

# FIGHT

VOL. 2 FIGHT No. 7  
MAY 1935  
5¢

## AGITATION AND FASCISM

STUDENTS STRIKE IN WAR PROTEST  
PRISON TALKS  
Nazi Rush War Plans

### NAZIS SLAY 2 LITH SOLDIERS

The Rumble of Unavoidable War in the East

**WAR** is inevitable, and the world is being drawn into it. The rise of a new power in the East, Germany, is the cause of the present situation. The world is being divided into two camps, the Axis and the Allies. The Axis is the camp of Germany and Italy, and the Allies is the camp of France, Britain, and the United States. The world is being drawn into a great struggle, and the outcome will determine the fate of the world.

**ARMY Dictatorship Near in Yugoslavia**  
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### 150,000 STUDENTS STRIKE

**Nazis Building Army 50% Bigger Than France's**  
Germany's agreement to enter into an Eastern European pact—if all the "tests" were first extracted from it—was an obviously clumsy maneuver in an effort to weaken the ring that is being formed around the Third Reich. Without mutual assistance provisions, non-aggression pacts are useless. Further, Hitler does not want to include Lithuania in any non-aggression pact. Any pact excluding Lithuania would be meaningless. Memel in Lithuania is one of the danger spots in Eastern Europe, since Germany is determined to regain possession of it.

**HITLER THREATENS MEMEL WAR**  
The signing of a Franco-Soviet mutual assistance pact (not a military alliance) is the first practical move toward a comprehensive system of such pacts. Again the Soviet government has shown the capitalist powers an example of definite action in place of endless talk.

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### THE EASTERN LOCARNO — The Only Way to Check Hitler

**TEN YEARS AGO** Germany signed a treaty at Locarno giving up all claims to revision of her western frontier. But she refused to give up hope of her return to the eastern frontier. Poland, not Soviet Russia, was Germany's main enemy then.

Hitler's policy of continuing "exploratory negotiations" with the blood-thirsty Nazis. Such a vacillating and hesitant policy only encourages Hitler. But that is exactly what most British capitalists fear. They are opposed to War in Western Europe, but do not object to War in Eastern Europe.

The real purposes of the Nazis are indicated in the following secret instructions sent to Nazi representatives in all countries, published in a Lithuanian newspaper:

"It must have the false freedom in the sphere of armaments. Twelve to eighteen months are necessary to complete German armaments. The German army must be one and a half times stronger than the French army. German aviation is already stronger than the French. Armed Germany will be an attracting force for other countries. In order to obtain this aim it is extremely convenient to utilize the idea of crusade against Bolshevism. The National Socialists will soon assume power in America."

Just why Anthony Eden did not go to Stresa, why he was put to bed with a "nervous breakdown" is not clear, possibly he was persuaded by Stalin and Litvinoff that an Eastern Locarno is necessary to preserve peace—and Sir John Simon and Ramsay MacDonald seem determined to scuttle this proposal, which would help to prevent a War against the U.S.S.R. Britain persists in playing for a balance of power, as in 1914. British diplomats would draw the Soviet peace proposals in an endless food of fruitless "exploratory" discussions. It grows increasingly evident that War when it comes will start with an attempt by the Nazis to carry out their avowed plans to conquer the Ukraine, and to this the British imperialists are not opposed.

## FIGHT

May

### LIBERTY IN ARKANSAS

By LUCIEN KOCH  
Director of Communists College, at Menz, Arkansas

**TERROR** is sweeping Arkansas. Traditionally a rather inconspicuous, agricultural state, Arkansas now takes its place among those seething with reaction and resorting to Fascist measures against civil liberties. What has happened?

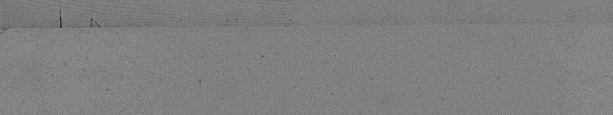
The plight of the tenant farmer everywhere is desperate, and has not been alleviated by the AAA. Nowhere in the tenant were 20¢ than in the South under the plantation system which has inflicted poverty upon thousands of poverty-stricken Negro and white share-croppers.

For decades small farmers of Arkansas, as in other states, unable to pay taxes, have been gradually crowded off their land. The tendency toward merging small farms into immense plantations, the ownership of which is concentrated into fewer and fewer hands, was speeded up in the post-War slump. Negroes were brought in and used to force down the living standards of the whites. Some of these plantations contain many thousands of acres—the largest is 70,000 acres. The owner is a feudal baron tyrannizing over the lives of his serfs. This plantation system has so consolidated its power that it seemed utterly futile for a tenant to protest against the endless injustices and indignities inflicted upon him. The local government is dominated by the owner, often an absentee landlord. Many big plantations are owned by corporations, the Singer Sewing Machine Co., lumber and insurance companies, banks, etc.



A typical sharecropper family and their shack near Birdsong, Ark.

But neither terrorism, nor the use of the Red scare, nor the attempt to foster racial hatred between Negroes and whites, nor the use of the yellow-dog contract and company union, has succeeded in breaking the unity and determination of the share-croppers. They are carrying on an heroic and historic fight which deserves wide support. (See page 14.)



A meeting of tenant farmers in Merfeld, Tex.; such meetings are now prohibited.

**—American Postage**  
On each parcel of twenty or thirty acres is a tenant, living in a kind of unpaired weather-worn hovel, eking out a bare, miserable existence. The tenant seldom sees any cash. He is given credit at the plantation commissary where prices are often 50 percent higher than in independent stores. The crop is divided on a fifty-fifty basis—but the landlord does all the bookkeeping. When accounts are settled the share-cropper usually finds himself in debt. The lot of the day-laborer is even worse: he gets 50 to 75 cents per day in Arkansas. The misery of the tenants kept pace in

gers, a Socialist, was convicted of anarchy. Since then a whole series of atrocities has been perpetrated against organizers and members of the Union. Robert Reed and I were seized at a Union meeting, beaten and jailed. Meetings at Birdsong, Marked Tree and elsewhere were broken up, and the speakers driven out of the county. When Norman Thomas and H. L. Mitchell went to Governor Patsell to protest against the denial of civil rights they were told: "You can't preach social equality in Arkansas. No economic equality either." Three days later the planters drove Thomas, Mitchell, Howard Kester and John Herling out of Birdsong.

**Arkansas Americanism**  
The cabin of A. B. Brodwin, Negro preacher and Union song leader, was riddled with 22 bullets while he escaped through the back door, and his wife and children hid under the bed. W. H. Stultz, president of the Union, formerly a school teacher, and Ed Pickering were arrested, threatened with death, and warned to "get the hell out of here!" All these Union leaders are now in hiding and forced to work "underground." (This is a "free democracy" U. S. A., and in Hitler's Germany!) The Chief of Police then warned the Union that there must be no more meetings in Marked Tree. The roads are patrolled by carloads of planters and their thugs watching the Mitchell, Kester, and other "outside agitators"—nearly all of whom are natives of Arkansas. Even a Paramount News cameraman and an Associated Press reporter were told that they were not welcome in eastern Arkansas. A band of armed hoodlums poured shots into the home of C. Carpenter, the attorney for the Union, and threatened his life. His practice has been ruined because he believes in Jeffersonian democracy and the Bill of Rights.

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*Photos from East-gate Committee for Strikers' Relief, 112 E. 10th St., N. Y. C.*

### THE PATH TO ROME

"[S]ix pieces, pure hellum: to that first old Roman rhaps for peace our Government have decided to return after a previous session in the realm of disarmament. It is the solemnly negotiated on the decision." Opening words of a paper of protest from the London Morning Post for the Government's "Statement Relating to Defense."

I tell you, and I tell you true, Those Romans have a thing or two; They know, as sure as I am living, How many beans (or guns) make five; But powder damned upon their sky, You bet they would have kept it dry!

Let scorpions now replace our whips, Fill up the guns and launch the ships, And let the European scene Be what it was in far '14! Arms didn't stop that famous row, But never mind—they're sure to now!

### FIGHT AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM

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# FIGHT

## IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT - In Harlem

ONLY an eye-witness somehow identified with the life that had suddenly exploded could have any adequate conception of what happened in Harlem on the night of March 18. To see the surly and threatening mobs surrounded and buffeted by officers of the law; to hear the terrifying crash of huge plate glass windows; to look into the faces of white merchants deadly pale at the sight of power-changing hands; to listen to the strained but determined voices of Negro men and women pouring forth their resentment against injuries, their demands, the declaration of their willingness and eagerness to die rather than submit longer to the racial tyranny in their community—only one who was there in it, racially, economically and socially identified with it, could begin to comprehend the forces that were operating. There was terror—the Negroes, the police, the merchants, pedestrians, everybody in Harlem felt the terror.

That terror has been in the hearts of thousands of Negroes for five years. It only broke out that night. It was not of decisive importance whether it was true that a boy had been beaten to death. It was a possibility. Were not they, the vast majority in the community, half-starved, jobless, crowded into slums, discriminated against, brow-beaten, scantly and shabbily clothed? Weren't their children hungry, denied pleasure and play-projects, maltreated in the schools? A boy beaten to death was the symbol of *slow death* for thousands.

### An Outbreak Against Intolerable Social Conditions

No leaders distributed by "Reds" could possibly have even prevented such an outbreak. Negroes, as any one in the inside knows, have restrained themselves from that outbreak for months, years. Repeatedly have peaceful crowds, nevertheless violent, made known their discontent and resentment against the intolerable social conditions, the meager relief and joblessness, at Relief Station and on many Lenox Avenue corners. Just as repeatedly have they been driven away or given promises that went nothing. For months

and months they had become aware in larger and larger numbers that unemployment was creeping upon the entire community. Families doubled up. Meager and insufficient incomes were divided two or three ways. Comfortable apartments were forsaken for cheaper and inadequate ones. Eviction after eviction on nearly every street did not make for lessening the strain. It was always a question of who would be next—next to be evicted, next to lose his job, next to have his child reduced or cut off on pretex that "always seemed sound, next to have one of his children get into trouble, for stealing a banana to appease this aching hunger.

### and Hospitals

The problem is racial as well as social. No great amount of intelligence is required to comprehend without being conscious of it that most of the Negroes of Manhattan are forced to herd themselves into the congested Harlem area. You are identified by your address in Harlem as surely as by the color of your skin. And accompanying it is the sullen awareness that the whole mass of citizens with whom you have to ride, from whom you have to buy, from whom you have to try to wheedle a job—every white face shares the responsibility for that segregation. Whether it's true or not, and it probably is, almost every citizen of Harlem believes that everything he has, he has, not by choice, but by compulsion, and to his disadvantage at that. He knows that the conditions in the schools are intolerable, and he believes that they are worse than anywhere else in the city. Firetraps, outside toilets, too many incompetent and unympathetic teachers, lack of equipment such as other schools have—a whole visible and psychological demoralization of the Southern attitude that it's good enough for "niggers." He knows that the stench of Harlem Hospital is in community air. And he believes that the more tolerance and forbearance he practices toward it, the

more conditions get. Investigations bring no favorable results.

### At the Mercy of White Landlords

The Negro knows that nearly all the landlords in Harlem are white, and too many of them bleed their tenants. They have them in an area from which they can scarcely escape. "Universal education" (as from being an in-evilible concomitant of capitalist culture, it proves to be a fiction—like some of the other justifications commonly made in defense of our anarchic, profit-seeking economy. It is also becoming clear that the limited-class education which characterized capitalism up to three or four years ago, far from being indispensable, now has become, apparently, an unbearable luxury, a service to be casually abandoned or strangled by crippling financial restrictions. A more certain pathway to a Fascist destination is difficult to imagine.

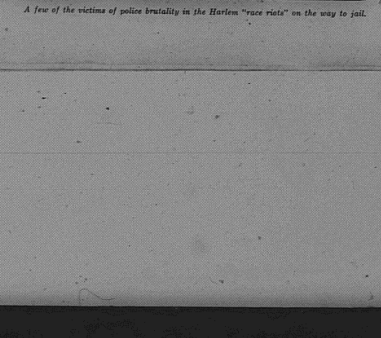
### Close Schools

The protracted economic crisis has worsened the plight of education to an unprecedented degree, as shown by the following figures taken from *The Depriving Crisis in Education*, a pamphlet issued by the U. S. Office of Education:

Nearly 2,000 rural schools in 34 states virtually closed in the fall of 1933.

Approximately 200,000 certified teachers were unemployed in 1933-34.

(Continued on page 14)



A few of the victims of police brutality in the Harlem "race riots" on the way to jail.

# FIGHT

## Education Goes Into the Red

BY EDWIN C. JOHNSON  
Secretary, Committee on Militarism in Education

LONG-CHEERISHED illusion of bourgeois culture has been that, under capitalism "success" results from "talent." Moreover, "universal education" has long been extolled as being a unique by-product of expanding capitalism as well as a technique designed and maintained by the generosity of capitalism for the purpose of encouraging the wider dispersion of "talent" and "success," thus equalizing opportunity for advancement. Further, the conquest of backward colonial countries was justified on the ground that Western administration of those countries would bring them education and enlightenment.

Times have changed. Educational opportunities were never equalized between rich and poor children, urban and rural children; and the myth of equal education for all regarded as a sacred cow.

Between 1930 and 1933 total expenditures for education dropped over 30 percent. Federal appropriations for aid to states for school deficits nearly 30 percent in the past year, while expenditures for "national defense" increased by nearly 25 percent. The Federal Government now spends almost 100 times as much for War preparation as for education.

Teachers' College has cited the need for \$400,000,000.

Sole warnings that the current "financial deficit" of education may lead to a vastly more critical "social deficit" in the future have been expressed by many responsible leaders. In spite of these, the modest appeals made for education have not encountered much warm sympathy on the part of the powers that be. In 1913-14 emergency Federal aid to education amounted to \$20,000,000—less than the price of a single battleship. The one look for more generous aid in 1914-15 is gone too bright. Recently Senator Robinson, after a visit with President Roosevelt, was reported as saying that there was little if any hope for direct aid to education during this session of Congress.

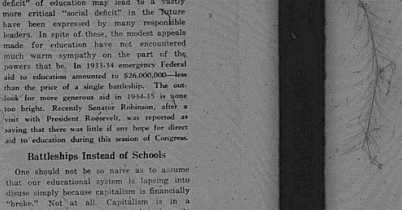
### Battleships Instead of Schools

One should not be so naive as to assume that our educational system is laying itself out simply because capitalism is financially "broken." Not at all. Capitalism is in a process of rapid disintegration, but in spite of that, it seems to be able and willing to squander stupendous and increasing sums for the expansion and maintenance of military and naval armaments—\$3,000,000 daily. On the floor of the Senate Senator King recently said: "It is certain that our appropriations for the army and navy for this next fiscal year (1935) will exceed a billion dollars, and, indeed, there is rather striking evidence that it will reach the stupendous sum of one billion three or four hundred million dollars."

Readers of FIGHT are familiar with those increases for War purposes; they need therefore not be set out in detail here. It is important, however, to point out the significance of these figures plus the figures on the crisis in education. They have a double-headed significance. They show a revealing light both on the nature of capitalism and on the frightful goals toward which it moves. Madding expenditures for armament together with retrenchment in education and similar social services—here in a nutshell are two valid indications as to why educating capitalism promises to result in either the darkness and brutality of Fascism or the slaughter and chaos of War—or both. It is exceedingly doubtful that capitalism or any other socio-economic system can or will survive both of these two social tendencies.

Since 1930 the following nationalities have been made in 700 typical cities: 67 reduced their art instruction, 36 eliminated it; 110 reduced their music programs, 25 eliminated them; 81 reduced their physical education work, 28 eliminated it; 65 reduced their home economics work, 19 eliminated it; 38 reduced industrial art instruction, 24 eliminated it; 20 reduced their health service, 22 eliminated it.

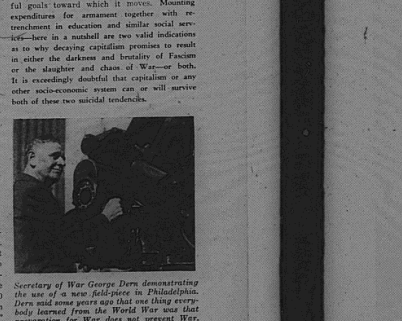
The crisis in education has caused agitation for outright Federal aid to education. Office of Education experts estimated that \$75,000,000 would be required in order to keep the schools in 22 states open for their customary terms in 1933-34. Congressman Lee of Oklahoma has estimated that \$100,000,000 would be required annually to finance a system of "equalization of educational opportunity" among the various states. Dean Russell of



A total of 2,250,000 American school children, 6 to 15 years of age, were not in school during 1933-34.

During 1933 only one out of every 100 American teachers fought for less than \$750 per year. The paralytic state: "An unemployed factory worker laboring for a year of the minimum 'market rate' rate would receive \$728, which is little enough."

Legs of funds closed one out of every four cities in school terms. "Seven hundred and fifteen rural schools are reported to have been closed during this year.... In 1930 rural schools for 1,200,000 children were open six months or less," says the pamphlet. It continues, "Inadequate school terms for American children stand in sharp contrast to the school terms common for children in



Lester Mural, painted by Leinard Knuch, an unemployed worker of Pittsburgh.

# FIGHT

## THEATRES - For And Against War

By MARK MARVIN  
National Secretary of the New Theatre League

PRIMITIVE society molts its myths, priests, and shamans directed youth to War through the earliest form of the drama—the tribal War-dance. Militarism has always used some form of drama to arouse the War spirit, to portray the enemy as a beast, and to glorify heroism. Seldom were these forms of the drama candid enough to portray the darker side of War—the killed and the maimed, the ravished and the diseased. Nor did they reveal the true political and economic reasons for battle.

During the World War the entire stage from music-hall through the Little Theatre to the glamorous footlights of Broadway, was mobilized for War service by the central bureau of propaganda in Washington headed by George Creel. Leading artists were easily induced to forget that "art has nothing to do with propaganda." They wrote articles or acted in chauvinistic plays that showed the "Huns" as barbarous and brutal. Actors and directors and playwrights rushed to the "colours" eager to do their bit by inducing others to fight in the "War to end War."

At the same time dramatic critics, historians, university professors, hastened to place "culture" in the service of War—far behind the lines. German culture including the theatre was classified as "barbarous." Plays from the contemporary German repertory were banned—unless those which dealt with domestic tragedy were said to be infected with the militaristic virus of Herr Hitler. Fascist Theatre Serves War-Mongers

Today the Nazis in Germany embody the characteristics falsely attributed to all Germany during the War. The Fascist theatre is a theatre of War. Its task, as envisioned by Goering and Goebbels, is to prepare the German spirit to the use of Fascist "culture" in every land. The gigantic mania of Herr Rosenberg evasions all Europe under the domination of Germany. This spirit may be excellent for the creation of War-birdery legions, but it is disastrous for the drama. Hence has been inflicted upon the German drama by the Nazi theorists and the Nazi suppression of vital artistic production. The official German theatre is sterile; its best artists

### The Theatre as a Progressive Social Force

delphia the *New Theatre* was forbidden to open with its play "Too Late to Die." Censorship has always been a tribute to Fascism and Fascism, as illustrated by Germany and Italy, means inaction, subjection, and death to the creative theatre.

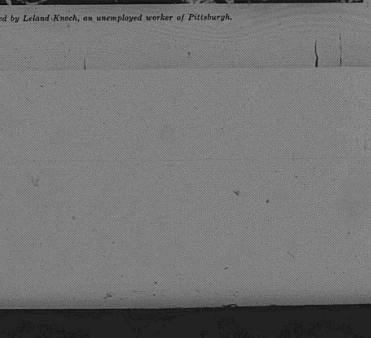
The 1914 to 1917 scenario a theatre existed in America that dared to take up the challenge of the munition-makers, the bankers, and the jingoistic journals and patrioters. However, theirs are diffused in 1933. There now are some three hundred theatres in the *New Theatre League*. This league stresses in its minimum program the struggle against War, Fascism, and censorship. There are also numerous theatrical organizations such as the Theatre Union, Group Theatre, Rebel Arts Players, Contemporary Players of Los Angeles, the Truism Union of Chicago, the Gilpin Players, and other dramatic groups not directly affiliated with the League, and others are being organized. These new social theatre are becoming a potent force in the fight against War, Big Fascism. Several branches of the American League Against War and Fascism have organized dramatic groups.

### Throtling the Anti-War, Anti-Fascist Theatre

In order to prepare for the complete domination of stage and screen by jingoistic elements, threats are now being made to tighten federal and state censorship and give them autocratic power. The bill, HR 2999, now before Congress, seeks to install a rigid film censorship. It asks that no license shall be granted to any motion picture "which is harmful to the public or any part thereof in any respect, or which distorts representations of the national life, literature, manners, and customs of this country, or disturbs public peace or impairs friendly relations with foreign nations."

Under this proposed law any film exposing Fascist terror abroad or illustrating the need for militant unionism could be suppressed.

Boston and Philadelphia authorities have not waited for the enactment of such laws. The Boston police closed the *New Theatre* Players after their second performance of "Waiting for Lefty," by Cliff Odets, on the ground of "un-American activities" and this despite the fact that the play is running full on Broadway and that it has been recommended for the Pulitzer prize. In Philadelphia



Lester Mural, painted by Leinard Knuch, an unemployed worker of Pittsburgh.





# CIVIL RIGHTS!

No More Repression  
By FRANCIS J. GORMAN  
Vice-President, United Traffic Workers of America

WE HAVE been getting enough of repression as it is, without any specific legislation on the subject from various legal authorities and agencies. Injunctions, contempt proceedings, and the like, have been giving us plenty of trouble, just because of their privileged positions, coupled with personal and property prejudices.



Hours of Harriet and the D. A. Pitt at the Madison Square Garden meeting against gay laws.

It is a far cry from the freedom to organize unions to the freedom to organize corporations; but we do not forget that the Congressional Act which was made into law for the purpose of limiting corporate monopoly in financial and commercial affairs, was used against the labor unions, which were convicted of "combination in restraint of trade." If that kind of law can be made of a law against the organization of trusts, we may certainly pause before endorsing any kind of limitation on the freedom of individual action, speech, thought or organization.

Employers of labor, and harem-hunting corporation lawyers certainly have weapons enough as it is, against the possible activities of labor, organized or unorganized. We have gained for American workers certain recognitions of rights, rights which are now supposed to be inalienable. Any legislation which will limit these rights will be a step backward. And the organized labor movement must stand solidly against any infringement of the liberties of American citizens in respect to these matters.

## The Plight of the Farmer

By PAUL J. NYAHE  
Congressman from Minnesota

OUR breath of life through all our years of entity has been the liberty to speak, to write, to voice our thoughts, to give expression to our religious, political, economic beliefs as we might be inspired to do. Liberty to meet and mingle as we desired. Liberty to hold our own independent views, and liberties to respect our neighbor who might emphatically disagree.

The Northwestern farmers, fighting grimly against a cruel series of reversals, have shown a courage, patience and resourcefulness difficult to believe. For 15 years they have seen their civil rights melt away, not with one dramatic overt act, such as publication of an edict, show of force, or act of God, but with the soul-staring and insupportable progress of a glacier, or the march of a sand dune, or the withering blight of a drought.

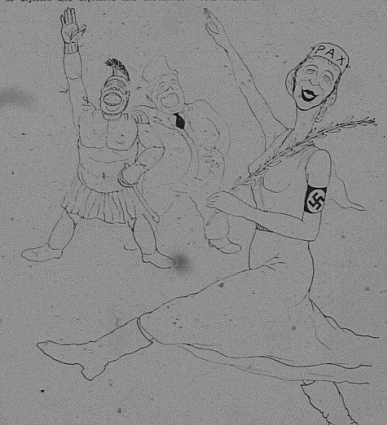
The pity of it! Unorganized, dispersing their efforts, betrayed sometimes by false or incapable leadership, victimized by untimely appeals to what was represented to be their duties as loyal unselfish citizens, they have permitted the shackles of industrialists

over his situation that he may well wonder if free speech is any concern of his!

Think that in those free and democratic United States of ours, should be an entire area where a whole economic group can be "caught" in a trap, not of their own making, which threatens to disfranchise them, subject them to every range of starvation, illiteracy, lack of medical, educational and recreational facilities, and nothing but utter despair for the future. Think that when they endeavor to reach those in authority or the enlightened public opinion with a statement of their condition and an appeal for help, the reply to them is repression, abuse, force and threats of violence without a constructive act to help them in their desperation.

That is our first task. The New Deal has no more important work while this form of government obtains than to preserve for the farmer and worker, black or white, radical or reactionary, republican or communist, his right to free speech and assembly, to an unfettered press, to the inalienable right of Mr. John Citizen to his life, his liberty, and his perhaps holy, but less potent of happiness. God protect us from the invidious and invidious attacks of those who are stirring a nation into hysteria today. War psychology is being rekindled. Real losses are observed.

Remember, and remember well the admonition that "Totalitarianism is often the last refuge of a coward!"



Peasant - Not style

over his situation that he may well wonder if free speech is any concern of his!

## CUBA "LIBRE"

(Continued from page 10)

cial credits for public works for the army and navy, for special emergencies such as that provided by the late revolutionary general strike, have been seized by the government. In other words bondholders are being assured that money spent for the army and navy and to meet the "special emergencies" is spent for a good purpose, even though the immediate profits and dividends may be diminished. The Cuban workers understand too.

"Defrey Must Go," translated, as the inscription in letters of foot high caught my eye on the opposite wall in a Havana street. This is the demand of the Cuban workers. They know that lack of *Mendetta* and the army, agents of American imperialism, stands the American State Department.

We in the United States, friends of the Cuban workers and foe of Fascism, can help in the struggle for a free Cuba. We can petition President Roosevelt, demanding the removal of *Jefferson Caffery*, American Ambassador to Cuba. We can cable or write President *Mendetta* urging the immediate release of all political prisoners. A few hundred of other face imprisonment or a firing squad. Members of the American League Against War and Fascism can help the Cuban workers to break the power of American imperialism and gain *Peace and Freedom for the Cuban people.*

## HARLEM "RIOT"

(Continued from page 11)

But it is more fundamental than that. It is social and economic. Every illustration that I have already used has strong social and economic implications. The whole country read in the nation's press, with sympathy and acclaim, the tribute to Richard B. Harrison. And even the Cathedral of St. John the Divine was offered graciously for his funeral. He was dead then. But Negroes know that he was rejected by three hotels in the vicinity of the 44th Street Theatre, where "The Green Pasture" was playing, solely on account of his color. So he had to stay in the Y.M.C.A. in Harlem. He sought a hotel downtown merely to ward off the attack that finally took him. Multiply cases of social discrimination such as this by the thousands, and is a riot so comprehensible! And when it comes, it is reported in the *Harlem papers* in such manner as to evoke the comment, "We ought to clean up the damn niggers."

## Hunger and Brutality

Great condemnation has been heaped on "Harlem hoodlums" for the pillage and looting of the night of March 19. That had an economic basis. It was not looting for the fun of destruction. The people of Harlem are hungry. Not because they spend their money on "night life" or the polly racket, but because they have insufficient money for food. The majority of people on 125th Street, on Seventh and Lenox Avenues, that night, were beyond the ages of seventeen and twenty-five years. No job, shabby clothes, miserable hous-

ing, very little pleasure, and a shameful lack of food! Judgment cannot be passed too harshly on their sudden spontaneous acts! They were far from hoodlums. I was there. I watched. I ran with them. I saw policemen beat them as they ran, just because they ran. I saw white men jump out of their automobiles, strike and throw down innocent passers-by, and policemen made no move to stop it. But by and large it was a carnival of malicious resentment against social and economic conditions which are growing increasingly intolerable.

Only after three weeks has the threatening police menace been removed. I predict there will be no further outbreaks unless conditions are not remedied or until they grow increasingly worse. Then it will come "as a thief in the night," and police and merchants and it as on March 19. This is a menace and a threat to the peace of all of New York. It may bring reprisals. But the mass people are beginning to echo the cry of one overworked Negro on 125th Street that night—"I've seen only one way, and dying for your rights is better than living like dogs." Was he right!



THE STATE OF LOUISIANA  
alias the "map" of Huey Long

Drawing by Mackey

## FIGHT

May

## LIBERTY IN ARKANSAS

(Continued from page 3)

In these struggles the teachers and students of Commonwealth College were active. The phantoms and politicians therefore, in reprisal, moved to suppress this labor college. The legislature sent a committee to investigate it, and a motion picture was introduced which would not only outlaw the college but every militant organization of farmers or workers. After it passed the House, quick action was taken to mobilize national opposition to the bill, with the result that it was defeated in the Senate. But a bill was passed excluding any "un-American" political party from the ballot.

Liberty is decidedly on the defensive in Arkansas. There, at throughout the South, and the rest of the nation, the drive to suppress civil rights is but the prelude to opening the gates for full-fledged Fascism. One of its leaders and unflagging fight on the part of workers, the farmers and all who value their liberties—those who will be the victims of Fascism—can prevent its victory.

May



By IDA DAILES  
Administration Secretary

DEAR MARY: W. HARRY addressed 2,500 people in Terry Halls, Ind., home of Eugene V. Debs, on March 21. The American Legion, Silver Shirts, Eels, and similar organizations did their utmost to prevent the meeting. The secretary of the Debs Educational Society, which sponsored the meeting, writes that they obtained the support of the Central Labor Union, the Protestant Ministers' Alliance, the Colored Ministers' Alliance, the Parent-Teachers' Association, the Council of Jewish Women, Y.W.C.A., two fraternal societies, a farmers' group and other organizations.

All the organizations in this united front received a letter from the Veterans' Council denouncing the bill and demanding that the organizations withdraw their support. After an hour's debate the Central Labor Union tabled the communication. The ministers called a special meeting to discuss the demand of the Veterans' Council. They replied by declaring their belief in the preservation of civil liberties, and save no reason why the Ward meeting should not be held. This action received a good deal of publicity and was the subject of several editorials in the local press. Defeating the proposal of free speech. The Fascists were defeated, the success of the meeting was assured.

A strong resolution condemning the proposed Pacific Naval maneuvers off the coast of Japan as part of preparations for War was passed. Another resolution demanded the repeal of the criminal syndicalism enacted by the Indiana legislature to bar the Communist Party from the ballot. Plans are under way for the establishment of a broad, strong action of the American League in Terry Halls, as a result of this highly successful meeting.

Three hundred and seven delegates representing 40,000 persons in 181 organizations met in the hall of the Central Labor Council in Seattle to establish the Northwest Section of the League on April 6 and 7. Delegates came from the states of Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Forty-nine delegates represented 24 A.F. of L. unions. 30 delegates represented 16 units of Commonwealth Builders. 10 delegates represented independent unions. 18 delegates represented 16 youth organizations. 3 delegates represented branches of the American group of the Socialist Party. Unemployed workers, the Communist Party and other organizations were represented.

The Congress closed with a public mass meeting at the Labor Temple which was addressed by Nick Hughes of the *Bullmarketers* Union, Harry Ricker, Vice-president of the International Longshoremen's Association, Representative Tom Smith, Melvin Raiser of the University of Washington, and other speakers.

As a follow-up to this Congress, a number of tours are being made by speakers and organizers in the three states, to set up a strong network of local committees and branches of the League. This important center of War Indus-try is now on the way to becoming a real factor in the struggle against War and Fascism.

FIGHT

15



**BUILDING THE LEAGUE**  
YOUTH SPARKS

In Hunter College, N. Y. 5 students including the editor of the school paper have been expelled. In Chicago high school students were beaten by principals and turned over to vigilante bands in California there were arrests and police clubs.

In every city where there are people connected with the American League Demonstrations should be prepared by anti-War organizations for May 29 which has been known as National Youth Day. Last year 25,000 gathered under the banner of the Youth Section in New York. Other cities had very impressive parades and meetings. This being Memorial Day I hope will utilize the connection with War to spread propaganda. Anti-War Demonstrations will be the best removal to the ten millions slain in the World War.

On July 4, 5, 6 youth will be held in Detroit the Second American Youth Congress. The Youth Section has had friendly although no official relations with this movement. Many of the groups in our organization are in the Youth Congress, the program against War and Fascism is the same. The success of this Congress will be of great importance for the anti-War movement.

A different type of youth congress is being developed in Louisville, Kentucky, by the same group which included in the past, Frank Viola Ima. Bernard Macfarland, publisher of *Liberty*, which has been running anti-labor editorials is one of the backers. The aim is to combat radicalism particularly among unemployed youth.

At the Northwest Congress Against War and Fascism a Youth Committee was organized which includes representatives of Technocrats, Commonwealth Builders, Rightist Young People's Union and other church and labor groups.

A conference of youth in Cleveland was attended by representatives from unions, settlement houses, churches and foreign language organizations. A new field was opened when 60 delegates of New Hampshire and Vermont met at a youth conference and set up organization. The Hanover chapter of the American League was active in preparing the ground here. A conference called by Denver religious groups was attended by 100 youth delegates. They adopted the American League program and voted to send delegates all the way to the Congressional Congress Against War and Fascism—L.

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