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BOX SCORE

Pan-American League Dictatorships, 14 Democracies, 1?

BILL COLLECTORS FOR WALL STREET



American marines on parade in Havana, Cu ba. The island is technically independent, but actually the Cuban government under the direction of Wall Street agents has repeatedly crushed the free forces of Cuban labor.

THE LIMA IMPERIALIST CONFERENCE

By PAUL PORTER

The daily newspapers have commented at length on the current Pan-American conference in Lima, Peru, without shedding much light on what it may mean to the average American worker.

This is unfortunate because United States policy toward Latin America will go far in determining war or peace, depression or prosperity, for our own people, and if the common people are well informed they themselves can shape that policy.

Secretary of State Hull and the other members of the American delegation to Lima suggest that the major purpose of the United States is to unite the democratic nations of the western hemisphere against fascism.

To keep fascism from crossing either the Atlantic or the Pacific is a worthy purpose, but Mr. Hull's description is inaccurate on two counts.

Fourteen Dictatorships

In the first place, most of the nations below the Rio Grande are not democratic nations. Of the 20 Latin American countries no less than 14 are ruled by dictators. In fact, only three—Mexico, Columbia and Costa Rica—can with reasonable accuracy be described as democratic. Chile can perhaps be added to this small list if the recently elected president, Pedro Aguirre Cerda, is actually permitted to take office.

Preventing elected presidents from taking office is an old Latin American custom. An instructive case of ignoring elections is that of President Oscar Benavides of Peru, who last week spoke touchingly of "democracy" in welcoming the visiting diplomats to Lima.

Rule of Bankers

From 1919 until 1930 Peru was ruled by a dictator, Augusto Leguia. He was kept in office with the aid of huge loans from American bankers, who promptly sold Peru's bonds to the United States sucker public, which was left holding the bag when Leguia was overthrown in a popular uprising. An army sergeant, Sanchez Cerro, succeeded him. Cerro was assassinated three years later, and Benavides, promising a democratic government, became provisional president.

Finally, in 1936 presidential elections were held. Benavides was opposed by Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, leader of the powerful APRA movement (American Popular Revolutionary Alliance.) Against Cerro in 1930, Haya de la Torre had been elected but counted out. This time, Benavides declared that he was an "ineligible" candidate. APRA then supported another candidate, Luis Antonio Eguiguren. He won.

7,000 Political Prisoners

Benavides annulled the election and has continued to rule as a dictator. More than 7,000 APRA supporters are prisoners in Peru's jails. Their only crime is opposition to Benavides. Secretary Hull needn't fear that Benavides will be taken into camp by Hitler. Benavides was there first.

The second thing wrong with Mr. Hull's statement of the aims of the Pan-American conference is to suppose that those most interested in the conference are concerned about democracy vs. dictatorship anyway.

Struggle for Markets

Their concern is trade. American business men want the Latin American market. Their

objection to Hitler, Mussolini, and the Japanese Mikado is not that they are dictators, but that they are competitors. Behind the screen of saving democracy (remember the slogan of 1917?) they pursue the old imperialist game of maneuvering and fighting for markets.

Latin America has grown more important to them for three reasons. In the first place, Europe is spending so much on guns that she can't buy the usual quantities of ordinary commerce. Secondly, Japan is squeezing the United States out of China. A deal between Japan and Great Britain is not unlikely.

Finance Capital

In return for British banker loans (to buy soldiers, etc.) Mr. Chamberlain's business supporters would be permitted to keep the South China market for themselves. Japan would take the rest. Uncle Sam would be told to peddle his goods elsewhere.

In the third place, a quarter of the United States population—living on WPA or relief—is no longer able to buy any sizable amount of manufactured goods. And with American factories running only part time, there is no reason for Wall Street to invest money in new plants in this country.

Labor's Interest

It would be much better for American workers if the home market were built up first. There is no excuse for dumping United States products abroad (and that's what has been happening, and will happen still more) until all of our own people are plentifully supplied. Let Mr. Hull's government find ways of putting American workers back to work at good wages, and they can buy most of the goods he's now trying to peddle abroad.

This doesn't mean that the American people need to be indifferent to the struggle against fascism in Latin America, or elsewhere. But fascist ideas can't be stopped by the American navy, no matter how big it may be built by President Roosevelt.

Mexico

How not to fight fascism is illustrated in American relations with Mexico. The Mexican government is liberal. It has been fighting fascism by trying to improve the living standards of Mexican people, which is the only way fascism can ever be finally licked. To that end, it took possession of American and British oil companies when these companies refused to pay a living wage to their Mexican employees.

The American and British oil companies, with the encouragement of Mr. Hull, slapped a world boycott on Mexican oil. Finally, in desperation, the Mexican government had to dispose of oil, its major export, to Germany on a barter basis. Far from keeping Hitler out of this hemisphere, our state department has given him one of his biggest boosts.

May Lead To War

We workers can defeat fascism only by preventing American industrialists and bankers from trying to boss South American governments. Freed from United States imperialism, the Latin American workers and peasants will be able to get rid of their own dictators and to keep the German Italian and Japanese dictators out, too.

They can do the job better than can United States soldiers and sailors. Mr. Hull's policy is likely to involve us in a war for democracy in name but imperialism in practice.

Bitter Satiric Signs Assail WPA Layoffs

BY JOHN NEWTON THURBER

MERRY CHRISTMAS, WPAers!

Suckers, the Election Is Over.

I, like Hitler, believe cannons are better than bread; that warships are better than shelter.

You 500,000, who were cut off, take it and like it. Ha! Ha!

Franklin D. Roosevelt
Sig Heil.

Bitterly satiric signs with this wording were posted on big placards by discharged relief workers, victims of Roosevelt's Christmas greetings to America's unemployed, all over WPA headquarters in Oakland, California, last week.

Quickly the signs were torn down. The Associated Press, always on the alert to carry news which attacks the Roosevelt administration emanating from the citadels of big biz, was informed and given the wording of the posters. As far as can be found, no release was made concerning the incident for the newspapers of the state and nation.

500,000 FIRED

The WPA layoffs throughout the nation have been made without regard to age, need or size of family. Midway in the ruthless process such an uproar was raised that it was announced that no further layoffs were to be effected until after Christmas. But this was not retroactive. All those who were cut are left to shift as best they can.

One-half million people throughout the country have been thrown off the WPA. Their condition is desperate.

According to information leaking out of WPA headquarters, the cut was made by presidential order over the objections of Harry Hopkins, WPA administrator. Others are reported regretting that the WPA top officials have advised WPA workers to follow a less militant policy than once was the fashion.

C. P. ROLE

This cut comes at a time when the WPA workers are virtually without effective organization to press their demands for the essentials of life. The Workers Alliance of America, increasingly under the domination of the Communist Party, is tied by the policies of that party to playing lick-spittle to Roosevelt. As far as the WPA is concerned, the unemployed seem to be up against it.

A gentle conference with top leaders may be indulged in. Un-

employed workers throughout the country starve in the meanwhile, as the Communist Party's errand boys in the WPA, Lasser and Benjamin, play patty-cake with Roosevelt.

POLITICAL PAWNS

In a recent press interview, Roosevelt said that the increased armaments are to be paid out of "current income." In other words, preparation for his war is not going to get the blame for the expected \$365,000,000 deficit of the next fiscal year. Relief is to get that blame.

And the relief workers, having been used as political pawns in the New Deal's attempt at power politics this last fall, are to be allowed to suffer until another election rolls around. That is, unless the workers band together in effective militant organizations and let the administration know that they will not accept starvation as their lot, whether or not it is the wish of Franklin D. Roosevelt or Joe Stalin, or both!

Dies Committee Witness Nabbed On Fraud Charge

DETROIT—Jacob Spolansky, deputy sheriff, labor hater and reputed labor spy, who slandered organized labor before the infamous Dies Committee, was arrested last week on a charge of using his office to obtain money illegally.

Shortly after he was arrested, Spolansky was fired by Chief Deputy Bernard McGrath.

Ralph Knox, another Dies agent, was expelled from the United Automobile Workers of America after he had publicly announced plans to form a union dual to the UAWA.

LABOR SOLIDARITY

When the French Government's strikebreakers manned the Normandie it drew this action from the American Federation of Labor's Sailors Union of the Pacific:

International Longshoremen's Association
New York City

"We urge you take action refuse unload Normandie or any ships coming into your ports manned by strikebreakers and navy guards, French Seamen not Communists but good union men and you should send that wagon back to France with her finky crew without being discharged."

Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Harry L. Lundeberg,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Socialist Officers Ask Loyalist To Free POUM Leaders

Norman Thomas, national chairman, Socialist Party of the United States, and Devere Allen, chairman, International Labor Solidarity Committee, appealed to the Loyalist government of Spain to free the five leaders of the POUM (Workers Party of Marxist Unification), who were recently convicted in the Barcelona trials.

Of the seven POUMists tried, two were acquitted. They had been charged with participating in the May Day risings in Barcelona in 1937.

Thomas and Allen, in a letter addressed to D. Ramon Gonzales Pena, Loyalist Minister of Justice, pointed out that from the beginning they had listened with skepticism to the Communist cry that the members of the POUM were "military agents of fascism, conscious traitors to the Loyalist cause, etc."

CABALLERO

"It was our instinctive feeling that these members of the POUM were, as comrade Caballero said at the trial: 'not fascists, but extremely intolerant revolutionists,'" the Thomas-Alen letter said.

"The conduct of the trial was especially heartening to friends of Loyalist Spain in America, where we remember with horror the war hysteria of 1917-1918

and the lynch madness produced by that hysteria.

"At the trial the defendants were represented by an able defense attorney; many witnesses, including former and present high government officials, testified as to the character of the defendants. Among these witnesses were our comrades Caballero and Araquistain. We note with satisfaction that it was the prosecution itself which recommended the absolution of the defendants from the ridiculous charges of 'Fifth Column' espionage.

UNITY OF WORKERS

"We feel confident that the trial will mark the definite end of those irregularities in justice that unfortunately occurred during a period of several months

of the war. We know that its outcome will do much to strengthen and reinforce the unity so necessary to military victory—a unity which must include all workers' forces in Spain.

"We hope that the trial is the first step toward guaranteeing the further unity of Spain by carrying through, in the field of international diplomacy, a policy which bases itself upon the independence and integrity of Spain and upon the international solidarity of the workers."

COAL MINERS NEWS

Both the United Mine Workers of America and the Progressive Mine Workers of America conducted elections this month. The results will be announced in January. The Progressive elections will necessitate a run-off as its constitution calls for a majority vote before candidates can succeed to office. The Progressives claim 35,000 members, whereas the United claim 612,000 members in the United States and Canada.

Local 1, Progressive Mine Workers of America, Gillespie, Illinois, voted at its recent meeting to contribute \$25 to each of the nine Illinois young miners who are serving long sentences in prison because of their labor activities.

During the French general strike, Local 1 shot a hot telegram to William Green of the American Federation of Labor, calling upon him to act for the French trade unionists. Although affiliated with the AFL, Local 1 is no enemy of the CIO. It has made substantial donations to striking CIO unions, and enjoys the respect of union men in both camps.

A group of ex-coal miners now residing in Chicago recently organized a club dedicated to further labor work. At their last meeting they voted to contribute to the four Kentucky miners now serving life sentences in the La Grange (Ky.) state reformatory. Contributions were also made to Illinois mine prisoners and the European refugees. Five dollars was also donated to the CALL.

Since the turn of the century, more than 30,000 coal miners have been slaughtered in coal mines. The figure for non-fatal injuries runs into millions. According to a recent report of the International Labor Office, the United States still leads in mine fatalities, only surpassed by Japan.

John Battuello, Jr., son of Jack Battuello, president of Local 1, PMWA, continues to fight an eleven-year battle for his life. Injured when four years old, Johnny has had to lie on his back during the greater period of his affliction.

Thurber Faces Trial For Demonstrating For French Workers

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — One of the charges against John Newton Thurber and Jack Cope for picketing the local French Consulate here Nov. 30, was dropped by the District Attorney at the hearing before Judge Prndergast this week, while the arguments on the other charge will be heard in detail on December 29.

The dropped charge was that of failure to move on when warned, which could not be proved by the arresting officer in the face of motion pictures made of the episode by Ernest Besig, American Civil Liberties Union official. The remaining charge is that of violation of a municipal ordinance prohibiting the use of placards for advertising purposes on the sidewalks.

LEGALISMS

The lawyers must argue whether the display of placards by representatives of political parties is advertising of the party and its views, or is a publication of those views, a legal exercise of the right of freedom of the press. Only local precedents seem to concern use of

handbills, which are also prohibited as advertising but permitted (with police regulations) to publish political views and even political meetings.

PICKET CONSULATE

The case grew out of the picketing of the local French Consulate at the time of the French General Strike, a demonstration organized by the Socialist Party. John Newton Thurber, Socialist state secretary, and Jack Cope, local organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, were both jailed, after police had given two hours prior warning that any picket at the consulate would be arrested, presumably as a traffic violator.

G. O. P. ORGAN

On two days since the demonstration, the San Francisco Chronicle (GOP Organ) has carried editorials for long exemplary sentences for both pickets, denying the propriety of exercise of the right of picketing a consulate. Since then the Chronicle has been deluged with letters from readers attacking their narrow concept of freedom of the press, four of which have been printed already.

Republican and Democratic Parties Both Anti-Labor

Both the Republican and Democratic parties are reactionary and anti-labor, writes Joseph Schlossberg, general secretary of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, in an article in the December issue of "The Advance," official union organ.

"The issue was not Progress versus Reaction," he writes in evaluating the Nov. 8 elections. "It was not that at all. It was the old, old story of voting against the ins. That has happened many times before in the past seventy-five years.

"In a discussion of last month's elections I must come back to my old 'hobby' of independent political action by labor. I hope that the last elections have helped to make clear the futility of labor alliances with the Democratic and Republican parties.

"Such alliances may help those parties; they do not help the Labor Party. The only way a

political power of labor can be built up is by teaching and encouraging workers to build it independently, and without capitalist party entanglements.

"Until the American Labor Party will educate the workers to unite on the political field as they do on the industrial field, under the banner of labor, the voters will continue to vote negatively instead of positively, against somebody instead of for somebody.

"An independent political party of labor will encourage the voters to regard politics as a means of promoting the welfare of the people instead of regarding it cynically as a racket. An independent party of labor will revive the faith of the American people in their political institutions, and will raise political action to a new and high level. But it must be independent political action by labor."

PREVIEW 1999

BY C. H. OWEN

I have had the privilege of reading a new novel—"1999"—written by Comrade H. Oscar Stevens, a member of Local Crown Point, Indiana. The book is an excellent advocate of proletarianism for us.

The book depicts Durmin Hertzog, whose chief concern had been to spend his father's duraluminum millions, at a meeting at which Norman Thomas speaks in Gary, and he becomes awakened to the great need of the day. Studying under the guidance of an old Socialist in Lake County, Indiana, Durmin becomes a crusader for a new economic order. Misunderstood, ridiculed, his engagement broken off by his sweetheart, he persevered and had a

great part in bringing production for use (Socialism) during the Decade of Destiny (1940-1950).

The book is soon to be published by Fortuny's Publishers, 67 West 44th St., New York, which has issued circulars pricing the book at two dollars. Its publication will be advanced by your order. For your own enjoyment and better understanding, as well as helping make this book available to the general public, let me urge you to mail your two dollars to the publisher right away.

I believe that "1999" will do as much good as "Looking Backward" has done.

Forward to an 8-Page SOCIALIST CALL

The French Trade Union Movement

By Ruth Schechter
Our French Correspondent

Last week Comrade Schechter traced the history of the Confederation Generale du Travail (General Confederation of Labor), the origin of its syndicalist philosophy, its changes under the impact of fascism, its role under the French Popular Front movement and how the consolidation of reaction succeeded in alienating labor support among the middle class. Comrade Schechter in the second installment of a series of articles begins by showing how labor gains were nullified by a sharp increase in commodity prices.

For the workers, too, the gains of 1936 proved illusory in 1938. Let me give some idea of prices.

Bread—1936, 1.60 f; 1938—3 f.
("Le kilog."—Kilogram, 2.2 lbs.)
Wine—1936, 2.50 f; 1938, 3.25 f.
(Le litre—1 quart.)
Meat—1936, 10 f; 1938, 14 f.
(Gigot du mouton—Leg of mutton)
(La livre—1 pound.)
Milk—1936, 1.30 f; 1938, 1.80 f.
(Le litre—1 quart.)
Butter—1936, 3.50 f; 1938, 5.75 f.
(La livre—1 pound.)
Salaries
Unskilled Worker—1936, 1,100 f per month; 1938, 1,500 f per month.
Skilled Workers (Metal Trade)—1936, 1,500 f per month; 1938, 2,000 f per month.

Prices Soar

While salaries rose about 30 per cent, the cost of living rose about 50 per cent, and for the civil servants and teachers there was no compensatory rise in salary at all.

Moreover, the heavy government expenditures for rearmament made the promised large-scale public works program, designed to re-employ the 340,000 unemployed, prohibitive.

The nationalization of the munitions industry had been accomplished under such liberal terms that it proved to be a severe drain on the treasury. Then, on August, 1938, the Radical Socialist Premier Daladier began his campaign to modify the 40-hour week and on October 6, 1938, he received full decree powers from parliament. There is no doubt that he will now use these powers to destroy or emasculate the remaining social legislation.

POPULAR FRONT TODAY

As a parliamentary alliance, the Popular Front has cracked. In 1936, the Communist deputies abstained on Non-Intervention in Spain; in 1937, the Socialists withdrew from the Chautemps cabinet when Chautemps sought to eliminate his Communist allies from the Popular front. In 1938, in two bye-elections, the Radical Socialists refused to adhere to the electoral arrangement and defeated the local Communist candidates by an alliance with right-wing forces.

Then came the Czech crisis. The Communists voted against the Munich agreement (which the Socialists supported) and when Daladier asked for full powers in the interval between

October and the next parliamentary session in January, he had to find his majority on the right. The Socialists abstained and the Communists voted against. Daladier's role in the recent general strike buried the Popular Front.

STILL POPULAR

However, while the Popular Front as an electoral combination has broken down, as a popular slogan, it still has enthusiastic support. To the masses it represents the forty-hour week and social legislation.

Even while the workers demonstrated against Daladier for his attack on the forty-hour week, "Down with Daladier," "Send him to the gallows," they demonstrated in the name of the Popular Front. The fact that Daladier had the unanimous support of the Radical Socialist parliamentary party, one of the major groups in the Popular Front, did not alter the fact. As a slogan, Popular Front means mass action, and as such a slogan, it inspires tremendous enthusiasm among the workers.

JOUHAUX'S POSITION

Nevertheless, the C. G. T. will have to face the question of what its adherence to the Popular Front really means. In La Voix du Peuple, the official morning organ of the C. G. T.,

Jouhaux, the secretary-general of the C. G. T., wrote a critical analysis of the Popular Front that was the basis for discussion at the national convention of the C. G. T.

His argument, in brief, is that the Popular Front was a necessary combination to ward off the double menace of fascism and deflation, that it failed because it did not apply even its minimum program, and that it will fail in the future unless it incorporates in its objectives the C. G. T. plan for collectivization of key industries and credit. Nevertheless, he concludes, the C. G. T., while seeking to extend the program of the Popular Front, will not break from it.

SYNDICALIST FACTION

There is, in the C. G. T., a minority revolutionary group which publishes a weekly paper, La Revue Syndicaliste, and which has never put its faith in the Popular Front. It believes that the initial victories of local leg-

islation came from the sit-down strike, inspired not by the Popular Front but by the unity of the C. G. T. and C. G. T. U.

The Popular Front, it states, curbed the spontaneous action of the workers and when mass demonstrations slowed down, reactionary forces were able to vitiate the achievements of the strikes. It puts its faith in direct action on the economic front.

FUTURE STRIKES

Whether Jouhaux or the minority is in this bout, or whether the Popular Front continues at all as a mass organization, the workers have earned once again the need to rely on their own organized economic strength to achieve their ends. In the next few months we may see a renewed series of strikes in France for a real wage increase and the forty-hour week, unless, in the interests of national defense, the C. G. T. strains its own forces.

(Continued Next Week)

LOUIS (LINN) RESTAURANT

HOME COOKING—HUNGARIAN STYLE
Reg. Dinner 80c Supper 50c Luncheon 35c
207 EAST 14TH STREET
Bet. 2nd and 3rd Aves.
W. G. CATER TO PARTIES

ANGEL OF PEACE CHRISTMAS DAY, 1938



Courtesy of Nebelspalter, Switzerland.

Labor Leaders Support Youth Anti-War Meet

Speakers and discussion leaders for the National Youth Anti-War Congress, to be held in Columbus, Ohio, from December 27 to 30, under the auspices of the Youth Committee Against War, have been announced.

Among the prominent labor leaders who are sponsoring the Congress are Max D. Danish, editor of "Justice," organ of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Powers Haggood, national director of the United Shoe Workers of America; Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers of America; A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and Lawrence Rogin, Educational Director of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers.

The panel discussion entitled, "The Fight Against War and Oppression Begins at Home," will be addressed by Jack Kwallack, trade union leader from Lexington, Kentucky; Lee Morgan, State Secretary for Ohio and National Vice-Chairman of the Workers Alliance; Mary Moore, leader in the Colorado Farmers Union and active in the organization of the sugar beet workers; Dick Joyce, representing the National Farmers Union; Edwin Mitchell, rank and file seaman and representatives of the Negro and Jewish minorities in the U. S.

COLONIAL DELEGATES "Behind the Scenes in International Politics," a session conducted in Town Hall style, will include Haridas Mazumdar, speaking about the movement for Indian freedom; Rudolph Dunbar, of the British West Indies, speaking about the African movements for freedom; Anna Caples, former leader in the U. S. student movement and graduate of Vassar, recently returned from Europe, who will speak on the European situation; and Chinese and Japanese young people.

At the mass meeting which will be held Wednesday night, December 28, the speakers will include Rose Pelt, vice-president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Tucker P. Smith, former president of Brookwood Labor College, and Executive Secretary of the Labor Anti-War Council, and other labor and farm leaders.

COMMISSIONS Commission sections will be

led by Dick Joyce, Harold Fey, executive secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation; Everett Allredge of Boston; Kenneth Cuthbertson, executive secretary of the Maryland Peace Conference; Edwin C. Johnson, executive secretary of the Committee on Militarism in Education; Rose Stein, author of "M-Day"; Harold Chance, director of the Student Peace Service; Al Hamilton, National Chairman of the Young People's Socialist League; Mary Felton, New England organizer of the Youth Committee Against War; Robert Burgess, field secretary of the Student Peace Service; Emma Hartog, field secretary of the Youth Committee Against War; Peter Wartainen, Jr., Executive Secretary of the Cooperative Youth League of New England; Lewis Conn, organizer for the Youth Committee Against War, and Leo Kent, Executive Secretary of the New York Youth Committee Against War.

Thomas' Radio Address Record Available

Alfred Baker Lewis, state secretary of the Socialist Party of Massachusetts, writes that a recording of Norman Thomas' 15-minute speech over WORL on "America's Duty to the Victims of Fascism" is available. State or local organizations which can get such recordings used over their stations may have use of the record for the express charges prepaid.

Write to Socialist Party of Massachusetts, 580 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass.

W. D. L. Officer Denied School

JERSEY CITY, N. J.—Herman Matson, chairman of the Workers Defense League of Hoboken and a vigorous critic of the McPeeley administration, has been denied the use of a public school auditorium in Hoboken for a W. D. L. meeting, according to a letter he received from John F. Lewis, secretary of the Board of Education.

Sub Contest

Comrade S. Fanny Simon of New York City leads in the drive of getting subscriptions for the SOCIALIST CALL. The CALL offers a copy of Angelica Balabanoff's book, "My Life as a Rebel," to any person remitting the most subs in any one month.

Leaders in the month of December are:

- S. F. Simon, N. Y. C. . . . 14*
C. Easton, Ill. 3 1/2
G. Kays, Brooklyn 3
G. Herbert, N. Y. C. 2 1/2
*Points are computed on the basis of one point for every one dollar remittance.

KAPLAN & BRINDEL RETAIL CLOTHIERS Union Made A saving of 20% on national known brands such as Senator and Freeman clothes. We are able to allow this saving because of our small overhead. A special discount to those who mention the SOCIALIST CALL. 3301 W. Roosevelt Rd. (Second Floor) Chicago, Ill.

IDEAL ITALIAN AMERICAN RESTAURANT Eat the Best Food and Enjoy the Company of Your Comrades Special Lunch 35c Blue Plate 35c Five-Course Lunch 50 Cents—From 11:30 A. M. to 2:30 P. M. Six-Course Dinner 65 Cents—From 5 P. M. to 8 P. M. Also A la Carte, All Day BAR AND GRILL BEER AND WINES Special Arrangements for Banquets and Parties 6 East 17th St.—N. Y. C. GR. 7-9573

Season's Greetings With a Meaning This year you can send greetings to family, friends and associates, and with that wish will go concrete aid to the workers of the world. We are offering a series of handsome greeting cards that can be sent to all your friends. They contain appropriate pictures and poems by world-famous artists and poets. The price includes envelopes. 10c each, 3 for 25c, one dollar per dozen. 8 CENTS OF EVERY 10 will go directly (without overhead) to anti-fascist workers in fascist countries, political and religious refugees, and the suffering people of heroic Spain. ORDER NOW, FOR YOURSELF AND FRIENDS. SEND THEM IN YOUR UNIONS, YOUR BRANCH, YOUR CLUBS! Send Orders (and Money) to JAMES LOEB, 348 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY Committee for International Labor Solidarity of the Socialist Party Devere Allen, Chairman Sam Romer, Treasurer

Build the CALL! SUBSCRIPTION BOX SCORE Received Since Last Issue of the CALL Total Received Thus Far "Recovery" Subs (\$1.50 a year) 2 41 "Recession" Subs (\$1.00 a year) 40 1,447 "Depression" Subs (25c for 10 weeks) 5 1,627 New Bundle Orders 25 995 Total 72 4,510* (*Circulation increase since Aug. 1, 1938)

SPANISH WAR VETERAN BOOSTS SOCIALIST CALL

Sam Romer, former editor of the SOCIALIST CALL, who recently returned from Spain after fighting for the Loyalist cause and serving seven months in Franco's concentration camp as a war prisoner, came into our office as we were recapitulating this week's financial problems.

ROMER'S STATEMENT

"Many of the comrades I meet think I've gone haywire and I'll admit that I'm pretty sour on the world situation. I do feel that it isn't a smart-aleck cynicism but rather a realistic view that recognizes that Socialists and the great cause we serve are more than ever the only salvation, today or in the future. In a world where more and more capitalist countries turn to Fascism, the American movement must realize that it faces a constantly tougher job.

BUILD PARTY

"This job can only be performed by a growing Party and this Party can only be built by a CALL that will serve in an effective fashion the needs of the workers. Only the CALL will carry out the important job of defending our South-American comrades in their fight against Wall Street imperialism of the New Deal charge that they are Nazi agents. Only the CALL will carry through the fight for support to an independent international labor movement. Only the CALL will carry on the fight for the genuine interests of the workers here.

BIG HANDICAPS

"Gerry Allard is doing a bang-up job hurdling some pretty big handicaps—I know because I tried. He can't do this job alone. He needs the help of every man and woman in America who recognizes in the Socialist movement and THE SOCIALIST CALL that life saver in a pretty bad flood of world reaction. The CALL is trying to get on its feet by getting 100 comrades to contribute a weekly dollar for eight weeks to start publishing the essential 8-page paper we all want. "One hundred comrades is a ridiculous figure—there must be at least five times as many that will do their bit in this way. "CALL expansion is the first necessity of the day. How about YOU and YOU and YOU?"

PLEDGES

The following have already pledged to contribute \$1 a week for 8 weeks: ILLINOIS Vince Fiorontini, Carlinville. Arthur McDowell, Chicago. G. Allard, Chicago. Ina White, Chicago. Monroe Parker, Chicago. Vernon Runge, Chicago. Alma Curry, Chicago. Emma Kay, Chicago. J. & E. Miller, Chicago. Anton Garden, Chicago. Roberta Schried, Chicago. Hymen Schried, Chicago. Guiseppe Bertelli, Chicago. WISCONSIN Paul Porter, Kenosha. NEW YORK Lena Tulchen, N. Y. C. (\$8 paid.) Virginia Duff, N.Y.C. (\$8 paid.) KENTUCKY Harold Gibbons, Louisville. The National Action Committee has ruled that this fund will not be used until at least 100 comrades have volunteered. If the quota of 100 is not realized the money will be returned to the donors.

We want to publish an eight-page CALL. We are confident that by the first of January 100 comrades, either individually or collectively, will have made this undertaking a success.

Thanks, Joe "Here is my New Year's present to the SOCIALIST CALL (\$10). May the CALL continue to bring its message of Industrial Democracy to an ever widening audience of the American working class." —Joe Duchkowitzch, Racine, Wisconsin.

CALL ASSOCIATION David Glendenin, national secretary of the Workers Defense League, fighting organization workers' rights, and Dr. William Amberson, University of Maryland, Baltimore, join the CALL ASSOCIATION. Each remitted \$5. They will receive bound volumes of the 1938 SOCIALIST CALLS.

Comrades S. Fanny Simon, Tulchen and Kelter Bronx, N. Y., remit \$34 for 28 six-month subs. This was one of the biggest lifts of the week and we extend to the three CALL boosters and the comrades who made the contribution possible, our thanks. Joe Critchley, Glen Carbon, Ill., subscribes for a year and says: "I wish to see the CALL continued." The Village Branch, N. Y. C., through G. Herbert, sends in \$2.80 for 2 one year and 2 ten week subs. Coal Miner Craig Easton, Gillespie, Ill., remits a \$1 sub for John Rutter. Harry Fleischman, Detroit, sends in annual subs for Dr. F. D. Egan and Ethel Cumming. Our hard working circulation manager, Irene Waller Allard, nailed two victims at a recent S. P. meeting in Chicago—\$2.60 for annual subs for August R. Hoffman and N. S. Levin. Walter Uphoff, Lincoln, Neb., remits two six-month subs. Morris Millgram of the Workers Defense League, Newark, N. J., sends a sub for Herman M. healy beaten up by Hobo ernal months ago. Dr. J. S. de Young, Peoria, along \$1 for a renewal and his concern for the socialist CALL. Y. Fiorentini, Brooklyn, N. Y., remits \$2 for the 8-page CALL and \$1 for a renewal of his brother's sub, A. Fiorentini, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The militant state secretary of California, John Newton Thurber sends in \$1 for John C. Bennett's sub. Other subscriptions were John Fishburn, Washington, D. C.; Richard L. Creesey, Newton, Mass.; Sadie Feinstein, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Bernard Samoff, Philadelphia; Zaida Semser, Philadelphia; John H. Mahars, Lonsdale, E. I.; Samuel Levin, Boston; Robert Johnson, Grinnell, Iowa; Alex Benedict, Geneva, N. Y.; Mrs. H. G. King, New Bloomfield, Pa.; Alice Sellersberg, N. Y. C.; Sam Schwartz (sent in by I. Halert), Brooklyn.

BUNDLE ORDERS The Wayne County (Michigan) Local sends in \$25 for payment for a weekly bundle order of 500 copies. The auto comrades distribute the second largest bundle of CALLS in the country. Seth Whitmore, Lansing, Mich., remits \$2 for the branch's bundle order. A \$2 check came in from A. B. Lewis, state secretary of the Mass. S. P. Comrade Lewis donated \$100 to the CALL several weeks ago. "Anonymous" of N. Y. C. remits a dollar for a regular bundle order. Frank Zeldler, Milwaukee, Wis., sends in \$2. East Bay Local, Oakland, Calif., pays up its bundle order with a check for \$3. Local San Francisco clears its account with a remittance of \$2.10. Others who paid on their bundle orders were F. Rosen, Bronx, 60c; Andy Sempa, Pittston, Pa., \$1; F. Pacoraro \$3 for a donation and bundle payment; Joe Friedman, Bronx, N. Y., \$1; Hugh Sheehan, Portland, Ore., 80c; Evelyn Miller, Chicago, YPSL, \$1.20.

DONATIONS G. Herbert, New York City, remits \$10.45 raised at a party at Peggy Gillan's. This also includes a special donation of \$1 by Samson Horn. Lena Tulchen, NYC, and Virginia Duff, Bronx, send in \$5 each as full payment of their \$1 a week pledge to resume publication of an 8-page CALL. Others who contributed to this fund were: V. Fiorentini, Carlinville, Ill., \$2; Harold Gibbons, Louisville, Ky. "For the support of the CALL," is a brief note accompanying E. Gerritsen's contribution of \$5. Four dollars came in from Julia Sauter, Nyack, N. Y., as a donation from the Rockland County Local. Erma Byrne, Winnemucca, Nevada, writes: "I am sending \$5 as I wish the CALL to be continued." Katie De Rorre, former officer of the Women's Auxiliary of the Progressive Mine Workers Union, remits \$1 from her sick bed at Collinsville, Ill. Thanks, Katie, we all hope for your speedy recovery. Joe Duchkowitzch, Racine, Wis., one of the most loyal CALL boosters and hard working Party member, sends in a contribution of \$10 along with his best wishes for a Happy New Year.

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At the Front

WITH NORMAN THOMAS

Ecuador

As I write, it would appear that the Lima Pan-American Conference may do some good—for instance, in reducing trade barriers—and no particular harm. The troubles in Ecuador were a grimly amusing commentary on democracy on this hemisphere. The real danger still is that the Roosevelt Administration will make hemispheric defense a formula which will mean militarism, imperialism and perhaps, ultimately, war itself.

Dies

One of the things which we must watch is the nature of the Dies report and its recommendations. It was genuinely disquieting to find that by the Gallup poll, about 70 per cent of Americans favor a continuation of the Dies Committee. That probably means that a lot of Americans are really excited about un-American activities aided from abroad.

It is perfectly legitimate to inquire into this side of the picture. I personally think that American fascism will not be helped much by foreign propaganda; on the contrary, American fascism won't call itself fascism and will likely take as one slogan "Down with Fasc-

ism," meaning of course, foreign fascism.

Nevertheless I think we should investigate carefully the status of the Bund and several similar organizations in the United States. The trouble with the Dies Committee is that it is wholly unscientific; that its methods have been as incompetent as they are unfair; and that the purpose of Dies and some of his associates is evidently political in the worst sense of the word. They want to ride the so-called Anti-red but really reactionary, wave to political power. To show this up properly will require the presentation to Congress and to the country of a detailed analysis of their practices.

Among other things, someone should point out that J. B. Matthews was worse on his second appearance than his first. He plastered the Communist label on men and organizations not deserving of it at all.

Paul Anderson

Paul Anderson's tragic suicide was a very great loss to the right sort of American journalism at Washington in general, and in particular because he was equipped as few men are to carry on this fight against the Dies

Committee. He showed, as few men did ever what honest, able reporting could do for the public good. May his work in this field inspire many successors.

A typographical error of some sort made me say in last week's column that there was law enough "to keep America away from Germany." What I wrote, or meant to write was, law enough to keep American arms away from Germany. Of course I think this should be done. It is one of the hypocrisies of the Roosevelt Administration that it has not been done.

Musica-Coster

Two such stories within a year as first the Richard Whitney story, and now the Musica or Coster story which is astonishing the world, would have been regarded as fantastically impossible if they had been written up by a novelist. It is amusing to read these protestations concerning the ability of American business men, and American bankers, and then observe what a smart crook like Musica can do to them. Apparently he also did things to politicians and government agents. But the story certainly doesn't illustrate any particular capacity of business men and bankers to look out even for themselves without any government intervention!

The Supreme Court vindicated justice when in the Gaines case it opened the doors of state universities to graduate and professional students who are Negroes. That's a good mark for the court and incidentally for ex-Klansman Hugo Black who voted with the majority.

Refugees

TRENTON, N. J.—The State Board of Medical Examiners announced that, of the 79 candidates who passed the test given recently for license to practice medicine in New Jersey, 34 were European refugees. All of the 34 have filed declarations of intention to become American citizens. Twelve refugee candidates failed to pass the test. The 34 successful candidates received 6-year licenses, which will continue in force if they become citizens within that period, otherwise the permits will be annulled automatically at the end of the six years.

Conference

ALBUJERQUE, New Mexico.—The First American Congress of Mexican and Spanish American People will be held here January 20, 21 and 22, it was announced last week.

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Our Party's Future

By NORMAN THOMAS

Because of many requests from Party comrades, I want to make a statement which is personal and not official.

I believe that the Socialist Party was never as much needed as today and that it is going to have an increasing opportunity for usefulness. But to take advantage of that opportunity requires a new beginning, not in the sense of new principles, but of new tactics adapted to a condition which we did not make and which we might wish were otherwise.

Our great task is to educate and organize for Socialism. Heretofore, with a great deal of reason, we have felt that probably the best single way to carry out that task was in connection with the electoral activities. That, I think, is definitely no longer the case.

Our principal emphasis must be on work within mass organization about which we have talked so much but for which we have organized imperfectly. From it we will get the maximum return.

Mass organizations include labor parties, even imperfect labor parties where they exist, and generally speaking, they include also Labor's Non Partisan League. Every Socialist Local ought to be organized to put every member at work in mass organizations or in the preparation and distribution of literature or in furnishing speakers on Socialist themes to a great range of meetings. Our locals ought to be training schools. Particular participation in electoral activities must be judged in the light of the return in proportion to the amount of expense of money and energy required.

In recent years the situation has been greatly changed by a variety of factors, including the

rise of Labor Parties, the Labor's Non Partisan League, and the very dangerous tightening up of election laws, making it harder to get on the ballot. (That last tendency should be fought by labor and indeed, by believers in democracy generally.) Positively our activities should be especially directed toward helping in the building of the right sort of a labor party on a nationwide scale.

At the moment there is not very great progress along that line nationally but political developments in the Democratic Party, for instance, may suddenly change that picture.

In this new beginning of Socialism, it will enormously help to get together all Socialists. We should gain qualitatively as well as quantitatively by such a coming together. We should not be restoring what was, which wasn't too good anyhow; we should be trying to create what ought to be.

Of course it would absurd to bring together in the name of unity individuals and groups who could not honestly agree on the important items of a program in foreign and domestic politics and in methods of work to advance Socialism. But I believe a very wide area of agreement can be found and that unity can be real and not just formal. It is in this spirit that we should approach negotiations with the S. D. F. for which both sides have appointed committees. We shall be more effective in the necessary task of preaching unity between the C. L. O. and the A. F. of L. if we show greater capacity in achieving unity among all Socialists who are eager to advance the cause in which is the hope of the world. Meanwhile we must loyally support our organization and its press, financially and by service.

A Note on Democracy

Communist and other New Deal spellbinders are out selling Iron Man Batista of Cuba to the American public. We are assured by the CP army of scribes that Batista, whose fascist machine murdered hundreds of labor activists, has had a change

of heart, he's for democracy and progress, really.

The Cuban trade unions would like to agree with both Batista and the Communists—but they can't, they are underground and many of their leaders are in prison!

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LITTLE ESSAYS IN SOCIALISM

By JOHN M. WORK

You may think it takes an incorrigible optimist to talk about the brotherhood of man in these days of turmoil.

It has been said that an optimist is a cross-eyed man who is thankful that he is not bow-legged. But there are two kinds of optimism—the pollyanna kind and the other kind. Universal brotherhood definitely lies in the distance if the human race keeps going upward. No matter how far away, it is an ideal to work for.

While it is to the material interest of the "common people" to make the change from capitalism to Socialism, that, although important, is not the highest reason why they should all plug for the change.

The highest reason is that Socialism will bring human brotherhood and a cessation of the continual fighting of human beings against one another, in peace and in war. We should have Socialism for idealistic, altruistic reasons, as well as for selfish reasons.

By human brotherhood I mean a socialized world—a world which will have been socialized long enough to get rid of the frightful, corrupt, malignant and immoral heritage of capitalism—a world in which there will be universal kindness and happiness—a world in which there will be no poverty, no war, no hatred, no cruelty, no deception.

As Leigh Hunt revealed in his noble poem—About Ben Adhem—no matter whether a person thinks he has any religion or not, if he loves and serves his fellow men he is doing the most religious act it is possible for a human being to do.

In using the word "love" in this sense—loving one's fellow men—I do not refer to love in the sense of a sentimental show of emotion, although that has its proper place. I do not mean that everybody must stop everybody else and make an ado over them—sometimes you can love people best by letting them alone.

I am using the word "love" in a deeper sense. I mean that one must have a sympathetic yearning for the good of the human race, and that one must feel inwardly impelled to devote as much of oneself as possible to the service of the human race.

There will be human brotherhood when in actual fact the men and women of the world feel that way. They will begin to feel that way when the economic barriers which separate them are removed. Those who already feel that way are harbingers of the new day to come.