Only a Government of Workers Councils Can Bring Peace and Security

May Day Manifesto

May Day 1947 will be celebrated throughout Europe with giant demonstrations and parades of the proletariat. Here in the United States however the glorious holiday of the working class will go by relatively unnoticed. In Europe and Asia hunger and privation is driving the oppressed masses to open rebellion. Class-consciousness is therefore pronounced and widespread. In its march to the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism the European proletariat is temporarily checked by the demagogy of reformism — Stalinism and Social-Democracy. But the pressure of the masses is so great that even the reformists must pay lip-service to the struggle for socialism.

Here in the United States we are still living off the rush war years and the titanic victory of American Imperialism. The world colossus stands at the pinnacle of its power. Its billions are being siphoned into the bloodstream of world economy to prop up the tottering world structure. Four billions to Britain, billions to France and Italy. Proposed loans to Greece and Turkey. Hundreds of millions to China.

COUNTER-REVOLUTION

And with these billions goes the counter-revolutionary military might of Wall Street. American bayonets stand between the German and Japanese proletariat and their aspirations for freedom and bread. American armaments are helping to snuff out the revolutionary desires of the people of Java, Indo-China, and innumerable others. The hand of Wall Street is omnipresent. It supports reaction the world over — in some places open reaction, in other places reaction with a sugar coating. American money and power stands behind the military dictatorships in Greece, Turkey and elsewhere. American money and power helps impose the bourgeois-capitalist democracies in Italy, France and elsewhere. Wall Street knows quite well how to use a so-called "democratic" government to un

Anti-Labor Drive Centers on Phone Workers

April 18, 1947. — Despite overwhelming odds, 340,000 members of the National Federation of Telephone workers, continue their strike against the biggest corporation in America, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. It is quite obvious that Tel and Tel is fronting for the whole capitalist class in its drive to smash labor unions.

The telephone workers are considered vulnerable because only 340,000 are covered by the independent federation, headed by Joseph Beirne, out of a total of 3,300,000 workers. Furthermore even those on strike are not holding their ranks too effectively. Quite a few are 'scabbing.' Wall Street knows that this is a labor weak spot, just as was last year's strike of two out of the twenty-one railroad crafts. The financiers of the country are therefore driving for the kill.

The corporation refuses to even talk about a wage increase. It is merely talking about "arbitration." So far Beirne has held up against this strategy. He insists on striking until a wage offer is granted.

OUTLAW STRIKES

Allied with Tel and Tel are the state and federal governments. Virginia and Indiana are enforcing vicious laws outlawing strikes on public utilities. In New Jersey the courageous phone workers have refused to abide by a law outlawing their strike and imposing fines of $250

PITTY THE POOR RICH!

A compilation of 840 companies by the National City Bank of New York shows that they made 37% more profits in 1946 than in 1945. Even a greater increase in profits for 1947 was expected. In fact, the Department of Commerce estimates that 1947's first quarter net profits for U. S. industry were at the rate of $15 billion, 25% over 1946.
MAY DAY MANIFESTO

(Continued from Page 1)

dermine and canalize the revolutionary will of the oppressed. It knows, too, however, how to use open reaction.

The might of American imperialism today is the might of world counter-revolution. Humanity is deified and the power of the Wall Street state regime is totally destroyed and the banner of a Red America flies over Washington! The self-assertion of American democracy is the spearhead of the coming new fascist reaction. It is paving the way for it internally and externally. It is preparing to shackle the world with an open escritoire of “fights” are all old world that now pays homage to the Stalinist regime in the Soviet Union. For, along with the struggle against the oppressed elsewhere, the United States is preparing to settle accounts with the degenerated workers State in Russia. Today the struggle takes on the form of diplomatic jockeying, power politics and all kinds of help to establish the new Stalinism. Amongst this covert struggle will take on open forms.

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations today is merely an instrument in this world struggle, an instrument of American foreign policy over the world, an instrument for unifying the struggle of Wall Street against the Soviet Union and the world’s oppressed. The Stalinist participation in this League of Budapest is another shameful betrayal of the proletariat. It helps to further break down the revolutionary will of the working classes. The United Nations is simply the “people under capitalism”. It is part of an insidious position of Stalinism for maintaining the world status quo. Despite its “militant” words Stalinism has open capitulation to the demand of world capitalism and supports the present class relations in all sections of the world. Stalinist parties everywhere openly defend private property, openly refuse to the masses to live in the confines of capitalist “law and order”. It fights over tactics, capitulates on major principles.

The great problem of our times is — as in Lenin’s day — the question of capitalist democracy. Support of “left” capitalist governments and parties today is the dividing line between opportunism and Marxism. We rejet the left support given to capitalism by world Trotskyism and by other centrist organizations. We reject left-popular frontism (Stalinist-Socialist governments), Labor Partyism, and support of capitalist “Workers and Farmers Governments”.

INDEPENDENT ACTION

The road to freedom and liberation, the road to peace and plenty, is one of independent working class action. No truck with capitalist third parties: no truck with reformism, either “partial”, support or “complete” support. Momentarily the American colossal has held up the lifeline revolution of depression, however, is impending here in the United States. The “recession” freely predicted by American economists will eventually take on the form of a full-fledged crisis and depression. The working class will — opportunity of capitalist crisis will attempt to lure us away from our struggles by a concerted drive for war against the Soviet Union. The shadows of that future war already darken our horizon. The international counter-Revolution of the Stalinists, of anti-labor legislation, of wage cutting, of unemployment.

Humanity has already paid in oceans of blood for the failure of the working class to obviate the lessons of 1914-18. The leadership of the oppressed aided the oppressors in the second war and continues to aid the debouched system of capitalist brigandage. A new leadership is obviously necessary. The debacle of the second war was the harbinger of the struggles of the third war unless a new Party of Marxism is forged in the coming lifetime, unless a vanguard of the class appears with the lessons of 1914-18 clearly learned, unless a program of anti-capitalism, pro-communism is proclaimed throughout the world.

MARXIAN PARTY

Once again, still again, the Party of Marxism in the United States and upon the faces of its leaders is the crying need of our times. To its organization the Revolutionary Workers League, U. S. dedicates itself anew on this May Day 1947.

FOR THE WORLD PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION.

FOR FREEDOM FOR ALL COLONIAL PEOPLES INCLUDING PUERTO RICO, VIRGIN ISLANDS, THE PACIFIC BASSES AND OTHER AMERICAN POSSESSIONS.

END JIM-CROW, ANTI-SEMITISM AND OTHER FORMS OF OPPRESSION.

FOR A NEW MARXIAN PARTY IN THE U. S.

DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION DESPITE AND AGAINST STALINISM.

FIGHT FASCISM BY FIGHTING CAPITALISM.

FOR A WORKER’S COUNCIL GOVERNMENT.

PHONE STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1)

to $500 for each day of strike. Union officials correctly called this a fascist measure. As we go to press three union leaders are out on bail awaiting trial for this horrific “crime” of fighting for higher wages.

Secretary of Labor Willkie is preparing the groundwork for an all-out strike-breaking effort by the government. With some slight modifications of the company plan, he proposed that both the union and management agree to arbitration. The press reported that both parties turned this proposal down. But Walter Gifford speaking at a stockholder’s meeting Wednesday, stated that they “approve his proposal on a general basis”, but only want a few modifications. Willkie wants to back into its OWN proposal gradually and continue the fiction that the government is impartial.

There can be no doubt that the government will try to ram the company proposal of arbitration down the throats of the strikers. This is the classic formula of strike-breaking, since everyone knows that the phone workers will be swindled by so-called “impartial” arbitrators.

NO LABOR UNIY

One of the most unfortunate features of the phone strike is the apathy of the rest of the labor movement. Phil Murray, speaking for the CIO, poured forth a few platonic words of sympathy and solidarity with the strikers. The AFL big shots haven’t even done that much. The labor unions of capitalism have refused to come to the aid of the strikers. They continue to permit work in various other T&O and T&O subsidiaries, and in the telegraph offices — which is scooping up on the strike. Instead of making this an all-out battle for the labor unions, the capital is making it for the employing class. The leaders of labor are permitting the strategy of “divide and rule” to be effective.

The phone strike must not be ended until the poorly paid phone workers win a complete victory. Otherwise millions of others will go down to defeat. The phone strike can be the beginning of a master blow against reaction if it is spread. It will be a major defeat if it is kept isolated.

Spread the strike, shut down Western Union and the special services of the newspapers.
The Truman Doctrine and Fascism

Truman’s “policy” making speech of giving aid to those “fighting communism” served notice that world fascism is not dead; to the contrary that it has been given a new lease on life.

Speaking in the name of “democracy” and against “totalitarianism” to the “liberty loving people of the world”, the speech was acclaimed — not by the courageous Greek partisans who fight for liberty in reality or the Spanish Republicans who longed for a Francoist prisons but precisely by their enemies and oppressors: King George, the Hitler collaborator, and Franco, the Spanish butcher and murderer of Spanish working class children.

Great indeed was the rejoicing in the Capitalist press where “liberal” and “conservative” (openly reactionary) met on common ground to praise Truman’s support of black fascist reaction and to heap insults on the workers, poor oppressed as “subversives” and “criminals”!

Greater yet was the rejoicing in the Halls of the Capitalist Congress where the “representatives” of the “peepul” forgot party lines, with Democrats and Republicans alike climbing on the Truman band wagon. Even Taft and Vandenberg forgot for once the “mandate” of last November and embraced with open arms Truman and his program for the rejuvenation of world fascism. The Stalinist newspaper Investigate makes a pitiful attempt to convince its readers that there is an “opposition” in the ranks of American Imperialism by citing the fact that 13 Congressmen had been “disapproved” with the Truman speech. Thirteen out of more than five hundred! Perhaps the Stalinists will find out one day, bourgeois “ideology” there is a division of labor according to which each one does his share.

Let it be noted that those who praise Truman today are the ones who praised Hitler only yesterday. It is no accident that King George the friend and collaborator of Hitler and Franco the friend and stooge of Il Duce are today the friends of Truman and loath to utter upon him their unqualified praise.

Nor is it an accident that those Congressmen who are the most enthusiastic in their support of Truman and the “new” (?) foreign policy of American Imperialism are those who are the most active labor busters, the loudest in their denunciation of the union, of the closed shop, and the right to strike. American Imperialism has embarked on a program of imperialist expansion that puts in the shade all previous efforts. No longer can it conceal its aims behind the slogans of “Big Brother” or “Good Neighbor” but must openly declare itself for what it is. For this it requires fascist repression in its spheres of trade and influence. For this it needs a cowed and hamstrung working class at home. The support of the fascist governments abroad and of labor repression at home are pieces of the same cloth. One is not possible without the other.

World fascism is on the march again after the most devastating war in all history for its purpose is to continue — and it cannot be stopped by a “write-a-letter-to-your-Congressman” campaign or the electoral victory of a Labor Party (no matter how “independent”) in any of the fascist states. Fascism or reformism which after all leave the capitalist class as the ruling class through the preservation of the Capitalist property relation, otherwise referred to (falsely) as “free enterprise”. Escape from fascism is possible only on the Leninist program of the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and the socialist reorganization of society. This is the fundamental fact that must be made clear to the American and international working class.

Fascism is the inevitable result of the ripening of the contradictions inherent in the very nature of Capitalism: to counterpose “democracy” to fascism is like counterpoising the female viper to her young. For “democracy” too is one of the forms of capitalist class rule — the “velvet glove” form that conceals for a time the malicious fist of the capitalist class dictatorship underneath. Fascism is the open naked dictatorship of capitalism without its “democratic” and parliamentary trappings. Without the revolutionary intervention of the working class, fascism will follow on the heels of impending capitalist crises like night follows day. Capitalist “democracy” is the mother of fascism. Only proletarian revolution can prevent fascism. Such must be our answer to Truman and his masters and their plans for the fascistization of world labor.

MURDER IN CENTRALIA

The Capitalist class and their newspaper hucksters will have to cook up a bigger stiller and richer hash than Hitler to erase from the minds of America’s workers the tragedy of the Centralia miners. However it would be well to remember that despite the sensational articles flooding the papers, which would give the impression that explosions are unique in the annals of the industry. Such explosions, injuries, hazards are part of the hum drum life of the miners. In 1942, 1,440 miners were killed and 70,500 injured. Former Secretary of Interior, Ickes, in taking over custodianship of the mines for the U. S. Gov’t said, “Since Pearl Harbor, more men have been killed and injured in the coal mines of the U. S. than have been by all branches of the armed forces. The cause of many mine explosions should certainly be no mystery. Any textbook on organic chemistry provides the information that methane (CH4) is a product of the decomposition of organic matter (coal) in the mines. Methane is inflammable, odorless and tasteless—and deadly. With the increased use of electrical equipment (which isn’t inspected over-zealously) has grown the increased hazard of explosions. Sparks given off from overhead tracks of the electrically driven cars often set off explosions which blow the miners into charred bits.

Mr. Eugene McMullin, president of the Union Pacific Coal Company as if in anticipation of the Centralia disaster said in 1941: “Time after time the industry gets a fresh black eye out of a mine explosion, with all the gruesome details played up in the newspapers. Do these tragedies bring about better ventilation, rock dusting, water on cutters bars, sprinkling dust at the source and on roadways and the other proved preventative we know about? Such unfortunately is not the case: we clean up the mine, pay the workman’s compensation and get back on production”. This is the callous but frank admission of one of the coal bosses that the intermittent disasters in which miners are killed (murdered would be more accurate) are merely episodes which temporarily interrupt the profits of the coal operators.

The lessons of Centralia are plain for those who wish to see. The capitalistists and their Gov. Greens, Scalonlons, Medills, Krugs and John L. Lewis have a hearty contempt for the working class. After all we are just a bunch of dumb hunkies to be exploited in peace and used as cannon fodder in war. The Senate investigating committee will undoubtedly while

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C O R R E C T I O N
The opening sentence of the article “Ruth Fischer, Stooge-lion”, in a recent issue of the FIGHTING WORKER can be interpreted to mean that anyone with a false position on the character of the Soviet Union must inevitably degenerate into a stooge-lion. The ambiguity of the sentence is unfortunate. Of course, the Revolutionary Workers League has no such position.

In the case of Ruth Fischer her lapsed attitude toward Russia and Stalinism has led logically to this role of informer. In other cases such behavior is not inevitable.

RWL CONVENTION
The 9th Convention of the Revolutionary Workers League was held in Chicago over the week-end of March 26th and 29th. Delegates from a number of cities went over the record of our last year’s activity and laid plans for the future. Documents of the convention will be published in future issues of INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE FIGHTING WORKER $1.00 PER YEAR
G. B. Strike Ends Quickly as AFL Support Fizzles

Kaited in the back by forces within the labor movement, the Goldblatt department store workers in Chicago, took a major set-back in their recent one-day strike in the ten department stores of the big retail concern. The heads of the AFL Teamsters that in Washington and Chicago, instead of showing real class solidarity with the white collar workers who faced discharge, intimidation, and all kinds of terror, used the same excuse that there was too much "heat" on them to pull out from under the strike. The leaders of the two striking Unions, Local 291 of the AFL Building Service International, and Local 1515 of the Retail Clerks International, AFL, were thus left high and dry.

The one-day strike had its inception in the year-old organization campaign of Local 291 at Goldblatt's. After four or five months, Local 1515 entered the drive and the two Unions fought each other viciously. While this battle continued the Company made hay. It fired dozens of employees for union activity and it put the skids under any National Labor Relations Board action by playing on the jurisdictional dispute.

POSTPONE STRIKE

Local 291, in desperation, finally decided to strike in a last attempt to defeat its Union on State Street — the Chicago department store center. On the eve of the strike, however, a pact was arrived at between the two contending groups.

The strike was postponed one day at the request of the Chicago Federation of Labor, which attempted to get the Goldblatt company to agree to a Labor Board election. This effort at mediation, however, failed.

On March 27th the AFL Joint Department Store Committee (composed of representatives of both Unions) made hundreds of telephone calls to its members informing them of the strike. The whole machinery was in operation. At 2 A. M. however, 2 1/2 hours before it was to begin — the AFL Teamsters informed the strike committee that the strikers would be off for 48 hours, while it attempted to mediate.

Some members of the top strike committee at first opposed this request, but when Local 1515 leaders refused to support them the Teamster support became evident that the strike would be too disorganized, since Local 1515 people were covering the warehouses and 6 of the stores.

The efforts of the Teamsters to mediate, however, ended in failure. The Company continued to stall. On Monday March 31st, therefore, the strike began as scheduled. In most of the stores hundreds of workers stayed home. Accurate registration of the strikers was impossible but somewhere between 800 to 1400 workers refused to work. The pickets were set for 48 hours, while it attempted to mediate. Some members of the top strike committee at first opposed this request, but when Local 1515 leaders refused to support them the Teamster support became evident that the strike would be too disorganized, since Local 1515 people were covering the warehouses and 6 of the stores.

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You Don't Get Pork Chops from Congress

Railroad workers, like all other workers, are fed the defunctive line of gaining better conditions by "looking toward Washington" to "their" Senators and Congressmen. They are being told today to write letters and postcards to the boys on Capitol Hill to save the Crossover Bill and its amendments. The railroad Union, which has no real control over the government, is trying to mediate and influence the government and that any hope of getting anything from Washington is a pipe-dream.

The miners' case is a good example of how the machinery of government works only to safeguard the profits of the coal barons. It took the government only a few days to put a stop to the workers a few years ago. The government is the only thing that can break the strike. But the government has done nothing substantial for years to protect the lives of the men against the terrible hazards in the coal mines. The government has federal mine inspectors and the states have district inspectors, but only after 111 men in Centralia, Pa. This is what the railroad workers don't get their share of the cake. They want a substantial raise to cover the boost in the cost of living and more. The tax mail to Washington will solve nothing.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

1. Capitalism cannot be reformed. The profit system can only bring more misery, war and depression.

2. We are therefore opposed to all reformist parties, including the Labor Party, which strive merely to patch up the present capitalist system.

3. We are for independent working class action on all fronts, starting from strike action at the point of production and leading up to the revolutionary destruction of capitalism.

4. We are for full equality for all oppressed minorities, for the right of self-determination for all peoples.

5. We defend the Soviet Union, Reestablish a Mexican Party, Safeguard Trade Unions and Armed Workers Militias to accomplish the Political Revolution against the Stalinist bureaucracy. Extend the October Revolution throughout the world.

6. For a Revolutionary Marxist Party in the United States and a New Fourth Communist International on a world scale.

7. For the establishment of workers control of production for use under a workers council government.

two leaflets viciously attacking the Unions and disputing the claim of victory. Both leaflets hurt.

NO SOLIDARITY

The Goldblatt strike was sabotaged because the Labor bigshots refused to give these workers any real help. They claimed that there was too much political pressure from Washington and elsewhere, that the anti-labor bills were pending, etc. Actually, however, they played into the hands of reaction by permitting the Company to nearly double its sword. The Teamsters leaders themselves and their Unions will eventually suffer as a result of this refusal to solidarize themselves with the Goldblatt workers. Unfortunately the G. B. employees and their Unions were never able to build up rank and file participation in the Union. Only a few dozen ever came to meetings. They paid the price of production for use under a workers council government.