

R **YOUNG** **5c** **COMMUNIST** **REVIEW**

**Pre-
Convention
Discussion**



Strike

By **MAC WEISS**



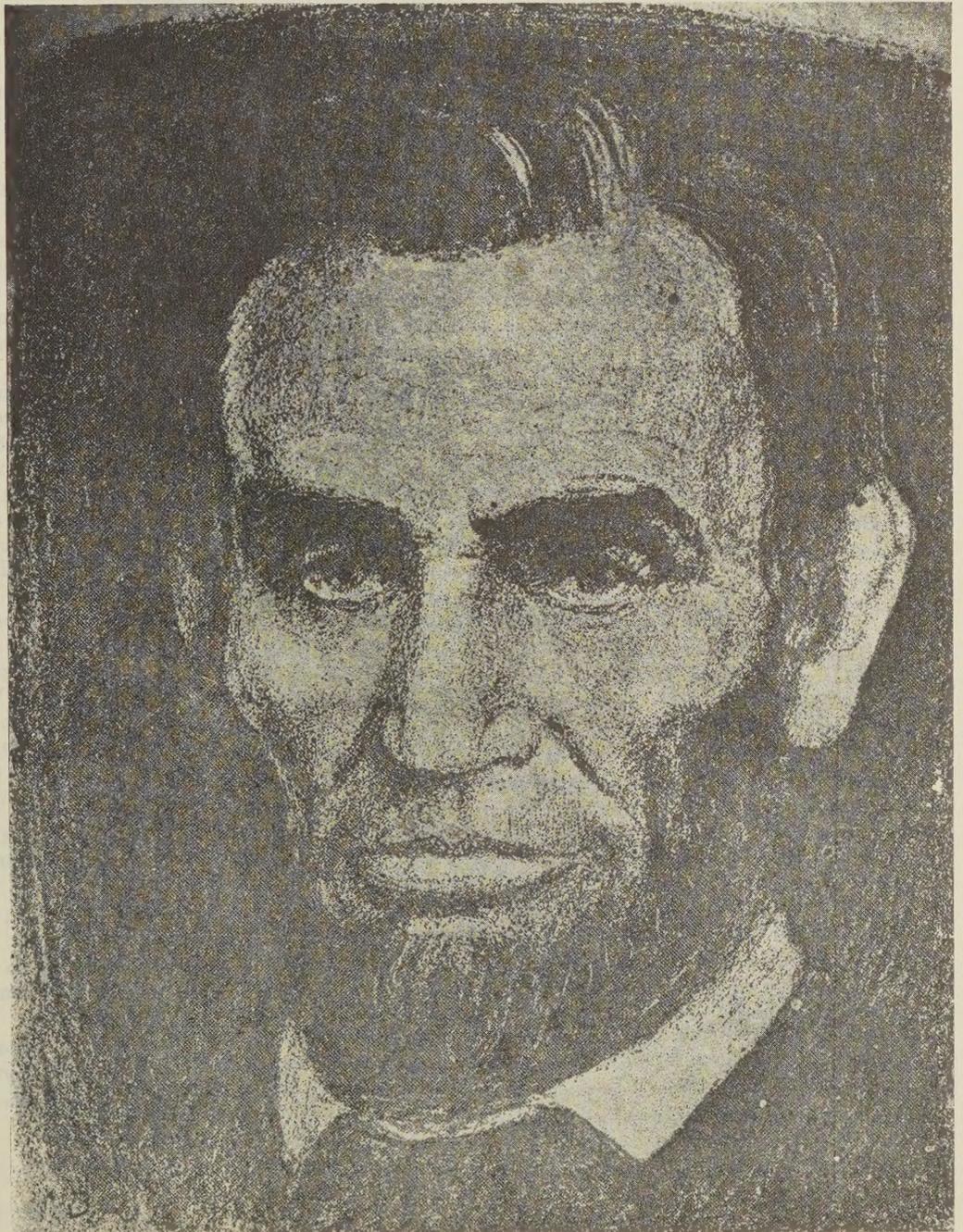
**Recreation
Centers**

By **FRANK CARLSON**



**They Shall
Not Pass**

By **JACK KLING**



FEB., 1937

VOL. 2 NO. 2

ROUND TABLE

DAVE RICHARDS, the originator of our "How Much Do You Know?" page, has a complaint to make. He's angry with us for forgetting to mention that he too gets his articles in on time. We're sorry, Dave. You have been so consistently regular that we offer you one of the finest orchids in the lot.

How would you like to see a Y. C. L. yearbook. You would. Well, that's fine, because we're going to issue one this April. I'll bet you're curious to know what it will contain. Well, here's a glimpse:

A History of our American League.

The League at work and play.

Full page illustration by the outstanding artists of America.

Pictures: tens of them showing our League members in their day to day activities, including outstanding branches, choruses, sports and dramatic groups and portraits of leading Y.C.L.'ers throughout the country and former Y.C.L.'ers who have made good. Did you know that Sam

Don, Harry Gannes and many other leading Communist Party members are former League members?

In addition to the above mentioned items there will be many other features. We will deal with them more elaborately in the next issue of the *Review*.

Here's a tip to how you can help to make this the finest year book ever printed. Get your branch to immediately send in a dollar greeting. Individual members can send in personal greetings for fifty cents. These dollars and quarters will help to ease some of our immediate financial problems.

Our March issue will introduce a new feature, great men and events in American history. The story of America is filled with the heroic deeds of men and movements that have often been the most progressive and revolutionary in the world.

Due to the lack of space many important articles had to be left out of this issue. We have on hand Celeste Strack's article on perspectives for

the student movement in 1937, an article on the establishment of youth unity in Belgium, on sports by Mike Kantor of the *Daily Worker* sports department and an article on League problems in the steel industry. We hope to print all of these in our next issue.

Whoa! Before we forget we want to announce the big feature for our next issue. Jimmy Wechsler is writing an article on the Trotskyites and the American youth movement. Jimmy is the former editor of the Columbia *Spectator*, author of "Revolt on the Campus," and co-author with Joe Lash of the recent "War Our Heritage." Quite impressive, isn't it, but not half as impressive or astounding as his article will be. You'd better reserve your copy now. I imagine the student comrades will order twice their usual number of our next issue.

Speaking of letters we are offering two copies of Palme Dutt's "World Politics" for the best letters on the significance to our work of Gil Green's article appearing in the February *Communist*. The contest ends March 15th and the books will be awarded a week later.

We have received one play in the skit contest announced in our last issue. Where are the rest of our playwrights? There is still time. The competition closes the 15th of this month. Come on, you budding geniuses, send us your short skits.

A few paragraphs ago we mentioned the Y.C.L. yearbook. Below we are going to print a form which you can cut out and send to us with your dollar or fifty cents, reserving a greeting for you or your branch.

THE YEARBOOK
Young Communist League
50 E. 13th St., New York City.

Enclosed you will find
(dollars or cents) in payment for a greeting to the Y.C.L. yearbook.

The name of my branch (my name) is
Comradely,
Name
Branch office I hold
Address
.

The *Young Communist Review* is published monthly by the Young Communist League in the United States, 50 East 13th Street, New York City. Price 5 cents.

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Free to all dues-paying members of the Young Communist League.

NOTES OF THE MONTH

YOUNG COMMUNIST REVIEW

NEVER has the Young Communist League of this country gone through such a thorough period of discussion and preparations for its national convention, as it will for this, our coming eighth convention which will meet in New York City from April 2nd through April 5th.

The question which many branches and units of the Y.C.L. are now asking is *how can we organize this pre-convention discussion in our branch?* It must be understood that the national convention is the highest body of authority of the Young Communist League. It determines the policy and perspectives of our organization until the next convention. Our coming convention is significant because it meets at a time when the entire world stands at the cross roads of history, when the issue of war or peace, democracy or fascism is being decided. It meets at a time when the new Soviet constitution records the actual victory and consolidation of a new system of society, Socialism, despite the efforts of the fascists and their Trotskyite allies to destroy the land of Socialism.

Let us also bear in mind that the convention will adopt a program and constitution for the Y.C.L. Surely these things are of concern to every branch, every individual who is a member of our organization.

That is why the last national conference of the League decided that each branch is to set aside at least one month for pre-convention discussion. If the branch so desires, it may take a longer period.

The first meeting of the discussion will hear a report from a representative of the District Committee of the Y.C.L. on the last national conference of our League. (The report of Gil Green to this conference appears in the February issue of the *Communist*.) The findings of the conference commissions, including the one on the eighth national convention have been mimeographed and sent to all districts so that each branch is supposed to receive a copy of these findings. Some of the speeches made at the conference are printed in this issue of the *Review*.

On the basis of the report by the representative of the district committee, the

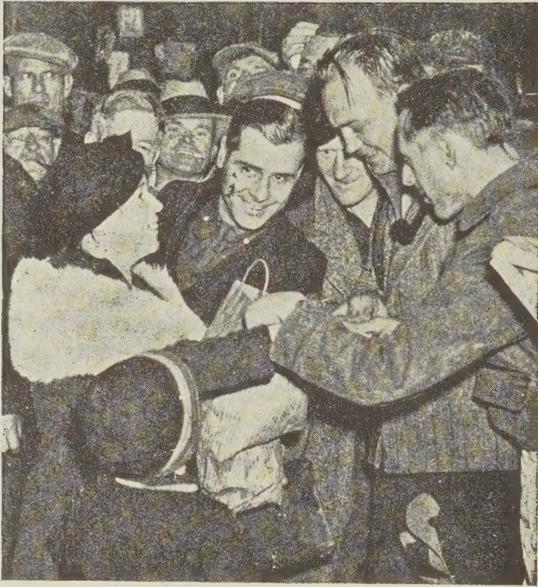
branch then discusses, in line with the report of the national conference, the tasks facing the national convention. If the branch sees fit, it can continue this discussion of the results of the national conference at a second meeting.

Following the discussion the branch organizes discussion on its work, its positive and negative experiences and its suggestions and proposals to the national convention. For this branch discussion, the president, or some other member should make a brief survey of the work of the branch, its accomplishments in the work of establishing a united front of youth, its work in connection with the American Youth Congress, how it is winning the youth for the trade unions, its recruiting to the Y.C.L., its educational activity, and all the other important phases of Young Communist League activity.

Every branch member should be encouraged to speak frankly and openly, telling his opinions on the activity of the League and making proposals for remedying any shortcomings in the work.

But it is not only important to have this discussion. All branches are asked to adopt resolutions for the national convention. These resolutions can deal with every possible phase of league activity. They can be recommendations for the program and for the constitution and by-laws of the Y.C.L. They can be resolutions proposing specific activities, for organizational changes, types of educational activity, etc. These resolutions should really reflect the experiences of the branch and the opinions of the membership, a vote being taken on every decision made at the branch.

In addition to the basic branch discussion, there will be pre-convention articles in the entire party press, including the *Communist*, the *Daily Worker* and *Western Worker*. Each Monday and Tuesday the *Daily Worker* will carry a special article in preparation for the national convention. This means, that every Y.C.L.'er who has the least bit to contribute to this discussion should sit down and write an article for the *Daily*, for the *Young Communist Review*, for any other publication which will carry such discussion.



STRIKE!

by MAC WEISS

the strike until the Flint workers came out. The company could have settled the strike by meeting partial demands of the workers in the quarter panel and tool and die departments. Had it done this, it would have been impossible to bring the workers out again when the Flint workers struck.

2. To bring order into the strike, there being no functioning committees, no leading strike committee and no plant demands.

3. The character of the strike had to be determined, whether it was to be a complete sit-down strike necessitating the getting into the plant of hundreds of workers who were on the outside or a complete outside strike, or perhaps a combination of the two.

These were the questions which the Party had to concern itself with. The policy which the Party worked out in these matters had to be made the policy of the union and the masses generally. Not only did we have to be concerned with helping carry out the this policy but we had to formulate independent plans for aiding the strike. After a meeting of Y.C.L.'rs outside the plant and consultation with the ones in the plant we decided to do the following:

1. To supply the sit-down strikers with all sorts of recreational activity. Secure a radio and hook it up in the plant. Bring in all sorts of games and recreational equipment such as soft balls, boxing gloves, checkers, chess and a ping-pong set.

2. Collect a carload of food, cigarettes and give it to the union in the name of the Y.C.L.

3. Help solve the problems of the Women's Auxiliary by getting girls and women to work in the strike kitchen. Many women members of the Auxiliary could not help because they had to take care of their children.

4. We undertook to help organize a New Years eve street labor carnival in front of the plant. We were afraid that the young felows would dribble out of the plant on New Years eve to keep dates. The only way to have kept them in the plant was to bring the celebration to them. Before we had the opportunity to carry this plan out the union withdrew its members from the plant.

5. We proposed the setting up of a social committee for the strikers and to secure a hall wherein the various social activities could be carried out. The union accepted our proposal. When the social committee was set up, one of our League members was on it.

6. We undertook to mobilize the whole youth movement of the city behind the strike. Their job was primarily to help carry out the youth activities. We knew

(Continued on page 6)

THE present strike wave in the basic industries is the most important single factor determining our activities in the immediate future. Because we have too few Young Communists in these industries to insure the carrying out of our policies we are faced with a serious problem. We must put forward a policy which the masses of youth in industry will adopt in spite of our limited numbers. If this policy is correct, our influence will be felt whether or not we have sufficient Young Communists to directly carry it out.

League members employed in the basic industries or working within their territories have a different task from the Party members. They must become assistants to the Party and the labor movement generally; our policy must be such that we will assist in successfully carrying out the major tactics of the Party and the labor movement generally at every stage of the way.

Let me cite our work in Cleveland during the Fisher Body strike to show how we can carry out this policy.

Recently seven thousand workers in the Fisher Body plant struck. The action started in the quarter panel department with a sit-down and soon spread spontaneously throughout the plant. There were two Young Communists in this department, one of whom is a high ranking officer in the United Automobile Workers. The spontaneous start of the strike was not in accordance with the main strategy of the union. They had planned to have Flint take the lead. Consequently, there was a deplorable lack of organization.

It was not clear whether the strike should develop along the pattern of a sit-down or the usual picket line strike. Only 300 strikers were sitting in. The rest had walked out. The main task of the Party was to work out the following policy:

1. To make it impossible for the company to settle

Recreation Centers

by FRANK CARLSON

WE in California are now carrying on a campaign to develop our branches along broad mass lines and to properly train people for branch leadership.

Four youth centers have recently been opened by various branches throughout the state. One of them in the Negro neighborhood of Los Angeles has become the social center of the community. Hundreds of young people use its library and amusement facilities during the week. It is open 14 hours every day.

Our League has become well rooted in the neighborhood and is growing as a result of this center. We are now conducting a drive to get all branches that can possibly do so to open similar centers in their neighborhoods. We think we can have ten of them by convention time. Of course they are expensive propositions, but if conducted properly they can pay for themselves. I think we must emphasize the building of such centers throughout the League.

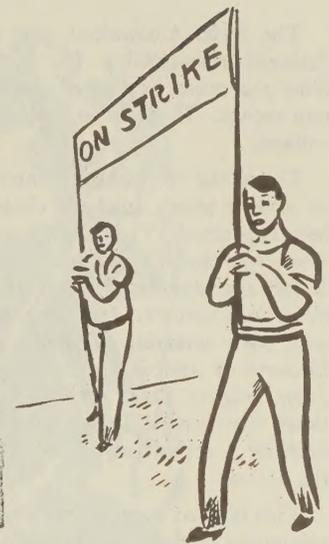
We have issued ten branch papers within the last two months. Not only do these papers bring our voice to the people in the neighborhood but they force us to become acquainted with our neighborhood or industrial problems and cause much discussion in the branches on the proper expressions of our policy.

Although we are doing our utmost, I feel that much more help must come from the National Committee to guide us in this new work. We must have more educational and cultural material for the branches and a greater interchange of experiences on the duties and functions of branch executives. The work of the National Committee is not sufficiently felt in California. I think that at this stage of the game the functioning of our educational apparatus is decisive.

We are experimenting with all sorts of methods to combine good inner club life within the branches with a maximum amount of mass work. We use such methods as setting up groups or squads in the branches, alternating educational and social meetings with business meetings, etc. We have found no one method applicable generally. But ways and means can be found to work them out within the particular problems of the branch.

We have been experimenting organizationally in the attempt to give more attention to the diverse problems of the various groups within the district. In Los Angeles we are forming sub-sections based on territorial divisions.

We are forming a special section of student branches, one of the new branches, one of the industrial branches and one of the branches in the mass organizations. In this manner we hope concretely to work out methods of activity applicable to the peculiar problems of these branches. This set-up is being used by the Communist Party in San Francisco with excellent results.



We are also establishing youth directors and committees responsible for youth work throughout the Party. Wherever this has been done good results are already visible.

One final word on the branches. It has become increasingly necessary to emphasize the need for high caliber branch leadership. It is the decisive thing today. Really our branch presidents have to be capable people. They carry on their shoulders the biggest organizational burdens within our League.

When I was in Los Angeles recently the branch presidents staged a rebellion at the county committee meeting. They protested against the fact that they had to mobilize their branches for too many mass campaigns and at the same time try to develop neighborhood struggles and raise funds for their branch needs. Well, the branch presidents had their way.

We are preparing a four weeks school to begin February 15th, primarily for the training of branch presidents. We will have some 35 students and half of the curriculum will be made up of the sort of stuff the Y's teach their prospective leaders.

Now for some mass work. Excellent work was done to develop constructive youth trade union work during the maritime strike. Of signal importance was the San Francisco Recreation Center. While previous to the strike the Maritime District Council endorsed the center, they gave it no financial support.

It was decided at the beginning of the strike to offer free membership to all the strikers. The center also offered all of its facilities to the Strike Committee. The results were truly gratifying. In the first week about a thousand new members joined. Day and night the center hummed with activity. Numerous sub-committees of the Strike Committee moved and established their offices there. It soon became the strike center.

(Continued on next page)

STRIKE

(Continued from page 4)

The Strike Committee was approached to take over financial responsibility for the center. They agreed. Now the center is part of the official Maritime Federation set-up. There is no longer any danger of financial collapse.

Today the recreational center is on the map. Dozens of athletic teams, smokers, classes and social affairs have been organized. There isn't a young fellow on the waterfront who doesn't patronize the union recreation center. It has also stimulated sports and recreational activity in the unions uptown. It is organizing a banquet of prominent trade unionists to form a committee for the establishment of athletic teams and the setting up of a trade union league. Once such a network of teams is established the Central Labor Council will be approached to establish a recreation center uptown for the use of all the unions.

This type of work is extremely important for the development of the youth movement and therefore also for the building of our League. Frisco is a union town and there are more young people there in trade unions than in any other organizations.

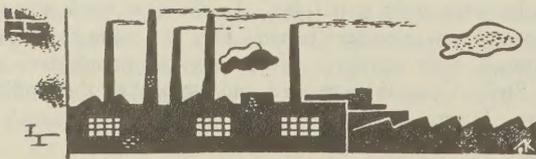
During the last few months the same type of activity has been promoted in many other cities. In San Pedro almost as much has been done as in San Francisco.

Our League has recruited ten new waterfront workers in Pedro and thirty in Frisco during the strike. In the latter city our waterfront units issues weekly 1000 copies of an extremely popular unit paper.

During the Christmas holidays the suggestion was made that the recreational center throw a party for the strikers' kids. The idea went over big. The civic auditorium was secured free of charge and the street car company issued free passes for the kids. Thousands of them attended. Pioneers were distributed free to all the children. We are now helping to enroll these kids in a junior Union, which has already received the endorsement of the State Federation of Labor.

We have begun to carry out those services for the labor movement which Comrade Green emphasized as necessary for the broadening of the role and activity of the League. To cite a few examples: We recently distributed coffee to striking textile workers and ran a dance admitting all strikers with an up to date punched strike card free. The response to these services was immediate. Many workers remarked that we were helping to maintain the solidarity of the strikers.

This sort of activity, together with an improved inner Y.C.L. life will transform the Young Communist League into the type of organization we are looking forward to.



that when the strike hall was secured it would be necessary to set up various forms of youth activity. Therefore the I.W.O. youth section offered to put on an exhibition basketball game and offer its services to the strikers.

7. And finally, we immediately communicated with as many of our N.Y.A. workers as possible and instructed them to find all recreation leaders who would be willing to volunteer their services for the strikers.

Another major problem confronting the League today is the organizational difficulties of the big branches. In Cleveland one branch successfully carried out the directives of our Sixth World Congress and enrolled 75 members. The large membership created new problems which necessitated a solution.

One of the big reasons why this branch grew so large was that it held out the promise of sports, dramatics, choruses and socials to the new members. The young people flocked to this branch because they wanted to sing and act and play. But we did not have the people to lead these activities. Soon the membership began to drop out because the young people who joined did not find what they had expected.

For a while all of the detailed business in this branch was brought before the entire membership at each meeting. Soon the members rebelled against this type of dullness and the executive committee decided to keep practically all the business off the floor. Because the executive board was not large enough leading members were asked to sit in and help. This soon resulted in a Y.C.L. faction in the branch and was just as bad as the previous procedure.

We had to break with the old methods of work. Today there is but one business meeting per month. The executive committee together with the membership works out a plan of activities for the month and sticks to it. They may mobilize any of the leading Party people in the branch for special emergencies.

There is now a forum group which plans lectures and discussions only. We consider this 100 per cent Y.C.L. work. The singing group is now studying a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. There is a big opportunity for education work in the one they are now rehearsing, "Trial By Jury." Before each rehearsal one of the comrades gives a talk comparing trial methods in the United States with those in the Soviet Union. A program for a musical March of Time is now being developed to include a good deal of American folk music. In this group they are discussing the class relations in each period of the country's development.

The branch is now developing various autonomous activity groups, each with its own officers. The branch is the parent body of all these groups and the place wherein they all meet once a month to integrate their activities.

There is at present a constant change in organizational forms and it would be fatal for us to try to fit any of these forms into a preconceived pattern.

THEY SHALL NOT PASS

by JACK KLING

THE Spanish struggle is entering its seventh month and in spite of Gen. Franco's statement repeated since August that it is a matter of any day or week before his fascist troops will take Madrid—Madrid remains in the hands of the government forces. All of the aerial bombardments and the consistent attacks on the Madrid front have increased the heroism and determination of the Spanish people to defend Madrid and defeat the fascist forces. The feeling is prevalent among the masses of people that they would rather die defending Madrid than be slaughtered if Madrid would be taken.

The difficult position of Gen. Franco is already known. Almost the entire male population of Spanish Morocco was forced into the struggle against the Republican government. Franco has no reserves left in Morocco, where there now remain only old men, women and children. On the other fronts his troops are suffering great casualties. During the first two weeks of his struggle against Madrid over ten thousand of his men were killed. He has no reserves to replace them.

When Franco sent a representative to Rome and Berlin, he threw his cards on the table and declared that unless immediate help was to come from them, the Spanish government would be victorious. In the first weeks of the struggle Hitler declared that he would recognize Franco's government after he had taken Madrid. Though to this very date Franco has not taken Madrid, both Hitler and Mussolini recognized Franco's government preparing the legal grounds for openly sending more ammunition and troops to aid Franco.

Since then both Italy and Germany have sent thousands of men to reinforce Franco. The nature of the struggle in Spain today is that of a foreign invasion of Fascist troops against the Spanish people. The Spanish people are defending their country with their own blood, with the blood of their sons, daughters and children.

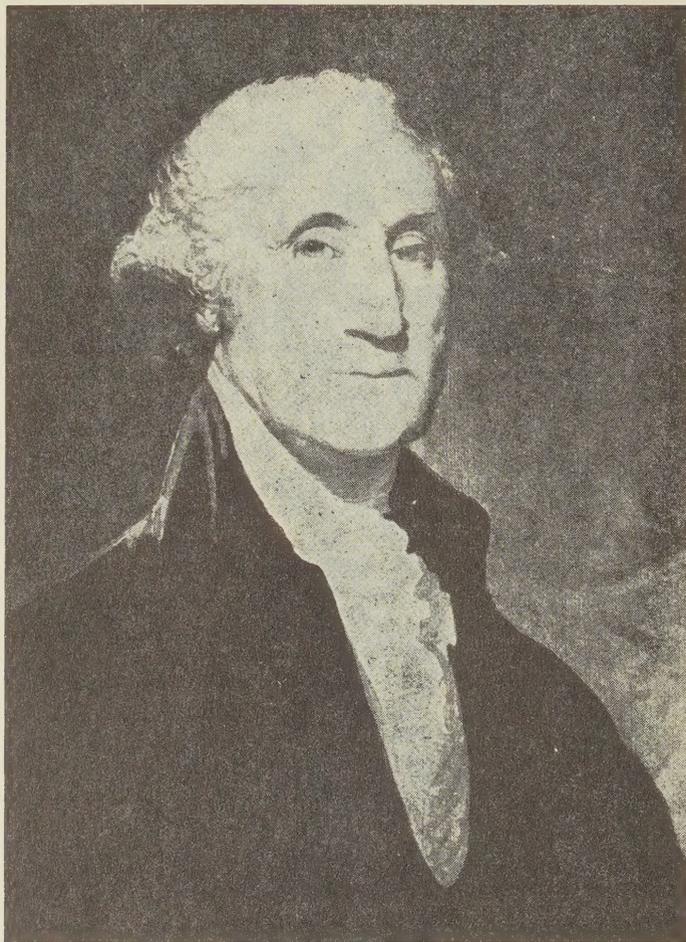
The Spanish people are also struggling against fascist agents who are covering their fascist deeds with "left" talk. The Trotskyists, few as they are, hated as they are by the Spanish people—Communists, Socialists and Republicans, have organized a struggle against the Spanish people on three questions. They demand the overthrow of the present government and its replacement by a "Revolutionary" government. But the Spanish people right now are fighting together to defeat fascism for a bourgeois democratic republic. Among those who support the government are republicans, Catholics, peasants, etc., who are not in favor of a Revolutionary government, but want a democratic government. To raise



the slogan of the Trotskyites means alienating these large sections of the Spanish people, thus weakening the government, thus making possible a fascist victory. Is that not a fascist provocation?

The second question they raise calls for the immediate independence of Catalonia. The Communists have always been in favor and have fought for the independence of Catalonia. But just now the main question is how best to mobilize the masses of Catalonia in the defense of the Spanish Republic and not a struggle for independence thus weakening the Republic at the present time.

The third fascist provocation by these scoundrels is—in answer to the formation of the United Young Socialist organization of Spain, which includes Communists, Socialists and other anti-fascist youth—the organization of what they call the "Iberian Young Communist" (Continued on page 14)



FLESH OF

"Our very good friend, the Marquis de Lafayette (who helped us in our revolution), has entrusted to my care the key to the Bastille, and a drawing handsomely framed, representing the demolition of that detestable prison . . . I feel myself happy in being the person through whom the Marquis has conveyed this early trophy of the spoils of despotism, and the first ripe fruits of American principles transplanted into Europe, to his great master and patron . . . That the principles of America opened the Bastille is not to be doubted, and therefore the key comes to the right place."

A situation amazingly similar to the present one with relation to Spain, developed here in America relative to the new revolutionary government of France in the 18th century. But at that time, President George Washington and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson openly declared their friendship for and aided the French government, while in our day, President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull deny the legal government of Spain those rights which are theirs according to every tenet of international law.

Frederick Douglass

Our first revolution left unsolved the burning problem of the chattel slave system which flourished in the Southern states of the Union. Furthermore, although these slave masters were a tiny minority in the country, they dominated the senate and controlled the major instrument of reaction, the Supreme Court.

Contrary to general belief, the Negro slaves played an all important role in the entire struggle for their emancipation. And probably the most heroic part in the struggle was led by the great Negro leader, Frederick Douglass. Born in slavery in February 1817 he describes in his autobiography how his aunt and uncle escaped from slavery when he was about 8 years old. *"But young as I was,"* he writes, *"I was already a fugitive from slavery in spirit and purpose."*

As a nineteen year old lad he essayed an escape, was captured, beaten and jailed. But in 1838 he made certain of the success of his second attempt to win his freedom. Having done so, he devoted the remainder of his long life to the fight for the freedom of all the slaves. From his early days in slavery, Frederick Douglass learned the need of education. When his mistress started to teach him to spell words as a mere child, his master became very angry and prevented this. *"Very well, thought I,"* he writes in his autobiography, *"Knowledge unfits a child to be a slave."* Young Douglass also learned the lesson of militancy. He wrote, *"The doctrine that submission to violence is the best cure for violence did not hold good as between slaves and ourselves. He was whipped oftener who was whipped easiest."*

THREE of the greatest men in American history are commemorated in the month of February. One was a leader of the first American revolution which broke the British yoke and established the American nation: George Washington. The other two were leaders of the second American revolution which broke the power of the slave owners. One of them was a Negro, Frederick Douglass. The other was a white man, Abraham Lincoln.

Little do the Tories of the present day realize that at one time the American revolution acted as an inspiration to similar struggles throughout the world. Europe, towards the close of the 18th century, was still dominated by remnants of feudalism, by the control of the great lords and landowners who exploited the mass of the people and hindered the growth of the modern industrial system. At that time, the bourgeoisie was a revolutionary class seeking to destroy the chains of feudalism. And it was our own American revolution which pointed the way to many of the European countries, similarly fighting for freedom.

George Washington

In 1789, the French people rose against the lords of that country and one of their first acts was the storming of the Bastille, a prison which held many of the French revolutionists of the day. On May 1, 1790, Tom Paine wrote a letter to George Washington, saying:

OUR FLESH

by Joseph C. Clark

During the civil war it was Douglass who led the agitation, which was finally successful, for the use of Negro troops against the slave forces. And it was this move in the critical period of the civil war which helped turn the tide in favor of the Union armies. In a stirring call to arms to men of color, written March 2, 1863, Frederick Douglass said that the time for bickering is gone. Unity and the joint struggle of Negroes and white was necessary for the victory of the armies of freedom. The call appealed:

"When first the rebel cannon shattered the walls of Sumter and drove away its starving garrison, I predicted that the war then and there inaugurated would not be fought out entirely by white men . . .

"Words are now useful only as they stimulate to blows . . . The tide is at its flood that leads on to fortune. From East to West, from North to South, the sky is written all over, 'Now or Never.' Liberty won by white men would lose half its luster. Who would be free themselves must strike the blow. Better even die free, than live slaves!"

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln represents some of the finest traditions of revolutionary America. When the United States Supreme Court issued an opinion (the Dred Scott decision) declaring that slavery could not be barred from the territories of the United States, Lincoln led the battle against the Supreme Court. Contrary to the Tories who now prate about the sacredness of Supreme Court decisions which bar the way to social legislation, to the abolition of child labor, etc., Lincoln replied to Stephen Douglas in one of those famous debates centering around the Dred Scott decision:

"This man (Stephen Douglas) sticks to a decision which forbids the people of a territory from excluding slavery, and he does so, not because he says it is right in itself—he does not give any opinion on that—but because it has been decided by the court . . . It is nothing that I point out to him that his great prototype, General Jackson, did not believe in the binding force of decisions. It is nothing to him that Jefferson did not so believe . . . He hangs to the last to the Dred Scott decision."

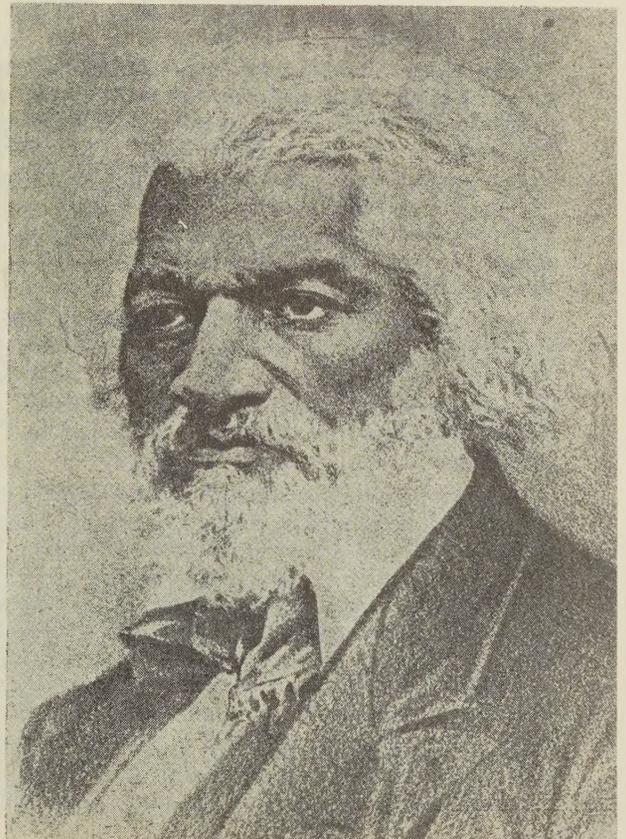
And when the slave owners rose in rebellion against the 1860 election, it took the great civil war to sweep aside the decision of the Supreme Court, to assert the democratic will of the people against those who resorted to arms against democracy.

Throughout the world, progressive and labor forces rallied to the side of Lincoln and the United States government. British labor made untold sacrifices to prevent the British government from aiding the rebels in Ameri-

ca. At that time the textile industry of England depended on the cotton of the South. But rather than deal with the rebels, the British workers, among whose leaders in this agitation were Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, went through a good many hardships to prevent Great Britain from aiding the slave owners.

Karl Marx, who organized the First International Workingmen's Association, a forerunner of the Communist International, drew up a document congratulating Lincoln on his reelection in 1864. "From the commencement of the titanic American strife," Karl Marx wrote, "the working men of Europe felt instinctively that the Star Spangled Banner carried the destiny of their class . . ."

Imagine if the European governments, especially England had placed the American government on the same footing as the rebels, what a setback that would have been for the American government! And now, when the Spanish people demand no more than that which we demanded in 1776 and 1861, it is disloyalty to the great American tradition to refuse their appeal.



TRAITORS TO THE WORKING CLASS

by Morris Childs

WHY do we so sharply direct our fire against those who distort the teachings of Marx and Lenin? We must at all times remember that Marxism-Leninism is not a dogma but a guide to action. As Marx himself stated, the task of a philosopher is not only to interpret the world but to change it. The way to judge a true revolutionary party is the manner in which it solves its day to day problems without losing sight of its basic theory.

We must repeat that the outstanding problem of today is how to defeat reaction and fascism and the war makers. This can only be done by the mobilization of the widest People's Front on the side of democracy and peace.

Trotskyism categorically comes out against the People's Front. Certainly such theories will not bring the desired results in our day to day struggles against fascism. As applied to our American situation, it would mean being against a Farmer-Labor Party and thus crippling the People's Movement.

In the State of Illinois we have been conducting a struggle against people influenced by the Trotskyites who refuse to involve the farm movement and other people's movements in the Farmer-Labor Party. Their theories caused many mass organizations, such as the Farmer's Union, for example, which could have been a part of the movement against reaction, to come under the influence of Lemke and Coughlin. They were driven into the reactionary camp.

It is clear that if the French people had not rejected Trotskyism, Col. De La Roque and his fascists would be in control of France today. Spain today would be a bleeding sacrifice to the greed of Hitler, Mussolini and Franco, were it not for the heroic resistance of the People's Front.

The Trotskyites cover up their counter-revolutionary theories with high sounding phrases that only the working class can be depended upon to overthrow capitalism. We know that the working class is the historical leader, the most progressive and advanced section of the people in the struggle against capitalism. However, capitalism can only be defeated if the working class as a leader, brings into the movement against capitalism the vast majority of the toiling masses and thus gains allies in its struggles.

Where does Trotskyism come from? Why do we hear so much about it at this particular time? Trotskyism is a whole system of anti-Marxism-anti-Leninist theories

against which Lenin, Stalin and the Bolsheviks have conducted a struggle since its inception.

At every turning point in the history of the struggles of the Russian workers for freedom under the leadership of the Bolsheviks, the Trotskyites exposed the class character of their theories. The denial of the need for allies in the struggles of the working class is their counter-revolutionary theory of permanent revolution, their theoretical cornerstone. This theory, in practice, means that we look upon other sections of the population as a reactionary mass, and that the working class cannot win them over and lead them. Hence, in a country that has a large peasant population, the working class cannot be successful unless the workers of another country comes to its aid. And if the working class of another country cannot give the necessary assistance, then it is not possible to build Socialism in one country, such as the U.S.S.R.

Only people who live on another planet or are conscious agents of the bourgeoisie now dare to defend such theories. The glorious victory of the U.S.S.R. is the most eloquent proof of the correctness of the Bolsheviks.

The Trotskyites were exposed and defeated by the Russian working class, under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin. The Trotskyites then conducted secret factional activities under the guise that iron-discipline is not necessary in the Party, that there should be "freedom of expression," and rallied around themselves all anti-working-class currents and grouplets. And what they couldn't do in theory they attempted to carry out in practice. They could not stop the building of Socialism. Life itself proved them incorrect, so they allied themselves with every enemy of the U.S.S.R., every saboteur and wrecker, yes, even with the Gestapo, to carry out their aims.

In the U.S.S.R. the victory of Socialism made the disappearance of the last remnants of the capitalist class inevitable. It is this fact that increased the resistance of the last remnants of the dying classes. Trotskyism is an expression of this resistance.

Comrade Stalin characterized Trotskyism as the vanguard of the counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie, because they created a theoretical premise for the attack against the Soviet Union. With this they endeavor to disarm the proletariat of the capitalist countries from coming to the defense of the workers' fatherland. They do everything possible to minimize the danger of war against the U.S.S.R. and help to lay a barrage for the attack of Hitler and Japan.

(Continued on page 15)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

by Leo Turner Subbing for Henry Winston



CLARA WERNICK of St. Louis reports at the plenum:

"At our last plenum we had less than 100 members. Now we have 250. I personally feel that we can have 500 by the Convention. We have done our recruiting in the neighborhoods where we raised demands for centers and a free city college. We have a group in Kansas University. These comrades have developed because they are not sectarian. They have

developed all kinds of activity. They are in the sororities and fraternities and have grown because they are part of the student body. They come from Kansas and when they go home they try to organize units in their home town. They had 15 members and *now they have 60!*" There's no "Blues" in the Y.C.L. of St. Louis these days!

Speaking of introducing new features in Y.C.L. activities, throw the bouquet to Tex Deiner, president of a branch in Philly. He heard of a Soviet ship in the port of the Quaker city and organized a visiting trip of his branch to the ship. The trip was a 100 per cent success from the point of view of whipping up morale and enthusiasm. Incidentally, this was the same branch that received a special letter of commendation from the Musicians Union for the splendid work they did in helping the musicians to win a strike.

Cleveland's going in for operetta—the real thing too, Gilbert and Sullivan. . . . Good work Cleveland—nothing's too good for the Y.C.L.!

Milwaukee is all hopped up over the splendid conference they held in the district following the national plenum. . . . It seems Wisconsin has already taken Kappy, the new district organizer, to their bosom and vice versa (no place like Milwaukee, the home of finer beers, sez Kappy). . . . The West Allis branch has challenged the South Side branch in the recruiting drive, etc., etc., etc., and from all appearances the bus companies will be working overtime to bring the Milwaukee delegation to the national convention. . . . Am I right or am I right, Paul Herve?

Dave Grant is on the job in organizing the pre-convention discussion. . . . February 15th to March 12th is the period set for the discussions in Boston. . . . What about you other districts? How are you carrying through this plenum decision?

Where, oh where are those wandering contacts now? This is what the National Student Committee of our League would like to know. As a result of the Browder radio broadcasts

during the election campaign, dozens of students wrote in asking for more information on our League. . . . The names and addresses were sent out to the student branches. . . . What happened to them is what we would like to know. . . . The student committee intends to do a lot of exposing through the Around-the-League page if we don't find out pretty soon. . . .

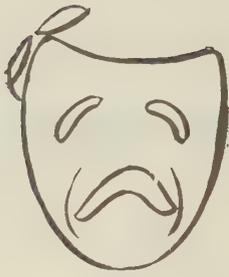
Comes another story from Philly, not so rosy as the one previously mentioned. . . . The title of this story is: "How we did not collect supplies for Spain." . . . It goes as follows:

"The most exciting (would be) adventure occurred when the members of the Frederick Douglass Branch went out a second time to collect supplies for Spain. This time we planned to hire a horse and wagon. But, Bill, the financier of this excursion didn't show up. Al, who proposed this big plan came late. Charlie, after giving his solemn word (which is always good) did not come at all. . . . In fact the wagon was broke down and the horse was dead."

But other branches in Philly are doing good work for the cause of Spanish democracy. . . . New York is not to be outdone by any district on this question. . . . Sallie Shaw, of the Hunts Point Branch reports that in the first two weeks of their campaign they were able to show a total collection of \$40 cash and two truckloads of clothing (including four fur coats) . . . on tag day they went into the streets and subways and collected \$60. . . . They have a very novel method of rewarding members for good work in the campaign. . . . These people are elected to membership in the "Cortes" and are given insignia. . . . Good work Hunts Point. . . . This is only one of innumerable examples of good work for the Spanish campaign by New York branches. . . . East Side. . . . West Side. . . . All around the town. . . . Y.C.L.'ers bring the message and appeal of Spain's embattled youth. . . .

It seems Pittsburgh too has ambitions. . . . Lloyd says the Y.C.L. is working with the Youth Committee for Spanish Democracy to prepare the biggest youth meeting in the history of the smoky city. . . . They've rented the Carnegie Music Hall (1200 capacity)! If you don't think that's a job to fill then you just don't know Pittsburgh. . . . Ask Dave Doran—he knows. . . . Remember "way back when" Dave? . . . Nevertheless our bet is that the meeting will be a whopper. . . .





WHAT PRICE SPAIN

(A PLAY)

by IRENE PAULL



CHARACTERS: Mussolini, Hitler, Franco, and Spanish Democracy (a girl).

MUSSOLINI (*pacing the floor*): What's keeping General Franco? He promised to deliver Spanish democracy at sunrise. Here we've been pacing the floor all night and still no Franco!

HITLER: Sit down! You make me nervous!

MUSSOLINI: You dare speak to me like that! Do you realize who I am, Mr. Hitler? I am the great Il Duce! I am the one and only Benito Mussolini! First there was Caesar . . . then there was Napoleon . . . now there is . . .

HITLER: Make your speeches from a balcony.

MUSSOLINI (*dropping the histrionics*): Where is the good for nothing Franco?

HITLER: What if he doesn't bring her at all?

MUSSOLINI: Don't be sour . . . ah . . . here he comes now. (*Franco comes in followed by a pretty girl, a chain around her wrist*) . . . and she is with him! Spanish Democracy! Ah . . . what a pretty little package she is!

HITLER: Ah! She is here! Mmm . . . not so bad. (*Mussolini and Hitler both kiss her. She slaps them roundly.*)

FRANCO: Take it easy, boys. I just brought her on approval. Can't you see? She's still chained to Spain. It will take more than my army of Moors and Foreign Legion criminals and cutthroats to blast her loose. That's what I came to see you about!

MUSSOLINI: Sit down. Make yourself at home.

DEMOCRACY: No, thank you. I prefer to stand. Democracy is never at home in the presence of Fascism.

HITLER: Pretty independent, isn't she? Ha! Ha! Spanish Democracy! Proud, eh? We'll take that out of you! We'll have you in the public houses with German and Italian democracy! And then see how proud you'll be! Ha! Ha; Ha!

MUSSOLINI: Take your German democracy now . . . a very handsome blonde she was . . . proud and handsome . . . but where is she now? Ha! Ha! Ha! Where is she now?

FRANCO: Let's get down to business, boys . . . don't count your chickens before they hatch. I'm worried. Now we wouldn't have gone ahead with this rebellion against the legal government if you hadn't promised to help us out! We're worse off than we thought we'd be. We took your advice. We tried to incite the left Republicans against the Communists and Socialists. . . . We tried to tell them that the Communists were planning a revolution. . . . We tried every means of breaking up the People's Front. But it didn't do a bit of good. They smelled a rat and they're all rallying to the People's Front to a man. Even the women and children are fighting us. We tell them the issue is Communism and they say, "No, the issue is democracy!" They guard democracy day and night! I had a plenty hard time sneaking her away on approval. . . .

HITLER: Let's get down to business. Just who have they got on their side, Franco?

FRANCO: The government's got everybody on their side. . . . The workers, the peasants, the small business men, the professional men. . . . They've got a people's front!

HITLER: How about the Catholics?

FRANCO: Most of the Spaniards are Catholics and they're all with the government. . . . All except the heads of the church who are the big landowners. The heads of the Church are Spain's biggest landlords. But the rank and file Catholics are fighting for the government like tigers.

MUSSOLINI: Just who have we got on our side, Franco?

FRANCO: Well, the big landlords and the capitalists, of course . . .

HITLER: Naturally. Naturally. That's what Fascism is . . . the rule of the big landlords and capitalists to crush the people. . . . If we can't do it legally, through democratic set-ups, then down with democracy! We'll keep the people down by force of arms! Down with human rights! Hurrah for property! Heil Hitler!

MUSSOLINI (*to Hitler*): Stop interrupting. Go on, Franco. Who else have we?

FRANCO: Then we have the monarchists, followers of ex-king, Alfonso, the Spanish Regeneration, a Fascist organization that wants to regenerate Spain in the model of 1515. . . .

HITLER: With the inquisition? Ah . . . the inquisition . . . how I adore inquisitions!

FRANCO: And of course we have the Spanish Foreign Legion. . . . Now there's a fine bunch of fellows. . . . The worst criminals ever belched out of the prisons of the world. . . . Most of them face death on the gallows outside the Legion so what have they to lose? . . . Good boys to work with. They won't stop at anything.

MUSSOLINI: Excellent. We can't afford to have a soft army. They might not like to murder women and children.

FRANCO: Well, what I came here to know is this. Do we get that help or don't we? I know you've helped us along right from the beginning, but that isn't enough. The people's militias are fighting like mad. They're pushing us back. They're not afraid of anything. They yell, "For Spanish Democracy! For the People's Front!" and rush to battle. Nothing scares them. When are you going to come across with those bombing planes and munitions you promised on a big scale? We can use plenty of trained aviators too. . . . World fascism is in danger . . . if democracy is saved in Spain, fascism will get a mortal blow! I warn you, gentlemen, I warn you!

MUSSOLINI: Take it easy, Franco. There's plenty of time. What I want to know is, what do I get out of this?

HITLER: And how about me? I'm not in this for my health.

(Continued on lower half of next page)

How Much Do You Know?

by DAVE RICHARDS

To our new readers we would like to say that "How Much Do You Know?" is a game. Its purpose is to test your knowledge on current events. Below are a list ten questions, each with a series of answers, but only one correct answer. Now go ahead and pick them.

1. Britain resented the German-Japanese anti-Soviet treaty because: (1) It threatened her colonies in the East Indies and Australia; (2) It threatened the Soviet Union; (3) It meant that Japanese troops would be brought into Spain; (4) It is an attack on the Franco-Soviet peace pact.

2. The lone U. S. Congressman to vote against the embargo on arms shipments to the legal Spanish government was: (1) Lundeen; (2) Nye; (3) Maverick; (4) Bernard.

3. U. S. seamen are opposed to the Copeland Bill because it (1) makes strikes illegal; (2) makes unions have the same financial responsibilities as shipping companies, (3) provides for a "continuous discharge" book that helps the shipowners blacklist militants, (4) sets wages below the scale demanded by the strikers.

4. Match the following people with the positions they hold:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Gil Green | 1. Chairman, American Youth Congress. |
| 2. Dimitroff | 2. Secretary, N. Y. District, Y.C.L. |
| 3. Wm. Hinckley | 3. Nat. Sec'y, American Student Union. |
| 4. Santiago Carilo | 4. National Secretary, Y.C.L. of U.S. |
| 5. Joe Lash | 5. Sec'y, Executive Committee of C.I. |
| 6. John Little | 6. Sec'y, United Socialist Youth of Spain. |

5. President Roosevelt's message to Congress indicated that the Federal budget "will be balanced" by 1938 by: (1) Increasing taxes on the rich; (2) A federal sales tax; (3) Reducing relief; (4) Reducing war appropriations; (5) Reducing administrative expense.

6. One of the following countries, in which England had been the dominating influence, recently announced itself willing to cede big colonial concessions to Germany: (1) Turkey; (2) Persia; (3) Canada; (4) Greece; (5) Portugal.

7. Match the following dates with the events that correspond:
- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. March 6 | 1. Frederick Douglass anniversary. |
| 2. Feb. 23 | 2. Lincoln's birthday. |
| 3. Feb. 14 | 3. Joe York, D.O. of the Y.C.L., and three others in Detroit were murdered by Ford's police. |
| 4. Feb. 12 | 4. Anniversary of Paris Commune. |
| 5. March 18 | 5. U. S. declared war in 1917. |
| 6. April 2 to 5 | 6. Washington's birthday. |
| | 7. Eighth Convention of our League will take place in New York City. |

8. Associate the following organizations with the number which most nearly corresponds to the membership:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. 75,000 | 1. Y.C.L. of France |
| 2. 25,000 | 2. Y.C.L. of the U.S. |
| 3. 100,000 | 3. United Socialist Youth League of Spain |
| 4. 14,000 | 4. Y.C.L. of the Soviet Union |
| 5. 3,000,000 | |
| 6. 6,000,000 | |
| 7. 300,000 | |

(Look for the answers in the next issue)

WHAT PRICE SPAIN

FRANCO: Gentlemen! Do you ask me to partition my beloved Spain! My native land! Would you have me slice my own beloved country and give the pieces to foreigners. . . . (Posing.) Ah. . . . but I must needs make the sacrifices. . . . I must needs make any sacrifices to take Spain away from the people. . . . Yes, I'll give you half of Spain if you help me take it away from the people. . . .

HITLER: If you don't mind, I'll take my cash in advance.

MUSSOLINI: Yeah, and I'll take vanilla.

FRANCO: Gentlemen! Gentlemen! I promise to partition Spain. Isn't that enough?

MUSSOLINI (getting tough): The Balearic Islands. I need a base opposite Gibraltar. I need air bases and harbors. Do I get it?

FRANCO: It's a bargain.

HITLER: The Canary Islands off the African Coast. I've got my eye on some of France's colonies and England's too. . . . That would give me a start. Do I get it?

FRANCO: They're yours.

MUSSOLINI: Someday the Mediterranean shall be my sea!

HITLER: I see myself marching into the Ukraine, master of all the Russians! I see myself commander in chief of the Red Army! I hear them shout, "Heil, Hitler!"

FRANCO: Now the thing for you to do is to sign that nice little non-intervention pact and everything will be hunky dory. The dumb democratic nations will be nice boys and

keep the pact to the letter, while you'll go sneaking arms and men across the border. Who said there was honor among thieves? Ha, ha, ha, ha.

HITLER: Ha, ha, ha, ha.

MUSSOLINI: Ha, ha, ha, ha . . . and don't worry, Franco. Italy . . . Germany . . . Japan . . . we're a United Front against Democracy!

HITLER: Yeah, it looks like we've got it in the bag, boys.

DEMOCRACY (bursts into laughter)

HITLER, MUSSOLINI, FRANCO (together): Why are you laughing?

DEMOCRACY: I'm laughing at the Fascists of Franco who were put down by the People's Front. I'm laughing at the Liberty Leaguers of America who were routed and driven back to their holes like rats. I laugh to see them tremble at the threat of a National Farmer Labor Party in America. I laugh at Japan who dares to threaten the great workers' Republic of Soviet Russia. I laugh at you, Franco, at you, Mussolini, at you, Hitler! Liberty is the right of every human being! And it shall triumph! You represent property rights! I represent human rights! And the day shall come when I shall crush you underfoot as insects are crushed beneath the feet of human beings. Progress cannot be bound for long. It marches ahead, and you shall be trampled beneath a billion marching feet. Goodbye My place is in Spain! I leave you to your stupid plotting. Goodbye, and Death to Fascism!

(Jerks her hand loose and breaks the chain that binds her hand to Franco's.)

THEY SHALL NOT PASS

(Continued from page 7)

League." Its main purpose being to split the united organization. Is this not the action of fascists?

In the Soviet Union they attempt assassinations of our best leaders and teachers. In Spain they struggle against those who are fighting to defeat Fascism and they also plot to assassinate the leaders of the Communist Party and the government. In the United States they try to do all they can to narrow down the mass support for the Spanish people by saying, "Let's not raise money for the Peoples Front of Spain or the government but for the working class, etc."

All of their work shows whom they are helping and very clearly indicates that they are the agents of fascism. For that reason that the Spanish government carries on a struggle against their poisonous influence.

The Spanish Youth Front has organized special youth battalions for the defense of Madrid. It has organized the young girls to work day and night in the factories to produce clothes for the men at the front. The United Young Socialist organization, which includes Socialist and Communist and other anti-fascist youth numbers today over 300,000 members even though only last June it had 50,000. The spirit of these young defenders of Madrid, I can perhaps cite by telling a story of a young girl I met in Paris.

She was a short, pretty, brunette girl of 19 from Madrid. She was a Catholic and told me how her two brothers were killed during the first two weeks of the struggle on the Madrid front, her father and boy friend were killed and she herself was wounded in both hands. She did not cry. She had a bold look in her face and said, "Yes, my family died for the defense of the government. We are all Catholics.

"You are going back to America—please tell all youth in your country about our fight. Tell them the truth. Tell them about our difficulties. Tell them how we are all united to save our country. Tell them that the Catholics too are on the side of the government. It's not true that the government shoots Catholics, burns churches. Some of the Catholic leaders are on the side of the rebels, some of them have given their churches as forts for the rebels, as places where the rebels can hide."

I had tears in my eyes when I heard her story. The struggle of the Spanish people for democracy and against fascism is not the struggle of the Spaniards alone. It is the task of the people of the entire world to come to the aid of the Spanish people. That is why Comrade Stalin in a message to the Spanish Communist Party declared:

"The liberation of Spain from oppression of the Fascist reactionaries is not the private affair of the Spaniards, but the common cause of all advanced and progressive mankind."

The people of the Soviet Union have given us a brilliant example of true international solidarity and aid to the Spanish people. Over \$25,000,000 has already been collected by the Soviet masses. Ship load after ship load of food and clothing have been sent to the Spanish

people. Soviet workers have declared that they want to adopt the Spanish orphans. That is the solidarity of the Soviet people.

In the International Commission and in the League of Nations the Soviet representatives have consistently pointed out that the Spanish government is the only legitimate government and should receive the aid of other countries in accordance with international law. The Soviet Union has consistently exposed Germany and Italy as openly aiding the Spanish fascists, while condemning the policy of France and England which gives indirect aid to the fascists by placing all kinds of bans against the Spanish government and by not permitting the government to buy ammunition.

The brilliant example of Soviet solidarity must become an example to us. The New Year's message of Comrade Dimitroff in which he says:

"There is not now any higher duty for the international proletariat, for the masses of people in all countries for all honest elements of mankind than increasing the aid for the Spanish people in every way, with the aim of ensuring victory."

Unfortunately Roosevelt's present policy does not coincide with his speeches on peace before election, with the speeches of Secretary of State, Hull, in Buenos Aires where he made an appeal to the peoples of the world to organize peace movements to control the war-like tendencies of their governments.

The so-called neutrality forced through by Roosevelt, placing an embargo against all belligerents, puts the rebels on the same plane as the government and prevents the latter from buying ammunition from the United States. At the same time it does not prevent the rebels from getting American ammunition in an indirect way, through buying it from Germany and Italy who openly buy it from us. Thus in an indirect way we give aid to the fascist rebels.

We must explain this question clearly to the people in this country. Young Communists everywhere, in the shops, trade unions, schools, clubs, churches, settlement houses and neighborhoods must help explain these questions through discussions, lectures, mass meetings, informal meetings to the young people and urge them to adopt letters and resolutions demanding a change in policy.

Those young people in Spain, fighting in many places without shoes and clothes, need clothes. Those starving children and orphans who lost their fathers and mothers or whose parents are at the front need aid in the form of milk, other food and clothing. Epidemics are spreading, casualties are great, women and children are sick. They cry for our aid; they need medical supplies.

The job of aiding the Spanish people must be the job of the whole American people. We must do all we can, at our place of work, in the organization we belong to, in the neighborhood we live in, to help establish committees to aid the Spanish people. Collection of clothing, food, medical supplies and money should be taken up everywhere. Time cannot be lost. Let us not wait for formal discussions. Let us do all we can today, NOW.

TRAITORS TO THE WORKING CLASS

(Continued from page 10)

What is the logic of their theories? It leads them to become the despicable agents of the German secret police. Fascism in its desperate struggles against the working class has taken Trotskyism into its fold. The criminal Trotskyite-Zinoviev gang were caught red-handed with weapons in their hands ready to assassinate Stalin and the other leaders and repeat the Kirov murder.

It is becoming clear to the world that their alliance with Hitler makes them a partner to the murderous war of intervention in Spain, the killing of women and children and the attempt to exterminate democracy. The Trotskyites have found their way completely to the other side of the barricade in the fight for freedom.

The international importance of the Trotsky-Zinoviev acts were stated very clearly by Comrade Dimitroff when he said:

"The trial of the terrorists, who are the agents of fascism, is an integral part of the struggle of the international working class against fascism."

Is it not obvious that we cannot consider political assassins, agents of Hitler, as a current—not even as a wrong current—within the movement of the working class? Trotskyism is not a fraction of Communism. Nor is their joining with the Socialist Party a sufficient coverage for their counter-revolutionary character.

Norman Thomas and some other liberals have come out in defense of Trotsky. They seek asylum for him. Comrade Browder at the last meeting of the Central Committee expressed our attitude:

"It is no accident that those who rush to put their names to the defense of Trotsky, and who speak on his behalf, have no such irresistible urge to have their names on committees for the defense of Spanish democracy, are not making speeches in that cause; they have formed no committees to secure asylum in America for the victims of Hitler and Mussolini. At a moment when hundreds of thousands of the heroic Spanish people are laying down their lives for the preservation of democratic rights that is the moment chosen by these gentlemen to set up a committee to gain democratic rights, the right of asylum—but for Trotsky."

"Class-conscious workers, yes even simple but serious democrats, will have no hesitation in deciding who are really the friends of political asylum, who are the friends of democracy. Those who rush to the defense of Trotsky are giving service to the worst enemies of democracy, to Hitler, with whose Gestapo Trotsky had secret dealings. Those who fight uncompromisingly against the political assassins, against Trotsky, and demand their outlawing, are the same people who unhesitatingly rush to the defense of the Spanish people, who organize material help, who are sending from their ranks personal help, who are standing in the forefront of the struggle for democracy and liberation in their own lands."

The work of the Trotskyites is not always as obvious as in the recent trials in Moscow, or their work in Spain and France. In the United States they attempt to smuggle their ideas and persons into the labor movement in various disguises and forms in order to spread their poison, prevent unity and spread dissension.

For instance, in the Labor Party movement they fight against including the farmers; in the trade union movement they fight against the C.I.O.; in the movement for peace they fight against a broad People's Front. All this is done under the cover of pseudo-revolutionary phrases.

Mind you, comrades, the assassins and agents of Hitler made themselves part of a committee to propose united action for the defense of the U.S.S.R. to the Y.C.L. of Chicago. Sure, we welcome unity with the Socialist Party or the Y.P.S.L. to defend the U.S.S.R., but we cannot discuss the problem of defense of the U.S.S.R. with its bitterest enemies sitting on the committee. There are many people around our movement who preach "tolerance." A branch of the I.W.O. in Chicago invited a leading Trotskyite to speak before them. Certainly the class conscious workers of the I.W.O. would never consider inviting a fascist to their meetings and yet were fooled into inviting a fascist agent. This proves that we must be vigilant against this alien ideology and master a deeper understanding of Marxism-Leninism.

The Trotskyites sometimes find a fertile field among the non-working class people, among those who by their class origin and training are less prepared to see the true nature of Trotskyism, among those who are finding their way to the working class but are still strongly influenced by bourgeois hangovers and theories. This is especially true among the middle class and professional groups who because of their social position between the two main classes, are subject to vacillation, speculation and impatience. However, through proper work and education, this section can be brought closer to the working class movement.

How can we best combat any deviation from the path of Marxism-Leninism? First by improving the theoretical level of our own work and deepening our knowledge of basic theory. We must train our leading personnel to study and permeate their practical work with the light of theory. Lenin and Stalin repeat this need for a firm link between theory and practice over and over again. In the words of Comrade Dimitroff at the 7th Congress, I want to repeat that:

"Our theory is not a dogma but a guide to action, Lenin used to say. It is such a theory that our cadres need. They need it as badly as they need their daily bread, as they need water, air. Whoever really wishes to rid our work of deadening stereotyped schemes, of pernicious scholasticism, must sear them out with a red hot iron, by real, practical active struggle waged together with and at the head of the masses and by untiring effort to grasp the mighty fertile, all powerful Bolshevik theory, the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin."

CHORAL WORK

by HARRY ROBIN

IN last month's issue a short outline of the most immediately effective steps necessary for the formation of a chorus was given. In this article we will attempt to give some practical pointers on the more advanced aspects of choral work.

Each rehearsal should begin with a series of vocal exercises, lasting for about ten minutes. The following exercises are essential, if any quality of tone is to be achieved in the chorus.

1. Production of simple vowel sounds (ah, ay, ee, oh, oo) on one sustained note, for tone production and placement at different pitches from B flat to high F.
2. The same preceded by various consonants (N, M, D, L, etc.).
3. The same on ascending and descending scales (for legato singing).

4. The same on ascending and descending arpeggios, in all keys.

These exercises should be sung by the entire chorus in unison, and then by the different choirs separately. The members of the chorus should be taught to listen to and criticize each other's singing. Each exercise can be sung "piano," "forte," piano-forte, and forte-piano, etc. The exercises should be constantly changed, and new ones always invented. Always stress:

1. Breath control—proper breathing from the diaphragm, not from the chest.
2. Clear, incisive diction, without which the message of any song is lost completely.
3. Absolute precision in attacks and releases.

If these exercises are properly done, much time can be saved during the rehearsals of the songs themselves.

(To be continued next month)

Marcia *Kanns Eisler*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'And just be-cause he's hu-man a man would live a lit-tle bite to eat, He won't get full on a lot of talk that won't give him bread and meat; So left two three so left two three to the work that we must do, March on in the work-ers un-ited front for you are a work-er too. And too'.

United Front

And just because he's
human
He does not like a pistol to
his head
He wants no servants un-
der him
And no boss overhead

CHORUS

And just because he's a
worker
The job is al his own
The liberation of the
working class
Is the work of of the
workers alone

CHORUS

So left two, three, so left
two, three
To the work that we must
do
March on in the workers'
united front
For you are a worker, too.