

Down with Passivity — into Action in the Anti-War Struggle

THE last Party Plenum emphasized the role of the world proletariat in the struggle against imperialist war, in the struggle against the Japanese imperialism, against the United States imperialism which, while feverishly preparing for war against its imperialist competitors, is above all, preparing itself for the attack against the Soviet Union.

While steps were taken to show to the masses that the world proletariat under the leadership of the Communist Party can become a decisive factor for the postponement of the imperialist attack against the Soviet Union, while we show to the masses that the anti-war struggle means the strengthening of the position of the Soviet Union and of the world proletariat, and the weakening of the position of the imperialists, we are still in an agitational stage of the struggle.

Lack of Factory Work

From the District reports we know that in the last months hundreds and hundreds of anti-war protest meetings were held, indoor and outdoor, involving hundreds of thousands of workers. However, the meetings and demonstrations in front of shops can be counted on our fingers. Till now, not a single demonstration took place in front of ammunition plants, in front of docks, at the departure of ships for the Far East, loaded with ammunition, not one single concrete move was made to hinder the transport of arms to the Far East. And the war is going on already for months.

The anti-war campaign practically was not brought among the workers of the factories. No anti-war committees were yet established for the mobilization of the masses inside the plants, for leading them in the anti-war struggle. While workers correspondents from the ammunition plants through the Party press are notifying the Party and the American working class about the speedy work in the ammunition plants, about the transformation of some of the industries to war industries, about shipments of ammunition to the Far East—which shows the alertness of the most advanced workers inside the ammunition plants, among the longshoremen—we are still unable to give these workers direct guidance and organizational forms to the fighting spirit of the masses.

The slogan "Stop the Shipment of Munitions to the Far East" remains simply an agitational slogan along with the slogans for the defense of the Soviet Union, for the defense of Soviet China, etc. We cannot be satisfied only with repeating correct slogans which will remain expressions of protest when steps

are not taken for developing a real struggle in line with the slogans.

Shouting Slogans Not Enough

We cannot wait until war on the Soviet Union is actually carried on in order to mobilize the workers for the struggle. China already was attacked, Manchuria was seized, battles are taking place, the Chinese masses are defending their soil with their last breath—and we are simply shouting slogans for the defense of the Chinese masses. But concretely, did we succeed in shaking the world proletariat, in organizing a real struggle against the Japanese invaders, against the imperialists at home? Did we hinder in the United States the transport of even one shipment of ammunition? Should we now be content to merely continue shouting slogans and organizing demonstrations? NO! This alone is not enough. Shouting slogans would mean opportunist passivity.

In the development of the anti-war campaign we must take rapid strides forward. We must develop our agitational campaign to a higher stage, at the same time we must give organizational form to our anti-war struggle. This struggle must already take concrete form. We must lead the proletariat into action for hampering the production of ammunition, for hindering the shipment of arms and ammunition to the Far East. Not only the Party, but the Marine Workers Industrial Union, the Metal Workers Industrial League, the Railroad Workers Industrial League, the left-wing of the parallel organizations in the American Federation of Labor, all mass organizations around the Party, must be in the forefront of the anti-war struggle to mobilize the masses and organize the anti-war struggle on concrete basis which must take the form of protest strikes in the war industries, in the docks, aboard ships.

Detailed Work—Checking up

Their immediate task for all the districts is to immediately locate all ammunition plants in their territory, and select one or two of the major plants for concentration. An investigation must be made in all units, in the revolutionary unions, and mass organizations led by the Party, to find out all the available connection with the workers of the plant which will help us in the concentration, in the widening of our connections. In this manner we shall be able to establish the first groups of anti-war fighters inside and among the workers of a particular factory, the first anti-war committees. The task of the anti-war committees will not only be to know what is going on in the industries, especially in the ammunition plants, in the railroad centers, on the docks, but to discuss with the workers, to help them realize that war is going on, distribute leaflets and anti-

war literature among the workers; to arrange with the revolutionary unions shop gate meetings, anti-war demonstrations in front of the plants, to become the leading body of the anti-war struggle inside the plants.

Special attention must be paid to the chemical war industries, to the ammunition plants, to the reaching of the working women. Demonstrations of unemployed workers shall be arranged in front of the factories (objects of our concentration) to demonstrate the solidarity of the unemployed workers with the struggle of the employed against the bosses' offensive on their standard of living, against the bosses' preparation of a new imperialist war for the attack against the Soviet Union.

One of the aims of the demonstrations, of the anti-war mass meetings, must be also the smashing of the illusions created by the bosses that war will bring back prosperity. *War will give work to few, bullets for millions of workers and farmers, and profits to a handful of capitalists.*

Concentration in Anti-War Struggle

Because we are not working only towards future perspectives, and the war is going on in the Far East, ammunition is produced day and night, arms and ammunition are shipped to the Far East, and immediate concentration in important strategic plants, the establishment of the anti-war committees in the factories, in the trade unions, is of tremendous importance for the widening of the anti-war struggle.

The hindering of the first transport of ammunition, or the hampering of the production of arms and ammunition through protest strikes will give a tremendous example to the whole working class of the United States on how to concretely fight against war. The example of the protest strikes which developed into the great mass strikes in Germany, Austria, England, Italy, in the period of the first intervention war against the Soviet Union showed to us the possibilities of how we can also prevent in the United States the shipment of ammunition, of how we can slow up, stop the wheels of the monstrous machines for the production of war material, of how the American proletariat together with the world proletariat can become a factor for the postponement of war against the Soviet Union.

In Rotterdam the Chinese crew of the Laertes, and in Hamburg the Chinese crew of the Phoenix in the present war, already prevented the transport of ammunition for Japan, giving a tremendous example to the working class of all countries of their class consciousness and on how concretely to fight against war.

All Struggles NOT Anti-War

We cannot be satisfied with the theory that all struggles of the working class that are going on are already a fight against

war. It is not only the economic struggles that we have to develop at this moment against the capitalist offensive on the standard of living of the American working class, and connect them with the anti-war struggle, but at the same time develop the anti-war struggle itself on a concrete basis. *Now is the time that we must fight against all forms of pacifism and passivity, spur the initiative of the masses, in this struggle, the initiative of each individual, each Communist sympathizer, workers who are conscious of the necessity of fighting against war in the shops, in the ammunition plants, in the docks, aboard the ships.*

Combatting Capitalist Cunning

The American bourgeoisie is cunning. While part of it is talking about boycott against Japan, it is doing business with Japan. It is helping Japan directly, not only with the shipping of arms and ammunition, but also through continuous shipments of raw materials—nitrates, cotton, etc. At the same time the United States is oiling its own war machines.

Our task must be clear. The anti-war struggle must be intensified, must be brought among the workers of the industries. Our task is to mobilize millions of workers to organize the anti-war struggle on such a basis that the proletariat will become the force which will break the grip of the imperialist bandits. This will be a concrete struggle against the American and Japanese imperialism, in defense of the Chinese people, in defense of the workers' fatherland.

—F. BROWN.

NOTE: The July issue of The Communist will be a special anti-war issue for August First. In connection with the struggle against imperialist war the pamphlets dealing with the Leninist teachings on war advertised on the back cover of this issue of the Party Organizer should be studied by every Party member.
