

**NEXT WEEK:  
FIFTEEN YEAR'S AFTER  
LENIN'S DEATH**

# Workers Age

Weekly Paper of the Independent Labor League of America

**ROSA LUXEMBURG: TWENTY YEARS  
AFTER . . .** by Will Herberg . Page 4  
**SHYSTER POLITICS DEFEATS ITSELF**  
. . . by Robert Walters . . . Page 3

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5 CENTS

## AT FIRST GLANCE

by Jay Lovestone

IN MEMORIAM—ROSA AND KARL

WE are not digging up old grievances, nor are we stirring up old animosities when we sadly remind our readers that twenty years ago this month, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg were murdered by the fore-runners of Hitler's Nazis, then working hand in glove with the social-democratic chieftains, Scheidemann, Ebert and Noske. On the eve of their murder, the social-democratic Vorwaerts published the following lines as inspiration and guidance to the hired assassins:

"Five hundred corpses in a row,  
Liebknecht, Rosa, Radek & Co.  
Are they not there also?"

Had Liebknecht and Luxemburg not been murdered by these gunmen serving as the capitalist "democratic" government (headed by so-called "socialists") twenty years ago, Germany and the world would not be plagued with Hitlerism today. The ground was prepared for Hitler and his Nazi regime by a whole series of coalition (People's Front) governments dedicated to the preservation of capitalism and its parliamentary form of class rule—devoted to the cause of crushing every effort to establish a workers republic and to develop a socialist society.

The best comrades and co-workers of Rosa and Karl—now in the German Communist Opposition (C.P.G.O.)—have long ago broken with Stalinism and its revised and worsened edition of the policy of collaboration with the employing class. These comrades are holding aloft, in underground Germany today, the banner of the Spartacus League and the best days of communism as personified by Liebknecht and Luxemburg. On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of this ghastliest murder in history, we repeat, in commemoration, from the letter of Leo Jogisches, on the morrow of the tragedy, to Lenin: "Karl and Rosa have fulfilled their revolutionary duty to the last." It is in the ideas and idealism of Karl and Rosa, it is in the followers of Liebknecht and Luxemburg that we place our hope for a better and brighter Germany—for a world free from every vestige of capitalist exploitation and domination, for a socialist Germany and a socialist world.

UNSUNG HEROES

IT will be very appropriate to say a few words about some unsung heroes in the Mooney epic. We are not going to utter a syllable in reference to the noise-makers who are now seeking to appropriate for themselves the symbol of working-class consciousness, the dramatic figure of the proletarian class fight against the fraud that parades as American "democracy." At this moment, we rather want to emphasize the splendid role played over many years by such genuinely progressive fighters as Mooney's attorney, Frank P. Walsh. Today, it is vital not to forget that such venerable figures of the American labor movement as Ed Nockles, now dead, unstintingly gave very much to the fight for Tom's freedom, to the struggle for the vindication of a great ideal. Regardless of what differences one may have with John Fitzpatrick of the Chicago Federation of Labor, it must be underscored that he has done more than his bit to make the American labor unions conscious of the issue at stake, to rouse labor for a stubborn campaign to release Mooney and Billings.

Champions of the cause symbolized by Mooney should not be judged by the noise they make, by the credit they crave, or by the cash they seek to make for their own narrow party clique thru capitalizing in a sordidly factional manner on the cause of Mooney's freedom and now the cause of the liberation of Warren Billings.

THE NEW DISPENSATION

A dubious character, Roca by name, is at the moment of this writing the leader of the Communist Party of Cuba. Cloistered in instructed ignorance or given to deliberate outraging of the truth, Mr. Roca told the recent national convention of the Cuban Stalinists (Daily Worker, January 13):

"The Roosevelt Administration represents to a great extent the growing . . . progressive movement and the forward march of the awakening millions of workers who suffered in the past from imperialist oppression as did the Cuban workers. The policies of the Roosevelt Administration are the product of the struggles of the masses of the American people . . . The struggle for liberation cannot be anti-United States."

We are quoting this in sorrow and restrained anger. The "freedom and democracy" that the Communist International blesses in the U.S.S.R., or even the decadent capitalist parliamentary democracy it shouts for elsewhere, could find no more fitting defender than Butcher Batista. Furthermore, the Daily Worker would have its readers believe that the best proof that the United States is no longer imperialistic is afforded by the gigantic armament appropriations just proposed by Roosevelt and hailed by the bankers and jingoes from coast to coast. Roca, Foster, Browder and even Stachel, may have become 22-carat converts to everything that has recently been peddled to them. Yet, somehow, we cannot get over our understanding and conviction that there is some slight connection between "out" commerce of today and "their" (Wall Street's) conquests of yesterday in Latin American territory. Finally, we do suggest that at the coming Lenin memorial meetings, the Communist Party artists division stage a demonstrative burning of Lenin's masterly works "Imperialism" and "State and Revolution." In the same spirit, the Latin American Stalinist parties should on this occasion cable to the Kremlin memorial wreaths bearing the inscription: "The struggle for our liberation cannot be anti-United States."

PAPAL BLESSINGS

THE "appeasement-of-fascism" policy pursued by the greatest "democratic" and that redoubtable fortress of "social progress," the Vatican, was revealed in its ugliest nakedness at the recent ceremony opening Hitler's newest heartbreak house in Berlin, the Chancellery. On this occasion, the Papal Nuncio in Berlin, and incidentally, the dean of the diplomatic corps, solemnly chanted: "May Providence grant that the peaceful procedure that was so effective in Munich and that so completely conforms to the wishes of all peoples may become the accepted method in the future of mediating international controversies."

Here is the most wholesome blessing that any papal potentate has ever showered on any mailed fist. Franco, Mussolini, Hitler, Chamberlain, Daladier and all species, sorts and ilks of reaction could ask for no more in 1939.

## C.I.O. Maps State Bills

Demand Local Walsh-Healy Acts

One of the main things the Congress of Industrial Organizations wants state legislatures to do the coming year, according to the program it outlined recently, is to enact laws curbing the use of the National Guard in labor disputes. It also desires laws guaranteeing collective bargaining to employees of firms holding state contracts and keeping local officials from infringing civil liberties.

Other items in this legislative program are bills limiting the injunction right and the use of deputy sheriffs and private detectives, forbidding the eviction of workers on strike or unemployed, and regulating the payment of wages and setting up state labor relations boards and wages-hours acts. (Continued from Page 2)

## May Bill to Be Dropped

Is Postponed For War Emergency

The May "wartime-dictatorship" bill, opposed in the last Congress by labor, civil-liberties and other groups may not be brought up at this session of Congress, it was learned last week.

Representative May explained that he still thought such a bill would be necessary in case of war. "But if war came," he said, "Congress could pass it in a few minutes. So it may be that the committee will decide it isn't worth while to stir up a fuss now."

"If we ever get into war with the dictatorships, we will have to vest unusual powers in the President in order to compete with them on an even footing."

## Army Seeks 3,000 New Planes

Plan Raises Total To 6,000; Doubles Last War Dept. Estimate

An Administration bill giving the Secretary of War blanket authority to provide up to 6,000 airplanes for the army air corps, was introduced into the House of Representatives last week by Representative May, chairman of the Military Affairs Committee. The next day a similar bill was introduced into the Senate by Senator Sheppard.

This bill implies the construction of at least 3,000 new planes, since the present strength is about 3,000. (This, of course, relates only to the army; the navy has about 3,000 planes of its own.) It is one of nine measures the War Department has prepared to implement the President's "national-defense" message to Congress recently. The eight remaining bills provide for increased personnel, broadened powers of procurement for the War Department, larger authorization to place so-called "educational orders" with industries needed for war-time production, etc.

Before the House committee, Major-General Arnold, chief of the army air corps, insisted that the May bill was "absolutely necessary for defense." Yet, as recently as last October, the same Major-General Arnold had declared publicly that he regarded 2,320 planes for the army "a very good figure as things now stand." He refused to explain what had caused him to change his mind so suddenly.

## Mooney Urges Labor Unity

Letter To Zimmerman Thanks I.L.G.W.U.

The need for united labor action "to safeguard our rights and our liberties" was urged by Tom Mooney in a personal message to Charles S. Zimmerman, secretary-manager of Dressmakers Union, Local 22, I.L.G.W.U. The message came in answer to the following telegram sent by Zimmerman on the day of Mooney's liberation: "Hearty greetings upon your release. We rejoice with you upon the success of your long fight for vindication, which is a victory for the whole labor movement."

Tom Mooney's message, which was read entire over Station WEVD on Thursday, January 12, in the regular weekly broadcast of Local 22, states in part:

"I realize, that my freedom is much more than a personal victory. It was a tremendous and significant victory for the whole labor movement. It gives great hope for what we can accomplish in the future to know that this battle has been won, and in such a glorious manner."

"My immediate concern is the pardon and complete vindication of my co-defendant and co-sufferer, Warren K. Billings, who is equally innocent with me of this crime for which we have wrongly suffered almost a quarter of a century. A militant campaign must be gotten under way to put the pressure on the California Supreme Court to recommend a pardon for Billings."

"Next, my chief concern is to see the labor movement of America completely united in a progressive, forward-looking, aggressive organization which shall embrace every branch and organization of labor."

"I want to express my deep and abiding thanks to the members and officers of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union who have loyally and steadfastly fought for me these many years. Without your help and that of the rest of labor, this victory would not have come. I know I can count on your continued aid, moral and financial, to win freedom for Warren Billings, and in the drive for a united powerful labor movement."

## Blackwell Freed

Russell Blackwell, American anti-fascist fighter imprisoned in Loyalist Spain thru the machinations of the Stalinists, has been acquitted and given into the custody of the American consul for safety, the State Department informed the Blackwell Defense Committee recently. The State Department also gave the assurance that he will be sent back to America "by the safest means available."

## The Race Grows Hotter!

COMPETITION in armaments was greatly accentuated in 1938, the new edition of the Armament Year Book, recently issued at Geneva, points out. The total world military expenditure in 1938 amounted to nearly \$9,500,000,000 (old gold dollars used thruout) as compared with \$8,000,000,000 in 1937. (The sum of \$9,500,000,000 in old gold dollars represents about \$16,000,000,000.)

During the five years preceding the disarmament conference, from 1927 to 1931 inclusive, the world expenditure amounted to \$20,600,000,000.

Of the \$9,500,000,000 spent on arms by 64 countries in 1938, seven great powers spent \$7,400,000,000 or about 78.7% of the world military expenditure. In 1929, the same seven countries accounted for only \$2,800,000,000 out of a total of \$4,200,000,000, or about 65.7%.

## C.I.O. and A.F.L. Unite to Fight Against Relief Cut

Call for Original \$875 Million Grant; Million in Danger of Job Loss

Organized labor, both A.F. of L. and C.I.O., swung into action last week in an effort to get the Senate to restore the House's \$150,000,000 cut in the supplemental appropriation for the W.P.A. Informal cooperation between the two sections of the labor movement was established on this issue.

Pressure in the same direction was exerted also by the White House, by the United States Conference of Mayors and by a number of governors, including Governor Lehman.

President Roosevelt had recommended a W. P. A. deficiency

appropriation of \$875,000,000, which itself was considerably less than the C.I.O. and others felt was necessary in the situation. But the House of Representatives, dominated by an "economy"-minded block of conservative Democrats and Republicans, then proceeded to slash the President's recommendation to \$725,000,000. The Senate Appropriations Committee voted 17 to 7 last week to sustain the cut. In the Senate, where the measure is at the present time, there is a strong determination on the part of the reactionary elements to follow the House action.

In answer to a question at his press

conference, President Roosevelt said that more than a million workers on W.P.A. would have to be dropped before June 30 if Congress did not restore the original appropriation. After June 30, the President's own 1940 budget provides for a slash of almost a billion dollars in relief funds so that the situation is likely to become even worse.

## GREEN AND CAREY PROTEST

Labor's solid front in support of the larger appropriation was completed when William Green, president of the A.F. of L., addressed a letter to Senator Adams, chairman of the Senate sub-committee, strongly urging restoration of the \$150,000,000.

The C.I.O. had already assumed a leading part in the relief fight and last week James B. Carey, C.I.O. secretary, followed with a sharp warning of the dangers to the people should the House reduction be allowed to stand.

Mayor LaGuardia of New York, chairman of the Conference of Mayors, pleaded with the Senate subcommittee to restore the fund at least to the figure proposed by the President. In the hearings the week before a House subcommittee, the Mayor had stated that \$915,000,000 was the minimum needed to finance the W.P.A. thru the current fiscal year. He reiterated this estimate before the Senate group and stressed that at least 1,150,000 W.P.A. workers would have to be discharged by June 30 should the House action be sustained by the Senate.

## Security to Be Extended

F. D. R. Proposes Wider Coverage Of Act

President Roosevelt last week asked Congress in a special message to strengthen the Social Security Act by extending its benefits to 16,400,000 more workers and by providing earlier and larger old-age pensions. The act now covers about 42,500,000.

At the same time, he warned against adoption of "untried and demonstrably unsound panaceas," obviously referring to various old-age pension schemes, such as the Townsend plan, expected to come before Congress.

Roosevelt sent up the message along with a report by the Social Security Board recommending comprehensive changes in the act, including liberalization of its benefits.

The Board specifically recommended that the act be amended to make old-age benefit payments begin in 1940 instead of 1942, together with increased monthly payments in early years of the system's operations.

It suggested that agricultural, domestic, and maritime workers be brought under the act's scope and that employees of national banks, the federal government and charitable organizations also be included.

Other recommendations were: Payment of benefits to aged dependent wives of retired workers. Payment of benefits to aged widows and young widows with dependent children.

Calculation of benefits on the basis of average wages rather than total accumulated wages. Payments to widows of all persons who would have qualified for old-age pensions, had they lived to be 65.

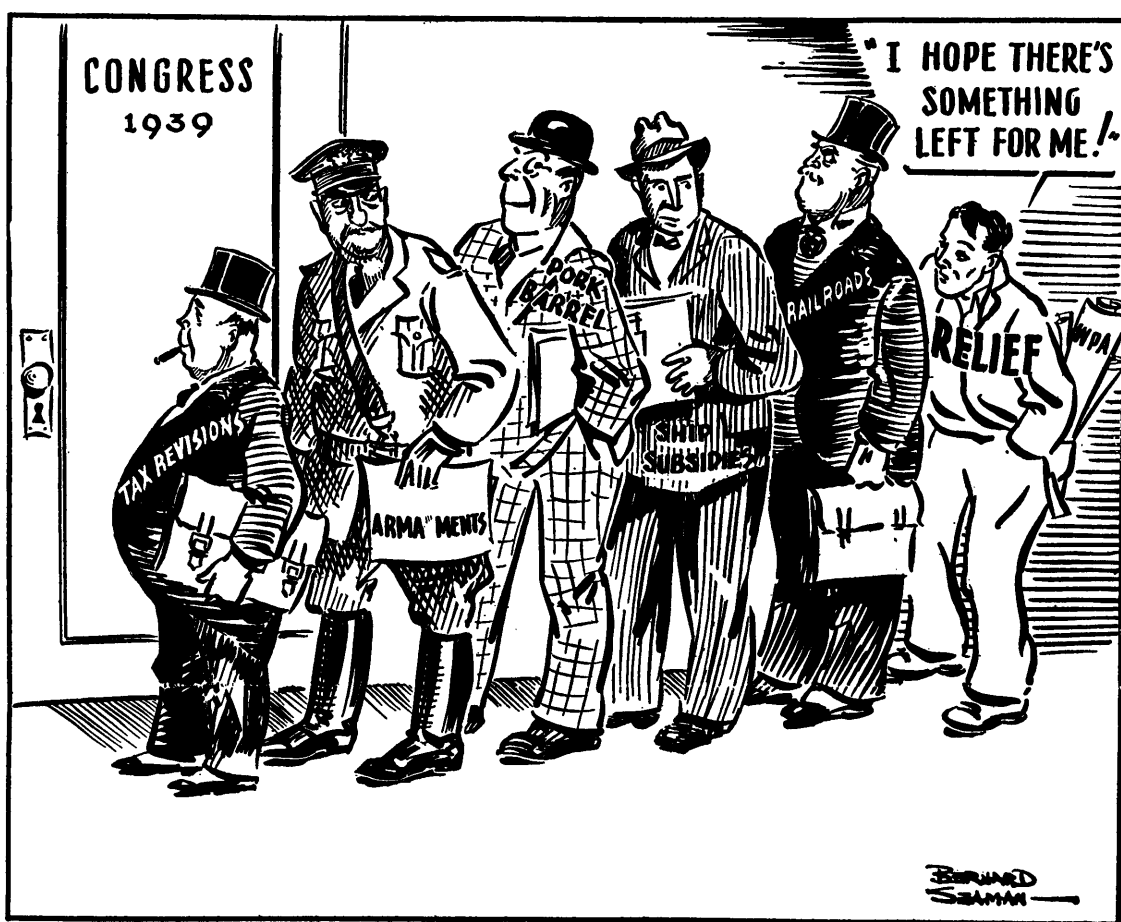
Establishment of a federal financial-assistance system to states whereby the varying economic capacities of the states would be taken into consideration, instead of the present system of uniform percentage grants.

Following closely the recommendations of the National Advisory Council on Social Security, submitted a month ago, the message did not make any new suggestions regarding financing of the pensions system but said that if benefits are increased "it would be sound public policy to pay part of the cost out of taxes other than those on payrolls."

International Board summarily expelled 150 local unions because "they were not in good standing," without notifying these locals and without giving them an opportunity to place themselves in good standing.

When, in addition, the International Board carried out another sweeping purge of pro-Martin of (Continued on Page 3)

## CROWDING HIM OUT



## U. A. W. Split As Board Defies Membership

President Martin Acts Promptly to Protect Union

Latest Developments

TWO hundred local unions out of a total of about 350, representing some 70% of the membership of the U.A.W., convened in Detroit on Sunday, January 22, and pledged full support to President Martin. A committee of ten was set up to aid in the organization of the coming national convention of the union.

There is a marked trend in the ranks in support of President Martin. The Indiana region, claimed by the Stalinists in its entirety, shows many locals lining up with Martin, now that Board member Merrill has joined up with the anti-Martin forces.—The Wisconsin Council of the U.A.W. refuses to rely on reports of Board member Michael and has sent a delegation to hear Martin's side of the controversy.—The Mack Division of the Briggs local, hitherto an almost 100% "unity" stronghold, has just selected a committee to supervise elections of delegates to the U.A.W. convention, Martin supporters took 3 out of 5 places.—Four thousand Plymouth workers in a local meeting reiterated their support of Martin despite disruptive activities of Stalinists. A separate meeting, called by Stalinists after adjournment of local union meeting, showed only 400 in attendance.—There was not a sign of support for the 15 suspended Board members when President Martin addressed 1,500 cheering members of Flint's Fisher Body Local 581.—Jackson, Michigan, auto workers turned out strong in support of President Martin and Regional Director Lester Washburn, to a banquet celebrating a successful contract recently signed and to a mass meeting at which Martin and Washburn discussed the union situation.

Walter Reuther's West Side Council, tho voting to send its dues to the suspended secretary, George Addes, could not block the fight of Martin supporter, Stuart Strachan, for a general membership meeting to hear Martin. The motion carried when almost half of Council threatened to walk out. The Kelsey-Hayes division of the West Side local voted almost unanimously to ask for a local membership meeting to hear President Martin.

The Missouri region of the U.A.W. has turned thumbs down on its Regional Director and Board member, Delmond Garst. With the exception of one local union all have placed themselves behind President Martin.

Growing opposition is reported in Locals 12 and 14 of Toledo, hitherto strongholds of the "unity" faction.

(Special to the Workers Age) Detroit, Mich.

THE United Automobile Workers of America is split wide open. Disregarding all attempts of President Martin to secure a peaceful solution of the recently developed

Griswold Building are now being held by President Martin and his supporters, while International Union funds, funds in some regions and locals are being contested by the two groups.

## ATTEMPT AT FRAME-UP

The first attempt of the International Board to oust President Martin came on a framed-up charge of "promoting company unionism" by "private negotiations" with the Ford firm. This transparent frame-up collapsed completely and the Board itself was forced to issue an order to President Martin to proceed with the negotiations for a contract for the Ford workers.

President Martin then continued to press for a union convention, a demand which the International Board finally granted. But, according to Martin spokesmen, the decisions of the Board regulating the convention and the Board preparations for it proved clearly that it would not be a democratic convention, truly representative of the attitude of the membership. Martin's demand for a convention arrangements committee consisting of an equal number from each side was contemptuously rejected and a 100% anti-Martin committee was set up. In addition, the ruling to apportion delegates to locals on the basis of dues payments as of December 31 was grossly irregular. For regular conventions, all locals know in advance that unless payments are made up to a certain time they will lose the right to be represented. No such knowledge existed now because the locals had no way of knowing when the emergency convention would be held.

Martin sources charged that the Board delayed its decision long enough to fix up the payments of locals backing it. It was clearly an attempt to disqualify pro-Martin locals.

Martin supporters further substantiate their charge of planned packing of the Cleveland convention by pointing to the fact that the In-

FRIDAY

January 27

8:00 P. M.

ANGELICA BALABANOFF

speaks at the

INDEPENDENT LABOR INSTITUTE

Rivera Hall

131 W. 33 St.

ROOM 707





