

Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

Vol. 6, No. 5.

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1937.

5 Cents a Copy

Labor Spying Involves U.S.

Army & Navy Cooperated With Strike - Breaking Agency, Report Shows

Testimony revealing government "co-operation" with labor spy agencies was presented at the hearings of the LaFollette Senate Committee on labor espionage. Further material will be forthcoming when the subpoenas for records are answered next week by the agency involved, the National Metal Trades Association.

The major connection between the government and the strike-breaking outfit was thru the Army and Navy departments. While the Army denied such activity, the Navy, president Roosevelt's personal pet, simply refused to comment.

The association had injected men into construction unions, engaged in factories that had government contracts. All members of the association received information concerning individual workers. In cases of strikes, the Association supplied scabs to continue work. It was in this connection that the Army and Navy Intelligence Departments and the Department of Justice were linked with the agency. Thru the spies in the unions, attempts were made to disrupt the workers' organizations from within, and also to "provoke trouble," so that in the case of union shops the employer could be aided in breaking the union. That is, the Association had a definite program of open-shopism, and worked against such unions as the Electrical Workers and the International Association of Machinists. The latter announced that a purge was immediately being instituted to rid the union of now exposed company spies.

Reports and documents of the union-smashing outfit showed that it looked with definite suspicion on those employers who signed contracts with unions, and even considered Gerard Swope, of General Electric, a "parlor pink" because of some information it was supposed to possess that Swope wanted to organize the industry!

Move To End Sea Strike Made Here

Steps toward ending the maritime strike on the Eastern and Gulf ports were taken this week, when a resolution to end the strike was passed by the Strike Strategy Committee, conditional upon acceptance by Gulf port maritime workers.

Leaders of the committee pointed out that the strike had served to focus public attention on the miserable conditions under which seamen worked. At the same time, the efforts to maintain better conditions would be continued, it was stated, thru the National Labor Relations Board. Hearings are being conducted by that board, and the strikers expect to testify on the illegality of the wage agreement signed by the union officials.

The West Coast strike, nearing its third month, has greater possibilities of settlement now.

UNION DECLARES FOR FINISH FIGHT; PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SHOWS HAND AS HE SNUBS LEWIS' LABOR APPEAL

CONFER ON STRIKE



John L. Lewis seeks federal intervention in the auto strike from Assistant Secretary of Labor McGrady, hoping that this would aid the union.

Soviet Trial Begins As Accused Confess

Radek, Piatakoff and Other Soviet Leaders Implicated With Trotsky; Germany, Japan Specifically Involved By Testimony In Court

FOR the second time within six months a group of formerly prominent leaders of the Soviet Government and party have been placed on trial for treasonable activities.

As we go to press Radek, Sokolnikoff, Piatakoff and thirteen others have admitted their guilt in seeking, under Trotsky's inspiration and guidance, collaboration with representatives of German and Japanese imperialism in order to secure a defeat of the U.S.S.R. in war. According to the defendants, this was only a means to an end: the overthrow of Stalin and his regime. Radek emphasized that he and his partners had arrived at the conclusion that this was the only way left open to them for securing the defeat of Stalin. He said: "We Trotskyites thought war inevitable and that we could obtain power only after Stalinist Russia had been defeated, but that does not mean I wanted a Russian defeat."

A sensation was sprung in the trial when it was revealed by Piatakoff himself that he had conferred with Trotsky at the close of 1935 and that the latter had negotiated with Rudolph Hess, deputy leader of the Nazi party. Important repercussions from Germany are expected as a result of this flat accusation against Hitler's direct personal representative plotting for the dismemberment of the Soviet Union.

At this writing the Soviet prosecutor Vishinsky has not yet put in the full government case. The present set of defendants, while admitting their guilt, like the Zinoviev-Kamenev group last summer, are pursuing a different strategy of defense. Their confessions have been made despite their full realization that almost certain summary punishment—death—awaits them.

Immediately after the completion of the trials we will publish a political evaluation of these events, estimating their significance for the international labor movement as well as for the U.S.S.R.

It is yet too early to state whether this is the last or merely one of a series of similar trials to follow.

Flint Striker Tells Story Of GM Violence

(The following is a letter received from a worker active in the Auto strike, which gives a vivid description of the situation in the strike area.)

The company saw a fight was inevitable. It based its local strategy on an effort to play Chevrolet and Buick workers against workers in Fisher No. 1 and No. 2, and therefore acted early in an effort to disperse Chevrolet workers to their homes before they could join in work of the union.

December 28, the company provoked workers in Chevrolet, workers were fired for union activity openly, thus challenging the boasts of organizers that the two body plants would go out if a single Chevrolet worker was discriminated against. The union had its bluff called and had to move both nationally and locally to pull body plants if necessary.

On December 31st body plants at Fisher No. 1 and No. 2 were pulled.

The strike was now on in the body plants. The company used coercion of every brand to keep Chevrolet workers from joining the union. There was to be no talking in Chevrolet plants on pain of discharge, etc. Foremen were assigned to accompany all men at lunch. Men were now discharged wherever the management thought no

(Continued on Page 2)

Blum Offers Olive Branch To Germany

Following the line of England in aiding the Nazi regime, for fear of "internal trouble," Premier Leon Blum, leader of people's front in France, is holding out the olive branch to the Third Reich. While tens of thousands of Nazi fight against the Spanish workers and peasants the Socialist premier found it very simple last week not to mention the Spanish situation at all. Instead he dealt with vague phrases about economic cooperation, loans from France to Germany. In typical people's front style, Blum "stressed" that such financial aid could only be given if the money were used for something else than armaments. Thus, he conceived the idea of aid to Hitler as a step towards peace!

Perkins Calls New Parley

Auto Union Will Spread Strikes If Plants Are Reopened

Invoking a twenty-four year old clause, Secretary of Labor Perkins, in "the interests of industrial peace," scheduled a conference between the United Automobile Workers and General Motors, for Wednesday, January 30th. The Union, thru its president, immediately declared its willingness to negotiate, while the corporation's head, Alfred P. Sloan, stated that: "it will be carefully considered and a reply made promptly." At the same time, it was revealed that attempts had been made by the Secretary to arrange such a conference last week, but Sloan blocked the move towards negotiations.

* * *

In the face of the patent policy of the General Motors to fight unionization of "its" workers, in principle, John L. Lewis leader of the C.I.O., demanded that President Roosevelt intervene in the auto strike. Lewis pointed out that it was the labor movement that had helped to elect Roosevelt, feeling that their interests could be defended by him. Therefore, he now asked Roosevelt to carry out his pledge of struggle against the "economic royalists" such as General Motors, people who had campaigned against him, and were now "defying the law of the land."

However, the rude awakening was much ruder and cruder, and came even sooner than had been foreseen by those who argued against placing the faith of labor in so able a representative of the employers' interests as Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The national press hailed Roosevelt's reply as a "rebuke to Lewis," sensing, correctly, that here were

(Continued on Page 5)

Philadelphia Labor Forms CIO Council

Ten Philadelphia labor unions have formed a local council of the CIO to push organization in the industries of Philadelphia. Drives are already under way in steel and auto plants there.

One of the affiliated unions is the Battery Workers Union, an A. F. of L. member, which was not supported by that organization in the sit-down strike at the Philadelphia Storage Battery Plant. The newly formed council pledged financial aid to this strike.

The other unions forming the council are: American Federation of Teachers, United Electrical and Radio Workers, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, American Federation of Hosiery Workers, Upholstery Weavers' Union, Plush Workers' Union, Carpet Workers' Union, and the Amalgamated Association of Steel Workers.

LEWIS COREY

speaks on

Has Prosperity Returned?

Friday, January 29th - 8:00 P.M.

NEW WORKERS SCHOOL

131 West 33rd Street — Elevator to 7th Floor

Admission 25 Cents

Local 22 Progressives Support Work of CIO

The Dressmakers Progressive Group of Local 22, I.L.G.W.U. at its meeting on January 16th, unanimously adopted a statement, in which they expressed their conviction that: "... the progressives in the labor movement must take their stand without reservation for the Committee for Industrial Organization."

Pointing out that fundamental changes have taken place in American industry, the necessity of organizing the mass-production industries was placed as a life and death question for the entire labor movement. Consequently "the rigid and outlived" craft union system, which has failed to make headway in organizing the unorganized must be replaced by the "modern policy of industrial unionism."

The splitting activities of the Executive Council were sharply scored as sacrificing the interests of the entire labor movement for the narrow craft privileges of the old-line craft unionists. Their policy of "rule or ruin," by illegal suspensions and destruction of the autonomous rights of international unions, was denounced as being a "desperate effort to hold in check, to crush the forces of progress in the labor movement."

Further, the Progressives exposed the attempt to label the CIO a dual union movement, stressing that: "Dualism aims at undermining the existing labor organizations . . ." whereas "... the fundamental aim of the CIO is to strengthen and extend the existing labor movement . . . with the aid and consent of the official leaders of the A. F. of L. if possible, but against their objections and resistance, if necessary."

The participation of the ILGWU

STUDENT AID IN CIO DRIVE ASKED

CHICAGO (UNS)—The Committee for Industrial Organization "asks and will welcome the support of the student movement for this modern crusade for democracy and humanity," declared John L. Lewis, C.I.O. chairman, in a statement read to the second annual convention of the American Student Union.

"It needs your help," he said, "and we also believe that it offers you the only sure means today for building for yourself an acceptable social, political, and economic future."

The convention, which attracted some 400 delegates from progressive student groups in the nation's high schools and colleges, cheered Lewis' message. Shortly after, some scores of student delegates volunteered their aid to the Steel Workers Organizing Committee in passing out union literature at steel mill gates in South Chicago.

Subscribe Now To

Workers Age

For its weekly analyses of events in America and Europe, the WORKERS AGE is just the paper you want and should have. And you can have it for the practically infinitesimal amount of:

\$1.00 for 52 issues
\$.75 for 26 issues

Write to:

WORKERS AGE
131 WEST 33rd STREET
NEW YORK CITY

in the founding of the CIO and its assistance to the organization campaign was hailed by the meeting.

The statement concluded in support of the CIO:

"... because the C.I.O. represents the future, and its program is the only one that can bring strength and victory to trade unionism—because the issue of industrial unionism, of such vital importance in itself, is at the same time the expression of a new and broader outlook in the labor movement, a philosophy embracing militancy, independent political action and many of the other things we have championed for so many years—because the CIO shows the way to sound unity in labor's ranks, unity based on genuine democracy and industrial unionism."

JESUITS BIG FACTOR IN REBEL UPRISING

(Reprinted from the English press releases of the GENERALIDAD DE CATALUNYA as dated.)

The wealth of the Company of Jesus in Spain before the 19th of July was enormous. They had about six thousand million pesetas invested in the national economy. It was the Jesuits who held the largest shares in Spanish railways, trams, gas, electricity, and maritime transport. They speculated in real estate, in most of the larger towns and maneuvered the Stock Exchange in favor of their own interests. The bank and telephone services were under their control. Indeed in the latter they had a representative, the Marquis of Urguijo, a famous banker, while another of their agents, Ruiz Senen, was on the board of about 40 powerful companies. The Company of Jesus had its claws in most of the heavy industry of the country in this way. The economy was in their hands and the remaining money belonging to Spain was controlled by various other religious orders, bishops and other church dignitaries. It was these powerful economic and social forces which were mobilized to prevent the dissolution of the religious orders.

Certain orders, after gigantic combats, were dissolved, but their investments, not only remained intact but continued to accumulate capital. The Jesuits were willing to play at martyrdom and many of them accordingly set off abroad taking their gold with them whenever they could, which was another way of picking the Republic's pockets. But many of them managed to stay on by joining other

THE NEW WORKERS SCHOOL BOOKSHOP

announces the
BOOK OF THE WEEK SALE

offering all best sellers at marked reductions.

The week of January 25th

We offer

Autographed Copies of
Decline of American Capitalism
By LEWIS COREY
at \$2.75

10c postage for all out-of-town orders

Look for future offers in this column of Workers Age

FRAMED!



EARL KING

Oakland, Calif. — The seven week out and out frame-up trial of Earl King, Ernest Ramsay and Frank Conner, maritime union members, ended with a verdict of guilty of second degree murder.

BOOKS of the AGE

THE HISTORY OF THE HAYMARKET AFFAIR; Henry David, (Farrar & Rhinehart, \$4.00).
Reviewed by S. J.

Now that more than fifty years have passed since the Haymarket bomb was thrown, nearly all thinking, literate people accept the author's judgment of the legal procedure in the case:

"Parsons, Spies, Fielden, Neebe, Engel, Fischer, Schwab, and Lingg were not guilty of the murder of officer Degan in the light of the evidence produced in court. A biased jury, a prejudiced judge, perjured evidence, an extraordinary and indefensible theory of conspiracy, and the temper of Chicago led to the conviction. The evidence never proved their guilt."

The slogan "Anarchy is on trial" was used by the bourgeoisie prosecution as a slogan is used by any set of politicians, to achieve an end. Both the prosecution and most business men were too shrewd to believe such nonsense. Later, they admitted it. There were three genuine reasons for the convictions: The desire of big business to smash the labor movement; the desire of the prosecution for political advancement; and the latent sadism resulting from capitalist civilization. These are my conclusions, not the author's, although they are drawn from the facts that he presents.

The liberals of the time, as the liberals of all times, were muddled in their thinking, and confused issues. There were exceptions, such as William Dean Howells and Henry Demarest Lloyd, who believed that an unjust conviction was enough to warrant a prisoner's release; but most of them brought up extraneous questions. Dr. Salter's argument is as good an example of average liberal thought as can be found anywhere. First he agreed with the state in the cases of Lingg, Fischer and Engel, saying that although the bomb thrower had not been identified, they were guilty as accessories and should be imprisoned for life. He did not think there was enough evidence against the other four who were condemned to death. Apparently he did not consider Neebe's fifteen-year sentence worthy of comment. Spies, Schwab, Fielden, and Parsons, he said, were not guilty of murder, but of sedi-

December 16th

The Fight Against Fascism's Program

(Continued from Page 3)

that makes it possible for such questions to arise!

But what is this "original" fascist program whose hidden virtues are now being discovered in the most unexpected circles. Read thru the manifestos of the Fascio di Combattimento or the twenty-five "unalterable" principles that still remain the platform of the National-Socialist German Workers Party. What are they but an unholy mess of brazenly self-contradictory promises, absurdly impossible panaceas, reactionary fantasies and just plain gibberish, all tricked out in the pseudo-radical phrases and reckless demagoguery so characteristic of fascism? What is there, in all this witch's-brew, that constitutes a "program of freedom" or something "in the interests of the people?" Have the spokesmen of official communism really taken leave of their political senses?

In the years that fascism was making its great bid for power in Italy and Germany we never ceased hammering away at the idea that the fascist program was a piece of treacherous demagoguery, of conscienceless deception of the masses, in which it is death to place any confidence. Now we are suddenly bidden to swallow our words—to confess that we have

gravely misjudged the program of fascism—to accept it as our own, merely complaining that it is not being carried out! Is this fighting fascism or is it confirming the waning faith of the misled masses in the fascist slogans and promises? Is this stimulating or retarding the indispensable process of mass emancipation from the influence of fascist demagoguery? Is this helping or hindering the conversion of the once blind followers of Hitler and Mussolini into anti-fascists?

(Continued Next Week)

You Are Invited
To Our Theater Party
Monday, February 15th

ARTEF THEATER

to see

CHAINS
by H. LEVICK

● Reservations made by phoning BRyant 9-0127

Prices range from
\$.75 to \$1.50

New Bill Hits Negro Schools

A protest against the present form of the proposed bill to aid education in the states with federal funds was lodged this week by the N.A.A.C.P. with the National Education Association. It is the contention of the N.A.A.C.P. that the proposed bill contains no provision for preventing discrimination between Negro and white schools in the distribution of the funds. The bill would have the Federal government appropriate 100 million dollars to the states, increasing the amount annually by 50 million dollars until the appropriation is 300 million dollars.

The association then cites the fact that in 1933-34 Alabama spent 89.2% of its school money on whites and only 10.8% on Negroes, despite the fact that Negroes constituted in that year 7% of the state's school population. The association contends that the discrimination against Negro schools in the South is growing instead of lessening.

Citing Alabama again upon the distribution of federal funds, the N.A.A.C.P. sets forth that in 1933-34 Alabama received \$3,901,938 from federal emergency funds for public schools. Of this amount it expended 89% on white schools and 11% on Negro schools.

tion, and they too should be imprisoned for several years. As the author remarks:

"The men were responsible for the crime (according to Salter) but not guilty of it, and nevertheless deserved punishment."

Henry George condemned the verdict at first, but approved it after the Illinois Supreme Court had upheld it. He was running for the office of Secretary of the state of New York at the time and naturally could not afford to be confused with anarchists who had advocated violence.

There is a contradiction in the book which, although not important, is worth noting. The author writes that the Knights of Labor condemned the bombing because "The American workingman was just as shocked and distressed by the bomb as anyone else," and because "capital could and did strike at organized labor through the Haymarket Affair." There is a tendency here to confuse the unions with their leaders. It is improbable that the American workers were "distressed" although they must have been surprised. The ordinary worker has little more liking for the policemen than the radical, and the violent death of seven cops would not distress him nearly as much as the death of striking workers the day before, who may have been killed by the very cops who died in the bombing.

The labor press was controlled by the type of union leaders who have always tried to keep the friendship of capital, and who have acted in the interest of capital whenever there was a chance for the workers to make a really important gain. It was indeed "quite normal" for these leaders to denounce any act of socialists or anarchists (whom they confused), since socialism and anarchism were drawing away their following and threatening their take from both capital and labor. Farther on in the book, David admits this control of the means of expression, also the grievance of the workers against police.

The History of the Haymarket Affair is a thorough and fully documented study, in the course of which the author has done an unbelievable amount of research. Henry David deserves gratitude for an unprejudiced account of this case.