











## SOCIALISM IS LABOR'S TORCH-BEARER

Down through the ages the toiling masses of the world have been in bondage. Always, the producers of wealth have been the slaves and body servants of parasites. And always there has been a minority who lead in the struggle against human slavery and carried the torch of revolt against injustice.

The problems which confront the workers of America on this May Day have their parallels throughout history. In the flight of the Children of Israel from a brutal Pharaoh; in the mutiny of Spartacus and his fellow slaves; in the struggles of feudal serfs against the lords who oppressed and degraded them—in all the battles which workers have waged against the many forms of human slavery which have evolved through the centuries, we can find the same economic injustices which today pit class against class.

Debased by poverty, brutalized by suffering, robbed and beaten though the workers of all epochs have been, yet has there ever been a minority to carry the torch of freedom to new heights.

In the fight against Capitalist exploitation it has been the Socialists of the world who have held aloft the sacred light of knowledge to illumine the pathway of the struggling workers on their march to ultimate victory.

With the approach of May Day, it is more evident than ever before that only by following the torch of Socialism will Labor reach its goal. That goal is economic freedom in a workers' world, a world in which all the means of life will be dedicated to the welfare of those who work and produce, a world in which the human parasite who preys upon his fellows will no longer exist, a world which will be

free from poverty, insecurity and the ever-present menace of war.

The Socialist party hails the workers of the world and beckons them on to the final struggle against injustice. On this May Day the American Socialist movement re-dedicates itself to the task of taking the world for the workers and uniting all men of every race, creed and clime in eternal cooperation. It repeats its slogan: "Workers of the World Unite! You Have Nothing to Lose But Your Chains; You Have a World to Win!"

Reading Labor Advocate.

## Lotrich-Serdiuk Debate

Donald J. Lotrich and Leonard Serdiuk, both newspapermen, columnists and public speakers, engaged in a discussion on current social and economic problems before a crowd of 300 April 12th in the SNPJ hall under auspices of our Social Study Club, an auxiliary of Branch No. 1 Yugoslav Socialist Federation. The subject was: "Resolved, that the New Deal has not fulfilled its promises."

Since there has been little comment on this debate in Proletarec and Prosveita in their last issues, it begins me in behalf of those who were not present and are interested in our activities to review Lotrich-Serdiuk pro and con arguments.

Mary Jugg presided—and she proved to be a very capable chairman. She not only introduced the speakers in a concise and clear manner, but, when the questions were in order, also repeated and elucidated all queries to both debaters to whom they were addressed respectively.

Lotrich began with a brief resume of the history of our republic. He stressed the basic reasons that brought about the revolution in 1776 which led to our independence and the civil war in 1861 which preserved the Union and liberated our colored people. He tackled as a third milestone in the path of history our New Deal, which was put forth by the present administration in 1933. "It was created," he said, "to end the depression, but after two years of its existence we have today more reason for a revolution than our forefathers had in 1776. They fought only one king, but now we have a multitude of money kings to fight!" He analyzed the New Deal and pointed out that dividends and profits are higher and wages lower as compared to prices of commodities than ever before. He quoted official statistics from Washington Bureaus and nationally recognized economic experts, who are controlled by the democratic political machine, which plainly shows that the New Deal has no intentions to remedy the great injustice that overwhelms working people today. Average wages are kept at a miserable low minimum, while prices of all commodities arose, and on top of it sales taxes press down on small wage earners much more strenuously than on those with large incomes. Common people are worse off now in the advent of the New Deal than they were before, since prices on commodities went much higher percentually than the wages were raised. Besides there is no evidence that unemployment has been reduced to any material extent. New Deal helps only big corporations. "Roosevelt had the last chance to nationalize the banks," Lotrich declared, "and place them on the order of postal savings, where nobody lost a cent!" And continued: "We should nationalize all industry and control it for the benefit of all the people, not only for the profit of a few, who always did and will continue the cycle of so called prosperities and depressions!" New Deal indulges only temporary reforms, to which there will be an end shortly. When the five billion dollars appropriation will be spent—what then?...

He strongly emphasized the fact that the New Deal failed in its well intended mission, and that our nation stands face to face with the alter-

native whether to continue suffering and meekly obeying the present masters, or to unite in a strong political organization and establish a new social order that will deal justice to everybody alike by eliminating poverty and starvation on one side and multiple orgies on the other.

Lotrich's time was up, and the speaker for negative side of the question was introduced.

Mr. Serdiuk went far back into history than Lotrich did and told us that 1935 years ago a man was born, and that out of his teaching a religion to love one another developed. When he tackled the subject-matter proper, it was evident that he forgot to use some of the well known favorable points in his New Deal arguments.

For instance, the New Deal eliminated prohibition, cleared up the national banking chaos in a manner that the government now guarantees safety for small investors, and recognized Russia; it reduced unemployment about five million (from 12 to 11 million), and gave a good chance to workers to organize in trade or industrial unions to the last man thruout the country (alho they didn't). Besides, if the policies of the former administration should have continued—where would we be today? More likely in a worse misery, than in the new social order, as some people believe, which is very problematical.

Serdiuk didn't mention these points, which would help him to make a better showing for his cause. He talked much like a democratic or republican politician during election campaigns, which does not fit into a debate on economy. That was one point contributing to his disadvantage; the other is that no one can successfully defend the New Deal tactics before an enlightened public, since our present economic mess cannot be remedied by petty reforms.

Mr. Serdiuk declared that he has nothing against socialism, and thinks it is a "beautiful dream", but he believes that the New Deal will accomplish its prescribed mission. He admitted that if we retain the capitalist system the cycle of prosperities and depressions will continue, which, in his opinion, cannot be helped. When he said that President Roosevelt fulfilled his promise that there shall not be a hungry man, woman or child in our republic, the audience laughed. "If you give more to labor," he said prophetically, "you would hurt capitalists, who will surely resent it, which may cause national disturbances." Discussing such philosophy and belief before a thinking audience I was not surprised to hear the debator saying he was handicapped. (He meant that he was at a disadvantage against Lotrich's forceful eloquence, in fact it was a lack of sound arguments.)

In rebuttals they reiterated their analytical statements; then questions from the audience followed, which they answered.

Judging from the applause, and in my own opinion, Lotrich won the debate decisively. Both men are eloquent, good speakers; and I sincerely hope that our Social Study Club will arrange more such or similar discussions for the benefit of common people who need like enlightenment on general economic issues.

Frank S. Tauchar.

### Are You Educated?

An advertisement of New York University in parts reads: "Measure yourself by an employer's standard... What are you worth?... What do you bring to the business world?... And have you thought of what you can do to make yourself more valuable to the employer you look to for a start?"

There's the idea of "modern" education. You enter a school as a piece of human ferment and pass through the hands of various experts. When they finish the job they have transformed you into a packhorse ready to serve an employer. He looks you over and determines what value you have for him. From that moment on you are a packhorse. The value of "educated" packhorses will be quoted on the stock exchange.

—The New Leader.

### The Age of Mountebanks

If there were not an age of mountebanks and quacks, the drive against radicals could not take place.

The men back of these drives actually set themselves up as patriots and good Americans. For shame! They rape the American spirit.

### EDITOR'S NOTES

Frank Tauchar's report, published in this issue, was sent to be published last week, but because the English page was already filled, its appearance was delayed until this issue.

The May Day Manifesto of the Socialist party is published in Slovene translation on page 1.

## MAY FIRST

The working class organizations of the world have set the First of May as the day of public manifestation of the workers' grievances against a world unjust and oppressive.

Since October, 1884, the birth of May First, the world has seen workers throughout the world demonstrate on May First. For over fifty years, the workers of the world, have constantly battled forces which tended to stamp out all the rights of the working class.

May First has become a working class holiday in the broadest sense, an epitome of all of labor's aims and aspirations, from the improvements to immediate conditions to the final emancipation from a system that spells poverty and economic insecurity for the workers.

We meet this May First to re-align our forces, to raise our voices in protest to the menace of war. We oppose militarism. We demonstrate our opposition to despotism, fascism and tyranny of all kinds—economic, political, or any other. We proclaim our faith in the coming of a new era for workers, an era of economic and political freedom on this holiday that WE WORKERS HAVE TAKEN!

American Labor News.

### Prosperity!

Good times are the times when poor folks can buy on credit what they lose in hard times, as cars, homes, and radios for instance.

## AN ACTION PROGRAM

By Norman Thomas

We who want to build a strong and aggressive Socialist Party ought to be clear about the basis we want for it. Whatever we think of a labor party, or the Socialist Party's role in it, we must recognize that the Socialist Party cannot afford to compromise its emphasis on genuine socialism if it is to be of service as an educational force.

No gradual reform of capitalism can take the place of socialism or will lead to socialism. There must be a constructive effort to build socialism. We can only cooperate hopefully with labor forces not yet educated to go the whole at once, if we keep our own vision clear.

But a genuinely Socialist Party does not mean a doctrinaire or a heresy hunting party. It can safely include many varieties of opinion or of speculation with regard to future tactics, provided that today it accepts in action the following principles:

1. The party must be international or worldwide in aim and in sympathy. It cannot be truly international if, like the Communists, it accepts the dictatorship of one nation, Russia. One may believe that Soviet Russia is forced by the European situation to play the old and dangerous game of nationalist alliances, but strenuously insist that for that very reason it is madness to let Russia dictate the internal policy of parties in other lands. Russian dictatorship in German communism did enough harm to

be an object lesson to us all. We Socialists were right in the early post-war days when we rejected the demand of the Third International—which meant Russia—for control of internal policy—this although we then accepted demands which would give many of our comrades the jitters to contemplate today.

2. The Socialist Party must function on a national scale and with special reference to American traditions, psychology and needs. It must act as a nation-wide party, not as a loose federation of scattered state parties. This is consistent on the one hand with genuine international spirit and on the other with all reasonable local autonomy.

3. The Socialist Party must be genuinely democratic in its internal machinery.

4. The Socialist Party must require obedience to its ruling against an advocacy of armed insurrection which can only invite a plague of stool-pigeons, provoke a tyranny of repression, and act as a stimulus to fascism.

to press this principle into the demand that Socialists must swear that they can never conceive of any circumstances that will justify armed insurrection, or to compel Socialists to affirm a blind belief in a romantic parliamentarism is complete and un-socialist folly. What we have to do in the future will be determined far more by events than by fine spun theoretical speculation or dogmatic affirmation.

We can afford to leave to the future a lot of questions if we will work now for socialism, simply making it clear that while we do not intend to lie down before war or fascism, the methods we want to use are the methods of political and economic organization. This is clear from our fair interpretation of our Declaration of Principles. Not what we think about Trotsky and the November Revolution; not our speculations about the future, but our loyalty to an aggressive, democratic nationally controlled Socialist Party, is the test of our socialism.

## THE ONLY ANSWER

When Louis XVI was making a bum job of running France and the people were suffering terrible injustices from the graft and mismanagement of his advisors and underlings, there were a lot of people who said,

criticize or make it harder for him."

But the Socialist party repeats again, "The system is wrong. Roosevelt is part of the system. He represents the interests who own our natural wealth, the few men who by their economic power over us control our destiny. If he can help them, and help us too, he wants to do so. But they must come first."

"It isn't the King's fault. He means well. He really loves his people and is doing his best for them, but he has the wrong councillors. If we could just get to the King, everything would be all right."

The system which gives economic power to a few to use against the rest of us is wrong. Roosevelt is part of that system. He believes in private profit. He cannot within that system effect any change big enough to give us all security, health and happiness.

We must change the system. And we will.

Wisconsin Leader.

But others said, "The King is part of the system. We've got to change the whole system before we can do away with the evils that are making life not worth living."

1776—OLD STUFF!

Reports from London state that the wives of some of our most prominent 100 per cent Americans—members of the D. A. R., at that—stood in line for hours for the doubtful privilege of bowing before King George and Queen Mary.

It's surprising the Dickstein committee hasn't brought charges against them.

For favoring monarchism.  
The Industrial Worker.

And they did.

When Czar Nicholas of Russia was sitting in his palace with his fingers in his ears trying not to hear the rumblings of discontent outside his windows, there were millions of people who still trusted him.

SO SAYS CHARLIE!

Charles Schwab, steel magnate, says the government should protect the profits of the munitions industry. "It's a great national asset," he said.—News item.

What was Charlie's war-time income?

Pretty Much Alike

The difference between the leadership of the past and the leadership of the present is the former got us in the helluva fix we're in, and the latter don't know how to get us out of it.

"If the little white father only knew how we are abused and persecuted," they said, "he would stop it. He loves his people and means to do his best for them. His advisors are foolish and dishonest. If he could only run the country himself, we would be well fed and happy."

But those who were wiser said, "The system must be changed. Power belongs to a few to use as they see fit against us. We must take that power from the king and give it to the people. Nicholas Romanoff may be a kind generous man. But the system is wrong. We must change it."

And they did.

Twentieth Century Civilization

"Cuba, unfortunately, at present, like the United States and other civilized countries, has four or five persons for every job."

Pres. Mendieta of Cuba.

Today the country is full of people who say, "Many of the government policies are wrong, but it isn't the President's fault. He has inexperienced advisors. If he could only do what he really wants to, he would have the country back on his feet in no time. His subordinates don't understand and can't follow directions right. But Roosevelt himself can straighten all that out if we give him time. We mustn't

### CRIME NEWS

The pages of the newspapers are largely plastered with crime news. Evidently this condition is due to the profit motive. But it isn't profitable for readers to gorge themselves on such news. Things that portray the good, the true, the beautiful, are much more profitable to the right-minded individual than crime. At best the latter should be played down to a minimum.

In any true civilization, constructive news would be played up. Thus the newspapers would fulfill a mission of the highest type, serving the mentality of individuals seeking to make this world a beautiful place in which to live. The profit motive is the prolific breeder of crime.

W. L. Baldrige.

NOW AND THEN

Labor's slogan used to be—  
Eight hours work;  
Eight hours play;  
Eight hours sleep.  
Now it's—  
Eight hours hunting for work;  
Eight hours worrying about work;  
Eight hours nightmaring about work.

History Repeats Itself

"Let them eat cake," said Marie Antoinette.  
"Let them eat fish and potatoes," laughed Sec. of Agriculture Wallace.

Communists are people who believe in the right of free speech until they get power enough to make others shut up.

## THE UNITED SOCIALIST DRIVE

Dear Comrades:

To all Socialists and sympathizers who long to see a rapid building of the strength and virility of the Socialist Party, let me say that the time was never more opportune than now.

The workers and farmers, particularly throughout the great West, are begging for organizers and literature.

This work is limited only by our financial ability. That depends upon you. If you can give, do so until it hurts. If you cannot give, you can solicit funds. Get back of your branch or local Drive. Do your part and thus encourage every other member to activity.

Comrades, let's all do our very best to furnish the sinews of war in 1935 so that we may fight a successful Socialist campaign in 1936.

Yours for the Cause,  
Daniel W. Hoan.

## PEACE UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM

