

## Questions and Answers

*(The following is the fifth of a series of questions and answers on the world economic crisis, unemployment, and the tasks of the revolutionary trade unions, issued by the Red International of Labor Unions.—Editor)*

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**Question 5.** What prospects does the unemployed movement hold out for us? Is there any reason to believe that the movement will grow and become more intensive or will there be a gradual dying down of the movement?

The reply to this question is closely bound up with the answer to the second question on the development of the economic crisis. We came to the conclusion that the crisis was only beginning and that it would become deeper still and more widespread. We have every reason to believe that the unemployed workers' movement will develop on the same lines. As the economic crisis extends throughout the world, the army of unemployed will inevitably grow, for increasingly larger sections of the workers will be thrown idle to swell its ranks.

The unemployed movement is not only significant, socially and politically, but in the present stage of the capitalist crisis, it raises the question of the very existence of the capitalist system. It is becoming clear even to the most backward sections of the workers that a social system that dooms millions upon millions of people to starvation—essential for

the very continuation of the system—must be overthrown.

It is becoming more and more plain to the workers at large that only a social revolution can solve the problem of unemployment. And this brings the workers inevitably face to face with the problem of overthrowing the bourgeoisie and seizing the power.

If the question is raised in this fashion, it is plain that the present movement among the unemployed menaces the very existence of the bourgeoisie. And the bourgeoisie well understand that for them it is a question of life and death as to who is going to control the movement.

If the movement is controlled by the revolutionary elements, then bourgeois domination will be overthrown for good and all and the workers will take over the power. If, on the other hand, the bourgeoisie are able to divide the unemployed workers' movement, deprive it of a revolutionary ideology and extend their own influence over the movement, then the capitalist system will continue for some while longer.

Well realising their class interests, the bourgeoisie, are consequently doing their best to get control of the unemployed workers' movement. In various parts of the world we see the fascist organizations today guiding the dissatisfaction of the unemployed in the channels of fascism and bourgeois reaction.

All steps are being taken nowadays to line up a part of the unemployed in the scab and fascist organizations, the aim being to use

...es, most of them slowed down to the limit or shut down completely, only proves to what extent the yellow flunkies of the bosses have prostituted themselves to capitalism in their over-anxiousness to serve the capitalist master.

### No Exception to General Crisis.

The Seaman Body plant normally employs about 6,000 workers, now hardly a thousand are working. About 3,000 workers have been laid off in the International Harvester Co.; about 2,000 in A. O. Smith; the Eline factories are completely shut down; the Nash plant is practically shut down; Norberg laid off the entire night shift, about a thousand men are out of work; the Railroad Shops have laid off a thousand men; the Chain and Belt likewise,

this section of the unemployed to counter all the other unemployed workers and all in employment.

In the meantime all the fascists, no matter what their color, are setting the workers in employment against the unemployed, the unemployed against those in employment, endeavoring to divide the ranks of the working class, to sow dissension and differences among the working class, keeping the workers scattered and divided.

The danger of fascism developing in certain sections of the unemployed workers' movement is very serious and we must reckon with this possibility. Hence it is vital that we struggle with every means in our power against fascism and its attempts to get control of the unemployed movement and to use it as a weapon to further its own policy.