

WHAT MR. THOMAS PROPOSES

by Ben Gitlow

(Concluded from last issue)

The United States Supreme Court is evidently too valuable a capitalist institution to threaten it!

"About the first necessity for a Socialist Administration and Congress which wanted to get anywhere would be to discover that Supreme Court judges were too few and overworked and so increase the size of the Supreme Court."

The poor judges, with their lengthy vacations, work too hard protecting capitalism! Appoint more judges, establish equal division of work, and relieve the poor overworked judges of their toil! This, unblushingly, Norman Thomas proposes. A flood of wisdom—behold, fellow-workers and brethren—flows from Socialist oracle, Norman Thomas.

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Speaking of the Senate, Wall Street's House of Lords, Norman Thomas answers the demand for its abolition by stating: "I still think such a system desirable."

Norman Thomas's program does not even dare to approach in its demands for reforms the social measures already in force in European countries.

The Socialism of reformism, however, has not ended capitalist misery and oppression, poverty and starvation for the masses. It has not been a guarantee for peace and against militarism. The Socialist reformist leaders were the first to kiss the shield of capitalist militarism and lead the masses into imperialist slaughter. Socialist reformism of Europe has guaranteed the peace of death in rivers of blood. Norman Thomas offers us nothing new.

Norman Thomas's "new unionism" is a glorification of Hart Shaffner and Marx-Amalgamated Agreement which today involves speed-up, wage reductions, trade union racketeering and increased unemployment. He is for a progressive third party, even if the name of Socialist party is to be given up. He avoids the Negro problem. He has not one word to offer, one suggestion to make to meet the problem of lynching, race discrimination and economic servitude which are the lot of the eleven million Negro toilers in America.

Finally Norman Thomas, in grandiose language, admits he has no solution.

Our government he writes: "To sum this matter up. Neither public opinion nor opinion within the Socialist movement is ready immediately to outline an ideal governmental structure"

Norman Thomas cannot outline anything for immediate action. He is the apostle of hesitancy, in social politics. Then he follows up with this conclusion:

"The only thing left is the possibility of achieving Socialism by democratic processes and without world war. It is a possibility not a certainty. It must be worked out.

By democratic process Norman Thomas means: within the frame work of

capitalism—without world war. But the workers are not the initiators of world war. Capitalism leads to world war. What, then, Norman Thomas? There is no answer forthcoming from him. Norman Thomas had spoken; his program ends in uncertainty and doubt.

It is no guide to the toiling masses of the United States who have to contend with a powerful capitalist class defended by and acting thru a capitalist government armed to the teeth, openly, brutally anti-working class. Its democratic mask hides its hideousness. The Haymarkets, the Homesteads, Sacco-Vanzetti, the blood-stained fields of industrial warfare, poverty and starvation, in the midst of fabulous wealth and gigantic productive capacities, attest to its genuine character as a capitalist dictatorship.

Norman Thomas's America's Way Out is a way into the further mire of capitalism and its rule. Only the organized might of the working class shattering, thru working class revolution, the shackles of capitalist exploitation and oppression, building up a working class state, developing Socialism thru planned effort, can the ills of capitalist society be overcome.

While Norman Thomas hesitates the Communists will organize the might of the working class for proletarian revolution and for Socialism.

FOR A UNITED STRIKE IN PATERSON

(Continued from Page 1)

been the amalgamation of the Associated Silk Workers and the United Textile Workers.

However, the delay occasioned in bringing about the amalgamation of the Associated Silk Workers and the United Textile Workers into one organization affiliated with the A. F. of L. thru the refusal to start an organization campaign simultaneously with the amalgamation negotiations, has been very costly.

Our group from the very start raised the question of an immediate organization campaign and the general strike.

The representatives of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action share responsibility in this delay because they did not take a decisive enough stand for an immediate organization campaign.

This failure in the Paterson situation made it possible for the National Textile Workers Union, a union without a mass base in Paterson, a union which pursues a sectarian, disruptive course, a union which has rejected every genuine unity move, to assume leadership and to take the initiative in calling a general strike in Paterson. The hesitation and delay have also made it possible for the National Textile Workers Union to enter the Allentown strike situation and spread dissension and disruption there.

Our position is that the amalgamated