5
Missouri	250.00	6.00	2.4
Chicago	400.00	7.00	1.75
Wisconsin	800.00	13.00	1.63
Michigan	150.00	2.25	1.5
Reading	300.00	4.50	1.5
Montana	50.00	.25	.5
Washington	75.00	.25	.33

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# With The Party

## CALIFORNIA

The following were elected delegates to the national convention: Ward Rogers, Clarence Rust, Cray Trimble, Glen Trimble, Millie Goldberg.

## MARYLAND

Delegate to the national convention from this state is Elizabeth Gilman. Jerome Tucker is alternate. Frank N. Trager, national labor secretary, spoke at party headquarters Mar. 10. Before the meeting Trager was the guest of a party of trade unionists at an informal supper at the YWCA cafeteria.

## MICHIGAN

The Paris Commune will be celebrated in Detroit Sat., Mar. 20, 8:30 P. M., at Doty Hall, Woodward at Blaine. Gus Tyler, editor of the CALL, will be the featured speaker. In addition an evening of entertainment is planned, including numbers by the Rebel Arts Dance Group, songs by the Bohemian Choir, vocal solos by Sterling Hale, and dancing.

A red-card meeting for Wayne county to instruct the delegates to the national convention will be held Monday, March 22, at 3946 Trumbull, Detroit. If the work is not completed, the meeting will be continued Wednesday.

At the request of the Detroit Federation of Labor, the local Socialist Party is setting up a broad conference to raise funds and give stenographic, office and other aid to the hundreds of strikes that are cropping up in Detroit.

## MINNESOTA

V. R. Dunn and Carl Pemble have been elected delegates from this state to the national convention. They will be guests of honor at a banquet under the auspices of the Socialist Party of Minneapolis at Eagles Hall, 8th St. and 4th Ave. S., Sun., Mar. 21 at 6:30 P. M. Farrell Dobbs of the General Drivers Union, Local 544, will act as toastmaster.

## MISSOURI

The Debs Flight of the Red Falcons of America will put on a play at the St. Louis headquarters of the party on March 20. Funds raised will go to help support the children's summer camp.

## NEW YORK (UPSTATE)

Brendan Sexton, will speak at the Albany Forum, 2 Ash Grove Pl., Sunday, March 21, at 3 P. M., on "The Unemployed Face Recovery." That evening at 8:30 P. M. he will speak on the same topic in the Old Chapel, Union College.

Herbert Zam, foreign editor of the CALL, will speak on "Fascism—Can It Happen Here?" in the following places: Labor Union Hall 151 Dominick St., March 20; Auburn, Council Chamber, Memorial City Hall, Sunday, March 21, at 3:00 P. M.; Syracuse, 129 E. Water St., Sunday, March 21, 8:00 P. M.

## NEW YORK (CITY)

The following were elected delegates to the National Convention from Local New York: Jack Altman, Alex Retzkin, Max Delson, Murray Baron, Brendan Sexton, Murray Gross, Hal Slegal, Henry Sabotka, Bill Farrell, Cuthbert Daniels, Gus Tyler, Herbert Zam, Isadore Laderman, Lou Hay, Mary Hillyer.

Lou Mann, state secretary, is in charge of the business as well as editorial end of Party Affairs, internal party magazine. Bundle orders and individual copies can be purchased from the state office.

Twenty-Fifth Annual Dance of the YPSL at the Central Opera House, 67th St. and 3rd Ave., Apr. 3.

City-wide mass meeting is being planned to support the Garibaldi Battalion and the Deb Brigade at the

Labor Temple, 243 E. 14th St., Apr. 4, 3 P. M.

John Newton Thurber will speak at a meeting of party members and enrolled Socialist voters at the Upper West Side Branch, 113 W. 85th St., NYC, March 19, on "A Socialist View of Current Events."

James Rorty will speak on "Can the American Medical Association Stop Health Insurance?" at the Village Forum, 107 MacDougal St., Mar. 21.

George Clark to speak on "Civil War in Spain," at the 12 A. D. Manhattan Branch, 615 Second Ave., Mar. 19.

Robert Delson to speak on the Peoples Front at Chelsea Branch, 312 W. 24th St., Mar. 18.

Social for the benefit of the CALL Sat., Mar. 20, at the home of J. Kitzes, 2132 Wallace Ave., Bronx. International Revolutionary Art Troupe in "Internal Gas." Auspices: Upper 6 A.D., Bronx.

## NEW JERSEY

The following were elected delegates to the National Convention from New Jersey: M. Stempa, H. Jjaeger, C. Handelman, L. Becker.

## OHIO

Frank N. Trager, national organization and labor secretary, and Bert Cochran, Auto Workers Union Organizer, were speakers at a membership meeting in Cleveland, Mar. 14, at which pre-convention programs were discussed.

## TEXAS

Workers who are interested in the Socialist Party around Houston can get in touch with the Houston local of the party by writing to Box 2321, Houston.

# Pitt. Workers And Students Hail Thomas

PITTSBURGH — A wildly enthusiastic CIO meeting of Flat Glass and Steel workers was the high spot in Norman Thomas' flying visit here last weekend. Ovarions greeted him wherever he spoke. Cheers and applause sped him from one audience to another in one of the most successful series of meetings ever held here by the Socialist Party.

The CIO meeting, held in the Palace theatre was among the most significant and encouraging in years. A real working-class, lunch-pail crowd, which included over 100 Negro workers, attended.

In the evening, Thomas addressed the 35th Anniversary dinner of the Pittsburgh Jewish Socialist branch. Leopold Somlo's 50th birthday and 32nd year in the Socialist movement was celebrated jointly at the Hotel Schenley.

Over 300 guests attended the dinner. Pittsburgh Unions and all the Workman's Circle branches were represented. CIO groups from Tarentum, New Kensington, Aliquippa listened to several speakers, including Thomas, and raised over \$200 for party and educational work.

## Speaks To Students

Tech and University of Pittsburgh students heard Thomas the next day despite the refusal of Chancellor Bowman to let him speak on the Pitt campus. A rented room at the Schenley Hotel was filled to capacity and scores of students were turned away.

# Wide Party Response To Debs Fund Drive

CHICAGO.—From one end of the country to the other—from California and New Mexico to New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, come reports to national headquarters of the Socialist Party of party members and branches accepting the voluntary assessment by the national organization through the Eugene V. Debs Organization Fund Drive to carry on the national work of the party.

Says Pearl Swan Powell, state secretary of New Mexico: "I do not know of a single member in New Mexico who makes as much as \$10.00 a week, but nevertheless several comrades have paid for four stamps (at 25 cents apiece) and some more."

Writes a comrade from Palo Alto, California: "The activity of Socialists in the CIO campaign and in the auto strike certainly proved the value of recent work of the national office. I should have given national headquarters financial support when the campaign for the Debs stamp began, but I just couldn't make it. . . I can now, so I am enclosing a check for \$5.00. That is more than the assessment according to my income is, and more than I can afford, but I believe that the work of the party at the present time deserves that support."

## From A Farmer

From a farmer in Gilmonton, N. H., comes this letter: "I enclose a 'bone' for Debs stamps. I came up here in 1921 and ran in debt \$500 on a farm and then \$400 more for horses and equipment and although I worked 15 to 18 hours a day for the first few years I was never able to reduce my indebtedness. When I came up here I had \$900 in cash but it's all gone now but an old house and a few second hand farming tools. I have had heart trouble, but it is the damnable system of exploitation in vogue that is the principal reason of my poverty as I have lived very prudently. Perhaps you may think I don't feel bitter as I have to practice the most rigid economy and am taking a chance on your getting this without buying a postoffice order."

The Debs stamp, the sales from which support the work of the national headquarters of the Socialist Party at 549 Randolph Street, Chicago, sells for 25 cents apiece. It is suggested that in buying the stamps and contributing to this work the following

## MUSICALES

followed by Studio Party every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. Two hour program of masterpieces. Refreshments, dancing, fun, frolic. 20 cents lets you in.  
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voluntary assessment schedule be followed:

Income per week	Stamp Assessment
\$10 or less	1 Debs Stamp
\$10 — \$20	2 Debs Stamps
\$20 — \$30	4 Debs stamps
\$30 — \$40	8 Debs stamps
\$40 — \$50	16 Debs stamps
\$50 or more	32 Debs stamps

Stamps sell at 25 cents apiece.

Have you followed the splendid example set by comrades all over the country?

Have you accepted your assessment? See your branch or local secretary.

Order from your state office or from national headquarters now.

## AMERICANS IN SPAIN

VALENCIA, (By cable to FP) —The American emergency hospital is doing excellent work near the Jarama sector, Spanish authorities stated in voicing gratitude for help sent from America. Working day and night in a schoolhouse, converted into a hospital, the staff has lost only one case thus far.

The NEW YORK PAPERS  
**DON'T CARRY**  
"All the news that's fit to print"  
Local comrades are requested to clip and mail all local items on strikes, civil liberties cases, etc., to  
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SECOND ANNUAL  
**Spring Cruise Dance**  
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at a Cabaret Dance Being Given by the  
**2nd A. D. Bronx**  
**Saturday Evening, March 20th**  
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MacColeman, Master of Ceremonies  
Rebel Arts Dance Group Gypsy Nose Levy  
Seven Piece Orchestra  
**and only 49c**

# N.Y. United Front In Spain Rally

Support of the Spanish workers and peasants in their fight against Fascism will be expressed at a united front meeting of working class groups and parties on the East Side, New York, at Irving Plaza, 15 Street and Irving Place, this Thursday evening, March 18.

Speakers will include Anita Brenner, Amicus Most, Ludwig Lore, Carlo Tresca, George Clark and others.

The meeting is sponsored by the East Side United Front Committee for Spain, which includes the following organizations: Lower East Side District of the Socialist Party, Lower East Side District of the Young People's Socialist League, Freedom and Libertarian Group, Poale Zion, Left Poale Zion, One Big Union, Vanguard Group.

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Music by HARLEM SWINGSTERS  
Subscription 49c

# Consumers' Cooperation

By BENJAMIN WOLF

Heartening news has just come concerning the complete success of local 302 of the Cafeteria Workers Union in organizing the workers of Consumers Cooperative Services, Inc., New York City's largest local cooperative which operates a chain of eleven cafeterias. Reliable sources inform me that all CCS workers of whom there are more than a hundred, are now members of the union and that the management is about to sign a contract for a closed shop.

**Unionize Cooperatives**  
This is significant news for several reasons. Although CCS is by no means the largest cooperative organization in the country, it is one of the most influential, both locally and nationally. By entering a mutually desirable,

cordial relationship with the union of its employees, CCS may set the precedent for 100 per cent organization of cooperative workers throughout the country. Unfortunately, there are large sections of the movement which still regard unions with suspicion. With CCS a closed shop, there is now hope that this suspicion will soon be allayed and that the natural close relationship between the trade union and cooperative movements will be established here as it has been in

many other countries.

The news is doubly welcome because it comes as a complete reversal of policy by the cooperative's Board of Directors and Manager. For years attempts to organize CCS's workers proved unsuccessful. Recently a strike was called and a mere handful of workers responded.

### Took Reactionary Stand

Despite the pleas of many progressive members, the Board took a stand quite similar to that of General Motors when it declared that it would protect the democratic right of the workers of CCS to choose any collective bargaining agency or none at all if they so wished. The Board declared its refusal to be a party to any so-called attempt to "coerce" its employees into a union, and therefore proposed a resolution to the membership asking endorsement of a plan whereby the strikers would be taken back if each made individual application for reinstatement. The membership endorsed the resolution and the union backed down and instructed the strikers to comply with the will of the membership.

The disgust with which the action of the Board was received by the more progressive elements among the members coupled with an energetic organization campaign by the union against the background of CIO successes, undoubtedly caused the belated but nevertheless welcome change of heart on the part of the Board.

The Baker Commission which President Roosevelt sent to Europe to study cooperatives abroad has just made public its report. An analysis of the report will be made in next week's column.

## Books

# Moral Thunder

By JOHN WHEELWRIGHT

**THUNDER OVER JERUSALEM**, *Poems of Justice*, by Allen Eastman Cross, Author of *Pass on the Torch*, Introduction by Edwin Price Booth, Professor in Boston University, Association Press, 1936.

These poems which the CALL is privileged to sell for its sustaining fund are written to enkindle ideals of action for Justice in our unjust society until all walls are overthrown and the ship of the soul makes the horizon its harbor.

Shock of truth is the thunder. Reverence for life is the truth which answers hideous exploitation with man's protest for un-mutilated mind and body. At their start and at their finish these poems equal Socialist ideas; in between, however, they labor under the weight of an ideology which handicaps their get-away and makes them hit the tap too late. Greed, for instance, which they sternly condemn and which surely leads the rich on to disaster, is the mainspring of revolt which propels the masses.

The philosophy of these poems lacks dynamic motive power; it derives from men of talent, Henry George and Edward Bellamy, not from Marx and Engels, men of genius. Likewise with the prosody. There is a poem for William Morris, but none for Blake, Shelley or Whiteman. The workers of this generation will not take up these words in song; but Community Church Forums

would do well to do so; and a contemplative use by such cross sections of society as gather round the YMCA who publish the volume) will help to engender the very force which enspirited its heroes: Francis of Assisi, I. L. G. wa, Jesus, Prometheus, the Puritan Fathers, Red Indian Chiefs, Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi.

We of the revolutionary movement, who are always pressed by problems of means, need to be reminded of our end. It is our task to create material conditions which permit and foster the flourishing of ideals. We shall bitterly fall inless, constantly and instantly through distracting complications, we create afresh the realizations of our moral aim.

Another Socialist poet, Kenneth Porter, whose "Pilate Before Jesus" (25 cents) I also offer for the CALL'S fund, has more surely revealed the social implications of Christian ideals by transvaluating moral values.

## Party Training School Started

The educational committee of Local New York has announced the following lectures, beginning April 5:

1. Survey Course in Elements of Socialism and Related Socialist Problems, to be given jointly by Gus Tyler and Hal Siegel. Compulsory for new party members. Fridays, 7 P.M. Eight sessions.
  2. Contemporary Socialist Problems, to be given jointly by Phil Heller and Joel Seidman. Tuesdays, 7 P.M. Eight sessions.
  3. Training Course in Organization, for a picked group of organizers, branch officers, Socialist League officers, and others interested in organizational problems. Tuesdays, 7 P.M. Eight sessions.
    - a. Political Perspectives of U.S. and Role of Socialist Party. John Newton Thurber, instructor. Two sessions.
    - b. Organizational Structure of the Party. Lou Mann, instructor. Two sessions.
    - c. Fraction Work in Mass Organizations. Jack Altman, instructor. Two sessions.
    - d. Specific New York Organization Problems. Sam Verne, instructor. Two sessions.
- All classes will be held at 21 East 17 Street.

## The Compass Travel Bureau

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● SPECIAL RATES TO CALL READERS ●

## Italians Rally To Aid Spain

Italian anti-Fascists will protest against Mussolini's invasions of Spain and demonstrate their solidarity with their Spanish brothers, who are fighting the Fascist hordes of the world on their own soil, at a mass meeting this Sunday afternoon at Mecca Temple, New York.

The meeting will also be in support of the Garibaldi Battalion of

Italians fighting with the International Brigade in Spain. Many Italian anti-Fascists are at present in the ranks of the Garibaldi Battalion.

A feature of the meeting will be the showing of the news reel, "Spain in Flames." The meeting will start at 2:30 P.M.

Speakers will include Girolamo Valenti, editor of La Stampa Libera; Arturo Giovannitti, educational director of the International Ladies Garment Workers; Pietro Allegra, organizer of the Italian Anti-Fascist Committee; Amicus Most of Friends of the Debs Column; Congressmen John T. Bernard and Arthur W. Mitchell; Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, I. Amter, and others.

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# STAGE SOCIALIST CALL

# SCREEN

## Spain Drama By Rebel Arts Opens Sunday

A long one-act play on the Spanish civil war by Michael Blankfort, "The Brave and the Bold" will be presented for the first time by the Rebel Arts Players at Labor Stage, 106 West Street, New York.

There will be at least two Sunday night performances on March 21 and April 4. It is expected that further performances will be given on succeeding Sunday nights.

The play is something entirely new in working class or proletarian plays. Written by a member of the Theatre Union executive board, who was author of "The Game" and co-author of "Battle of Britain" and who teaches play-acting at New York University, the drama is based upon the siege of the Alcazar by Spain's fascist forces.

Instead of giving a picture of the government forces, the scene is laid on the inside of the Alcazar on the 50th day of the siege. Absent are the stock figures and cliché situations sometimes associated with labor drama; but the questions "What manner of men and women are these human beings? What makes them the way they are?" are convincingly answered, without the creation of costumed figures all-black and all-white.

Preceding the play, a musical program will be given. The Rebel Arts Chorus will sing some new labor songs. Bernardo Segall, brilliant Brazilian pianist whose debut won the acclaim of the critics a few weeks ago, will play.

## Armament Film Is Available For Showings

The motion picture treatment of the peculiar relationship between Hitler and Thyssen and the inside facts of the International munitions octopus has just been made available to the public, after similar forces tried to stop its release for two years.

A veritable arsenal of factual information, the picture is the first full length American production that hits hard and straight at the Duponts, Vickers-Armstrong, Krupp, Schneider-Creusot, the DeWendels; and the other leading "dealers in death." It gives indisputable figures as to the cost of shells and ammunition and tears away the veil from the false patriotism of the munition makers to show them as racketeers in human lives.

"Dealers in Death" is now available in 16mm (safety film) for use in trade unions, schools, clubs and other organizations. Garrison Film Dist. Inc. of 730 7th Avenue supplies the film, operator, portable (safety) machines, screen and complete service.

### MUNITIONS BOOM

WASHINGTON, (FP) — Over \$3,748,000 worth of munitions were purchased by foreign countries from U. S. munitions makers in the month of February, according to records from the State department.

Spain, engaged in fighting off fascist aggressors, purchased no arms from the United States because of the embargo laid down by Congress. Germany, supplier of Franco with arms and men, purchased \$129,735 worth of munitions, most of which was aircraft parts.

## In Lawson's 'Marching Song'



Joseph Taulane and Gertrude Flynn in 'Marching Song' by John Howard Lawson, presented by the Theatre Union at the Nora Bayes Theatre.

## All-Italian Repertory Set For Hipp Opera by Maestro

An exclusively Italian repertory will be presented by the Hippodrome Opera Company for its opening series of performances next month. This series, commencing Friday evening, April 6th, inaugurates the organization's fifth year of grand opera at popular prices.

Mestro Alfredo Salmaggi, Director, in announcing this choice of repertoire states:

"Italian opera is earnestly wanted by the opera-going public of the metropolitan district, as attested to by the thousands of letters I have received protesting energetically against the favoritism accorded German opera at Broadway and Thirty-Ninth Street. The company, there, supported by subsidy and popular voluntary subscription, has conspicuously slighted the Italian repertoire, and, as a consequence, Italian singers during the season now ending. The hue and cry of protest arising, in particular, from a policy that ignored the Puccini operas, resulted in the belated season's end production of "Mme. Butterfly" and "La Boheme," works that I have featured frequently at ninety-nine cents top, despite expensive royalty charges.

Maestro Salmaggi has succeeded in signing several prominent Italian artists, among them Luigi Marletta, dramatic tenor, whose recent triumph in "William Tell" at Milan, won for him glowing comparisons with the late Tamagno. Marletta makes his New York debut at the Hippodrome's opening performance on April 16th, as Manrico in "Il Trovatore."

### "The Wandering Jew"

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## RKO Music Hall To Show Joe E. Brown's Latest

Joe E. Brown's new comedy, "When's Your Birthday?" will be shown at the Radio City Music Hall beginning Thursday, March 18.

Marian Marsh, Fred Keating and Edgar Kennedy are featured with the wide-mouthed comic while others in the supporting cast are Maude Eburne, Suzanne Kaaren, Margaret Hamilton, and many others.

David L. Loew's first production for RKO-Radio, "When's Your Birthday?" was directed by Harry Beaumont. The film was adapted from Harry Clark's original screenplay by Harvey Gates, Malcolm Stuart Boylan, and Samuel L. Pike.

### GRADUATION

With Devere Allen chief speaker, Brookwood, America's best known resident labor school, will graduate its 15th class on Saturday morning, March 20.

### Filmarte Scores Again!

"TSAR TO LENIN" "1 WEEK!" "Must be seen— not once but again and again!" —Wm. Boehnel, World-Tel. Filmarte 58th St. W. of 7th Ave.

### "DO NOT MISS IT!"

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## Farrell Believes Filmarte's 'Tsar to Lenin' Invaluable

By JAMES T. FARRELL

I have seen "Tsar to Lenin," and I believe that it is an invaluable record. The idea motivating such a presentation impresses me as being excellent, and I believe that the film has been put together both intelligently and dis-

### Prize Winning French Film In 2nd Week

The prize-winning French motion picture, "Rasumov," began its second week at the Cameo. Released in France under the title, "Sous Les Yeux D'Occident," the film was adapted from Joseph Conrad's classic novel, "Under Western Eyes," the story of the young student, Rasumov, seized in the cataclysm of revolution.

The cast of "Rasumov" is one of the strongest ever assembled for a French production. Pierre Fresnay who is in the title role is known for his remarkable performance in the feature role of the American stage play, "Conversation Piece," Jacques Copeau who plays the part of Mikulin, Chief of Police, is the director of one or

passionately. It is my conviction that this picture intensifies the awareness of any person interested in the Russian Revolution irrespective of his or her point of view and political allegiance. I know that personally I was interested in it as I was in Eisenstein's great classic "Ten Days That Shook the World."

"Tsar to Lenin" brings living scenes from history before our eyes. Please may I congratulate the management of the Filmarte for its courage and enterprise in bringing such a film before the American public. . . and I believe that it is an enterprise more than worthy of success.

the best known French repertory theatres, "La Compagnie de Vingti," and it is upon his method that the Group Theatre in New York has been organized.

There are complete dialogues in English.

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# AT THE FRONT



By **NORMAN THOMAS**

### CHILD LABOR

It is a curious and ominous alliance of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, conservative farmers, reactionary manufacturers and pundits for the plutocracy like Walter Lippmann and Nicholas Murray Butler which has again defeated the Child Labor Amendment in New York State. The hierarchy's claim that it fears only a preposterous abuse of power by Congress is as insincere as it is far-fetched in the light of its opposition to higher standards of child labor legislation in New York State.

This alliance which scares legislators could never defeat the amendment on a popular vote. It would be overwhelmingly carried.

### FOR AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

All this trouble would have been unnecessary and years of the woe of child labor avoided except for a Supreme Court which by divided vote nullified a workable child labor law, which was at least as well grounded in the inter-state commerce act as the Lindbergh anti-kidnapping law which it upheld.

More and more I am convinced that this situation requires the solution of the comprehensive Farmers and Workers Rights Amendment. It is a serious error in policy that the Washington Conference on a Constitutional Amendment is postponed indefinitely so as not to complicate the discussion of the President's proposal for enlarging the Court.

The danger is that that plan once adopted—as it probably will be eventually—will end action on the matter of judicial supremacy without a fundamental cure. There is much to be said now for the President's plan as an emergency measure, but it should be coupled with a more fundamental cure or it may ultimately prove as much of a curse as a blessing.

### COWARDLY ACT OF CONGRESS

Speaking of laws and courts, the House of Representatives did a cowardly thing when it postponed proceedings against Dr. Townsend for contempt until after the election could show whether he was dangerous to it or not. Guilty? Suppose he is, but for such guilt involving no moral obliquity it is cruel and stupid to make the old

man suffer a month's imprisonment besides a fine.

### REAL HEROES RANK AND FILE

To comment on the labor situation in detail when I have to write on the road almost a week in advance of the appearance of this column is impossible. But I can rejoice in the almost universal evidence of the awakening of the workers. Witness the strikes in Chicago, big and little, all well justified; most of them, including the taxi strike, spontaneous. Joe Jacobs and other less conspicuous Socialists are doing a grand job. But the real heroes are the rank and file. In Chicago, I was told, a great many taxi men are only clearing from nine to eleven dollars a week, including tips!

### AFL POLICY TRAITOROUS

The bad sign in the labor situation is the fatuous, yes, and the traitorous policy of the AFL leaders in declaring open war on the CIO in city federations just as the organizing campaigns are on. This can only aid the bosses.

Left to themselves the city federations would have preserved peace and might have been a bridge to ultimate reunion. As it is, in Philadelphia and Cincinnati, to my certain knowledge, the old line leaders have stalled, mislaid Green's letter, or whatnot, to postpone a break.

But under the circumstances the CIO did what it had to do in setting up a plan for further expansion, including its own city federations—for that's what they will become.

William Green, I was told, got a great reception from the Woman's Forum conducted by the Chicago Tribune. Homer Martin got nothing like it.

Even Bill Green ought to know that labor battles are not won by applause of club women at a Chicago Tribune forum. The majority applauded him—there was a progressive minority—precisely because they realize that he didn't and can't organize the mass of the workers.

### SIT-DOWN TACTIC AIDS UNIONS

Sit-down strikes, as I have often argued in this column, have proved their usefulness. They need to be

used with discretion. There is a latent opposition to them that might become dangerous if these strikes should be mishandled or recklessly used. But it's going a little far for the officers of the rubber workers union at Akron to condemn so wholesale the kind of strike to which at one period their own union owed so much.

As for middle class opposition to sit-down strikes, intelligent people ought to see that a recognized industrial union can control them better than 57 varieties of craft unions in the same plant or even than irresponsible company unions.

### GREAT FUTURE FOR PARTY

Labor's Non-Partisan League has a legislative program which Socialists should support in the unions and otherwise, whatever our differences from the League and whatever way our Convention may find to deal constructively with these differences.

Concerning that Convention, I am returning from these weeks of travel with a new sense of the necessity for Socialism and the Socialist Party and new confidence in what our convention may do if we remember to work out our plans and our discipline with emphasis on our unity as Socialists.

We need to improve our Party machinery and to reach agreement on essentials for action. This requires freedom of discussion of our policies and discipline not imposed by one faction or group of factions on another, but only on the basis of acts hurtful to the Party.

What I have seen and heard impresses me that the Communist line is becoming more opportunistic, more Jesuitical; more intent in many cases, on eliminating Socialists from positions of influence in labor unions. This does not mean, of course, that we must attempt the impossible and self-defeating task of refusing to deal with Communists or cooperate with them on any terms or any issues. But it does mean that a Socialist Party guided by their advice and appeals just wouldn't be a Socialist Party worth preserving.

Our success will be in applying in the American scene the principles of Socialism on the basis of a program worked out by those

who realize what the word "Comrade" should mean in terms of good faith, loyalty and integrity.

### WOLF SET TO GUARD SHEEP

The monstrous farce of non-intervention as played by the British Tories has led to the patrol of the most vital part of the Spanish Coast by the Italian and German navies while Mussolini's and Hitler's conscripts fight to take Madrid. This is setting the wolf to guard the sheep with a vengeance!

### NEW DEAL ON DANGEROUS ROAD

Roosevelt keeps talking about "the third of our population" which is ill-housed, but proposes or indorses no adequate housing bill. (The Wagner bill, although

improved over earlier forms, is no such measure.) Neither does the President propose a long term public works bill as the primary attack on unemployment. But he does support the armament race on a scale that cannot be explained as "defensive."

These expenditures furnish the foundation for a false, impermanent prosperity. And the President supports or is silent on the Shephard-Hill bill which in the name of conscripting wealth in the next war will give the profit makers more than their three year peace time average while it puts every man under conscription for the trenches or the work benches. This sort of New Deal will lead the workers straight to Fascism in the next crisis.

## Union Hits 'Nazi'-fied Berkshire

(Continued from Page One)  
here that the lay-down tactic of picketing was developed, for which over 165 strikers were sent to jail.

Information  
Under the campaign of violence and intimidation, the company was able to recruit many workers back to their jobs, and at the same time to make over 2000 replacements.

The strike in Berks County is a prelude to the gigantic drive for organization of the one and a quarter million textile workers planned by the CIO, and The United Textile Workers, of which the American Federation of Hosiery Workers is a federation. Emil Rieve, president of the hosiery union, is to direct the drive.

### Thomas Hails Hosiery Strikers

Norman Thomas sent the following expression of solidarity to the strikers:

"Some of you are on the picket lines, some of you are occupying the mills in sit-down strikes. All

of you are fighting in the same great cause.

"And what is that cause? Higher wages, shorter hours, better conditions? Of course. Union recognition with collective bargaining through your union as the workers' sole representative? That most of all.

"But behind these things is something deeper. You are tired of being "hands" serfs, cogs in the machine, in a country which proclaims itself the "land of liberty." You are tired of insecurity and poverty in a country which has the resources and the machinery to provide abundance for all.

"You have learned that only by striking together in their unions have the workers ever in any land even made so much as a beginning in winning the rights of human beings and deliverance from poverty.

"You can't win against the bosses one by one. You can't win only in one mill or factory. You can't win very much only in the country or city. You want a general victory for the hosiery workers of the nation! And that means organization, solidarity, courage!

"In the name of the Socialist Party of the United States of America, a party dedicated to the universal triumph of workers with hand and brain, I bring you greetings. On to victory!"



WHICH WAY FOR AMERICAN LABOR —

CIO OR AFL ?

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