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CONGRESS Ignores WORKERS NEEDS

U.S. Trade Blow Causes Crisis in Japan

January 18 — Pressure of American imperialism in Japan was a powerful force in the resignation of the Abe cabinet and the installation of the new Mitsumasa Yonai cabinet. The cabinet crisis in Japan reveals most clearly the role of the United States in the present war crisis. If the other imperialist powers are forced to take military action to gain new markets, it is only because the U.S. is so powerful that it is constantly taking away markets from the other powers.

On January 26 the long standing trade agreement with Japan will expire. Unless Japan can gain a new agreement it will mean that all her exports into the United States will be taxed much higher, and she will lose a vital market for her goods. What is worse, she will not be able to pay for the munitions and various materials she has been buying from the U.S. It is to prevent her military campaign in China. In fact more than half of her war imports come from Uncle Sam — even though the government is outspending over the “bombing of innocent children in China”.

DOLLAR IN CHINA

In addition the strain of a naval race with the U.S. and British Navies to build bigger and better murder boats, together with the cost of war in China, is creating a severe economic crisis. The new cabinet is trying to achieve what the old could not — try to call off the armament race and save Japanese economy.

In return for the continuation of the old treaty the United States is demanding greater rights for the American dollar in China. The bargaining between the twopowers over this point is now in full swing, and the new cabinet, just like the old, is willing to make great concessions to the U.S.

PREDICTED U.S. ROLE

If a new trade treaty is signed with Japan it will be a big victory for American Imperialism. This is what the State Department demands. Otherwise, trade with Japan, although continuing at a high level, will be restricted by United States in such a way as to create further pressure against Japan.

J. U. M.

More than a year ago the FIGHTING WORKER predicted that despite the military victory of Japan in China, it will be either the dollar of Uncle Sam or that pound sterling of John Bull which will have the last word. Events are now proving this point most conclusively. The pressure of the United States in the ECONOMIC sphere is more powerful than many good-sized armies. Because of her economic strength the U.S. can gain new territories and spheres of influence, can oppress colonial peoples, without recourse to war just yet — as Japan and others must.

This does not mean of course, that Uncle Sam will not go to war, or in to Europe. The same thing that Japan is now doing in Asia is what the United States is planning to do in Europe.

War Raises Production Above 1929 Level, but 12 Million Still Jobless

The gentlemen of both Houses have accepted in principle Roosevelt’s plans for a big boost in war appropriations and “economy” in the rest of the budget — cuts in relief for farmers, youth, and especially the unemployed.

For the rest of the session we will be treated in a large measure to maneuvers and record-building in order to put before the people the “lesses” of the 1940 presidential elections. And for this $10 million dollars will be mulcted from the treasury to keep Congress in session.

The main problem before the American masses is not even being raised in Congress. It is being hidden in the newspapers on back pages in three inch stories. The fact is that every day production in the United States in the latter half of 1940 was higher than ever before in history, including 1929. Nevertheless at least 10 or 12 million people were still unemployed. Millions were only working part-time. The worst year of starvation in postwar history is just over and we are entering a new year which, from all evidence, will be no better than the last one.

CONGRESS DOES NOT CARE

But this doesn’t interest the gentlemen in the White House or in Congress. THEIR problems are the time being solved. THEIR needs, the needs of big business, the need for war preparations and the billions of dollars in subsidies to the shipbuilding, automobile, steel, rubber, etc., have been taken care of.

The public has become麻痹 to the question of “who shall be the leading puppet for Messrs. Morgan, Rockefeller, Ford and Du Pont, for the coming 4 years.” The war is going on, but this time to clean up the mess that others have made.

The American masses are not being asked to consider what this mean, in other words the political parties are not asking the American people to agree to this new type of society. It is the same old type of society as before, but the government is planning to enforce its will on the people.

(Continued on page 3)

Free Hams to Atone 91 Murders

Ninety-one miners are dead. The attempt to rescue them is now in full swing. Their death is announced in a short four paragraph note on the inside pages. One hundred and fifty children have been left fatherless. The connection in the Bartley, W. Va., mines of the Pond Creek Pocahontas Coal corporation killed most of the men in their tracks, didn’t even give them a chance to fight.

As a gesture of its sympathy the company “distributed pay envelopes to families of the dead... and sent them hams from the company commissary”. How touching! The company gave the widows and orphans a FREE ham! Every year dozens of miners die in similar accidents. Every year the coal companies presumably give the widows FREE hams to compensate for the death, and then go right on refusing to install safety devices in their mines, refusing to take necessary precautions to safeguard the lives of the miners.

Every year dozens of miners die of "miner’s" asthma — silicosis — from breathing the coal dust year after year. But do the companies do anything about it? No! They wait till the miners are dead — and then send their families FREE hams.

COLD BLOODED MURDER

The death of the 91 miners is no accident. The death (Continued on page 4)

Browder Trial Cover for anti-Labor Drive

Earl Browder, head of the U.S. Labor in America, is on trial as we go to press, on charges of travelling around the world on a forged passport. Many so-called radicals state they have no interest in the case because Browder supports the Stalin-Hitler pact and the "invasion of Finland."

Browder’s crimes against the working class, it is true, would fill volumes of books. But the present capitalist attack is directed not only against Browder but against the whole labor movement. The public has become blind to the Nazi-Soviet alliance which they label "Communist" which is ready to smash the working class and to act as a "counterweight" to any labor organizations, WPA cuts and a lowered minimum wage, etc.

The trial of Browder is part of this campaign. It must be smashed if the drive against labor that is behind it is to be smashed too. The Revolutionary Workers League will help fight all such cases on a class struggle basis.
NEW "UNITY" OFFER

A program for still another "unity" conference by the Stamm Rally has once again been turned down by the R. W. L. The League replied to Stamm reiterating that it is willing to negotiate for unity with any organization which will accept the 14 Point Programmatic Declaration of the International Communist Commission as the basis for such a unity.

This is the fourth proposal made by Stamm to various groups in the United States to "forget" their fundamental differences and "unite", in view of the war danger. While the SWL is anxious to unite more forces on a Marxist basis, and it has recognized that unity on the basis that proposes must be inevitably either to further splits, or what is worse, the establishment of a new centrist grouping.

NEW HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON

The New York comrades of the League report that they have acquired a new and larger house at 108 E. 14 St.

Among the activities arranged at the new quarters are: a lecture every Saturday night at 8 P.M. on the present imperialist war; and a housing warming party for the new headquarters.


TWO NEW CLASSES

Two new classes under the auspices of the Current Events Circle, a project of the Revolutionary Workers League. The principles of the R. W. L. have been enunciated in this project for the subject for both classes will be: "The Struggle of the Three Internationals," and they will be led by comrades H. Martin and W. Okun.

Comrades who wish to attend the classes should get in touch with Karl Heller, 1681 Division St., organizer of the C.C.G.

PLENUM IN APRIL

The eighth plenum of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Workers League will take place in Cleveland during the month of April. On the agenda are: "Imperialist War and Revolutionary Defeat", "Defense of the Social Union Against the Struggle against Stalinism", "Toward mass work in the U. S.", "organizational problems," and a number of special reports.

HAVE YOU READ?

STALINIST PARLIAMENTARY FRAUD AND THE IMPERIALIST WAR

For a detailed analysis, see Fighting Worker, February 1, 1940.

A PROGRAM FOR THE TRADE UNIONS

(Continued from last issue.)

TRADE UNION UNITY

Ever since the split in the A. F. of L. the New Deal has been working ceaselessly for re-unification. No one recognizes better the leader of the New Deal than there is no difference in principle that separates the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. Of course Roosevelt has his eye on the 1940 elections; he wants the whole labor vote for his particular candidate.

But more important than the election, Roosevelt is in the thinking of the role of American Imperialism in the present war. The leaders of the AFL and the CIO, he must see that it is assured of the help of both the AFL and CIO leaderships. But, jurisdictional fights between these two agents of imperialism, Lewis and Green, prove very costly. Roosevelt must eliminate this danger.

The New Deal wants unity in order to check the trade unions and line them up behind the Wall Street war plans. But the militants in the unions must reject this type of unity. They must demand and fight for a different type of unity; unity based on an INDUSTRIAL STRUGGLE POLICY; unity based on rank and file control, with a leadership that will lead the militant battles of the working class, instead of collaborating and selling off to the bosses.

There can be no compromise with the class collaborators, reactionary or racketeer leaders. To build a union to win a strike, to fight the bosses, means to fight the agents of the only delivering the world for the bourgeoisie. The same holds true for any trade union functionary who does not understand this cannot serve the interests of the union membership.

To achieve this type of unity the progressives in each union, regardless of their present political affiliations, must organize themselves in each local, in each union locally and nationally — regardless of whether A. F. L., C. I. O., or independent — on a common class struggle program. Unification must be accomplished on the general program outlined above as well as on the concrete tasks that confront the workers in each shop, mine and mill.

ORGANIZE THE UNORGANIZED

The job of organizing the unorganized will depend on the main on the progressivness of the leaders of the workers in their agitation within the union. People like Bill Green refuse to organize millions of workers who are not skilled craftsmen. Lewis refuses to organize the time workers who are employed workers because that means a fight against the New Deal — because there's not enough does in it for the union to win. The union organizers can really do the job of organizing the 30 million unorganized American workers.

All attempts to create a cleavage within the union, to divide one worker from another, must be fought by the progressives. Such things as Jim Crowism must be smashed if the union is to have real democracy.

Discrimination against the Negro worker can only weaken the working class as a whole, can only serve to divide its ranks and create a fertile ground for scabbing.

Special attention, too, must be given to problems of the youth, women workers, foreign-born workers, etc. With permanent mass unemployment, the role of the youth, when they do enter industry, is of vital importance. The youth will make the best fighting union members once they are taught their class interests.

Under present conditions young workers, Negroes, females, and others are forced to battle down the living standards of the rest of the working class. All the more reason why the progressives must take up the fight for these sections of the class and win them to working class solidarity.

One of the main tricks of the boss agents is to divide the Negro and white workers, the foreign-born and native of the condition of capitalist decay, unemployment, war. The struggle for day to day demands by themselves is today worse than worthless. The day to day struggle for class gains can be of value only on the basis of connecting these demands with the ultimate demands through a broad fundamental issue that touches the very heart of exploitation and unemployment and imperialist war. The connection of the immediate demands with the class objective must be the struggle TOWARDS WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION, TOWARDS EDUCATION UNDER THE WORKERS CONTROL, the control that does not point out that the struggle for immediate demands is necessarily limited and narrow at the present moment can the workers really control production. It is given a much broader perspective. That is what the concept of Workers Control of Production for Use attempts to accomplish.

Concretely, the struggle for Workers Control of Production for Use will take on many forms, forms which can not be predicted or "blue-printed". But as a key part of the process the Progressives must work to establish working class organs that will lay the basis for Workers Control of Production in the future — workers defense squads, democratically elected shop committees, councils. This will only be realized, when the workers establish a WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT, a government of the workers and opposition to领袖s' rule; that will spring out of the shop and factory committees, by their duly elected representatives. Only under their own government can the workers really control production. It is impossible to talk of the solution of the problems that confront the trade union movement without taking steps to abolish the exploitation of man by man, steps toward a system of production for use instead of production for profit.

(Next issue: "The Shop Committees and the Revolutionists")
Pressure of the second imperialist war and especially the Stalinist invasion of Poland, has hit hard the United States Trotskyites; the Socialist Workers Party is now in the midst of a sharp struggle on the Russian question together with a vigorous organizational fight between the major factions.

There are three main positions among the leadership. First, the position of Trotsky, endorsed on faith by the Cannon group; second, the Burnham position, which although "withdrawn," is now held by many Trotskyites, and which holds that the Soviet Union is not a workers state and calls for revolutionary defeatism against the USSR. The third position is half-way between these two. It is neither fish nor fowl; it does not state what the Soviet Union is, is foreign against Stalinism, but instead of calls for "defeat" of the Red Army in its invasions of Poland and Finland. Its leader is Shachtman.

In a letter dated December 15, Trotsky characterizes the Shachtman-Burnham-Abern opposition as a "typical petty-bourgeois group" in Spain, and Sơnoski, Bolkhovskis in the camp of the social-democrats, "liberals," Kerensky, etc., who have been working for twenty-two years for the defeat of the Soviet Union.

TROTSKY'S MAIN REVISIONIST

But the unfortunate part of the whole fight, however, is that the unprincipled characteristic of the bourgeois attempt at writing political documents, only serve to cover up the basic errors of Trotsky's position.

Trotsky states that the Soviet Union is a "degenerated workers state." In that statement against Burnham's he is 100% correct. The question, however, is HOW to defend that degenerated Workers State. On this question there isn't as much difference between Shachtman and Trotsky as there seems to be on the surface.

The Trotskyite line is vicious in WORDS against Stalinism, but actually IN DEEDS it gives Stalinism support. If the Soviet Union was foreign to the AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM WITHIN RUSSIA; we will have to be good soldiers UNDER THE RULE OF THE SAME AGENTS; we will give the COUNTER-REVOLUTIONISTS our material aid.

TROTSKY THE SOURCE OF SHACHTMAN

Is it so strange that where Trotsky is willing to give concrete support to those AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM, Shachtman has accepted the PROGRAM of the "democratic" Imperialists in regard to Russia?

The "Confiscation" position of the Soviet Union by supporting the nationalist movements within the Ukraine — and other national minorities of Russia "if they are not to be lured away from the Soviet Union because of its leadership. What is so strange then in Shachtman's calling for the defeat of the Soviet Union in Finland also because of the reactionary leadership of the Workers State?

Where yesterday Trotsky and Cannon came out for support of "even rotten bourgeois democracy," German Trotskyites, Blum-Cachin, Caballero-CNT, Labor Party, Cardenas in Mexico, Chiang Kai-Shek, the support of bourgeois "dictatorship," have been using the slogan against Shachtman, and Trotsky comes out for the "better" capitalists, what is so strange that now Shachtman has embraced the reactionary program of: "rotten bourgeois democracy" in Russia?

Where yesterday Trotsky could say that if France were allied with the Soviet Union in a war against Germany he would "be in defense in Germany only but for the political defeatism in France," refusal, in other words, to work for revolutionary defeatism of an imperialist power, — what is so strange that many of his followers have the same fascist line, and how have used Trotsky's petty-bourgeois ideas as a springboard to call for "defeat" of the Soviet Union State?

LEFT TAIL TO STALINISM

The anti-Stalinist instead of anti-capitalist orientation of Trotskyism prevents them from correctly fighting and defending the workers of the world. They can only be a tail to the Stalinist movement. Every Stalinist turn sees the Trotskyites turning with them — every Stalinist turn has produced a crisis in the Trotsky ranks. Shachtman and Burnham have carried this anti-Stalinist to the point where they identify Stalinism and the Soviet Union. Thus, Shachtman can say "Proletarianized by the same capitalist fascists and Stalinist bureaucratism are now engaged in a joint campaign of imperialist expansion," Stalinism, a cancer of imperialism known to all workers, state, is identified with fascism, the product of German imperialism in decay.

The fact of the matter is that the whole Trotsky Party is centrist to the core, that it represents within the working class a petty-bourgeois tendency. It is upon the centrist policy of Trotsky that Shachtman feeds. And it is upon Shachtman that people like Burnham feed. Two years ago when Burnham first turned to the "pure" fascism and Stalinist bureaucratism, Shachtman ranted that "Burnham's position is a bridge to Menshevism." Events have moved on. Shachtman is now a bridge to Burnham.

BUROCRACY AND BANKRUPTCY

The petty-bourgeois character of the Trotsky party and leadership can be gauged by its organizational behavior. According to a leader of the Cannon group, Goldman: "No one, to my knowledge prior to the outbreak of the war, raised the question: does the slogan (unconditional defense of the S. U.) mean defining the Red Army if it should be involved in any attempt to crush revolution?" The invasion of Poland caught the Trotskyites without an analysis. The Cannon group refused to take a position on this question for weeks and weeks until they heard from Trotsky.

And when they finally did hear from Trotsky they accepted his position ON FAITH; they voted for a document of his without reading it and even though one of the pages of the material had been lost in the mail. (See Internal Bulletin, Nov. 4, 1939.)

The same bureaucratic procedure that BOTH Cannon and Shachtman used in suppressing the left wing of the Trotskyists (the I.W.W.), is now being used against Shachtman. Cannon has maneuvered many of his men off the leading committees and refuses to publish any of his material in the press even though this is a pre-convention period.

The debate over the Russian question fiercely again reveals the bankruptcy of the Trotsky centrist...

U.S., JAPAN RELATIONS

All the criticism of the American press is more hypocrisy. Mr. T. E. Chamberlain, the editor of "pro-Communists" has been accused of "quarantining" his agnosticism by "demonizing" Imperialists. Now the capitalists stole one-half of the territory of China; they stole Cuba, Portu Rico. The Chinese are free. They murdered innocent children in Shanghai; they suppressed the national uprising that followed the American war; that they murdered and that they occupied the territories of Pacific States and that "pursuing" their imperialist policy, that they "pursuing" their imperialist policy.

"If the Japanese imperialists are now at war in China it is not because of the local government or army or any other than Uncle Sam. Both the Japanese and the American are the result of the Japanese economic needs and weakness, and the great-economic pressure of the imperialists of the Western Hemisphere.
Kelly Budget Savings
Condemns Thousands To Hunger

Relief Is Cut, But Garbage Racket Continues

Chicago, Jan. 16 — With much fanfare by the City Council, Chicago lopped off almost one and a half million dollars from the budget of last year and passed a 1940 budget of fifty-six million dollars for the coming year.

The joker in the whole thing, however, is Mr. Kelly — the Mayor — who is taking the savings out of the hole of the unemploy-
ed. Last year's allotment for relief was almost 7 1/2 million dollars. This year the allotment is exactly six million. The 108,000 families who lived on that starvation budget last year are going to be cut still further. New Deal mayor, just like his big boss in Washington, is proving his worth to Democratic Dewey and the First National Bank by economizing at the expense of starving children.

THE GARbage RACKET

But along with this cut for relief the old garbage racket — for which someone is getting a big shakedown — is to be continued. One of the things they passed was $535,000 for garbage disposal. The city disposed of its garbage by dumping it into a worked out stone quarry which is owned by the Chicago Union Lime Co., who have collected from the city for the privilege of allowing garbage to be dumped on their property, $1,078,000.

This hole in the ground was calibrated in 1935 when the City signed the contract with the owners. It is estimated that the seven acres of land will be worth about $50,000 when it will be completely filled. The City will then have paid to the Company approximately $1,000,000 for improving the Company's land. All of this despite the fact that in 1935, the company seeking a tax reduction before the State Supreme Court, stated that the property was worth only $12,500.

RELIEF HIT HARD

Following the usual practice of making cuts where it fits the worst, there was $8,000,000 granted for relief, thus making a total of continuing for the whole of the past year, which was for the workers on relief one of the severest years since the break-
down in 1929.

Only 200 of the political pay-
rolls were cut off of the city payroll, while the 108,000 families on relief are faced with the necessity of starving on a 70% budget until June when the relief sections may have to close up completely. In 1939 the social costs of the city were cut down by starving these workers on a 15% relief cut for three months, a 25% cut for three more, and a 35% cut the five months after.

Other jokers in the 1940 ap-
propriation for Chicago will be ex-
plored in future issues.

NEW DEALERS AND REPUBLICANS
USE PETTY TRICK FOR NEGRO VOTE

A coalition of Democrats and Republican, forced through the House of Representatives the Guvian-Fish anti-lynching bill after a labor clause was written into it. The bill as it stands now provides a penalty not less than $10,000 nor more than $10,000 to be paid by the county in which the lynching occurred to the victim's family if it can be proved that the peace officer is guilty of negligence in performing his duty.

Every serious thinking Negro worker should ask himself two questions: (1) can this bill stop lynching in light of what has happened to the 14th and 15th amendments and similar laws to be passed ostensibly to protect the Negro minority, and (2) What are the political implications behind this bill?

Lynching is an American phenomenon that has its roots in the enmity of American capitalism. The Negro is not lynched because he is a Negro, but because he represents and protects some mysterious abstrac-
tion of white workers: just as he will be killed as a steel worker if the number of white workers in the north un-
employment begins to rise. This is the same with patriotism, Americanism, etc.

This fact has been amply proved by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, a white organiza-
tion. Out of the 8,000 cases of lynching since 1890 the 39 of 21 people were lynched for alleged racial reasons. Of the 69 cases the re- gress for disputes over rent, wages.

A DUAL POLITICAL ROLE

To the Roosevelt administration and it supporters in Congress is not a problem of which to talk about. They are anathema for its passage in spite of its im-
plications. It is a propaganda weapon for the Socialist Appeal so miltly put it. This is a propaganda weapon for the Socialist Appeal so miltly put it.

The Negro Democratic congressmen from Illinois split with the Republicans of supporting the bill to get the vote.

TROCKSKYES HELP NEW DEAL

The Trotskyites are proving to be a help to Roosevelt and his fakers by giving this bill a left cover-up. They are apting its passage for its use in spite of its in-
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HAMS ATONE FOR 91 MURDERS

(Continued from Page 1)

of hundreds of other miners is no accident. It is part of a campaign to pull down the organized labor movement. In this connection, the latter must be supported and encouraged to fight against the efforts of the Democratic Party and the Communist Party to undermine it.

The press has already forgotten the murder of these 91 miners. After all they were only workers. The whole capitalist world has forgotten them. The FREE hams wiped the matter from the capitalist conscience.

The 150 orphans, however, will never forget this murder. Even if they never hear of the word Marxism, the cruel callousness of the profit system will cut deeply into their hearts as the years go by and make these workers' children the Red Soldiers of tomorrow who will deal with the murderers of these and other miners as they should be dealt with.

PEACE IS POSSIBLE ONLY THROUGH THE REVOLUTIONARY OVERTHROW OF CAPITALISM!

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PHILLY NEW YEAR’S PRESENT — WAGE TAX

Philadelphia, Jan. 19. — The city of Philadelphia has offered its bosses a new solution to burden-
some taxation. The workers in the city of Philadelphia have been told by a New Year greeting that is mak-
ing them plenty mad.

On January 1, the new wage tax “experiment,” as Mayor Lamberton characterized it in his in-
agural speech, went into effect. Every worker employed by a company within the city limits, regardless of where the workers lives, is taxed one and a quarter percent of his wages over and above the Federal “security” tax.

This makes it possible, as the new Republican boss pointed out, to encourage the growth of in-
dustry can be reduced, and thus new manufacturing plants be at-
tracted to Philadelphia.

No apology is offered — Lamberton has always worn the hypocritical smug statement: It is “better for a man to pay a tax and have a job than to be tax-free hams.”

Meanwhile Philadelphia has found it possible to offer more good news for the capitalists. The huge banks which went under in 1933 now are offering reorg-

ization which will give dollar for dollar payment of all re-

sults — again at the expense of the working class. The $7,000,000 “loaned” by the RFC can not be rel-

ed. It is used to pay the salaries of the new managers, and the banks, but “we are guaranteeing all deposits, no matter how low.”

Philadelphia’s working class must react swiftly to the blows which are weakening it. No city, not even Hugu’s sanctity of capitalism, has passed a anti- reactionary anti-working class law as has originated here in the past year. The reformists and the wage tax to the courts, with no success. This is an at-

empt to prevent genuine mass protest against the law. Only united mass action by the workers can defeat this ruthless blow at labor.

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