

WORKERS AGE

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

Vol. IV, No. 33.

New York, Saturday, August 17, 1935.

Five Cents

At First GLANCE

By JAY LOVESTONE

SIGNIFICANT signs of a real change of mood in the ranks of organized labor in England are at hand. These are especially welcome in view of the fact that for some time the British Labor movement has been going rightward.

Specifically we have in mind the very cold reception which has been accorded to the "Black Circular" of the General Council of the British Trade Unions, providing for the wiping out of militant forces in the ranks of organized labor. Particular emphasis must, therefore, be attached to the decision of the annual convention of the National Union of Railway Men rejecting this infamous "Black Circular" and demanding the continuation of democratic rights within the trade union movement. Alongside of this powerful union there also must be placed in the ranks of the labor organizations which have rejected this "Black Circular" the following powerful bodies: Amalgamated Engineers Union, the Transport and General Workers Union, which has a membership of over 350,000, and the Amalgamated Society of Wood Workers.

We record these facts at this moment in a sort of anticipation of a fight which the reactionary officialdom of the A. F. of L. is preparing to make against progressive and militant trade union forces at the forthcoming A. F. of L. Convention to be held in Atlantic City in the early part of October.

NEW YORK CITY boasts a very progressive mayor. LaGuardia is supposed to be up to scratch in adopting all the ideas for lightening the burdens of Mr. Average New Yorker and making the world's wealthiest city better off. That New York's mayor is living up to the property owners' expectations of him was indicated the other day in the proud announcement of the local police department that it will soon use an electric glove to subdue "rioters." The glove will issue a 1,500 volt shock to persons resisting arrest or dispersement, the voltage of the current used in the instrument can be stepped up to any figure!

What a progressive city! And what a progressive mayor! A real reformer, indeed! This modern device is to aid that old standby of law and order in New York, the notorious nightstick—the firmest day-in and day-out representative of American democracy. Let no one think for a moment that the cop's club is a soft proposition. Those of us who have experience with it can tell quite a different story. Aneant the primitive efficacy and physical consequences of clubbing at the hands of a policeman in the service of our "radical" reform mayor, we advise our readers to turn to the June Survey Graphic. Here we find an interesting and instructive article by Dr. S. A. Sandler saying in part:

"It is a common legend that a blow on the head is of no importance unless the skull is fractured. This is entirely erroneous. . . . Studies of brain injuries made in recent years should revolutionize the attitude of both the medical profession and the public. . . . The physical injury and social handicap resulting from head injury are just as great and disabling whether one is injured by a policeman's club or in some other manner. Perhaps the after effects of the policeman's club are worse because such victims are not likely to receive proper medical attention. I believe the time has come for a new deal in clubbing. . . . A society that permits the policeman's nightstick to be the arbiter of social and economic problems surely cannot deem itself civilized."

Paste this in your hat for use when the next big strike occurs—and when La Guardia appears for your vote as a friend and servant of labor.

A most significant index of the trend of the British foreign policy is to be found in the plan of the Admiralty to enlarge the fleet particularly in Baltic waters. This course is fully in line with the steadily developing anti-Soviet course of Lombard Street. Symbolic of this direction in foreign relations was the very appointment of Sir Samuel Hoare as Foreign Minister.

This gentleman has for years been a bitter foe of the proletarian state in the U.S.S.R. Minister Hoare boasts of having organized and led the British secret service in Russia during the war. The League of Nations once appointed him Commissioner for Russian refugees—because of his warm interest in the White Russian emigrants. Sir Hoare's work in behalf of the latter brought him into constant friendly contact with the blackest forces in Germany who today run and ruin the Third Reich. His pioneer role as a booster of British air power landed him in India where he

Shoe Workers Against Cuts

Lynn Joint Council of United Shoe Takes Strong Stand Against Concessions

The Lynn shoe workers will not become a party to any schemes to induce manufacturers to move to Lynn by granting wage or other concessions that would effect the living standards of the workers. This is the gist of a statement just issued by William Thornton, President of the Lynn Joint Council. The occasion for this statement was the publication of news stories in several newspapers stating that the various locals of the United Shoe & Leather Workers' Union in Lynn participated in conferences for that purpose. These news stories gave the impression that the Lynn locals were in accord with such plans.

"While we are more than anxious to increase the number of shoe factories in Lynn so as to put the unemployed shoe workers to work, we do not feel that granting concessions has ever been of any benefit either to the employed or the unemployed. Manufacturers moving into Lynn will receive every consideration of continuous production but not at the expense of other shoe workers or at the expense of our own wages. Legitimate manufacturers willing to pay a decent wage are welcome in Lynn," Thornton said.

The statement in full is as follows: "A meeting was called at the Mayor's office Monday afternoon, August 5 at 3 o'clock. The following people were represented at that meeting:

Bankers, Real Estate Owners, Retail Merchants of the City of Lynn, Attorney Walsh, Perkins, Agent of the Cutters' Local, Dauphine and McNamara, Stitchers' Local, Henry, Lasters' Local, Tobin, Edgemakers' Local, Duggan, Walsh, Packers' and Finishers' Local, Thornton, Joint Council.

"At that meeting, every agent and Chairman of the Joint Council absolutely refused to serve on any committee for negotiating with the manufacturers to bring them into the City of Lynn.

"We have determined and served notice on this move that we will in no way participate in any efforts to means of granting concessions. Should any manufacturer, either as a result of these activities or otherwise, move into the City of Lynn, he will be presented with an agreement and a price bill now prevailing in the City of Lynn according to the grade of shoes he manufactures and we will stand solidly for the introduction of this price bill and agreement into any shop that may decide to locate in Lynn.

"Should we find that any manufacturer decides to move from another organized center where prices may be higher than now prevailing in Lynn, the prices prevailing in that locality will be enforced in the City of Lynn, and the original crew that was employed by the firm in their original location will be guaranteed first choice to the jobs in that factory."

Workers Age Sustaining Drive Slows Up During the Final Week

Income Falls Off Sharply Endangering Existence Of Age; Friends and Sympathizers Urged To Speed Work Completing Campaign For \$1500

The income during the last week of the drive has been disappointing—a mere \$85 having come in. We had hoped to be able to announce the closing drive with this issue of Workers Age but this is impossible because of the poor response. The sum of \$1500 set for the drive is the absolute minimum, needed to carry us over the summer and we intend to continue the drive for another week or so until that sum is reached.

Again we must call on our comrades and friends not to drag out too long the conclusion of an otherwise successful drive. Send all funds without any delay.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED (As of August 10, 1935)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED \$1,230.45
Hannah Wucher 5.00
Ray Michaels 5.00

learned to become an expert opponent of Indian national freedom. On this score, Hoare became still more bitter in his enmity to the U.S.S.R. which he branded as the source of all revolutionary nationalism in India.

It is because of these qualifications that Sir Samuel Hoare was chosen Foreign Minister. The coming months will be decisive in European affairs. Britain's newest turn in foreign relations may prove the weight that will tip the scales for the worst.

BENJAMIN BARAZ



Elected business agent by the furriers despite slanderous attacks by Gold and the Communist Party.

FUR ELECTION SHOWS PROGRESSIVE POWER

Baraz Elected Business Agent Despite Bitter Opposition Of Communist Party; Full Count Of Vote For Joint Council Shows Five Progressives Are Elected

As we go to press the vote for Joint Council members is announced and once again it is made clear that the Progressives in the union enjoy a considerable measure of confidence of the workers. Five Progressives were declared elected. These include J. Cooperman and Simon Kass for the cutters, Joseph Farber for the operators, and Lena Greenberg and Sarah Gross for the Finishers.

All these names appear on the leaflet issued by Gold's "Left Group" calling on the fur workers not to vote for them.

The election of these five workers to the Joint Council and of Baraz as business agent constitutes a severe blow to the prestige of the "Left Group."

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Partial returns of the general elections of fur workers for all union officials indicates that the C.P. ticket headed by Ben Gold as candidate for manager of the Joint Council was elected in full. However, the C.P. had placed in the field a ticket consisting of only half of the offices to be filled. In the remaining contests even the C.P. was due for some big surprises.

Despite the fact that Gold and the C.P. conducted a vicious campaign against the Progressives or Lovestoneites, even going to the extent of publishing a leaflet the last day before the election calling upon the furriers not to vote for the candidates of the Progressive group, Benjamin Baraz defeated a C.P. endorsed candidate and was elected business agent with a vote of 2,083.

As we go to press only about 2,000 out of over 9,000 ballots have been tabulated in the vote for Joint Council. But these partial returns also indicate that the furriers, also voting for Gold, did not take seriously his slanderous charges against the Lovestoneites. At least eight Progressive candidates are running quite strong and of these a number may secure elections to the Joint Council.

The campaign conducted by the C.P. was most peculiar. Usually the C.P. shouts itself hoarse about economic issues. In this campaign not a single economic issue was raised or defended by Gold. The chief strategy seemed to have been to endorse certain hand picked right wing candidates and concentrate full fire against the Progressive Group and the Unity Group (Zechter) of the former Industrial Union. It was because of this strategy that the campaign closed without a single attack upon the Jewish Daily Forward, while the most vicious attacks were unleashed against the Jewish Day, because it had the temerity to state that it believes it would be more healthy for the union not to exclude the Lovestoneites. This strategy of Ben Gold and the C.P. failed miserably since Baratz smashed thru their opposition and a number of candidates are in a good position to be elected to the Council. Again the furriers have shown that what they desire is not a repetition of the old, bitterly fought faction struggle, again the furriers have shown that they want an end of the splitting committees and strong arm squads that ruled the market. They showed that by also electing those whom Gold fought against most bitterly—the Lovestoneites.

Incidentally this election has proven as a lie the claims that the Lovestoneites or Progressives are a mere handful. The furriers have proven that next to the C.P. the Progressives are the second strongest force and must be reckoned with in the industry.

(Next week Comrade Benjamin Baratz, will discuss the significance of the furriers election in an article in Workers Age.)

Bay State Labor For Vertical Unions

SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—The Convention of the State Federation of Labor shows indications of considerable progressive strength. A resolution for industrial unionism bearing the signatures of 100 delegates has been introduced. This in itself shows considerable sentiment among the Bay State workers for industrial unionism. The resolution itself, however, is one of those things which satisfies everybody but solves nothing. In order to appease those who feared for the loss of their jobs when industrial unionism comes, the resolution itself provides that industrial unionism shall be tried where craft unions are inadequate to achieve success in organization work.

Among those who came forward for industrial unionism was E. A. Johnson of the Boston Building Trades Council. He declared: "My opinion supports the idea of an industrial union. I perceive such advantages accruing to organized labor from such a form of union that whatever disadvantages may be stressed fall far short of defeating the theory of this new plan."

The convention went on record reaffirming labor's boycott of German goods. The suppression of the trade unions by the Nazis and their persecution of Jews and Catholics called forth sharp protests.

PWA Strike Direct Challenge To F. D.'s Starvation Program

"Security" Wage Arouses Nationwide Opposition; Green Says I Told You So In Recalling Fight On Prevailing Wage; Progressives Should Fight To Extend Strike

Two events of great significance broke simultaneously in the capitalist press. The widespread movement of protest against wage cuts in France, resulting in armed clashes between workers and troops and the widespread resentment among American workers against Roosevelt's "security" (hunger) wage, resulting in strikes of building trades workers in many cities.

IMPORTANCE OF STRIKE

The W.P.A. strike is of tremendous importance for a number of reasons. It constitutes a direct challenge to Roosevelt's relief program, a more effective form of protest than any demonstration in the streets could possibly be. It involves building trades workers who in the past had been considered as among the aristocracy of labor. It indicates the severe toll which the crisis took in the form of cutting the standards of the workers even in such well organized industries as the building trades. The leadership of the strike being in the hands of men of the type of George Meany of the New York State Federation of Labor, themselves loyal Democrats, one can readily surmise what pressure must have come from the ranks of the workers to have forced them into a position of fighting against the relief program of "their" President.

One must not, however, conclude that Meany and others leading the strike have completely reversed their hitherto ultra-

conservative position. Their conservatism shows itself in other ways. For instance, even during the course of the strike, the appeal of the A. F. of L. is being made only to those workers now members of the various building trades unions. No appeal has been directed either to those who have dropped out of the unions during the crisis because of financial inability to continue dues payments, or to those who have remained unorganized. To what extent can the strike be successful if these groups remain at work? Why should these workers participate in the strike if they are not to be admitted to the unions, if they may very well be left out in the cold in case of a settlement? Again, the A. F. of L. leadership has proven its conservative stand when it rejected any cooperation of white collar groups which, dissatisfied with the "security" wage, were ready to walk out and swell the ranks of the strikers.

BUROCRACY DIVIDED

Nor is the bureaucracy of the A. F. of L. agreed on the attitude towards this anti-"security" wage strike movement, despite the fact that the A. F. of L. as a whole went down to defeat fighting for the prevailing wage. Major Berry of the Pressmen, was pushed forward by the Administration high-pressure salesman to state that he was opposed to the strike against the security wage. To which President Green, who has suffered many headaches from the building trades unions, promptly replied that it was none of Major Berry's business. With a Vice-President of the A. F. of L. scabbing on the PWA strikers their case is certainly not strengthened. However, there are already increasing signs of the readiness to compromise this strike. William Green has already announced his willingness to reopen negotiations with Frances Perkins just as soon as the organizations involved in the strike authorize him to do so.

LA GUARDIA ON THE SPOT

The decision of President Roosevelt refusing to recognize it as a strike and instructing that no relief funds were to go to strikers has aroused the building trades workers even more. The cry of "work or starve" is being heard as characterizing the attitude of President Roosevelt.

At the same time Mayor La Guardia is in a difficult spot. All his liberal and pro-labor trappings are in danger if he carries out the wishes of the Federal Administration to starve the strikers into submission. It remains to be seen how this gentleman, who cashed in plenty of votes on the strength of his close relations with certain trade unions like the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the International Ladies Garment Workers will finally solve this problem.

SPREAD THE STRIKE

The militants and progressives thruout the trade unions have the task of raising the very issues which are cramping the development of the strike and making success doubtful. They must raise in their unions and central labor bodies, the questions of readmitting the dropped members, organizing the unorganized, and extending the strike into a general strike of all workers on WPA projects against the hunger wage. If the A. F. of L. unions were to take the initiative in such a movement it would lead to the recovery of much ground lost during the crisis.

Build the Weekly "Workers Age"

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Louis Hyman - The Man Of Broad Vision

If something is to get a laugh out of you these hot days, it must be pretty good, believe me! And Louis Hyman, ex-president of the late-lamented Industrial Union, is pretty good—as an unconscious humorist!

In the Freiheit of July 12, 1935, Brother Hyman devotes his column—for a change!—to the Lovestonites and to Zimmerman in particular. This time it's about that notorious leaflet issued by the "Lefts" of Local 22, I.L.G.W.U., in which they tried to stir up race hatred and suspicion by alleging that the Negro members of the dressmakers unions were being discriminated against and left in the lurch by the progressive administration. The executive board of Local 22 did not lose any time in branding this piece of irresponsible trickery on the part of the "Lefts," exposing their reckless slanders and fabrications and emphasizing once again the absolute equality of all workers and the complete absence of any racial lines in the ranks of the union.

Apparently the statement of the Local 22 executive board made quite an impression for the "Lefts" seem to be in quite a stew over it. One article after the other in the Freiheit, one leaflet after the other in the market! And now Louis Hyman's brilliant masterpiece!

Brother Hyman is a skilled logician and a trained journalist; above all he has a knack of getting right to the heart of any question he is discussing. At any rate he is sure to get within a hundred miles of it at the very least! Let us listen to his words:

"But the Lefts are not making up any stories about Negro discrimination and Zimmerman's demagogic cries will not solve the Negro question.



Books of the Age

LEAN MEN. Novel by Ralph Bates, MacMillan, 555pp. \$2.50.

The world crisis plunged the landlord and church-tormented country of Spain into chaos. Alfonso and his governing clique used the strongest measures of oppression without avail. The workers, especially on the docks and in the mines, resorted to illegal actions and armed revolts. But the revolutionary actions were headless and disunited. The Communists were weak and impotent, the anarcho-syndicalists political madmen. The monarchy fled the country, and the revolt of the workers bogged down in a reactionary constitutional republic. This is the background and period of the book, but so occupied is the author with the loves and tastes of his hero that the meaning of the Spanish events are almost completely submerged. The hero—Francis Charing, an Englishman sent into Spain as a representative of the Communist International. By the way, it is doubtful (albeit it may be a matter of record somewhere) if any Comintern representative had less necessary political and economic knowledge of the country of his activities than Francis had of Spain.

Unless the reader is well fortified with such knowledge the story must appear to be a thoughtful, sensitive and in many

places beautiful narrative of personal adventure. Even in this respect it is uneven. Subjective discussions of music, Charing's love of three women (two of them in London) at the same time, dilute the interest of the revolutionist's work among the dock laborers of Barcelona. It may be true that the "Church Eternal" in Spain has the devotion only of old and idle women who cackle and hiss like geese: That the old handicrafts give way before the machine. But these studies of decay and advance are not integrated and hamper rather than help the dynamics of the story.

But is the Barcelona dock worker's Spain more or less important than Charing's? Is his personal life of equal importance with the events that culminated in the Republican revolution? The author has failed to decide. Balance has been sought by making everything of equal import. The result is lack of balance; and some excellent creation of character has not saved the novel from being diffuse, varying in interest and much less a piece of solid work than the theme gives opportunity for.

A gifted pen is not enough. Proletarian novels, too, require the exercise of selection. As in revolutionary work, so also in art, "Better less but better." Mac Stuart

TRADE UNION NOTES

By GEORGE F. MILES

Any physician will tell you that violent changes in temperature are the signs of an unhealthy condition in the human body. Also any doctor of politics in the revolutionary movement will agree (whether he admits it or not is quite another matter) that the sharp swings from right to left, and from left to right (as at present) ordered from on high, are a sign of the diseased condition within the Communist International.

C. P. GIVES UP FRACTIONS IN UNIONS

One of these breathtaking wild swings to the right (without any quotation marks around the word) is now taking place on the trade union question. That the red unions had begun to weigh heavy on their hands is no news. It is also no news that in many countries these unions were just choked in the dark of night and any opponents were met with the same vilification which fell to the lot of those who were opposed to red unions in the first place.

What is new however, is that the Communist International and the Red International of Labor Unions have pledged not to organize groups within the trade unions. We could of course understand it if the C.P. were to say that it was a concession in order to achieve unity with the reformist unions in France but no, with the brazen cynicism which characterizes the C.P.'s turns and returns, we are assured that that is done because it is in the interests of the workers, etc., etc. ad nauseam.

Despite all our criticism of the sectarian union-splitting stupidities of the official Communists we must just as strongly condemn their present policy to which they have pledged themselves. We do not believe that the reformist unions in France present no need of militant, constructive fighting groups to stimulate leftward development. Let us not forget that despite the tremendous pressure in France for the United Front, the reformist trade unions under Jouhaux have refused to this day to join the united front between the Socialists and Communists.

Its decision in France on the trade unions is a case of disarming the militant and Communist workers and making it difficult indeed for them to make themselves felt in the organizations.

LOOKING BACKWARD

Once again a case of blowing on cold. Once again a swing from the extreme position of union busting to the equally extreme position of complete and unqualified toleration of all the misdeeds of the bureaucracy. And in order to find some basis for this change of policy our good comrade Wilhelm Pieck has to trudge clear back to 1925 to find some plausible quotation from Stalin. And what happened in between let us say 1928 and 1935? The weirdest concoctions, the most fantastic products of feverish imaginations were palmed off on the Communist movement as profound Communist thought. To deny or to doubt the validity of these spurious theories was tantamount to political suicide. Listen to these brilliant words of wisdom from the bearded oracle of the R.I.L.U.—Lozovsky:

"The election of the strike committee FROM BELOW (those were the days when everything flourished from below) by the whole mass of the workers concerned—that is the slogan! . . . What about the union? Is it to be given a seat on the strike committee or not? From the example of the Lodz strike ONE SEES HOW DANGEROUS IT IS TO ALLOW THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REFORMIST TRADE UNION ON A STRIKE COMMITTEE."

"Once a strike committee has been elected on a democratic footing the question of representing the union or unions is thereby closed."

"A strike committee is an instrument of struggle and for that very reason NO PLACE FOR ANY STOOL-PIGEON OF THE BOSSES" (representative of the reformist union) (R.I.L.U. Magazine, December, 1923).

From this position which actually denies not only the role of reformist unionism but of unionism generally, and defies the unorganized mass (which elects the strike committees democratically) Lozovsky is now satisfied to be the lackey of the "Bonzen" (bureaucrats).

We are as much opposed to smashing the militant groups in the trade unions today as we were opposed to the C.P.'s policy of smashing the trade unions yesterday.

ally into a firm and powerful support—into a revolutionary ally. Must we wait until the bourgeois ally unites with the fascist enemy against the Soviet Union and against the proletarian revolution occurring in one or all of the bourgeois countries involved in the war to see that the policy of national defense and class peace is even more ruinous than the former errors of union splitting and "united front from below"? The lesson of the Paris Commune, where the warring bourgeoisies united against the menace of proletarian revolution must not be forgotten.

Proletarian Revolution Is Soviet Union's Best Defense

(Continued from Page 3)

Lenin to use either French monarchists against Germany or German imperialists against France and England in 1918, it is just as permissible for the Soviet Union to attempt to use the Hitler dictatorship against the Mussolini dictatorship or vice-versa as the situation may require. But should the proletariat in Germany or Italy become defenders of their respective fatherlands because of the temporary exigencies and maneuvers of Soviet Diplomacy? Must they become defenders of good dictatorships against bad dictatorships?

A UNIQUE POSITION IN THE C.P.O.

That the Communist Party puppet leadership should be unable to comprehend the difference between the tactics of the Soviet State and the tactics of a revolutionary party in a capitalist country is easy to understand—the lack of collective leadership in the C.I., years of mechanical transference of policy from the Soviet Union to the parties in the capitalist countries have tended to create such a condition. But that a member of the C.P.O. should be unable to comprehend the difference is much harder to understand, if it were not unique. Comrade Smith in his article in this issue is ready to give up the slogan of revolutionary defeatism and "turn the imperialist war into a civil war" in those countries allied with the Soviet Union under the banner of "defense of the Soviet Union." His position is even cruder and has less qualifications than that of the C.P. leadership. We need only refer to the article of Vaillant-Couturier in Humanite: "We have no confidence in the French bourgeoisie or in the fascist cadres of the French army adhering to the treaty, and we act accordingly. . . . We will continue to fight chauvinism."

in the complete victory of the U.S.S.R. waging a revolutionary war"—the tactics of the Communist Parties must be such as to protect the "highest interests" of the proletariat. A differentiation must be made between the tactics of the Communist Parties in countries fighting against the U.S.S.R. and tactics of Communist Parties in countries fighting as allies of the U.S.S.R., even though following imperialist aims.

Certainly, the Communist Party in such a country must not for a moment give up its struggle to win the masses for the overthrow of its bourgeoisie. It must double its efforts to win the working class to its side. It must fight against the imperialist aims of its own government. It must carry on a relentless struggle against fascism and all reactionary forces. It must constantly work to prepare the ground for the successful victory of the proletarian revolution in that country. Insofar, however, as the army of its bourgeoisie is fighting side by side with the Red Army, the Communist Party of that country cannot simply call upon the workers and soldiers to leave the battlefields—as it would be proper for the Communist Parties in countries fighting against the U.S.S.R. to do, on the contrary, it must point out that the bourgeoisie army although being utilized to advance the aims of the imperialist rulers of that country at the same time, however, helps to defend the U.S.S.R., and it is the duty of the worker to fight side by side with the U.S.S.R., while at the same time organizing and preparing for the overthrow of its own bourgeoisie.

It is the duty of the parties in such countries to point out clearly and unhesitatingly the contradictory conditions existing and to show the way out of it. The thesis of the C.P.O. should be amended in this respect.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS SCORE C.P. WAR POLICIES

We are glad to print the following resolution received from a Branch of the Young Peoples Socialist League in St. Louis, Mo.

STATEMENT

On Friday, July 19, 1935, a delegation of the Young Communist League came to a meeting of Circle No. 2 of the Young Peoples Socialist League, inviting us to elect delegates to arrange an anti-war demonstration for August 1, 1935.

Our organization consisting of young workers who are conscious of the fact that they will be the first to be called for slaughter in the next imperialist war, unanimously decided to participate in the conference and elected three delegates for said purpose.

We took this action because at the last meeting of the State Executive Committee of Mo. it was decided to allow every S.P. branch to decide whether or not it wishes to participate in a united front against war. We also realize the mistakes made by Social Democratic Parties throughout the world in 1914, such as German Party supporting its government against Czarism, the S.F.I.O. (French Party) supporting its government against the German Kaiser, etc.

That is why our representatives at this conference took the stand that altho we are for the unconditional defense of the Soviet Union, we are also for conducting a fight against war even if our own government will ally itself to the Soviet Union. We believe that the tasks of all revolutionists in this country will be to mobilize the workers and farmers to defeat their own capitalist government, regardless of the fact that it may be a liberal democracy or a brutal fascism.

Many statements have been made lately by influential leaders of the Communist Parties that in case of a war between fascism and the Soviet Union and her allies it will be the task of the revolutionists to support their government in this war. We have considered these statements as mistakes by individual leaders, but, in today's press, there is a cable from Moscow that at the opening of the Seventh World Congress of the Comintern it was officially announced that it will be the job of the Communists

in case of a war between fascism and "democratic" countries in alliance with the Soviet Union to participate in it defending their respective governments. We are absolutely against this policy and we state openly that we are not going to defend any kind of a capitalist government during war regardless of what kind of a capitalist government it is or what country it is allied with.

Therefore we withdraw from the Conference Against War and Fascism unless the leadership of the conference differentiates itself from the statement made at the Seventh World Congress.

Be it resolved that this statement be sent to all organizations participating in the Conference Against War and Fascism and to the labor press.

(Signed) Francis X. Morrison
Y.P.S.L. Circle No. 2, St. Louis, Mo.
July 26, 1935.

U.S.S.R. Defense Is Main Problem

(Continued from Page 3)
perialist countries which have military agreements with the U.S.S.R. The task of such Communist Parties is also to transform the imperialist war into a revolutionary war."

This statement is way too simple to solve the problem. Such tactics, if followed blindly may bring the opposite results. Instead of a revolution and the establishment of more Soviet republics it may for a time only weaken the existing Soviet Republic, strengthen its enemies and aggravate the danger of a defeat for the U.S.S.R. Not every revolution brings forth a Soviet government, and not every defeated country necessarily becomes a Soviet territory. While during the war of 1914-1918 the defeat and revolution in any country was a step forward, during the coming war the defeat of the temporary ally of the U.S.S.R., may at the same time prove a defeat for the U.S.S.R. proper—it may be a step backward instead of a step forward.

"The highest interests of the entire international proletariat are expressed