



# WORKERS' WAGE

A Paper Defending the Interests of the Workers and Farmers

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## Cuba in Turmoil

by Ellen Ward

### The Background

Cuba, the "Queen" of the Caribbean, is the largest island of the West Indies, with a population of three and a half million spread over a territory only a little smaller than our own state of Pennsylvania. It lies 100 miles from Key West, Florida, a distance bridged in a few hours by boat and in a little over an hour by airplane.

Cuba is famous for its luxurious tropical beauty, for its lavish natural gifts. The great heat and humidity produce a vegetation of rare richness, sufficient to nourish and sustain at least three times its present population—if man produced for use. It has 13,000,000 acres of uncleared primeval forest—enough to satisfy each land-hungry peon.

### Cuba An Agricultural Country

Cuba lives by agriculture. Its dominant crop is sugar—over eighty percent of the value of her annual produce. Tobacco raising and cigar manufacturing come next. So good and profitable have we found this fair land that "we" have invested to date over one-and-a-half billion dollars in Cuban sugar, tobacco, railroads, public utilities, real estate, merchandising and banking.

In addition to our economic interest we have a very vital political interest in Cuba. Its dominant position in the Caribbean and its closeness to the Panama Canal make the island a strategic point in the continental defense of the United States. Long before the end of the 19th century we had fixed our covetous eyes upon that "Pearl of the Antilles."

In 1898 we snatched Cuba from Spain because it fitted into our dream of Empire. We were "liberating" the Cuban people from the "tyranny" of Spain and, to foster the illusion of freedom, we permitted the Cuban people to draw up a constitution modelled on our own and to call their land a Republic. But lest they take that illusion too seriously we told them that they had to accept the Platt Amendment along with the Republic—that in fact they couldn't have the one without the other.

Stripped of its extremely thin diplomatic veneer, the Platt amendment tells the Cuban people that: 1. They can make no treaties with foreign countries without our consent. 2. They can borrow money from no one without our consent. 3. They must grant us such territory as we desire for naval bases and for coaling stations. 4. That we have the right of armed intervention whenever we deem it necessary.

The words "Republic of Cuba" remained a hollow-sounding name but the Platt amendment became a most effective instrument in our rule of Cuba. We moved into the island with an alacrity and a hunger that quickly monopolised all sources of wealth. Our investors and financiers instituted a system of oppression and exploitation which for calculating brutishness

won the envy of competing imperialists the world over.

Sugar yielded the greatest profits so we made Cuba into a one crop country. We imported Negroes from Jamaica to compete against Cuban peons and to force their miserable wages below the starvation level. Each year the end of June brings the end of the grinding season in sugar. Thousands upon thousands are then dropped from the payroll. These workers face unemployment and starvation for the remainder of

### EDITORIAL ON GERMANY SEE PAGE 8

Due to lack of space we were forced to omit a number of articles

each year. Only a very small number is kept on by the sugar mill during the "dead season" for the cultivation of the new crop—and periodically hunger stalks through the land. Hunger on the one hand and swollen profits on the other. Hunger for the Cuban people and profits for the American (Continued on Page 3)

## Big Struggles Loom

Constantly longer becomes the list of cities in which working class blood has been shed. To Toledo, New Orleans and Minneapolis must be added San Francisco and Portland. Determined to beat back the rising tide of resentment against five years of hunger and misery, the employing class is resorting to war measures—tear gas, vomit gas and bullets. The order to the National Guardsmen, in San Francisco was "Shoot To Kill!"

Yet, the workers stand firm.

The San Francisco and Portland strikes of longshoremen have been strengthened by the walkout of 4,000 teamsters in San Francisco, who struck despite all coercion by the local Labor Board. Pacific coast commerce is completely tied up and the movement for a general strike is still gathering momentum. Also in Minneapolis and St. Paul strike sentiment among the teamsters is running high. The gains, supposedly won, thru the May settlement of the Minneapolis strike, are still in the files of the Labor Board. The city fathers have announced that martial law will be declared, if another strike occurs. Instead of improved conditions the workers are again to receive hot lead and cold steel.

## C.P.O. National Committee In Session

On June 30th and July 1st, about 50 comrades from all over the country gathered together at the National Plenum of the C.P.O. for the purpose of evaluating the work of the group, since the 4th National Convention. These 6 months have seen important events in the labor movement, in the light of which to test the correctness of the general line of the group. Districts represented outside of N. Y. were Paterson, Boston, Albany-Troy, Hartford, Philadelphia, Ft. Wayne, Chicago, Detroit, Nebraska, Montreal, Toronto.

The Plenum was opened with the reading of letters from Austria and Germany. The letter from Austria noted the developing influence of the IGO there. That from Germany described the increasing terror against our German comrades, falling especially hard against the Leipzig district where the leading comrade was murdered by the hell hounds of Fascism. The plenum voted the immediate sending of \$250.00 as an expression of Communist solidarity with our German comrades in their difficult underground work in Germany.

Comrade Lovestone then reported on the world economic and political situation. He stressed the fact that the general decay of world capitalism persists in spite of a temporary upturn in production which was neither general for all countries or all industries and which did not substantially affect world unemployment which still persists on a mass scale. The bitter conflicts for markets continue and around them the war danger is rooted more sharply than ever, the armament race assuming ever more amazing speed. On the other hand, the Soviet Union continues its building of socialism, and continues its vigorous peace policy. The international class struggles continue to sharpen. The drive toward Fascist reaction increases (Latvia and Bulgaria) arousing the increased resistance of the working class (France, Spain) while on the other hand, definite radicalization can be noted (U.S., England). In this sharp struggle the CI continues its ultra-left sectarian line (united front policy—theory of social fas-

cism), inevitably resulting in its inability to capitalize adequately the favorable objective situations existing in Austria, England and the U.S. The bankruptcy of the reformist principles of the Second International has been confirmed by all recent world events, the Austrian situation giving complete and decisive proof.

The IGO the next morning from the crisis affecting the world labor movement generally (the crisis in relations between it and the Alsatian section) has considerably improved situations to record in Germany and the U.S., progress in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark and India as well as forging a possible base in England.

On the situation in the U.S.A. Lovestone stressed that in spite of the continued (tho lessened) personal popularity of President Roosevelt disillusionment with NRA develops apace as evidenced by the continued wave of militant strikes (Toledo, Minneapolis, Dock Workers) and the continued rumblings in steel, auto, textile, etc. The official CP because of its continued sectarian line is completely isolated and plays no part whatsoever in these developing strike struggles. The crisis in the TUUL is growing ever sharper it having lost in the recent period some more of the few remaining bases (mining, auto, needle) and its bankruptcy (Continued on Page 2)

## Mass Arrests in Germany

### C.P.G.-O LEADER MURDERED

Recent reports from Germany indicate that new, widespread arrests of communists are taking place. The letter below shows what awaits many of them.

—Editor.

Hitler fascism has added another crime to its long list of savage deeds. During the month of May a number of workers, both men and women, were arrested and accused of being members of the CPG-O. Among these was Comrade Heinrich Plaas who was taken to police headquarters in Leipzig.

On May 28th Plaas' wife went to inquire the fate of her husband. She was not allowed to see him. She went again that same evening. Now she was shown a photograph and asked whether it was that of her husband. When she recognized his picture she was told that he had committed suicide. She was not allowed to see the dead body of her husband. Nor was she allowed to see him prior to cremation.

Meanwhile, however, the secret of this sudden death has leaked out. Comrade Plaas was subjected to the most brutal maltreatment during the police examination, in an attempt to wrest from him the names of other comrades. Comrade Plaas

remained firm. He was actually beaten to death.

The dead body of the murdered comrade was kept in a "No Admittance" room of police headquarters on Monday, May 28th. Our keyman could only see the face of the dead comrade which was completely covered with blue and brown spots, the neck was made invisible by a stiff collar. Because of these external marks of the bestial murder, the widow of the comrade was not permitted to see him.

Comrade Heinrich Plaas was an untiring, loyal comrade ready to die for the cause. In the CPG he had been an active functionary and he has constantly fought for the aims of the CPG-O from its inception. Comrade Plaas is survived by his wife and two children aged 9 mos. and 4 years respectively.

The loss of comrade Plaas is a severe blow to the Leipzig district of the CPGO, of which he was organizer.

As an expression of our solidarity with our fighting German comrade the National Committee of the CPO has decided to raise a fund of \$250, in order to help strengthen their work.

We appeal to all units and to all friends and sympathisers to send their contributions to this fund.

The heroic struggles in the mid-west and the west are but the forerunners of still greater battles to come, for they are bound to exert a powerful influence upon the workers in the automobile, steel and other industries.

The "settlements" in the auto and steel industries merely postponed the reckoning. Such cases as the refusal of the Republic Steel Corporation to renew its agreement with the Amalgamated Ass'n; the cynical abrogation of the most elementary rights of labor by Weirton Steel; the warrants of arrest, issued on demand of Weirton Steel, of all officers of the Blue Eagle Lodge of the Amalgamated Association—all these are but accumulations of explosives which, when set off, will shake these giant trusts to their very foundation.

In increasing number, workers are beginning to see thru the sham of this "cure-all"—the NRA. The recent bitterly fought strikes have dimmed the halo of liberalism—with which liberals and socialists so confidently surrounded Roosevelt. The New Deal government is emerging more and more openly as the old strike-breaking instrument of capitalism. The illusions of the masses are being dissolved in the very blood, shed during the recent strikes.

### NIGHT OF NIGHTS! PARTY AND DANCE

A moonlight dance and farewell party for the students of the Communist Party USA (Opposition) National Training School and national organizers going into the field, will be held on Sunday, July 22nd, at the Lido Roof Gardens, 160 West 146th Street, (Near Lenox Avenue).

Unique features? — We'll say! For 35 puny pennies, comrades and friends, you dance in the delightful cool of Harlem's pet roof garden to the hot and tuneful music of an ace Negro jazz band. For the very same pennies you will be fed.

But above all you can meet our comrades from all sections of the nation and inspire our organizers to greater and more successful effort.

**PICNIC - Sunday, August 5, 1934**

**ULMER PARK MUSIC HALL**  
Foot of 25th Avenue., Brooklyn, N. Y.







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## The Real Trend in Germany

IN the course of its efforts to perpetuate its class rule, the bourgeoisie resort to sundry methods, to various forms of capitalist dictatorship. When capitalism is in decay, when the toiling masses are desperate, when the parliamentary fabric has been worn threadbare, and the actual or potential menace of the revolutionary proletariat is serious, the owning class resorts to a brutal, open but indirect dictatorship. This is Fascism. Both in Italy and Germany the owning class has been compelled by socio-economic conditions to resort to rule thru one party (Fascist) having a monopoly of the state apparatus which is supplemented by special anti-proletarian bands of select gangsters and armed mercenaries. No form of political, trade union, or cultural organization is permitted to the workers who are made to bear a still greater portion of the burdens of the acute crisis. In short, the capitalists turn to the Fascist Party as their last hope for a solution of the plaguing contradictions of the capitalist system.

For some time, Italian developments, and recently, particularly events in Germany, have shown that precisely this Fascist Party which was set up to solve all capitalist contradictions is not only unable to do so but is inevitably pursuing a policy which only aggravates them. In fact, the Fascist Party, the white hope of rotting capitalism, is itself a monstrous contradiction, a sort of funnel thru which all capitalist antagonisms seek to pour but only clog to become really only the concentration or focal point in the sewer of capitalist contradictions. In an attempt to deny and crush the class struggle, it vainly seeks to harness conflicting class forces pulling in opposite directions. Desperately trying to bring "order" and rejuvenation into capitalist economy, Fascism reverts to brute force as the decisive factor in the economic process, to backward methods which capitalism has either long outlived or superseded. Seeking to preserve the fiction of national honor, prestige, unity and interests, it drives headlong to wars which destroy the physical and economic foundations of the nation. Finally, battling to maintain capitalism solely thru savage force, it leaves open, without question, but one solution to the proletariat—armed force against the bourgeoisie, their lackeys, and the whole system.

It is in the development and maturing of the above social and economic process, the class expression of these basic forces, that an explanation and an understanding of the present complicated German events is to be found. It is the movement of classes, the trend of class forces, and not the intriguing of marionette Cabinet ministers, not the wish-thinking of neurotic liberal journalists, nor the sterile hopes of parlor or talk-revolutionists fatigued by their exciting hopes and dreams, which is decisive in these tense and crowded hours in the life of the German people.

Undoubtedly, Nazi Germany is in a desperate crisis. Its immediate economic outlook is anything but bright. Its plight, acute enough because of the world crisis, because of its own anaemic economic constitution, has been further aggravated by a number of its own policies, remedies, and cure-alls. With the worsening of the economic situation the huge army of Storm Troopers (S. A.) set up to maintain the Fascist regime becomes a crushing burden on the Fascist system itself. Within the S.A. the lower middle class and proletarian forces begin to chafe with disappointment, disillusionment, and distrust. As the economic difficulties multiply, the condition of the lower middle class and working class tends to become unbearable. Despair rises. The myth of Fascist invincibility begins to vanish. Yesterday's source of strength (Storm Troopers) become today's source of infection. The Nazi regime is unable to meet the heavy cost of the maintenance of its huge private army. From reduction of the S.A. stipends, Der Fuehrer travels inexorably to a reduction of the S. A. army itself. Personal and clique jealousies flourish in such a situation and atmosphere. The political friends of the night become the assassins of the dawn. In the flotsam and jetsam of capitalist decay, Nazi morbidity and degeneracy—mobilized to save and revive the dying social order—come to the fore, no longer are concealable. The Junker class and their monarchist showmen see their hopes revived. Even some industrialists, disappointed by the prospects of shrinking dividends and frightened by the menace of falling profits, are on the alert for something new and different to stave off currency collapse and total economic paralysis.

This is Germany today. We warn against the workers entertaining any illusions that the end of Hitlerism is at hand because Hitler has shot Roehm yesterday and may shoot Goering tomorrow. We warn against illusions that even the possibility of Goering's shooting Hitler will prove the undoing of Fascism and the beginning of the victory to socialism. We warn against the illusion that von Papen's coming to life or Hindenburg's going to death will launch the proletarian victorious onmarch or the overthrow of Fascism. We are in the midst of a situation in which class relations are decisive and not clique quarrels, personal jealousies, individual corruption or monarchist ambitions. Only the working class, following the principles of Communism and led by a Communist Party with sound tactics, can exterminate Fascism. At this moment we must frankly say that the revolutionary proletarian forces in Germany are still too weak to perform this very urgent and hoped-for task. There is no question that the grave economic crisis facilitates the revolutionary work in underground Germany today. No doubt, the explosion within the Nazi party has not only served to wipe out the lure of Fascism in Germany and elsewhere, to an appreciable measure, but has also positively aided the Communist cause in the Third Reich.

What is happening now in Germany has, in essence, happened in Italy in the first stages of the Mussolini regime. Except, that what it took Italy years, it takes Germany months to go through. The Storm Troop army must be reduced. It must be purged of those forces who took seriously Hitler's demagogic promises. The proletarian

## Trade Union Notes

by G. F. M.

### Hartford "Slaves" The Trade Union Problem

In these days of stress and strain in the trade union movement, there appear from time to time unique plans for leading the working people out of the muddle they find themselves in today. We take up now the plan of a native son of Hartford, a plan being hailed in the local press as revolutionary both in organization form and in its philosophy.

The proponent of the plan, a certain La Vista, was the leader of the Pratt and Whitney strike. He it was who took the workers out of the A. F. of L. because it was too conservative. The same La Vista then set up fraternal relations with the TUUL and called in the I.L.D. to handle defense work. So close was the cooperation between the CP and this La Vista that he even appeared at a CP mass meeting in St. Nicholas Arena to appeal for support for the strikers. In view of this relationship it is rather interesting that the CP has no comment to make on the La Vista plan.

### Industrial Form As The Basic Structure

There is little fault to find with the organizational scheme for trade union organization. It is neither new nor original. It calls for the organization of the workers in Connecticut into industrial unions. These are to be coordinated by a "Worker's Council" consisting of one from each industrial union.

### Class-Collaboration The Philosophy Proposed

The relation between this "Worker's Council" and the employers is to be one of friendliest cooperation. It would "meet with the employer, go over his books, and make its demands high or low as the employer made big or little profits." No consideration whatever is to be given to prevailing wage rates and decent living levels, it is stated. The sole consideration in determining wage demands would be "the capacity of the employer to pay." Different wage scales in different plants of the same industry is provided for since the workers would be "cooperating with the small profit plants by reducing its demands."

### Paging Mr. Green.

Little need be said here of the basic fallacies of this philosophy—a philosophy developed and glorified by Mr. William Green, under the euphonious name of the higher strategy of labor, during the height of "prosperity". In actual practice all such proposals make unionism—whether craft or industrial—impotent and chains the workers to the profit chariot of the industrialists. Economically it spells starvation for the workers because wage levels, in all cases, would sink to the level of the least productive unit in the industry.

The scheme, it must be emphasized is not new. What is new is the combination of a progressive form of trade unionism with a most reactionary and discredited trade union philosophy.

An additional lesson to be learned from this plan is that the existence of a union independent of the A. F. of L. is not necessarily an indication of its radical character. This is something which the C.P. and the T.U.U.L. have still to learn.

### A Perplexing Canadian Problem

A Canadian worker writes in to inform us that he can't for the life of him understand why there is so much confusion here in the U.S.A. over the question of which

trade union center revolutionary workers should be in. Can there be any question, he asks, when there is really only one center—the A. F. of L.? If you want a difficult nut to crack look at the Canadian trade union movement, says our correspondent.

### A Divided Labor Movement

So we look at the trade union movement in Canada and find, in truth, a most difficult situation. The quarter million or so organized trade unionists are divided among three distinct trade union centers, among which rivalry and bitter hatred reaches the level of open scabbery. The first and strongest of these centers is the A. F. of L. with a membership of over 100,000. Next in strength comes the All Canadian Congress of Labor with a membership of about 50,000. The last of them is the Catholic Syndicates (confined primarily to the province of Quebec) with a membership of about 25,000. To complete the picture we must mention the Railroad Brotherhoods, independent of all centers, but affiliated to the Railroad Brotherhoods in the U.S.A. and of course the Worker's Unity League of Canada (little brother of our own T.U.U.L.)

### Political Complexion Of Canada's Unionism

Outside of the CP-controlled Workers Unity League, there is little to choose between them, in the sense of progressive trade unionism. The A. F. of L. trade unions in Canada are in no way different from those in the U. S. The only difference between the A.C.C. of L. and the A.F.L. is over the independence of Canada's trade union movement from that of the U. S. The Catholic Syndicates do appear to have basic differences with both. Where the other centers, the reformist and reactionary in leadership, do participate in economic struggles and not infrequently, in quite militant struggles, the Catholic unions are opposed to the strike as a weapon and openly resist every effort at economic struggle. These unions, priest ridden and under church control, are mutual aid societies rather than economic organizations of the workers. In a number of recent struggles, Catholic workers had to break with their union and align themselves with either of the other centers in order to engage in strikes for the improvement of their conditions.

In industries where more than one of these centers have a foothold disastrous results ensue. Take for instance the recent strike of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union in Toronto. The A.C.C. of L. immediately set up a competing union and filled the shops with their own members. Indeed, not an encouraging situation for the Canadian trade unionists.

### What's To Be Done?

In such a difficult set-up it appears to us that the first task of all genuine progressives is to develop among the mass of trade unionist and unorganized workers, who suffer from this division and dissension, a movement for joint action in any and every impending strike situation.

The further, and of course, the more difficult task is the merger of all genuine trade union centers into an all-inclusive new, united Canadian trade union movement. (This would exclude the Catholic unions which, in the main, are not trade unions at all.) The demand for trade union unity must become the battle cry of all progressives in the Canadian labor movement.

elements must be cleared out; the lower middle class forces must be wiped out. The Nazi party itself must be reduced. This is the way in which Hitlerism will try to maintain and strengthen its hold for some months.

What next? The answer to this question will continue to rest with the proletariat and not with the von Papens, the Hindenburgs or such illusions as the complete independence of the Reichswehr apart and above class relations. The objective situation for our struggle is more favorable. We must correct our tactics to make them more suitable. Will the German C.P. learn? When?

## Marxism vs. Methodism

by T. T. D.

In Grandville furniture workers were battling hunger, a vicious court injunction, and the police; in Detroit MESA pickets kept their ranks solid around the Burroughs Adding Machine Co.; thruout the state drought-ridden farms struck another blow at helpless farmers; but in Battle Creek the Socialist Party of Michigan met in convention and formed a united front with higher life. It elected the Rev. Arthur E. Larsen, D.D., its gubernatorial candidate for the state elections.

This farcical selection, seriously engineered by the Krueger lieutenants in Michigan, reveals in all its impoverished outline the utter lack of principle and position of the "militants" now in control of the Socialist Party.

The Reverend Larsen had been a party member four months. He spoke with a syrupy, ministerial cadence. He sweated sweetness and light and exhaled the dew and the sunshine. Early in the Spring, at a conference of Methodist ministers in Lansing, he had concurred with that body in endorsing the statements of its keynoter, Kirby Page, who said that if the Socialist movement in America was to be kept from going the way of Communism (i.e. atheism, i.e. dialectic materialism), it was up to the ministry of America to go into it and capture it.

Because of the selection, Francis King, state secretary, resigned his office. Sound Marxists refused to run on the ticket. Small, left infanlist upstate locals muttered about a split. But Larsen had neither the good grace nor the tactical sense to withdraw.

Despite the capitulation to Christian Socialism, despite the failure of the party to place a single farmer on the ticket, the convention revealed a strong, revolutionary minority that battled Krueger centrism at every step. It defeated the "militant" platform and adopted the one presented by Fagan of the RPC. Vigorous debate and fast floor work by Fagan and Klein of Lansing and Strachan of Detroit, inserted the sections on War and The Road To Power from the RPC platform in place of the same sections in the Declaration of Principles adopted by the national convention in Detroit. A motion was also pushed through to offer these sections as alternative choices in the national referendum.

The effect of the Larsen selection, really put through by a parliamentary trick, on the membership was a sad sight. Michigan has about ten outstate locals that possess everything but leadership and direction.

## MOONLIGHT DANCE and FAREWELL PARTY

For students of National Training School and national organizers

SUNDAY, JULY 22 at 8 P. M.

at LIDO ROOF GARDENS  
160 West 146 Street  
(near Lenox Ave.)

NEGRO JAZZ BAND  
ADMISSION 35 c  
— Admission —  
COMMUNIST PARTY  
(Opposition)