RAISE YOUR VOICE THIS MAY DAY AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR UNEMPLOYMENT AND REACTION

May Day Manifesto

To the Workers and Oppressed Masses of the World:

May Day 1940 — the day of international solidarity — finds the proletariat of the world destroying itself on the battlefield of Europe in the interests of finance capital.

The world scene this May Day is one of unparalleled murder and banditry. On every hand we behold the foul fruit of capitalism in its full ripeness and rotten decay — imperialist war, plunder of small nations, ruthless raids on the living standards of the working class, unprecedented starvation for the unemployed, brutal subjection for the colonial peoples. The new imperialist world war for the redistribution of the world and its markets is gaining momentum daily. More and more nations are being drawn fully into the bloodbath: yesterday France, Great Britain and Germany, Soviet Russia and Finland; today Norway; tomorrow the whole world from pole to pole will be drawn into the conflict. Millions of the finest youth of every nation are being used as cannon fodder to create profits for the greedy Morgans, Detersidins, Krupps, Schneiders and their ilk.

In this black hour of reaction, when every vestige of working class rights gained by years of tireless struggle, is being erased by the lust for profits, it is necessary that we speak out clearly and firmly on the ONLY ROAD TO PEACE AND FREEDOM. The International Contact Commission for the New Communist (4th) International summons the proletariat of the whole world, regardless of all divisions at race, color, language, creed or anything else, (continued on page 2)

What Next in Europe's Slaughter?

Germany’s invasion of the Scandinavian countries, the landing of troops on Norwegian shores, brings the imperialist war to a new stage, brings it one step closer to the “total war”.

Despite the wishes of England and Germany to keep the war at its low military level — the so-called "peaceful" war — until all the other big powers, especially the United States, could be involved, the theatre of war has been broadened.

In order to break out of the blockade established by England and to find an area which could be used as a stronger base for direct attack on the British Isles, Germany has beaten England to the punch and invaded Norway. Both countries are equally guilty of involving Norway.

For England, its “aid” to Norway is not at all “in the interests of small nations”. During the Soviet-Finnish war Britain tried to do precisely the same thing: use the excuse of “defending” Finland to invade Scandinavia and create this new arena of war. Germany’s invasion now serves the same purpose.

Another, and perhaps more important aspect, of why the war has spread to Norway, is the attempt by the belligerents to speed up the war and involve the main neutrals, Italy, the Balkans, the United States, Japan. The first phase of the present world war, i.e. the European, is rapidly spreading to involve the entire world.

Italy, at the present time is moving closer to the German camp. Fleet maneuvers of the Italians in the Mediterranean, the practically general mobilization, plus the proposed meeting of the German and Italian military staffs, is indicative of the impending spread of the war to the Balkans.

The small Balkan states are experiencing a bad case of jitters. German and British pressure for Rumanian oil and wheat is creating deep internal stress in that small country, as well as the surrounding states.

But whether directly involved in the military conflict (Continued on page 3)
REVOLT GROUP STALLS UNITY TALKS

April 22 - Negotiations for unity between the Revolt Group and the RWL have apparently been greatly delayed. After agreeing on the agenda and unusually beginning discussions on the first point, the Revolt Central Committee met in secret to discuss the formation of a negotiating team and engaged in an exchange of statements with the League.

The original agenda agreed to at our first session unabridged was as follows:

1. Political
   a. Definition of the Soviet Union and the role of the Communist Party
   b. International Communist Commission vs. Comintern
   c. Trotskyism
   d. Character of the Program and the Program of Democratic Centralism
   2. Leadership
   3. Press
   4. Class struggle - problems withInterstitial employment, labor defense, and Workers Control of Production.

A LETTER ON SAMPLE COPIES

Comrade Editor,

Recently I received a “sample copy” of the Trotskyist Socialist Appeal. It was the March 16 copy and the first I had seen for some time.

On page 1 was an article by W. H. Mead on the Wagner Act, in which we were informed that “the workers in their efforts to organize” and that the Act “was won” by the workers as a “major concession” of the management. Of course the fact that the Labor Act has been used over and over as a strike-breaking device is concealed. Furthermore, that the fact that the Labor Act is more than a strike-breaking device is concealed. Furthermore, that the Labor Act is more than a strike-breaking device is concealed. Furthermore, that the Labor Act is more than a strike-breaking device is concealed.

It is a poor “Marxist” that doesn’t realize this.

W. H. Mead

A LETTER ON THE OTHER

Furthermore, the Trotskyites are caught in a contradiction, because on page 4 of the same issue they have an article protesting the FRI. The March 16 copy of the FRI into a New York strike is printed.

What is behind the two positions of the League, and the Trotskyites? The League is at a loss to understand, since in many States, the National Secretary of the group is the same, and this of course complicates the situation.

The Revolt will continue as sincerely as possible to try and arrive at a positive conclusion for the resolution program.

JUST OUT

May Issue

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Theoretical Organ

International Contact Commission

May Day Manifesto

A New Stage in the International War

Problems of the Indian Revolution

The Mexico Revolution and the Land Question (II)

5 CENTS PER COPY

CAPITULATES TO FASCISTS

John Hamilton of the Boston Unit of the Revolutionary Workers League, heavily expelled from the organization for capitulation to the enemy. Hamilton, a recent young leftist, returned to the IWW from the Trotsky organization has discovered Communism because it’s a “socialist” organization.

A Survey of Lay-Off WPA Workers

While the capitalist Congress approves billions for “defense” (that is for the protection and extension of the interests of American imperialism) more than a million workers have lost such pitiful incomes as they had as a result of the layoffs which began last July first for all workers on WPA 18 months or more.

A recent survey brings to light the fact that despite the business “pick-up” due to the European war, 87% of these workers had not found private employment at the beginning of the winter. With 13 million unemployed this is not surprising. In fact it is surprising that the 13% found jobs.

How are these workers living? In none of the 23 cities covered in the survey was the average income as much as $14 a week. In 10 of the 25 it was less than $5 a week. 32% were without any public support except the rotten vegetables and wormy flour given out by the Surplus Commissaries.

The following letter is quoted from the report:

“The first month was not so bad. I held back the rent and used the last pay check on groceries etc. The second month I had to sell my furniture for groceries and had to borrow from my friends. This last month I have been forced to the wall . . . I have been forced to ‘pick-up’ my home, give up my children, and sell the furniture.”

The same capitalist government which condemns these workers to a level of social degradation below that of beasts cheerfully hands back to the capitalists millions of dollars in subsidies to Big Business.

This same capitalist government which has less care for human beings than it has for dogs (who are protected by the humane laws) will unashamedly demand that these workers and their sons become cannon fodder in the coming war for “defense” that is for the “democratic” right to starve in the midst of plenty and the “democratic” right to die for Wall Street profits.

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(Continued from page 1) To STOP this bestial slaughter, to turn the capitalist war for profits into a Workers’ War against the Profit System

AGAINST ALL THE BELLIGERENTS

For the workers of all lands there are neither aggressors nor defenders, neither victims nor criminals.-European War is the war of the imperialists of all countries, the war of the Allies and the Axis powers; it is the war of the rich and the poor, of the richly and equally wealthy, the richly and equally poor; all must be equally destroyed.

Down with the Roosevelt War Plans

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What Next in Europe's Slaughter?

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or not, the "neutral" imperialists are becoming more and more involved in its material aspects every minute — and that brings the "total war", the spread of the war, much closer.

A COFFIN FOR CAPITALISM

Japan threatens to take the Dutch East Indies if Holland becomes embroiled in the bloodbath. America is trying to take Holland under its wing, and persistent threats by small Latin American countries that Britain give up its possessions in the Western Hemisphere indicate that Uncle Sam is aiming another dart at its main antagonist, Britain.

The Imperialist bloodbath and its surrounding struggles becomes more brutal and filthy each day. The fear of proletarian revolution and the fear of being exhausted economically before America, Italy, and Germany enter the carnage, makes the Allies and Germany try to restrain the tempo of slaughter.

But economic realities are stronger than their wishes. In a most literal sense the capitalists of Britain, France, Germany and the rest are being forced to dig their own graves, to undermine whatever stability still remains in the capitalist system.

The cost of war is many times what it was in the last world war. And capitalism today can afford it much less than yesterday. So right from the outset the burden is passed onto the shoulders of the working class far more than ever in history — longer hours (60 to 72), higher prices (sometimes even double and triple), a much lower standard of living, direct taxes on wages (as high as 40% on the highest worker's split), forced savings, and other measures are creating untold misery amongst the masses.

That misery will not take long in making itself felt. Working class and colonial revolts are inevitable in the next period. Capitalism is in a vicious circle. And with each step for greater conquest, with each spadeful of the war, another nail is being hammered into the capitalist coffin.

TROTSKY'S POLITICAL SINS HATCH NEW SPLITS

The Trotskyites in America are in the process of a major split. In Europe their sections have been almost completely destroyed, so that the American Trotskyist Party was the prop of their organization. But now the fruits of opportunism are being reaped here too.

Five years ago the RWL split from the American Trotskyist organization on the question of the "French Turn", and other principled points. We opposed the liquidation of the Workers Party into the Socialists. Messrs. Cannon and Shachtman at that time were operating on the get-rich-quick principle, and the Trotskyists captured the Socialists by liquidating their own party. The RWL predicted at the time that this policy would not only lead to the banishment by the Trotskyites of many opportunist politicians, to the general shift of their centrist program to the right, but that in the present period they wouldn't even have any organization for their opportunism.

Events have confirmed what we stated 100%. After entering the S. P. and then being expelled the Trotskyites went more and more to the right. They began supporting a move for a third capitalist party, the Labor Party; they came out for all sorts of parliamentary quick-schemes, in-cluding "Ham and Eggs", Townsendism, the Wage-Hour Bill and more of a social-pacifist war position — support of the Ludlow pacifist amendment, among other things.

The Trotsky gentlemen, however, never tired of pointing to their "big Party" and their "capture" of the Socialist Youth Leagues. Now the political sins are paying their dividends. The opportunism of the official group has paved the way for more flagrant betrayal of the Socialist Soviet Union when it attacks "small capitalist" nations.

So that the official Trotskyites — when the smoke is all over will be down to about the size of the old Com- monwealth party, one-third the size of the Labor party, with hardly a Labor party at its outset; but worse than that is its program and cadres will be far to the right of the Marxist CLA.

The lesson of the Trotsky adventure should be, that ten people are a rounder Marxian program, than ten thousand on a centrist hodge-podge.

LEGAL LYNCHING

Several members of the metropolitan police force of Atlanta, Georgia have been charged with the brutal tor- ture with hot irons of a fifteen year old Negro boy. K. The police used one of the medical methods used by the police force to obtain confessions, ten members of the Ku Klux Klan, two of who are deputy sheriffs, were indicted by the Fulton County Grand Jury of Georgia as members of a band of night-riding floggers who had ter- rorized the Atlanta area for a year.

Those accused, of course, represent only a few of those who compose the secret lynching organizations. Investigators have found Negro lynching by a bowling public mob of sadistic men, women and children, but very often by a select few in the dead of the night.

HOW ABOUT LEGAL LYNCHING?

All this throws some light on the Anti-Lynch bill now before Congress. The first bill this has an anti- clause in it, which, if passed, will tend to prohibit mass picketing and workers defense squads. But secondly the bill nowhere provides punishment for the police who legally show up in numbers of innocent Negro (and white) workers each year with impunity.

Furthermore it makes no provisions for the secret lynchings by such labor-hating outfits as the K. K. However in conjunction with the police and the business men of the South.

Howard Kester, president of the Sharecroppers Union, stated at a meeting in Chicago that in those areas where black and white workers have been organized in the same union there has been no lynchings.

The unity of black and white workers has proven to be a thousand times more effective in stopping lynching than any other line of action. Only through this unity in unions, political parties, strikes, demonstrations, and other militant activity — and not by any fake bills in Congress — can lynchers be wiped out completely.

Civil Liberties

If Any

The Dies Committee deserves the distinction of being the most important body of its order of which every one from Browder to Roosevelt.

Like the Christian Front trial with the Pelly case also brought out a legal defense for Uncle Sam all the time. The British government, the doctor Hitchcock would have done a good job for.

Mr. Dies doesn't seem as clear as Mr. Hitchcock about plot and treason and drinking in America. The celebrated Philadelphia warrant a warrant to arrest the performers who made the speech, and the government was in a conspiracy to violate the Bill of Rights and the Civil Liberties Statutes.

Later Federal Judge Lott, released Francisco on the Communist Party members who had been jailed by the Dies Committee on contempt charges, because their constitutional rights had been violated.

SPEECHES ARE ILLEGAL

New York: Governor Lehman has ordered the draught on theai State to permit children in the mob! The State of Illinois is compelling young people to attend classes in agriculture and education, . . ., and in May, Mayor of New York City's rapid transit systems will be Finger-printed and their records checked.

10,000 persons who assembled demanded a Civic Square for a peace rally on Army Day. "We're for civil rights, for holding exercises where a whole of a license." One of them said I'd dedicate this wreath to all American women who lost their lives in the last war. I hope their sacrifice will teach us a lesson." Place a wreath the wreath was not illegal but the place was.

Sixteen of the fifty-three per- sons arrested for picketing art and lacrosse hockey of Spanish laborers in Pennsylvania were given new employment. In the work-house. They were not going to be given the horns, for it would be to the Choke the horses of the police

The Board of Higher Education after reconsideration ousted Ben- ters from beginning the post at New York University. To clinch the argument, the American Law Guards quietly cut the positive wires of the Project. Now the Russell wires in the courts it will be more visible.

OVERSEAS DEMOCRACY

From two other democratic countries: France has decreed that "Fascist propoganda" is treason punishable by death . . . The London Police arrested between 2,000 and 3,000 demonstra- tionists who tried to deliver a resolution to the French Embassy to deliver a resolu- tion to the League of Nations French Communist deputies . . . An Austrian court sentenced two hundred German soldiers to twelve years in prison for striking in the copper mines.

Best note of the week: The French government has decided to have changed its attitude to- wards the use of the accessories. An official delegation council of all Polish Jews meets in Athens and keeps in touch with the Polish government, the League of Nations and the friendly Polish-Jewish com- munity."

"Which reminds us of the ancient saying: "When the devil was well, the devil a monk was he."
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lightly ignored by the "Indian" textile-workers, slavery for starvation wages so that Manchester can maintain its textile dominance. Living French Imperialism also prattles about "democracy," while millions of French workers are working 60 to 72 hours a week, are being deprived of every single workers right (ought for and gained in the last 150 years while millions of colonials in Tidid-Chicot, Morocco, and Equatorial Africa are being starved and slaughtered in the interests of the French Capitalists.

Capitalism, like its British and French kin, shouts of "living-space" and the right of self-determination, while it destroys one small Nation after another, while it throws hundreds of thousands of workers into concentration camps to be slowly starved or murdered in the dead of night. And what is true of German, French and British Imperialism is true equally true of American, Japanese and "British" Imperialism.

The world crisis of capitalism has reached unbalanced proportions. The desperation of capitalism leads it to unbridled actions of barbarism, to the most brazen blood-bath of all history. The neutral nations and the small nations merely play the part of puppets in the hands of one or the other of the great imperialist powers. The Balkons, the Scandinavia countries, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, all find themselves subordinated to the interests of the groups of finance capitalists, tightening for world domination.

DOMINATION OF THE EARTH

The question at dispute — for which millions of innocent boys are to lay down their lives — is who shall dominate the world markets, reap the profits from the robbery of the colonial masses and the workers everywhere. The main antagonists in the dispute are British and American Imperialism. The main loot lies in Asia; the present war is only a first step in the direction of the plunder of Asia, where Japanese Imperialism has already consolidated a temporary foothold. Every nation — even those not yet directly involved in the military struggles — is already involved in the war; especially the strongest of the so-called neutrals, American Imperialism.

The United States, like a vulture, hovers over the battlefields, waiting for the opportune moment to swoop down and throw her weight and wealth into the struggle wherever it offers the most advantage. Every day brings the war plans of the United States capitalists nearer to fruition; every day finds the American working class more tightly shackled to the chariot of militarism.

The capitalists everywhere want to be victorious in this war so they can continue to oppress the millions of unfortunate wage slaves all over the world today. The workers of the world must everywhere work for the defeat of their "own" capitalists and their armed forces in this war, must continue the class struggle until the capitalist war is turned into a civil war.

DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION

The working class has no interests in defending any capitalist nation. It is interested in defending only the one Workers State in the Soviet Union, where capitalist property relations have been destroyed and the property relations of a Workers Society established. And it must defend that state despite the domination of the Stalinist bureaucracy, the parasitic caste which has tightly grasped the reins of the Soviet State and is steering its course back towards capitalist restoration. Only in a political revolution against Stalinism can the Soviet masses protect their October and extend it to the rest of the world. DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION DESPITE AND AGAINST STALINISM!

FOR THE PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION

The Second World War, like the first has its traitors and renegades in the ranks of the proletariat. The whole Second International stands today on the side of Anglo-French Imperialism. The Third International, born in the struggle against social-pacism in the last War, has itself succumbed to patriotism on the side of the German Imperialists, the bandits on the other side of the fence. The central London Büro and the centrist Trotskyites, both wings, stand on the platform of social-pacism, of deceiving the proletariat with impossible dreams of peace without civil war.

Against these forces the International Contact Commission raises its voice to again reaffirm the lessons of the first World War. Today, on historic May Day, celebrated as international labor's day of struggle, the I.C.C. sends its call to all the workers, all the toiling peasants, all the colonial masses of the world:

END THE GOVERNMENTS OF NATIONAL UNITY! DOWN WITH CLASS COLLABORATION! THE MAIN ENEMY IS AT HOME! CLASS AGAINST CLASS!

ONLY THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION CAN END WAR!

BREAK WITH YOUR MISLEADERS! TURN THE IMPERIALIST WAR INTO A CIVIL WAR! FOR A WORKERS' COUNCIL GOVERNMENT! FOR WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION!

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO Lose BUT YOUR CHAINS, YOU HAVE A WORLD TO GAIN!

LONG LIVE THE PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION

JOIN THE R.W.L.