

# THE FIGHTING WORKER

Vol. 6, No. 11, Whole No. 77

Wednesday, September 3, 1941

Labor Donated

Price: 1 Cent

## Soviet Retreat Does Not Mean Nazi Victory

### AFL - CIO Leaders Chain Labor To War Machine

The labor "leaders" are whooping it up for the imperialist war. The workers throughout our land are just as opposed to war today as they were in 1917. But the AFL and CIO leaderships are straining every nerve to liquidate that no-war sentiment, to divide, confuse, demoralize, and miseducate.

#### "NO STRIKE" PLEDGES

The AFL Building Trades "leaders" have pledged the government that there will be no strikes during the "emergency". The agreement, reached with star labor-faker Sidney Hillman of the Office of Production Management, calls for freezing of present wage scales and no-strike for about 800,000 workers. In the face of rising costs of living this means a cut in wages for these people.

Thus, in order to "smash Hitlerism", the misleaders of labor in America — yield to Hitlerism at home. In order to preserve "democracy" these gentlemen waive labor's most potent weapon at home.

In Kearny, New Jersey, both the CIO leaders and the Company called in the government after a two week strike. The union men are taught to look to the war government for aid, instead of depending on their own independent action.

In Chicago, Cleveland and a dozen other cities the CIO Councils and AFL state and city Federations have been warbling sweet words to unappreciative worker audiences for months about the need to sacrifice, the need to give up the right to strike "temporarily" and so on.

Labor does not support this imperialist bloodbath. It is only the pie-card fakers who have sold out to the class enemy and try to drag the rank and file workers with them.

Despite all the drum beating the 45 million American workers who are now confused and neutralized will soon see more clearly the role their "leaders" are playing. The more treacherous and social-patriotic the labor lieutenants of capital, from Bill Green to Earl Browder, are today, the more quickly will the class be disillusioned.

### Negro Rent Strikes

**Chicago, August 28:** — Picture to yourself the most overcrowded and squalid of "Hooverville" towns, transplant the image within the noise and filth of the country's second largest city, and you have a fair picture of the housing situation in Chicago's tightly restricted Negro district.

Despite health, sanitation and housing laws "on the books", big corporation real estate agencies still squeeze exorbitant rentals from the Negro tenants in houses where babies are bitten to death by rats, where children are seriously injured by falling plaster and rotting wood, and electricity and toilet plumbing simply does not exist.

Last week the fruits of years of

(Continued on page 4)

### Occupation of Iran Prevents Rear Attack

The joint Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran has opened up a new front for England. By this move she hopes to insure India and the entire Near East, and to increase pressure on Turkey, in order to prevent the latter's complete capitulation to Germany. England also hopes to obtain direct military connections with the Red Army so that she can have a hand against the working class in any later developments in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union carries through this joint action not merely to keep Germany from organizing an attack to the rear of her retreating army, but also to keep a sea route for supplies open. Stalin is in great need of British and American supplies, and Iran offers free ports for shipping.

#### SUPPLY ROUTE TO RED ARMY

An Anglo-Soviet victory in Iran will give Britain control of the entire Near East beyond Turkey. Moreover, supplies to an army holding out back of the Volga River can be safely shipped up through the Arabian Sea in case the route through Vladivostok is cut off by Japanese action. Germany is at present in no position to send forces to Iran, any more than to Iraq. But unless England and the Soviets give Iran big concessions and use the area only for passage, the invasion will play into the hands of the Nazis in their attempt to win the Arabian forces to their side.

We will hear gain of "Red imperialism" on the part of the Soviet Union; but this action is the same defensive action as was the case in the joint seizure of Poland

(Continued on page 4)

# What Is Behind Anglo-American Aid to the U.S.S.R?

A calculated policy is emerging from behind the 8 point declaration of Roosevelt and Churchill. These two representatives of Wall Street and "The City" are preparing a vicious campaign to organize the capitalist-minded and 5th column forces in the Soviet Union for counter-revolution.

In return for their "aid", Roosevelt and Churchill are demanding — and getting — their full pound of flesh.

## FATAL CONCESSIONS

The Stalinists have pledged and are coming across with full support to the national unity drives of the capitalist ruling classes, both in the U. S. and in Britain. Stalinism has gone the whole hog, even to the complete endorsement of the new world order that Wall Street is planning for itself.

But not only has Stalinism surrendered the world working class to the Wall Street imperialists. Fatal concessions are being made internally in the Soviet Union as well.

Roosevelt demands that American military "advisers" be given access to the front. He demands **naval and air bases in Siberia**. He is sending in "technicians and production experts" to "help organize" production and transportation. He is using the Red Cross as a spying agency, as in the last war. These advisers, experts and confidence men have the job of contacting, organizing, and aiding the growing capitalist-minded elements in the Soviet Union. These elements — the factory managers, heads of collectives, intelligentsia, etc., have been nurtured and strengthened by the anti-working class policies of Stalinism during the years of its cancerous hold on the Soviet Union.

## U. S. WANTS STALEMATES

What aid will the U. S. and British imperialists give in return for all this? Enough, perhaps, to help Russia prolong the struggle against Germany; enough to main-

(Continued on page 4)

## Soviet Defense Needs Workers Militias

With the Nazis having won the main gateway to Leningrad, Stalinism is finally calling for the organization of workers militias to fight to the last man.

The Stalinist bureaucrats admit in this roundabout way that the Soviet working class has been **disarmed** since Lenin's time, that the Workers Militias have been **dissolved**, that the Soviets and Workers Democracy have been **choked and strangled**.

The bureaucrats reveal by their delay of this vitally needed step how much they fear an armed working class and Workers Militias, and that they will resort to these only in desperation, when nothing else is left. Even now, when in Leningrad they reorganize the Workers Militias and rearm the workers, they put in Stalinist Commissars to keep the workers down. They still maintain a dead silence on Workers Democracy and Soviets.

Unless the workers, thru Soviets, control the armed forces and State, talk about Soviet power and workers democracy is a sham and a fake.

## ON GUARD

The last minute half-measures of the Stalinists are not enough. It is necessary to organize Workers Militias throughout the Soviet Union, in every mine, mill, and factory, re-establish workers democracy, and re-establish genuine Soviets. **It is imperative to awaken the Soviet working class to the increasing danger of capitalist-minded elements inside the Soviet Union who have fattened on the anti-working-class policies of Stalinism.** These elements will strike for capitalist restoration at the propitious moment. The working-class must be prepared.

Not Stalinism, but the armed working-class through genuine Soviets can and will defeat Fascism and world capitalism.

## TROTSKYITES PLEDGE NO FIGHT

**Question: How does the RWL position for defense of the Soviet Union and the overthrow of Stalinism differ from that of the Socialist Workers Party (Cannon Trotskyites)?**

**Answer:** The RWL position, calling for revolutionists to "march separately, strike together" with the Stalinist-controlled forces, shows **how to develop action** in defense of the Soviet Union **independent** of and against Stalinism, while the SWP position means **capitulation** to the Stalinist be-

trayers in life, despite condemnation in words.

The fight against Stalinism **"must be subordinated to the struggle against the main enemy, the armies of Hitler Germany,"** says the SWP Manifesto on defense of the Soviet Union. **"Before attempting to overthrow Stalin, revolutionary Marxists would consider the situation at the front,"** says Albert Goldman (Militant, 8/2/41)

The Trotskyists would oppose workers action against the Stalinist bureaucrats until the front is "safe." But since Stalinism is incapable of waging a real defense, an "all-out" revolutionary war, the front would always be in danger. Therefore the Trotskyist position spells, not the overthrow, but capitulation to Stalinism, which can only lead the Soviet Union to defeat.

## have you read

**The Stalin-Hitler Pact and the Imperialist War**

**The Soviet Union and "Red Imperialism"**

**The Nazi Invasion of the Soviet Union**

5 Cents Each

## The Fighting Worker

Central Organ of the  
REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS  
LEAGUE, U. S.

(Affiliated to the Provisional  
INTERNATIONAL CONTACT  
COMMISSION

For a New Communist (4th  
International)

Subscription \$1.00 per year

Published weekly by

DEMOS PRESS

708 N. Clark St.

Chicago, Ill.

## Soldiers Must Fight Army Prussianism

What is the difference between morale in a "democratic" military machine and morale in the Nazi legions? Recent news reports cause us to wonder.

Yoo-Hoo Lear was one example of typical Prussianism in our "democratic" army; the sentencing of a boy to 10 years in the penitentiary (subsequently reduced to three years because of a public protest) for incidents growing from his spitting on the floor, the overflowing guard-houses, the bestial treatment of Negro soldiers, the rapidly mounting number of desertions (already so great as to cause alarm in army circles), all raise the question from an abstract military problem to one of the utmost practical importance.

If an officer overworks a horse or a mule, he is severely disciplined. But the drilling of soldiers under full pack until they drop exhausted is commended. Reports have already reached us of several soldiers collapsing under such humane treatment. What is the object of all this?

Briefly put, the primary objective in drill is to teach the soldier complete submission to "superiors." He must have all his initiative destroyed. Only the perfect lack of initiative will fit the soldier for a career as cannonfodder.

It is perhaps just as well that the soldier's horizon is limited to the tavern-keeper, the prostitute and the rubber-goods salesman. If he had complete access to the outside world, he might learn that the worker whom he is learning to gas and to bayonet is a brother bound by the same chains of imperialist thirst for profit as he himself.

## National Tea Workers Reject Tobin

Chicago, August 28:— Despite the vote of the National Tea Warehouse Workers' against affiliation with the Chicago Tobin Teamsters, the AFL attempted to complete this raid. In carrying thru this bureaucratic step the AFL with the cooperation of the National Tea Company fired the 11 workers who gave leadership to the rank and file in their fight to remain a bonafide Union.

### VOTE INDEPENDENT

Wm. Green and his Chicago teamster representatives handed out an ultimatum to the National Tea workers to affiliate to the IBT or face expulsion. The workers rejected this bureaucratic command and voted to go independent, adopting the name "Progressive Grocery and Warehouse Workers Union, Local No. 1." Since this step was taken the teamsters

"leaders" resorted to terrorism by calling in their too well known "goons". The Company has aided them by intimidation, discrimination and violation of the contract.

The PG&WWU No. 1, has filed an appeal to the Labor board for an election. The hearing as to whether an election is necessary or not has been held, but after weeks of waiting the Labor Board has not yet handed down any decision.

The National Tea Company has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to prevent any real Unionism, even paying off the racketeers, and if they continue this policy it will merely be throwing good money after bad—the workers are determined and know what they want and are out to get it.

## BUROCRATS' FIGHT KNIFES DETROIT LABOR

The transportation strike in Detroit is a fine example of what the AFL and CIO leaderships can do to muddy up the waters.

AFL carmen were forced out on strike by their leaders over purely a jurisdictional matter. Rather than join hands with these workers in a genuine struggle, the CIO leaders called on their men to scab on the men wearing AFL buttons. They offered to run the cars for Mayor Jeffries. To the shame of these "labor men" let it be recorded that the capitalist Mayor refused this offer of scabbing.

But the AFL leaders are no bet-

ter than the CIO leaders when it comes to strikebreaking. Remember the Harvester strike in Chicago, where the AFL attempted to scab. The workers must fight against scab attempts of both leaderships.

### NEED WORKERS UNITY

The RWL believes that a general program in such jurisdictional strikes must be pointed out. The workers in both unions, AFL and CIO, should join hands and EXTEND the struggle. Instead of quarreling as to who shall control the bulletin boards, both groups should have elected a common bargaining committee of rank and file workers on such demands as:

1—No reduction of jobs from their present numbers, as a rock bottom minimum, with a guarantee of no lay-offs of any people now working, either partial or permanent.

2—Higher wages and shorter hours to meet the rising cost of living and to take care of technological improvements in transportation.

## Notice

We call attention to our readers that the Demos Press which has its new address at 708 North Clark has no connection with the Social Science Institute of the same address.

For the Unification of all Trade  
Unions on a Class Struggle Policy  
with Industrial Structure

## NO NAZI VICTORY

(Continued from page 1)

by the Soviet Union and the Nazis. Yesterday the Soviet Union helped take Poland for later use against Hitler's march eastward. Today it is forced to invade Iran in order to prevent German encirclement, to open up a supply route, and, in addition, to lay the basis for a later struggle against British imperialism.

Stalin's false policies and his capitulation to the imperialists alienated the working class from giving effective aid, and the working class was the only real ally the Soviet Union could depend on. Hence Stalin is forced into these half-hearted military measures which are at best only stop-gaps against world imperialism, both fascist and bourgeois-democratic.

### HOLLOW NAZI VICTORIES

One thing must be made clear at this stage. After two months of Nazi hammering against the Red army, victory for Hitler is further off than ever before, even though Moscow, Leningrad, and the Ukraine are hard-pressed. In this period the Red Army was forced to retreat on all fronts for hundreds of miles due to superior German forces, but these defeats of the Red Army in no way equal a final Nazi victory. So long as the retreating Soviet forces keep intact a capable army and at the same time leave Hitler nothing but a scorched earth, the fight can be carried on until the fascists are exhausted — provided the Anglo-American blockade continues.

The internal strength of the Soviet Union under transition economy has surprised the world, despite the long-continued ravages inflicted by Stalinism. The heroic defense of the Red Army will write more glorious pages in the record of struggle against world capitalism when the army is able to kick out the Stalinist bureaucrats and once again establish genuine Soviets and rank and file control.

### LONG WAR AHEAD

The military situation now shapes up with a separate peace on the eastern front as the most unlikely variant. A separate peace by complete German victory is

# Negro Rent Strikes Point Way

(Continued from page 1)

discontent began to take root. Tenants of 40 buildings in this area went on a rent strike, mainly against the Mid-City Management Corporation and refused to pay their rent until their claims are satisfied. Moving is out of the question — there is no place to move to that is any different.

This "Rent Hog" company running true to form not only has been extorting enormous rents from its rentees but has been paying its office force wages as low as \$8 a week. A strike of the office workers, instigated by the United Office and Professional Workers, now in progress has received the extraordinary cooperation of the "rent strikers".

### TENANTS GO BEYOND LEGALISTIC FIGHT

In retaliation, and in an effort to stop this growing movement, the Mid-City Agency filed suit against the Stalinist controlled National Negro Congress Tenants League (participating in the rent strike) and has tried to intimidate the tenants by issuing illegal 24 hour eviction notices, only to find that these tricks no longer work. The local Hearst papers have picked up the hue and cry and are screaming that this is the beginning of a wave of revolution.

The South Side Action Committee (whose policy has been main-

possible but most unlikely. A separate peace based on Stalinist capitulation is excluded (even if Stalinism wished for one), because Fascism must eliminate Stalinism and all other forms of social-reformism if victorious — even in a negotiated peace.

The most likely variant is the continuation of competent resistance. This will involve millions of Nazi troops through the winter, even if the Red army must still retreat many miles. The Red Army will continue the struggle of death and victory against Fascism and world capitalism.

ly confined to calling the attention of the Board of Health to some of the bad conditions) and the Tenants League still continue to fight, independently of each other, on solely legalistic grounds, but this time the tenants waited for no one. They just went ahead and struck!

## AID TO USSR

(Continued from page 2)

tain the stalemate, **but not enough to make possible a victory.** The policy of Wall Street, in particular, is to achieve a giant, all-around stalemate of Japan in China, Britain against Germany, Germany against the Soviet Union:— to wear them all out so that the U.S. can enter as the fresh dominating force.

### CONTINUE CLASS STRUGGLE

The Soviet Union should take any aid it can get, but not at the expense of the revolutionary policies which are its only real defense. We call upon the workers of the world to aid the Soviet workers in their life and death struggle. The class struggle must be intensified against the imperialists and their war. Only the defeat of world capitalism can assure the continued existence of the Soviet Union as a Workers State.

Stalinism in order to maintain its hold upon the S. U. will make the greatest concessions to the U. S. and British imperialists. Its policies play into their schemes to organize counter-revolution in the Soviet Union. The soviet masses must be awakened to the danger. Only a new revolutionary Marxian party in the Soviet Union can lead the Soviet masses in their struggle. Such a party of Bolshevism must be built immediately.

**DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION AGAINST WORLD CAPITALISM AND ITS STALINIST AND OTHER AGENTS**