

THE FIGHTING WORKER

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WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Organ of the Revolutionary Workers League, U.S.

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DRAFT SET UP WILL TRY TO DIVIDE AND RULE

INTERNAL PASSPORT SYSTEM, MILITARIZATION OF WORKERS IMMINENT

The conscription bill is now a law. At least ninety percent of the workers affected are thinking mainly of their chances to evade the coming bloodbath. One important reason for its passage is the role played by the trade union leaders. Trade union leaders who talk against conscription (for the record) and refuse to act against conscription can only serve to stifle mass action. Such a social-patriotic leadership cannot put up effective opposition to conscription.

A force like the A.F. of L., the C.I.O. and the Brotherhoods with ten million members in basic industries could have prevented the bill's passage if they had organized a protest and strike campaign leading if possible up to a general strike. But they know full well the danger of an aroused working class. Their differences with Roosevelt after all are only tactical; so they readily acceded.

CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE

But all this is now past history. The question is what to do now. The working class must continue the struggle against conscription by organized class action in the factories and the streets; protest strikes and, where we can obtain united action, demonstrations and picketing of the recruiting offices, etc.

Class conscious workers will volunteer for no armed forces except Armed Workers Defense Corps in each factory, mine and mill, to defend Workers Rights in the coming period. If drafted, however, they have no choice but to serve in the armed forces of the capitalist state, but they will work for the interest of the working class — for democratization of the army, etc., etc. Class conscious workers will not be conscientious objectors to "all" wars. We oppose the imperialist war; but we are for class war.

Some workers are consoling themselves by the government statistics that only 1 out of 16 men between the specified ages will be drafted. This is an incorrect attitude which will help the bosses firmly establish their military re-

(Continued on page 2)

OTHER BANDIT POWERS TRYING TO GOBBLE UP BRITISH EMPIRE

UNCLE SAM ANGLING FOR LION'S SHARE

September 22 — As hundreds of tons of explosives are hurled from the air by the opposing German and British forces, the Battle of Britain has reached a state where it is clearly evident that unless Hitler strikes almost immediately for invasion, the Isles will be able to stand off through the winter. The weather is temporarily on the side of the British Isles but this in no way means that it is on the side of the Empire; for the scene is set for a shifting of the stage of conflict to the Balkan and Near East area.

AXIS DICKERS WITH SPAIN

No official report on the conversations of Von Ribbentrop, Mussolini and the Spanish Fascist, Suer have been made; but it is certain that the Axis is endeavoring to push Spain into military operations against Gibraltar; or at least permit their own military forces to proceed to such an attack through Spanish territory.

INTENSIFY BRITISH - AXIS STRUGGLE

This would mean, no matter what the outcome of the Battle of Britain, an intensification of the struggle of the Axis against the Empire. For military struggle against Gibraltar, an Egyptian and North African attack would threaten the life-line of the British Empire and give the Axis entree to the East. This is only another way of saying that the German struggle for control of the Continent against the declining British Empire is reaching a new stage which is the prelude to the drive for the markets and territories of Asia and India.

GERMAN - ITALIAN QUARREL

But this by no means indicates that all is peaceful between the two "allies". It is evident that Germany will not permit Italy to make too many gains; conversely, Italy, in a far worse relative economic position, wants to increase its control in the Balkan and Mediterranean area. Despite the lack of reports, one thing is certain about Ribbentrop's trip: he did not go to "help" Mussolini convince

(Continued on page 3)

Railroading of Waller Temporarily Halted

NATIONAL ACTION NEEDED TO SAVE NEGRO FROM CHAIR

Special to the FIGHTING WORKER

September 20th —

The attempted boss class railroading of Odell Waller, Negro sharecropper, has met with its first setback, and a victory for a class conscious workers.

Waller, who is charged with having murdered a landowner, over a quarrel arising out of being cheated, was called to trial September 19th in court of the scene of the "crime", Chatham, Va.

The attempts of the forces of "law" to rush through the case three days after he was indicted have temporarily been thwarted. The circuit court judge of Pittsylvania County (Chatham), Judge Clement, and the Commonwealth Attorney, Whitehead, were set back on their ears by telegrams from all over the country. The telegrams were unanimous in denouncing the attempt to railroad Odell Waller to the chair. Judge

Clement changed his ruling and granted continuance until the 26th of the month.

JIM CROW AND ECONOMIC BIAS

Your correspondent circulated through Pittsylvania County and found plenty of unreasonable prejudice against Waller. On this basis the defense will fight for a change of venue.

The local businessmen of Gretna and Chatham, though not at all concerned with Waller's innocence or guilt, are united in asserting that the "damn nigger ought to be killed". For Odell Waller committed the unpardonable "sin" — resisting a white boss. If the other sharecroppers were to follow his example, especially if they organized for united defense of their rights, it would be just too bad for the vicious cropper system. That is why the businessmen and landlords want to see Waller get the chair.

(Continued on Page 4)

DRAFT APPARATUS WILL TRY TO "DIVIDE AND RULE"

(Continued from Page 1)

gime. For it must not be forgotten that this 1 man out of 16 is only for the first draft: other drafts for military service will quickly follow. Moreover, working class solidarity against the bosses' national unity and militarism is absolutely necessary. This means that all 16 million men must struggle along with the drafted ones. The 16 men must let the bosses know that they reject militarism even if only 1 is drafted now.

INTERNAL PASSPORTS

The registration of all young men between 21 and 35 is itself a high-point of United States Militarism. One of its most deadly aspects is that the registration papers will have to be carried at all times; this is really an internal passport system that will hold in check the workers and oppressed, since they will not even be able to move around a city, let alone travel from one city, or state, to another without producing this record. In addition the master registration card of the government will contain a complete life history, work record, etc., which can easily be used by the bosses as a super-blacklist. Moreover, all these records add up to the fact that having registered, active military service in the boss army hangs constantly over the head of all workers of these ages.

FIGHT AGAINST THE MILITARIST MOVES OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM!

FOR WORKING CLASS UNITY; AGAINST NATIONAL UNITY!

LEAGUE TOURS IN MEXICO AND U. S.

Comrade Bill Stricker has just returned from a 2 months trip to Mexico, where closer political and organizational contact was established with various comrades. Political aspects of his trip will appear in future issues of the FIGHTING WORKER. Comrade Stricker also covered a number of southern and mid-western cities on his return to Chicago.

The Second Eastern Conference of the League was held September 13-14 in Washington, D. C.

A 2-3/4 hours speech by the Workers' Vote presidential candidate, C. B. Cowan, was greeted at the Washington Park Forum on September 8 by more than 1,500 Negro and white workers with keen enthusiasm.

Following the Chicago speeches comrade Cowan is scheduled to speak both at open air and indoor meetings in Richmond, Va., Washington, D. C., where a debate with a Negro "liberal" is tentatively scheduled, Philadelphia, and then Cleveland. Additional news of the campaign will be published in future issues of the Fighting Worker.

New Deal Blasts «Gang Rule» In Step To Impose «War Rule» Over Unions

FOR INDEPENDENT WORKERS' ACTION AGAINST GANGSTERS AND NEW DEAL REFORMIST

The investigation and exposure of gang rule in the A.F. of L., with the Carrozzo, Scalise and Matt Taylor incidents have been the signal for the intensification of the State, City and F.B.I. forces to investigate the unions throughout the nation. In eleven large cities the government is checking up on "mob rule".

No trade unionist will deny that the cancer of gangster rule is a national labor problem but very few members of organized labor understand the real purpose behind the smokescreen of the New Deal struggle against gang rule. All of a sudden the business men's associations and the government have taken a "benevolent" attitude toward labor. They will "rescue" us from the gangsters. Watch out that this not a wooden horse brought into our unions. Watch out that this is not a new form of boring from within. For the war preparations bring forth many new angles to old problems.

SMASH THE RULE OF THE GANGSTERS

It has been an open secret for years, in Chicago for instance, that the Capone mob and the other lesser lights, Nitti, Scalise, Carrozzo, etc., have dominated the Chicago movement in an alliance with the Chicago Federation of Labor, the City administration, and behind them, the real rulers behind the scene, the groups of the La Salle Street bankers. Inter-warfare between the mobs to keep control brought on many deaths. Gangster use of the unions as clubs to shake down the exploiters was common knowledge.

But little is now said against the systematic terror these gangsters exercised for the bosses against militant left-wingers who tried to do their bit to rescue the union and bring it back to workers control. The intimidations, black-lists from jobs and murder on this score are even worse than the struggle for control between gangs. The newspapers played up the latter but hushed up the service these gangsters did to beat down the progressive class struggle elements.

The war development and the need of the exploiters to obtain unions with full obedience has caused some "leaders" to switch to the new masters.

The New Deal is using the attack against the former gangsters allies of the big city political machines as a battering ram, a club with which to force through the war program as it effects labor — to force unity of the AFofL with the CIO, to squelch any opposition to the draft, and to assume open control of many unions — through FBI, and judicial intervention. This is attested by Thurman Arnold, big shot New Dealer, in his latest book, "The Bottle-necks of Business".

Undoubtedly such CIO men as Sidney Hillman had their hands in these exposes. Obviously it helps them against other groups of reformist and labor fakers.

The trade unionist must fight on two fronts: Against the gangsters and their allies; and against those labor agents like Lewis, Green and Hillman who are under the domination of the state and the social-patriots. Both groups are enemies of organized labor. One group, the reactionaries and the gangsters, use the unions as their personal property to rob the robbers. The other group, which has called in the State Attorney and the F.B.I., are the bosses and the reactionary leaders of trade unions who want to eliminate these hi-jackers, so the exploiters can have a more efficient union movement in their war preparations.

THE PURPOSE OF THE STRUGGLE

In every case the gangsters have been in alliance with the local political machine of a group of exploiters. The drive against the gangster control is an excellent vote-getting instrument. The issue: Smash Mob Rule — will appeal to the public, and

the workers. But there is a deeper motive behind the drive. Present economic conditions differ radically from those of the "golden twenties". Due to the economic pressure and the mounting cost of war preparations, the bosses have less to share with their gangsters allies. Furthermore, in order to insure civil peace in war-time, the Raw Deal seeks a more solid control of broader section of the labor movement.

DIRECT BOSS CONTROL

The basis is thus being prepared to bring the trade unions directly under the control of the bosses government.

Despite the economic pressure and the war need, however, tomorrow when the workers rise in struggle and the bosses have to resort to fascist dictatorship, they will again be forced to divert part of their profits for new form of gangster, criminal, and lumpen-proletarian activities as the base of the Fascist attack against the workers.

The exploiters kill two birds with one stone. They want to get rid of the tribute they must pay to the gangsters; those who rob the robbers. And when they oust them they want to replace them with equally reactionary union leaders, agents of the bosses; but agents who are social-patriotic; who will help organize labor to produce war material, who can convince the workers they must "sacrifice" for "their country" against Hitler, the Devil and the Reds; to convince the workers to work long hours for little pay.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

While this fight between the Exploiters and those who rob the exploiters is intensified, the workers who are exploited and robbed in both cases must organize their own independent force to fight both cliques. Both the exploiters and the gangsters have powerful allies: among the reactionary labor leaders; among the local city officials; among Republican and Democratic Parties.

The fight against Exploiters social-patriotic war mongers and the reactionaries and gangsters cannot even be started without a clear understanding of the conflict of classes and the real meaning of the present imperialist war.

The progressive element in each union, in each shop, mine or factory must organize their own group. They must take the union away from the gangsters. They must FIGHT THEIR OWN BATTLE. If the State's Attorney fights it for you — you will not have a free union after he wins any more than when the Gangsters were in control. If the union is not worth fighting for you can never expect to have a democratic union.

The working class must not bring its fights into the exploiters' courts. We have nothing to win and everything to lose by such action. The working class must establish its own democratic courts. We need the will and decision of the membership. Only when the workers run their own unions will THESE UNIONS FIGHT FOR THE WORKERS INTERESTS.

The progressive members of the unions must issue a CALL TO ACTION. Not a call to action to fight in the imperialist war. A call to action against the reactionaries who are in alliance with the bosses and the gangsters. Against the gangsters. And against the Social-Patriots, the war mongers, who wrap the American flag around themselves and call the militant workers reds, fifth columnists, in order to help prepare the union movement for the imperialist slaughter.

Organize independent progressive groups in each union local. Fight your own battles. Fight for the democratic rights of the working class through your own shop committee movement.

September 9, 1940.

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NEGRO EXPOSITION FRONT FOR NEW DEAL WAR PLANS

The first "International" Negro Exposition held in Chicago is now over and it is well to take stock and see what was accomplished.

This first exposition takes place during the second world imperialist war. The exposition was arranged and financed by the New Deal and its Negro henchmen precisely in order to make palatable the War Deal role today in world politics. \$75,000 is reported to have been put up by New Deal forces to finance the exposition.

The extent of reactionary forces behind the affair was demonstrated by the elimination of a birth control exhibit. The directors of the exposition stated to the Chicago press that it was necessary to eliminate this exhibit, which was originally invited and on which \$200 had already been spent, in order not to alienate Catholic support. Any education of birth control would obviously be of benefit to large Negro poverty stricken families. Yet it was eliminated.

USED FOR WAR PREPARATION

Plywood exhibits everywhere extolled the New Deal CCC, NYA, WPA, Defense Plans, etc. The

whole exposition was enveloped with propaganda for patriotism, for ideological war preparations to drag along the Negro masses into the white exploiters' robbers war. Wallace, New Deal vice-presidential candidate was the principal Labor Day speaker. The white bosses' Christian "slave" religion was presented in full force through its Negro equivalent. The New Deal government, churches, Jim Crow lodges and some Negro business interests dominated the whole affair.

This criticism against the exhibit, of course, is no way a reflection against the Negro masses. It is a criticism of the white exploiters and Negro funkies. The oppression of the Negro people which was hidden in this exhibit, is a moving story which still needs to be brought out.

REAL EXPOSITION WOULD EXPOSE DOUBLE EXPLOITATION

Instead of this kind of crude propaganda the Negro Exposition, or rather, any Negro Exposition, should reveal the true status of the doubly exploited Negroes and whatever progress they have made in trying to achieve liberation. A Negro Exposition (not a white exploiter dominant one) should depict in displays and exhibits material to smash the "superior" theory (a la Hitler) of the white landowners in the South. It should reveal the hideous inequalities of Negro people and Jim Crowism.

An exhibit should be presented on the housing condition, but not one which plays up the New Deal "plans" for 1/10 of 1 percent of the Negroes, and leaving aside the main problem of housing for the remaining 99 9/10% who live in filthy ghettos without any possibility under New Deal of getting out of it.

Such a truthful exposition would not gain the financial support of white exploiters. But it would really have a message on one of the most vital social questions in the United States.

Sept. 10, 1940.

British Empire Hit

(Continued from page 1)

Spain to "come in"; rather he went down to advance and secure German hegemony in any Spanish or Italian military activity; Germany will never permit Italy to gain real control of the Mediterranean, even though she may let Italian troops do the dirty work in the first stages of battle.

DRIVE FOR NEAR EAST

With France out of the picture Germany moves to gain control of the Suez canal, and the badly needed oil fields in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. This, plus the impending Gibraltar attack, means a decisive thrust against the Empire, means a German attempt to extend her continental control clear through the Near East and achieve control of the gates to Asia.

Although Italy has attacked Egypt and the Axis is trying to convince the Egyptian puppet regime not to fight, it does not seem that the Italian forces can carry through a campaign alone. German troops will have to be diverted, again indicating the weakness of the Italian forces.

SCISSORS AGAINST STALIN

All these moves, plus the Rumanian and Transylvanian incidents show the increasing antagonism between Hitler and Stalin. The Pact has served Hitler's interests, even as it has greatly weakened

the position of the warped Workers State under Stalinism. Now every move of Hitler toward the East brings inevitably closer the attack to Soviet Union through the Ukraine.

While a complete censorship prevails in Moscow, it is possible to piece together enough evidence to show that there is a terrific mass unrest against Stalinism which is attempting to bolster its precarious position by a new series of purges of trade union leaders, new severely stringent labor laws, etc. Such further blows against the workers by the Stalinist cancer at a time when Hitler casts his eyes East, show that the contradictions of the bureaucracy are straining toward the breaking point.

Turkey, with whom Stalin has been able to temporarily come to terms, is gravely threatened by the Axis moves, and now vacillates as to her future course of action. Stalin would like her to be the buffer-attack against Germany; but to stand up against the German military machine is more than Turkey can manage, especially since Britain can offer no real aid.

JAPAN MAKES GAINS

Taking advantage of the weakness of the Vichy French regime and the inability of Britain to make material opposition, Japan

has stepped up her demands in regard to Indo China. Formerly she asked for the closing of supplies to China; then for the right to land and to move troops against China. Now she wants almost complete control of Indo China, both directly and through Siam-puppet control.

Japanese moves in the South Pacific are of first rate concern to American Imperialism. The U. S. already has obtained permission from England to use its Pacific military bases, especially Singapore. British and American "agreement" on naval bases in the Pacific in reality means gains of United States at the expense of the British, to be used against Japan. Military action by United States in Latin America and Asia is now a matter of a very short perspective. The imperialist war is rapidly involving all the powers to the highest degree.

Indications of mass unrest can be seen in the shift of French colonies to DeGaulle-British support, the activities of the Maniu peasant party in Rumania, etc. While these appear as shifts within a boss-class framework, in reality it is only that the bosses are able to retain control in a different form temporarily. But only temporarily, for the spread of the war, the increased hardship, misery and oppression will inevitably create revolutionary upsurges that will be the only method of ending the imperialist slaughter.

WORKER DESCRIBES LA GUARDIA REGIME

New York, September 15th — The right of free speech and free assemblage in New York City is rapidly disappearing. The La Guardia Administration has been gradually eliminating the main public speaking squares: West and East Union Square, Stuyvesant Square, which is now part of the side-walk, and soon Columbus Circle, around which new swanky apartment buildings are going up.

Workers' organizations forced to speak at street corners find the police constantly harassing them with all kinds of technicalities, such as obstructing traffic interfering with business, etc. Precinct rules and regulations change from day to day. The Holy Rollers and the Salvation Army, of course, speak with impunity.

Continual arrests for "flag violations" are merely another excuse to gag the revolutionary message of workers. The R.W.L. has held street meetings on 14th St. and Irving Places all summer. On August 21st, the R.W.L. phoned the police, according to "regulations", to announce a meeting for that evening. On arriving the speakers found the Stalinist there. Sergeant Tierny ruled that, although they had not called up, they be given the corner — exactly reversing his decision of six weeks before, where he had denied the R.W.L. the corner on the grounds that the Stalinists had phoned first! He now stated that calling up was merely optional.

PLATFORM "ARRESTED"

On Sept. 6th., comrade Strong of the R.W.L., placed a stand and flag on the disputed corner at 5 P.M. During a fifteen minute absence of the comrade, the same sergeant came and "arrested" the stand and flag! When Strong appeared he was given a summons for "obstructing" the side walk! The comrade was able to immediately secure another stand and a meeting was held with great success.

Answering the summons, comrade Strong soon found out about capitalist "justice". Evincing surprise when the sergeant informed "his honor" that "free assemblage" is still permitted. Magistrate Ford, who makes only \$9,000 a year for sentencing poor people to the work-house, gave comrade Strong two days in prison. Speaking to "his honor" after the trial, the sergeant said: "If I were supreme police dictator of New York, these guys wouldn't speak on any corner". But of course this was off the record.

The New York working class is witnessing a most interesting disappearing act. First the squares vanish, then the street corners are no more, and before long all democratic rights will be gone. Meanwhile our boss government is drafting men in preparation for a war to "defend democracy"! How long before the workers will accept this challenge?

Joseph Hendrix, N. Y.

ARGENTINE BANS R.W.L. PAMPHLET

Perhaps nothing is so indicative of the fraudulent "anti-imperialism" of the puppet presidents and rulers of Latin America as the following small incident:

On August 29th we received a letter from the United States Post-office informing us that the pamphlet "American Imperialism — the Main Driving Force for War" "has been prohibited importation in the mails into Argentina".

The capitalist rulers of Argentina — little puppets for The City and Wall Street — are never-ceasing in their abstract denunciation of "imperialism", and especially the imperialism of the American "Colossus". But when a pamphlet is written by Marxists of the United States exposing the role of that great imperialism and calling for a struggle against it, the Argentine authorities ban it. Oddly enough the pamphlet is permitted circulation in the United States, subject matter of the brochure.

It seems Argentina is far more sensitive of criticism of imperialist Uncle Sam, than Uncle Sam himself is for the moment.

Waller Trial Postponed

(Continued from page 1)

JUDGE SHOWS BIAS, INSULTS ATTORNEY

Judge Clement revealed his bias by insulting remarks to J. Byron Hopkins, Negro attorney and member of the defense counsel. He further indicated his anxiety to get Waller killed with the least trouble possible by telling the court reporter that he didn't particularly care whether she got his remarks in the record or not! Which shows how much "his honor" cares about the law-system under which he serves.

One special instance of the rail-roading attempt; Commonwealth Attorney Whitehead produced a "copy" of a letter allegedly sent to Thomas H. Stone, defense counsel, on September 4th, stating that the trial (if the indictment were returned) would take place on September 19th. But in reality, the defense knew nothing of the date set till September 16th. Inasmuch as Whitehead did not have any receipt to indicate having registered such a letter, which was never received, the conclusion of

forgery is obvious — another example of how the forces of "law and order" violate their own laws against the workers.

POLL TAX EXCLUDES CROPPERS ON JURY

Defense has already listed exception to the manner of impaneling juries in the county, since only those who pay the poll tax are admitted to jury list. This results in exclusion of share-croppers, regardless of color. This is a direct working class issue. For Waller is thus denied the right to be judged by any but the agents of the ruling class before whom he is already considered guilty of insubordination. This again shows how little boss class law means to them, for the "law" is supposed to give each man the right to be judged by his "peers" (equals) and not by his masters who certainly consider him guilty.

BUILD NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE

As stated above, through action in the county, the first skirmish in the defense of Waller has been won.

National protest, and national exposure of the bias, discrimination and prejudice against Waller must be carried out. The bosses, landowners, judges and attorneys must be shown that Jim Crow and economic exploitation will be vigorously fought by workers everywhere, that Waller will not be permitted to be railroaded to the chair.

For this purpose a National Waller Defense Committee is being built with locals in all cities, uniting Negro and white workers on this case. Preliminary action in this respect has been taken in Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia and New York, as well as the existing Richmond Committee.

For further information, or in sending funds, write immediately to the Richmond Waller Defense Committee; address: E. Campion, c/o T. H. Stone, 1519 E. Main St., Richmond, Va.

CLARIDAD PROLETARIA

El Imperialismo Americano:
La Fuerza Principa' Que Empuja
a la Guerra

Las Lecciones de Espana

5 Cents

The Centrist Trotskyites Speak on Conscription

REPEAT ERRORS OF THE SPANISH POUM AND ADD MANY MORE

Nothing is so dangerous, nothing so paralyzing to the activity of the proletariat, as a revolutionary phrase which deceives, a revolutionary phrase which covers up a pro-capitalist deed.

Following the line of the recent convention of the so-called "4th International", the American Trotskyites put forth a revolutionary-sounding position on conscription. We quote the key sentences.

From the August 3rd issue of "Socialist Appeal": "We propose universal, compulsory, military training of the working masses, but under the control of the trade unions... Let it (the government) provide the funds, facilities and technical instructions, but let the workers' own organizations be in charge of the training camps".

The August 24th issue completes this position: "Expropriate the armament industries! Take them away from the profiteers! Let ownership of these industries henceforth be vested in the state, with workers committees controlling the wages and working conditions".

AKIN TO POUM REVISIONISM

The first thing that strikes one in reading these lines is their kinship to the position of the POUM and other revisionist forces in Spain. The Trotskyites propose that the government — THE CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT — take over key industries and permit the workers (here, here!) to have a closed shop, to control working conditions and wages.

The POUM, let it pointed out, was to the left of this. It called for workers' factory committees to dominate each individual factory, while the Company's government in Catalonia controlled the whole industrial system. The Spanish revolution proved once for all that the workers can never permit the capitalist government even a nominal control of industry if they are to gain a revolutionary victory.

It is not only not excluded, but it is quite likely that as the masses move to the left, the capitalist government will actually try to make a deal such as the Trotskyites propose whereby the capitalist state controls the factories, while the workers get the minor concession of a closed shop. This would be a very cheap price for the bosses to pay in order to sidetrack a revolution — cheaper than the Spanish bourgeoisie had to pay.

THE STRATEGY OF THE MEXICAN BOSSES

As a matter of fact, the Mexican bourgeoisie has already resorted to this strategy: The Mexican workers "control" the railroad and oil industries, but the Mexican capitalist state controls the whole set-up from the top. The result has been that the Mexican workers are worse off, have had to take wage-cuts and dismissals, and have been prevented from fighting back.

That is what the Trotskyites are now proposing for the U. S.

OTHER IDEA EVEN WORSE

The other "revolutionary" concept — about the bosses government arming the workers — is even worse. Who would have thought that after the experiences of Spain, there would still be some "lefts" who would again propose that the workers create an army that would be controlled by the capitalist state! Because that is what "trade union control" on the basis of state funds, instruction and facilities will inevitably mean.

The Spanish workers too, submitted to control of their armed forces and their arms by the capitalist state, the trade unions and the labor lieutenants of capital within the trade unions. They also submitted to "technical instruction, funds and facilities" by the bourgeois government. Nothing contributed so much to their defeat. They found themselves in a new FORM of capitalist army, based on a trade union structure, but capitalist in every sense of the word, just as capitalist as the Franco army, or the American

REPETITION OF TREACHERY

The Trotskyites thus are asking beforehand that this debacle be enacted all over again. To take capitalist funds, capitalist instructors, capitalist facilities for "arming the working class" is like taking morphine to keep awake. To submit to "expropriations" (a la Cardenas in Mexico) under capitalist state control, and to call this "progressive", is merely a repetition of the treachery of the Socialists, Stalinists, POUM and Anarchists in Spain.

ARM THE PEOPLE IN OPPOSITION TO THE BOSSES

The Trotskyites may be small in America, but this sort of revolutionary-sounding virus is deadly poison to the proletariat.

The workers must ARM themselves, train themselves, gain their own facilities, and work toward actual Workers Control of Production for use. But they can't do this with the "aid" of the capitalists; they can only do it in opposition to the capitalists and their state, their trade unions flunkies etc. The initiative will come from the bottom, from rank and file democratically elected shop committees. And the arms will be gotten as all arms have been gotten by the proletariat everywhere; through their own contributions, through the disarming of the police, through the coming over to their side of large sections of the armed forces, etc.

Against the hollow - in effect - capitalist - slogan of government ownership of war industries, of government control of "our" army through the trade unions, the Marxist proclaim the need to arm the people. Abolish the standing army, which stands above the people and is used by the militarist imperialists for their attempt to "organize" the world; build Armed Workers Defense Corps, under rank and file control IN THE FACTORIES, under a leadership elected by ALL the workers in the plant regardless of political belief, union affiliation, race, color, or religion.