

May Day Manifesto Of The Socialist Party U. S. A.

Workers of America! Whether we come from factories, mines, fields or offices—whether we work in city or country, on land or sea—May First is OUR DAY.

It was first dedicated to the cause of labor by organized workers in the United States during their heroic struggle for the 8-hour day. It was consecrated by the blood of the Chicago Haymarket martyrs in the '80s. It has since become the Labor Day of the international working class.

MAY DAY symbolizes our hopes and our aims for a world free of poverty and unemployment, fascism and war.

In the past year much has occurred to throw terror into the hearts of millions in every land. Fascism has marched along the road of capitalist nationalism to enslave new millions, robbing them of their liberties, whipping them with the lashes of tyranny and starvation.

Despite its brutality, however, fascism has been unable to quench the flames of working-class revolt. In Germany, Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and blood-drenched Spain today, the revolutionary workers are continuing their underground struggle for the restoration of their liberties and the establishment of a workers' world.

Spurning all forms of totalitarianism—whether "right" or "left"—they are the true heroes of democracy and humanity.

Demonstrate on May Day Against Fascism! For Workers' Democracy! For a Workers' World!

Roosevelt To The Dictators

President Roosevelt's letter to Hitler and Mussolini was a master stroke for peace as it came when Europe was on the edge of a bloody abyss. It was welcomed by the peoples of the world, including large numbers in Germany and Italy, and the labor and Socialist movement in all nations.

It is an extraordinary event in world history when the head of one nation asks the heads of two other nations whether they will agree not to destroy the independence of 31 other nations. The mere request is an indictment of the two dictators. They have swallowed up four nations, and that fact gave point to the President's request in the name of 31 other prospective victims.

The tone of the fascist press, especially Mussolini's kept journals, indicate that Hitler's speech on April 28 will be more cautious and less bombastic than his other performances, and that it will not be acceptance of a world conference but will state demands as a condition for participation in such a conference. Mussolini has forecast this attitude by announcing a ten-year program of increased armaments.

Whatever may be the fascist answer, the two gangsters face a world encirclement as a result of the President's letter. They have consolidated world opinion and resources against them. Even their Japanese ally now recoils at a military alliance with them.

We have reached the peak of the world crisis. The road is open for sealing down armaments, breaking of trade barriers, equitable apportionment of raw materials and the organization of a world league more effective than the one that issued out of the World War. It is also open to another bloody shambles. The Rome and Berlin terrorists can decide which road it shall be and their answer next week will constitute that decision.

—New Leader.

Walkout of All Soft Coal Miners Threatened

With 320,000 bituminous coal miners still idle and the nation's coal supply rapidly dwindling, the United Mine Workers of America have threatened to order a walkout of all soft coal mines in the country May 4 unless the operators have granted them a new working contract before then.

Subcommittees representing both the UMW and the Appalachian coal operators have been unable to break the deadlock on terms of a new contract to replace the agreement which expired on midnight, March 31.

It has been estimated that 1,000,000 men already have been idle in the railroad and other industries by the lack of coal shipments and shortage of fuel. Negotiations have been deadlocked by the union's demand for the elimination of so-called penalty clauses from the proposed new working contract. The clauses impose fines of \$1 to \$2 a day for each miner who strikes.

A complete shutdown of the soft coal industry would leave the 125,000 anthracite miners of the northeastern district of Pennsylvania producing the only coal. The country consumes 7,000,000 tons of coal a week. The anthracite miners' contract expires April 30.

President Roosevelt has been asked to intervene but the only federal action so far was taken last week by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, who sent J. R. Steelman, head of the department's division of conciliation, to New York to confer with the negotiators.

PMWA Will Ignore Call

Approximately 80,000 AFL-affiliated bituminous coal miners "will ignore" the May 4 strike call issued in New York by the CIO-United Mine Workers of America, Joe Ozanic, international president of the Progress-

REFLECTIONS

By RAYMOND S. HOFSES

It occurs to me that the reason we, who are "safe" in America, fail to appreciate the folly of the many wars which have been going on for the past ten years, as well as the wars that threaten, is because we think of nations instead of individuals. Yet every nation is nothing more than a large number of individuals, each with personal interests, personal feelings and personal lives to sacrifice.

No matter how great the issue appears on the surface, when a soldier gets a bullet between his eyes that puts an end to the entire matter—so far as he is concerned. I believe if we'd think about Anton Bilka instead of Rumania, Ludwik Lewandowski instead of Poland and Hop Lee instead of China we'd agree that Anton, Ludwik and Lee are a set of blankety-blank fools when they permit themselves to be hornswoggled into fighting and dying to preserve a nationality which has meant nothing more than the most abject poverty.

I recall a story which a Rumanian-born American citizen told me with tears in his eyes.

"The people were so poor," he declared, "that when the soldiers passed through our village in their fine uniforms everybody came out with buckets in the hope of gathering up horse droppings with which to fertilize the sorry patches of stony ground they called 'farms.' Sometimes," he added, "they didn't even have buckets and the women gathered the steaming manure with their hands and carried it home in their aprons."

My Rumanian friend explained that the good soil in his native land was owned by the aristocracy who had fenced it in as private "estates."

Now it appears that "Rumania" may be called upon to fight and that Anton Bilka will be offered the glorious opportunity of stopping gathering manure and, himself, becoming fertilizer at the cannon's mouth!

It may look all right to him to embrace that opportunity. But from the distance of three or four thousand miles away what I think is:

"What a fine bunch of suckers those Rumanians would be to give a tinker's damn whether they are exploited and enslaved by fellow Rumanians or by neighboring Nazis!"

Even without the understanding that, in the next war, they are to be the pawns of international capital, it would seem to me that the difference between the nationality of an exploiter is not an issue which should arouse the patriotic frenzy of a slave.

In industrial America we don't gather manure for farms. Here approximately a third of our population lives meekly on some form of relief. But here, too, it seems to me that some bargaining would be in order before the John Smiths and Henry Browns who live in side streets and on tenant farms throughout the nation consent to lay down their lives in a war to preserve "our civilization."

The fact is that the people who will be asked to do the bleeding have had too meager a share of the civilization which is to be preserved. I maintain that they are justified in asking more — much more! — as their price for saving anything. If this nation enters another war it won't be America that's fighting and sacrificing. It will be the Johns and Henrys of the lower third. And they should demand a greater stake in the thing they are preserving than the economic slavery and poverty which have been their lot in this land of a few million-dollar incomes.

Rumanian peasants and Chinese coolies are not the only people who can be duped to advance the interests of the people who have been using and exploiting them all their lives. If America goes to war we'll hear much about "democracy" and "fascism" and "humanity" and "aggression." But those of us who do our own thinking, including the native owning class, will also take into consideration the hemp from the Philippine Islands, the rubber from the East Indies, the manganese from Central and South America and the many other physical resources upon which civilization and the profits of owners depends.

Let foolish foreigners be the pawns in a bloody chess game between rival exploiters if they must. But here in America I'd like to be assured that "our" civilization is really OURS—not Morgan's. I want the exploitation of workers by owners to stop!

Such assurance, it seems to me, is the only thing which could possibly justify this generation in shedding its blood. But to mean anything, the assurance must be made a fact by socializing American resources and by abolishing the industrial and financial autocracy.

And it must be done BEFORE the first American worker is called upon to die.

When man is a brute, he is the most sensual and loathsome of all brutes.—Hawthorne.

RESPONSE TO SPRING

CLEVELAND, O.—April showers will bring with them the May Day celebration of Socialist "Zarja" and Branch 27 J.S.F. Sunday, April 30, is the day; 3 P. M. is the time; 25 cents in advance is the price for the thrifty, while the jaggards will pay 40 cents at the box office. Yes, sir, the new low price will enable every worker, regardless of how low his financial standing may be, to come to the S.N.D. on St. Clair and make the May Day affair a crowning success.

"Zarja" will be on hand with a new selection of songs, among them the classic "V spomin Ivanu Cankarju." The title speaks for itself. A light and humorous song, entitled "Tinica," will bring childhood memories to that part of the audience born in Europe. "Slava Delu" will be one of the worker's songs to add variety. Of course, in spring a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love, consequently, a song of romance named "Lahko Noz" was added to complete the bill by the mixed chorus. The much improved women's chorus will present a harmonious arrangement of the "Gloworm" in English.

Also participating in the May Day affair, will be members of the Czech singing society "Vojan" who will present a dance called "Beseda," which will add greatly to the program. A brother-and-sister act will be performed by Sally Strumbel and Eleanor Lazar. Duets, of which there are quite a few, will be rendered by Jennie Perusek and Valeria Weiss; Frank Elersich and Katherine Jurman; Josephine Turk and Sophie Turkman; Albert Fatar and Andy Turkman; trio—Josephine and Elsie Turk and Jennie Hendershott; solos by Jennie Perusek and Victoria Poljsak.

Something different will be the musical dramatization "Snubad." Among the speakers will be Ethin Kristan and John Sommerlatte. "In Heaven and Earth" looks like a very promising play. Centering about the plot of "War, what for?" the events take place in a college within a period of four years in the near future. Ray Maynard (Tony Elersich), editor of the school paper, is deserted by the girl of his heart, Norma (Sue Pakis) and his staunch friends, Bill Williams (Andy Turkman), Jimmie (Frank Elersich), and Johnny (Ralph Polshak), when he continues his crusade for peace after a war breaks out and the United States enters. Four years later, after suffering untold hardships, Ray is visited by the ghosts of his three pals who have been killed and now return to tell him of the fallacies of war. Norma returns to him alive, and together they pledge themselves to work against any possibility of such a thing happening again.

Frank Kacar as the "Dean" is very impressive, and Johnny Slosar does well as Professor. The crowd is composed of the rest of the younger people in Zarja. Help labor show its solidarity by coming to see us at the S.N.D. on Sunday, April 30, at 3 P. M. Dancing in the evening to Frank Barbic's orchestra.

Andrew Turkman.

Wagner Assails Foes' Attacks On Labor Act

Firm opposition to the attempts of the National Association of Manufacturers, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and their agents in Congress to destroy the Labor Relations Act was voiced by Senator Robert F. Wagner, father of the act, in his testimony at the opening hearings on proposed amendments before the Senate Labor Committee.

Senator Wagner's long and careful analysis of the proposed changes, prefaced by a detailed survey of the conditions that led to the passage of the act, concluded that most of the amendments are aimed at destruction of the act rather than, as their sponsors pretend, at its improvement.

The outcry against the act heard from every reactionary side should not be allowed to stampede Congress into changing it, he declared. Every piece of social legislation ever passed has had the same outcry raised against it, precisely by those most opposed to giving labor a fair legislative break.

Wagner's testimony fully answered the hostile charge that the act is "unfair," that it is "biased" in favor of the workers, that employers and the public "suffer" from its operations.

The employer has plenty of protection now, he pointed out, and all the Labor Act does is to redress this unbalanced situation by guaranteeing the worker the right to organize and bargain collectively.

"In addition to a legal system weighed heavily in his favor, the employer has at his disposal superior economic staying power, more money, better legal counsel, and better access to the instruments of public opinion," he said.

"Against all this, the Labor Act gives the worker nothing but the right to institute a lengthy legal pro-

ceeding to protect his right to organize and bargain collectively, a right theoretically recognized by our law for 100 years. To call this act 'unfair' is to my mind to evince a case of economic astigmatism."

ONE-MINUTE TEST

- 1. What is the English equivalent to the American dime novel? 2. In what position should a person who has fainted be placed when given first aid? 3. How does a rower "feather his oars"?

ONE-MINUTE TEST ANSWERS

- 1. The "penny dreadful." 2. The head should be placed lower than the feet. 3. By turning them parallel to the water on his return stroke, to decrease wind resistance.

Words of Wisdom

Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm. It is the real allegory of the tale of Orpheus. It moves stones, and charms brutes. It is the genius of sincerity, and truth accomplishes no victories without it.—Bulwer.

BRANCH MEETING

Chicago, Ill. — Members of Branch 1 J.S.F. are urged to attend the meeting Friday, April 28, at the Slovene Labor Center as a very important discussion concerning the future of our Federation will be held.

I prefer the wisdom of the uneducated to the folly of the loquacious.—Cicero.

Skimp Appropriation For The WPA

There will be stacks and stacks of money for increased armament, but the senate and house decided to throw hundreds of thousands of unemployed off the WPA in order to save money.

The president asked for \$150,000,000. It was whittled down to \$100,000,000 by the house and was messaged to the senate in that form. There Senator Pepper moved that \$50,000,000 be added to the appropriation. This amendment was rejected by a vote of 49 to 28. Even "Dear Alben" — Senator Barkley who is the senate Democratic leader and the customary mouthpiece of the administration in that body — voted against the amendment.

La Follette of Wisconsin voted for the additional appropriation.

Wiley of Wisconsin voted against it.

A vote against the additional appropriation is a vote to throw deserving men and women out of employment. Many have already been discharged and many more will be discharged.

In part, the vote against the additional appropriation is intended to punish the president. Some of the senators and representatives want to show the world that they will not "take orders" from him. It would be much better for them to make that showing in a different manner — by voting for the war referendum or by voting to keep him from having his own way about war entanglements, for instance—instead of making it by still further crushing the spirit of the unemployed.

The entire \$150,000,000, sought by the president, would not have been anywhere near enough.

—Milwaukee Post.

MASSES DUPES OF WARMAKERS

Sees League of Peoples as Only Hope of Escape From Militarists Who Plan Slaughter

By Scott Nearing

Wars are not accidental. They are organized and planned years in advance by men who make military preparedness their life work. Some authorities on military affairs even go so far as to define peace as "the interval between wars."

Diplomats have a part in war preparations. They choose the time and the occasion. Military experts provide the stage setting. Millions of human beings do the acting. Ruskin called war the most extensive and expensive of all the sports indulged in by the rich and powerful.

War might also be described as the most elaborate drama staged by the human race. But it is not the product of human passion. Passions are whipped up by the war-makers at a certain stage in their military preparations. War is a science and an art.

Massacre Well Planned

Every important government maintains an elaborate war-making apparatus consisting of departments of war, navy and aviation, with the necessary complement of ministers, secretaries, clerks and experts. Special schools and colleges prepare their graduates for leadership in war-making, and the officers who plan and direct the campaigns of organized destruction and mass murder that go by the name of war are held in the highest esteem.

The military department receives larger appropriations than any other single item of public expense. The physical equipment of the war-making departments is maintained on a huge, extravagant scale. A single battleship now costs about \$70,000,000; cruisers and destroyers, proportionately less. Into all of the 750 ships that make up the U. S. navy there goes the best material that money will buy.

Wealth For Destruction

The U. S. navy has just issued a report showing the property investment in naval apparatus for the year 1938. The largest single item is \$1,972,000,000 for ships. Naval stations have an estimated value of \$785,000,000. The total investment in the navy on June 30, 1938, was \$3,564,000,000.

The U. S. has only recently become a great world power. Between 1794 and 1916 the total expenditures on the navy were \$3,600,000,000. Between 1917 and 1938 expenditures were \$13,000,000,000, or four times as great during the past 21 years as during the previous 123 years.

The U. S. is only one of the seven great naval powers. The British fleet is slightly larger than the American. The Japanese fleet is somewhat smaller. But in all seven of the countries with sufficient wealth to afford big navies, a huge apparatus is maintained and is now being rapidly enlarged to protect and extend the vested interests of the various ruling class groups.

How are the billions secured for naval construction and expansion? By making guns instead of butter. The present arms race in the richest as well as in the poorest nations is financed by lowering the standard of living of the masses.

War Breeds War

War-making may be the greatest of all sports. It certainly is expensive.

IS PROSPERITY JUST AROUND THIS "CORNER"?

