October 21 — As preparations for the Axis drive into the Near East near completion, two non-belligerents hold the key to further developments — the Soviet Union and the United States. Germany is in a position, for the moment, of trying with all its might to maintain the status-quo of the major non-belligerents of keeping them out of battle. Either the entry of Russia or Uncle Sam into the war against Germany at this stage would upset the whole flank-attack movement of Hitler's strategy board.

The Soviet Union especially is in a tight spot. The march into the Near East, even though ostensibly it is pointed at John Bull, serves at the same time to encircle Stalinist Russia. Hitler now is in the position that the Kaiser of 1914 was anxious to consummate; he has bases from the furthest tip of Norway, down to the seaports of Romania on the Black Sea (including a foothold in strategic Finland) from which to launch a simultaneous attack on the German Levant and the Ukraine, as well as a direct assault on any other part of a common frontier that stretches for thousands of miles.

GREATEST DANGER

The Soviet Union today faces its greatest danger. As pointing out by the FIGHTING WORKER more than a year ago the temporary respite gained by Stalinism through the Stalin-Hitler pact would inevitably result in dangers to the Workers State of a much more intense character than that of any period since the Civil War of 1918-21. Having demoralized further the world working class through its support of the German imperialist conquest of Poland and Norway, Stalinism can not depend on any such attack behind the German lines to save it; it must meet Germany only by its strength and arms, and here it is decidedly inferior.

Seizure of the Dardanelles, now belonging to Turkey, would complete the encirclement of Soviet Russia, would strengthen Hitler immeasurably. Even if Stalinism, backed up by its troops in Iraq and Bessarabia, can put enough pressure on Axis powers to check the move into Turkey, the Hitler machine will nevertheless continue its flanking movement (directed both against Iraq and Russia, we repeat), this time through Greece and into the Aegean Sea. This would also give it virtual control of the Dardanelles.

By virtue of its purely capitalist politics Stalinism has led the Soviet Union into an impasse where the cards are stacked against it — unless the proletariat of some other nation rises in revolution (and this is a respected news of the German Red Front published in another part of this paper is highly encouraging).

(continued on page 2)

October 24th — We have just been informed by the Chicago Post Office of a ruling of the Solicitor of the Post Office that the October 15 issue of the FIGHTING WORKER is unmailable under Sections 509 and 600 P. L. & R., 1932.

The banned issue contained a lengthy article against boss conception proposing a positive plan of action for the workers. It is easy to see that now with American Imperialism launching its conception and extending its war plans, the argument which must move to ban all material that calls for class unity against the bosses national unity.

BLOW AT FREE PRESS

While this ruling specifies only one issue of the FIGHTING WORKER, it is apparent that this is a step toward the complete banning of all class struggle literature. Such measures, and what will follow tomorrow, are certain indications of the smashing of the democratic right of free press, speech and assembly for which workers have struggled for centuries. It is significant that the louder the bosses yell about "democracy," the more they move to crush the democratic rights of the workers.

FIGHT FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Other working class organizations must recognize that the banning of the FIGHTING WORKER today means the banning of their organs tomorrow.

It is urgent that ALL workers join in protest against this suppression of free press. Watch the FIGHTING WORKER for announcements of protest meetings and action. Write immediately to Ernest J. Krueger, Postmaster, U.S. Post Office, Chicago to protest the banning of the October 15th FIGHTING WORKER. Get your union and political organizations to protest.

Argentine Also Bans FIGHTING WORKER

Previously we have stated that Argentina has banned the R.W.L. pamphlet, "American Imperialism, the Main Driving Force for War." Now comes word that the Argentine government is banning the "Fighting Worker". The U.S. Post Office requests that we "Please refrain from deposing in the mails copies of publication entitled 'The Fighting Worker', addressed to subscribers in Argentina."
Don't Vote Capitalist!

WORKERS VOTE PROGRAM EXPOSES WAR PLANS, SERVES WORKERS' INTERESTS

DON'T WASTE YOUR BALLOT — VOTE FOR WORKERS' INTERESTS

(Continued from Page 1)

The Negroes are only one minority that are excluded from voting. In fact, they are millions of migratory workers; almost all soldiers in the army (remember this when you vote) are Negro; thousands of sharecroppers are white as well as Negro — who don't have the money to pay the discriminatory poll tax in the South — these and many more workers are denied the right to vote. This is the "Democratic way".

MINORITY PARTIES EXCLUDED

While the Democrats and Republicans get all the publicity they can handle, only a few minorities, such as the Socialist party, are suffering blow after blow. The Communist Party has been excluded millions of dollars in California, Indiana and Ohio; state convener elections for election petition holders have been held and arrested: Brewer is under court order not to tour the country for his candidacy; and in other cities, the boss press has published signatures of petitioners to put him on the ballot, which is resulting in black-list, and threats to many workers.

The Socialist Party is a little more acceptable, even they are having trouble. Ballots have been denied to Norman Thomas, their candidate, S.P. canvassers have also been beaten up.

We have nothing politically in common with these reformist parties but we defend our democratic right to exist and function as parties. These discriminatory measures are a reflection of the lack of democracy for the workers and their organizations.

"DEMOCRACY" — IF YOU CAN CALL IT THAT

When the bosses boast about democracy, they always say "You have free speech, free press," etc. But try to put a full page ad in a newspaper, or buy a coast-to-coast radio program for an hour? The press, the radio, etc., are "free" — if you can buy them. But the vast majority of workers cannot. Democratic exists only for the bosses who have the money to utilize and control these instruments of propaganda. But the real workers' interests, the real needs and aims of the workers go unheard.

Meanwhile Roosevelt and Willkie spend millions of dollars in the election campaign trying to outdo the other with his ability to "sell" ideas. While the workers who win, or lose, is not, and can not be democracy for the workers.

BOTH STAND FOR WAR

Both Roosevelt and Willkie have revealed that they will not use American troops in Europe, that they will not wage offensive war. This is a lie. It's 1916 all over again, and just like "He Kept Us Out of War" Wilson, they say they are at peace with war, but all their actions show just the opposite.

Both Roosevelt and Willkie are for all possible material aid and parallel action with Great Britain; both are for a stern policy against Japan; both are for conscription; both are for 14 billion dollars to build the vast military machine in the world. This adds up to only one thing — IMPERIALIST WAR in order that American Imperialism may get the lion's share of the loot.

The R.W.L. declares that no matter which boss class candidate is elected he will use his executive office to thrust the United States into the imperialist bloodbath; that he will further his "fiscal war" and "democracy" — but for the profits of the ruling class which he represents.

There is only one way to express opposition to the fake boss class democracy, which is a dictatoria, to press their own war against the war plans of the bosses; there is only one way to state opposition to the boss class exploitation with its unemployment, hunger and oppression — VOTE FOR THE WORKERS' VOTE CANDIDATES AND THE WORKERS VOTE PROGRAM.

WORKERS VOTE PROGRAM

Only one presidential candidate really stands opposed capitalist to war, C. B. Cowan, on the Workers Vote program. He supported the Revolutionary Workers League, U.S.

The Workers Vote Program calls on the workers to defend themselves by pressing their own war against the capitalist system — WHICH IS THE BREEDER OF IMPERIALIST WAR: for an end to the capitalist system — not in the dim, distant future, but in the very next period.

AGAINST WAR PLANS

The Workers Vote Program is specific:

"Against the Roosevelt War Plans — Expose the role of American Imperialism, Democratic and Republican, as the Main Driving Force for War; strike the Roosevelt war plants; arm the working class and the poor farmers against the bourgeoisie war machine for the defense of their democratic rights; fight against the Roosevelt War Plans by fighting against the capitalist system."

The Workers Vote Program calls for:

"Full Freedom for the Negro People.

"For Democratic rights of the working class... including the sit-in strikers... mass picketing and workers defense squads...

"Equal pay for equal work...

"Five day week, six hour day with no reduction in pay...

"$330 weekly minimum for WPA and U.S.T.F. for workers control of the administration of relief...

"For workers control of production for use...

"Abolish all existing mortgages; divide the land of the Southern planters among the sharecroppers and tenants..."

And finally to accomplish these ends, the Program calls for establishment of a "Workers Council Government".

REAL WORKERS CANDIDATES

Comrade Cowan, unlike Roosevelt, Willkie, Thomas and Browning, is a worker by hearsay. He has worked all his life, mostly as a painter and other mechanical work. Unlike Mr. Roosevelt's war record, Cowan lived through months of hell in "going over the top" with France; he came determined from that moment on to end war by ending capitalism. Now he has been the leader of thousands of bonus-marchers in two bonus marches on Washington, and of the Cleveland Association of Unemployed on the Direct and Work Relief.

Allen Willis, Negro candidate for the vice-presidency on the same ticket, is a young worker, active in unemployed circles primarily in Washington, D.C., and at present engaged primarily in the campaign to liberate Odeh Waller, Negro Sharecropper being framed in Virginia.

If you don't want to waste your vote; if you don't want to choose between a tweedledee and a tweedledee, between two methods of capitalist exploitation, between two methods of starvation —

THEY WRITE IN THE NAMES OF C. B. COWAN AND ALLEN WILLIS ON YOUR BALLOT NOVEMBER 5TH.
FIGHTING WORKER  
Vol. 5, No. 19  
Whole No. 65  
Central Organ of the  
REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE, U. S.  
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NO. MATTER WHERE THE  
IMPERIALIST BATTLE RAGES,  
THE MAIN ENEMY IS AT HOME!

The desire to fight, fascism is an honest and natural one on the part of all workers. But many workers, even class conscious ones who generally recognize the need for the overthrow of capitalism, are capitulating to the boss class propaganda of support for the “democracy.” The reformist and centrist political organizations are moving with great speed in thinking up arguments to support the bosses in this dastardly campaign. “We must fight fascism” is interpreted by them to mean, we must stop Hitler. On the contrary, however, this is no time for us to rest on our laurels. It is true that we must continue our class struggle activity against the MAIN ENEMY HERE AT HOME. We cannot stop Hitler by supporting the bosses “democracy.” Even if Hitler attacks the U. S. we must not “defend” the existing capitalist rule; this is the surest way to help Fascism win, here and in Europe.

THE LESSON OF FRANCE

France is the clearest example of this. There the bosses preserved national unity; they pushed the strikes of the workers in the name of “democracy”; they established 60-70 hour week, and cut pay in the name of “defense”. They persecuted revolutionists and militants in the name of “liberty”. The politicians and generals ordered the workers to go the war “their all” in the “fight against Fascism.” But these same generals and politicians — the stooges of the French bosses — sold out to Hitler under the threat of the workers’ taking power and waging a real workers defense. One day General Weygand ordered the workers “not to yield an inch”; a week later he ordered surrender to Hitler.

France is the lesson of how “democratic” boss class ruleavors THE WAY FOR FASCISM.

And don’t forget that Hitler was invading French territory. But one can easily see that it makes little difference to the bosses that they are “defending” their own land; they capitulated to Hitler because they fear the workers more than they do Hitler, and they use Hitler’s methods against the workers.

Workers here must learn this lesson. No matter on what territory the war is being fought, it is still an imperialist war. No matter whether American troops are being used in Japan, South America, or Europe, no matter whether Germany even come over here (which is far from likely) it remains a war for profit, for redivision of the world between two blocs of imperialist powers.

CLASS UNITY AGAINST NATIONAL UNITY

The French bosses preferred victory of Hitler to the victory of the workers, preferred fascism to the proletarian revolution. The bosses preferred to sell out to Hitler and put in the near-fascist Vichy regime rather than be defeated by the workers.

This is the lesson we must learn. CLASS AGAINST CLASS! TORN THE BOSSES WAR INTO A WAR AGAIN THE BOSSES!

The support of capitalist “democracy” will pave the way for the victory of Fascism as it did in France. ONLY THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL IN REVOLUTIONARY POLICY OF REVOLUTIONARY IMPERIALISM CAN SMASH FASCISM BY SMASHING CAPITALISM.

GROUPS ORGANIZE TO FREE FRAMED NEGRO CROPPER

Plans to appeal the case of Odell Waller, 23 year old Negro sharecropper sentenced to die December 25th in Virginia on a frame-up murder charge, are nearing completion. A number of small organizations have joined in the struggle, but the Waller Defense Committees are still woefully weak.

On Sunday, October 29th, a Chicago committee was set up with four organizations participating and a number of laborers from various groups, including the striking Negro cab drivers in the city. A New York Committee has been in existence for some time, but is in the process of reorganization because of the withdrawal of both factions of the Trotskyists.

Work in Philadelphia, Richmond and other places meanwhile continues, but it is significant that the larger labor and Negro organizations are not yet involved in the case. Their attitude seems to be that they will have nothing to do with the case so long as they cannot control it.

SECTARIAN POLICY

Among these organizations is the Workers Defense League, socialist controlled group, which refuses to handle the case unless all other organizations (including the R.W.L which initiated the defense and engaged all the present attorneys, and widely published the case) withdraw first. The WDL laid down such stringent demands to the R.W.L in a recent letter that it would not even permit a member of the present Waller Defense committees to be actually represented in the Waller Committee of the Workers Defense League.

As pointed out in the letter published in the last issue of the FIGHTING WORKER, the R.W.L was willing to subordinate its role in the case and give the WDL, the Socialist Party and other larger organizations a majority position in the committee, under Workers Defense League auspices. The WDL replied that it would tolerate no other organizations in the struggle except itself.

But despite the sabotage that the Waller defense is the victim of. Odell Waller will yet be freed. Attorneys Stone and Hopkins in Richmond are devoting a great part of their energy, spending their own funds, using their own couriers, giving up much of their time in preparing the appeal.

They will show the class import of the case: that Waller was convicted by the same group of white landlords and their representativess who keep him in constant oppression; that the trial was held in a lynching atmosphere; that Oscar Davis, the white landlord who subdued Waller of his crops, cas tigated his dog and evicted Odell from the land he plowed, did not die bullet wounds but of a collapsed lung following operation.

HELP THE CAMPAIGN

Thousands of leaflets are being issued and will be distributed to white and Negro workers. Whenever the case is mentioned, especially to Negroes it gains enthusiastic response. It is the help of these masses Odell Waller will yet be freed from Southern Bourbon injustice.

Please help any way you can, by mentioning the case to your coworkers and friends, by contributing to the National Waller Committee (write to E. Cameron, c/o Thos. Stone, 1519 E. Main St., Richmond, Va.), by getting your organization — be it political, union, or just social, to join in this work NOW.

23rd Anniversary of October Revolution

Chicago Meeting  
November 7th  
64 E. Jackson, Room 613

INTERNATIONALE  
NACHRICHTEN  
ORGAN DER  INTERNATIONALEN KONTAKT KOMMISSION

14 Punkten der I.K.K.  
Probleme der Deutschen Revolution

Wenn Deutsch‚land Gewinnt — Was Dann?  
Proleten Im Reich und in der der Emigration. Genossen der Roten Front  
Brief Aus Deutschland  
Kann Frankreich die Revolution Verhindern?

CLARIDAD PROLETARIA

El Imperialismo Americano:  
La Fuerza Principal Que Empuja a la Guerra

Las Lecciones de Espana

PAMPHLETS OF THE R.W.L.

The Workers Answer to Boss War  
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Workers Rights or Democracy

Uncle Sam’s Stake in the War

Stalin-Hitler Pact

American Imperialism—The Main Driving Force of War

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5 Cents Each  
ORDER YOUR COPIES NOW  
The Demos Press  
1904 Division Street  
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A CORRECTION

Owing to an editorial oversight, the comment on the Workers Defense League letter in the last issue, incorrectly stated that Waller “murdered his landlord.” This is an error — Waller shot in self-defense: moreover it has been established by experts medical testimony that Davis did not die as a result of the bullet wounds.
FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE SOVIET UNION
DESPITE AND AGAINST STALINISM

On the 23rd Anniversary of the October Revolution, the INTERNATIONAL CONTACT
COMMISSION Appeals to the Working Class for Unity and Theoretical Clarity

EDITORS' NOTE: We publish the first section of the November 7th Manifesto of the INTERNATIONAL CONTACT COMMISSION of which the R.W.L. is the American section:

We celebrate the 23rd anniversary of the Russian Revolution under difficult circumstances. The failure of the imperialists to solve their insolvable contradictions, on the one hand, and the failure of the proletariat to extend the revolution in history on the other, have created a stalemate in international class relations which permits the capitalist masters again to resume their bloody struggle for markets, profits, and spheres of influence.

The October Revolution and both the first, and now the second world war are linked together. Without the degeneration of the first Workers State, under Stalinism, and the throttling of the world revolution (which this degeneration implied), there could not have been another imperialist carnage of the present proportions; millions of the world's best youth would have been spared their lives, millions of people would have been saved from the intolerable misery of capitalism in its worst, most barbaric period.

PROOF OF MARXISM

The success of the Russian proletariat in 1917 and the maintenance of power for a period of 23 years has proven the theories of Marx, Engels and Lenin beyond ev- en the shadow of a dispute, it has given life and breadth to the science of Marxism. The gigantic achievements of the productive forces in Russia - ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH HAD TO BE MADE WITHOUT CAPITALIST CREDITS IN THE FIRST STAGES AGAINST THE HOSTILE IMPERIALIST WORLD - stand out in history as the greatest step forward, re- latively, the world has ever known. In its best days nobody even approached the rate of increase in productivity illustrated by the Soviet Union.

STALINISM HELPS IMPERIALISM

The mouse is being drawn tight. The warmongers - on both sides of the trenches - are preparing to finish what they couldn't do in 1918-21. Hitler's legions face Soviet forces from Finland down to the Black Sea. The two main gateways into the Soviet Union are falling increasingly into Hitler's hands: the Dardanels - Black Sea region, and Finland. The necessity of the Soviet Union to ex- tend the revolutionary fronts from Finland, Poland, Rumania, and to Baltic nations in an effort to forestall the inevitable invasion, is Workers State, should now be evident even to the blind. But the complete falseness of the methods, of the purely capitalist methods by which these areas were taken in spite of the economic change is a blight against the world revolution. Stalinism has gained tactical military ad- vantages, but by its support of the German Imperialist war policy (no matter whether it goes over to the "Democratic" camp again very soon or not) it has disoriented further, has extended the demoralization of its only ally, the world working class. Stalinism must meet the Hitler threat by force of arms alone. For Stalinism there is no future.

For the Soviet Union the future lies only in the extension of October, in capitalist countries, and the political revolution a- gainst Stalinism and for genuine Workers Democracy in the Soviet Union.

The twenty-third anniversary of October is thus the anniversary which to exult or rejoice blindly, but one in which we must take cold stock of events.

DEFEND SOVIET UNION

The defense of the Soviet Union calls for:

No support, material or political, to Sta- linism at any time. Realize that Stalinism can only play a reactionary role.

For independent working class action in- side the Soviet Union as well as on a world scale.

For defeatism against any capitalist "al- ty" of the Soviet Union.

For the defense of the Soviet Union and the Red Army against capitalism and its Stalinist and other agents.

For a political revolution against Stal- inism.

HISTORY IS ON OUR SIDE

On this 23rd anniversary of October we record the following:

History is in OUR favor. With seven league boots capitalism is being torn a- sunder, its inescapable contradictions cause an erosion which can never be re- paired. The Marxists of 1940, like the Marxists of 1914 are isolated from the mass of proletarians.

Theoretical clarity of these and other questions are the life blood of our move- ment. Upon this basis action to build a party, action to defend the Soviet Union will lead to vic- tory. Action in the day to day class strug- gles, against national unity will move the masses of the oppressed for the overthrow of capitalism.

Join with the International Contact Com- mission in the struggle against war and capitalism. Break with the reformist and centrist social-patriotic internationals. Fight in the interest of the working class!

A Report From Germany

Trade Union Militants Join With Red Front of I.C.C.

We have just received a report of the Extraordinary Session of the Revolutionary Trade Union Committee of Austria. Meet- ing under illegal conditions, the revolutionary workers have affirmed the necessity for a revolutionary struggle against capital- ism, and war.

The Resolution of this conference was distributed by the thousands, printed in fine type on small paper, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE EXTRAORDIN-
ARY SESSION OF THE REVOLUTION-
ARY TRADE UNION COMMITTEE OF
AUSTRIA

We, the representatives of the revolu- tionary workers from the Austrian shops, gathered together despite the most crush- ing terror and illegality, see it as our clear duty to summon the working class anew to battle, in these days when fascism, ter- ror and slavery threaten to destroy Europe and seem to have triumphed over all the hopes and ideals of the proletariat. We who tell the shops see most clearly how empty and meaningless the fascist victor- ies really are, and we are today more than ever convinced that the working class must succeed in smashing its chains, if they only have the will, and if they understand how they make the struggle.

We have long been aware that the fight must be conducted differently that it has been heretofore. But never was this so crystal-clear as it is today. Never it has been so easy for the working class to un- derstand the role of the Party, and to un- derstand which party is truly the vanguard to lead it in battle. The Second Interna- tional and its Austrian group, the Revolutionary Socialists (to which almost all of us belonged a short time ago) today supports the bourgeois-democratic imperial- ist powers. The Stalinists, despised by every thinking worker as friends and lack- eys of our main opponents, stand in a sin- gle front with Hitler. These parties are not in a position to lead the struggle of the proletariat for its liberation, for socialism, since they have allied themselves with one or the other camp, at any event, with a camp of the oppressors of the working class.

We the revolutionary proletariat are in- terested neither in the victory of the de- mocratic front, nor in the victory of the fascist front. We fight on the third front in our own interests, in the Red Front for Socialism. Therefore, comrades, we have decided to unite with the only organiza- tion which is carrying on the struggle of the third front independently and with no alliance with the imperialist camps; with the organization of the Red Front; and we appeal jointly with the Red Front for all revolutionary workers to support us in the struggle. Fight together with us in town and country, towards our ultimate goal, for So- cialism.

FROM A SOVIET AUSTRIA IN A SO- VIET GERMANY!

FOR THE WORLD REVOLUTION!
FORWARD, COMRADES!