

Support Struggle of Cuban Masses! Demand "Hands Off Cuba"



By Michael Gold

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following column of Comrade Mike Gold in reply to a criticism by a reader to a previous column on national minorities is printed in full. However, a number of points raised in this controversy require an answer from the Editor. This answer will appear in an early issue of the Daily Worker.

On Monday, September 11th, I wrote a column dealing mostly with Ireland and the Irish workers. There was an Irish poem, an Irish anecdote, and some mention of old Ireland, quite a bit of reminiscing over old Jim Larkin. In the course of this literary humorous column, a certain paragraph appeared which I am re-printing in full, because it is the basis of a long, windy charge of deviation made by some anonymous theoretician in the Daily Worker of September 13th.

KKK "The Irish, like the Jews and Negroes, have suffered centuries of slavery, and this oppression always gives a peculiar twist to a race's character. Oppressed races become sensitive in a way that others can never understand. They develop very sharp nostrils, as do all hunted animals, and can quickly smell out an enemy. "Sometimes it is a delicate job to deal with them, they are so touchy and over-alert. The best way is to be casual and matter-of-fact. If you have any race feeling in you, study it, eliminate it, fight it. Then when you are cured, be casual and human. It really isn't easy, I know I get sore whenever I hear anybody say 'Some of my best friends are Jews.' Why I get sore I really don't know. But it smells of patronage. No race of healthy individuals wants that. Better to have persecution, frank and bitter, something that can be fought in the open."

13 Deviations. There are exactly 13 sentences in the above paragraph. Count them, and see. Some of them are short, and contain only four or five words. Yet my anonymous censor makes a remarkable statement. "Each sentence, if carefully analyzed, contains deviations from the Communist Party's understanding of the Negro question." Think of that—13 sentences, and therefore, 13 deviations. They don't appear on the Sherlock Holmes, and use the scalpel and microscope to discover the hidden deviation in such a sentence as, for instance, "I get sore whenever I hear anybody say 'Some of my best friends are Jews.'" But it's there. Comrade Anon wants it to be there.

Negation of the Role. You also have to be a Sherlock Holmes, or somebody even more extraordinary, to deduce from the above little 13-sentence paragraph the following enormous conclusion: "This leads to the negation of the role of the Communist Party as the leader of all oppressed peoples." Comrade Anon bases this serious charge upon one sentence, "oppressed races become sensitive in a way that others can never understand."

Now, if you will re-read the paragraph you will notice that I am speaking of the Irish, with the Jews and Negroes thrown in, as illustrations. I am speaking of myself. I am a Jew, and I think I understand some of the Jewish race-sensitivity. I have often noticed how many traits in common all oppressed races display. I tried to indicate this, and I did it as a Jew talking of the Irish and Negroes.

But with some amazing sleight-of-hand, Comrade Anon has made me out as the apostle of a major deviation on the Negro problem, the negation of the role of the Party.

Casual and Human. What seemed to infuriate Comrade Anon was my advice that one study and kill the race-prejudice in one's mind, then try to be casual and human in relations with that race. Note that my own Jewish race-feelings are used as a psychological yardstick. It is there in the paragraph, plain as the nose on my face. But Anon deviates this statement also. "I am deviating, he says, in advocating 'like Socialists and Communist rascals that it is not necessary to fight against the oppression of Negroes.'"

Let me patiently explain again: I was talking of all races. In this mixed-up country the race problem is a major one in the labor movement. All the races are at each other's throats, and the bosses fan the flames. The Irish in America are discriminated against; the Jews, the Swedes, the Japanese. Everyone in America is tainted by race-prejudices at one time or another. And in the Communist movement there are traces of it, too. It has created a certain amount of self-consciousness in the relations between the racial units of the Party. I have heard anti-semitic sentiments from a well-known Communist, for instance. They were unconscious,

RED MILITIA IS ORGANIZED BY STRIKERS

San Martin Government Bares Its Teeth to Workers

(Special Correspondence to the Daily Worker) HAVANA (By Mail).—The Grau San Martin government is showing its teeth. Unable to stop the struggles of the sugar workers and to get them to give up the sugar plantations they have seized, it sent a whole trainload of soldiers and student members of the Ejército Caribe.

On September 11 a general strike was called for five hours in honor of a worker killed at the Cristo mine. About 10,000 workers attended the funeral. Soldiers sent a wreath and fraternized with the workers and strikers.

On September 12 the workers took over the sugar central Mabay. The management, fearing destruction of property, gave out \$350 worth of food to the strikers. On the 14th the strikers chose delegates to divide the lands, also deciding to turn part over to the soldiers. They decided to organize a Soviet of workers and peasants and soldiers delegates. At a great mass meeting three soldiers spoke in favor of support of the workers' struggle. The management fled. The rural police guards the officers. However, there is a large number of armed workers who smash the doors of the storeshops when the sergeant in charge refuses to yield the keys. The strikers are dividing up the sheep, cows, etc.

In the plantations Tacajo and Baganos the strike began on the 29th of the workers, and turned into the strikers' demands. In the whole region there is a Red militia. On the roads between the centers there are patrols of the Red Militia which allows no one to pass without permission of the strike committee.

The central Tacajo was seized by the workers, and turned into the headquarters of the Red Guards. In Banos 5,000 sugar workers from the plantations Boston and Preston held a mass meeting and decided to open their headquarters in the center. The bourgeois opposition tried to organize a counter demonstration but a contingent of armed workers put them to flight.

In Banos, in a suburb called Amarillo (Yellow), live Americans, all employees of the United Fruit Co. This section was seized by the workers who placed Red Guards everywhere. They called out on strike all cooks, househelp, etc.

On September 3, a Soviet was established in Banos. All taxes were abolished but 10 per cent tax was established to help the strikers.

perhaps, but real. Being casual, comradely and human, not becoming self-conscious in one's dealings with other races, is a very necessary accomplishment for a Communist in America. It is an art that has to be studied and learned; and it can't be met by a lot of mechanical phrasology.

To say I am a white chauvinist for making such a remark is about the limit. It is a slander made with some malicious object I can't understand. I don't need Comrade Anon to tell me to "become a fighter for Negro rights." It is more than ten years since I wrote the first revolutionary poems in defense of the Negro. I don't know what I was writing about on this theme, and many short stories. I worked with Claude McKay for several years as co-editor of the Liberator, and we dealt with the Negro problem before the Party had fully awoke to it.

I don't need Comrade Anon to tell me to "jump at the throat of those who discriminate against Negroes." What threats has he, an anonymous hero, jumped at?

And, of course, the Party is the leader of the oppressed races. Of course, one must fight bitterly in defense of the Negro worker—to the uttermost limit.

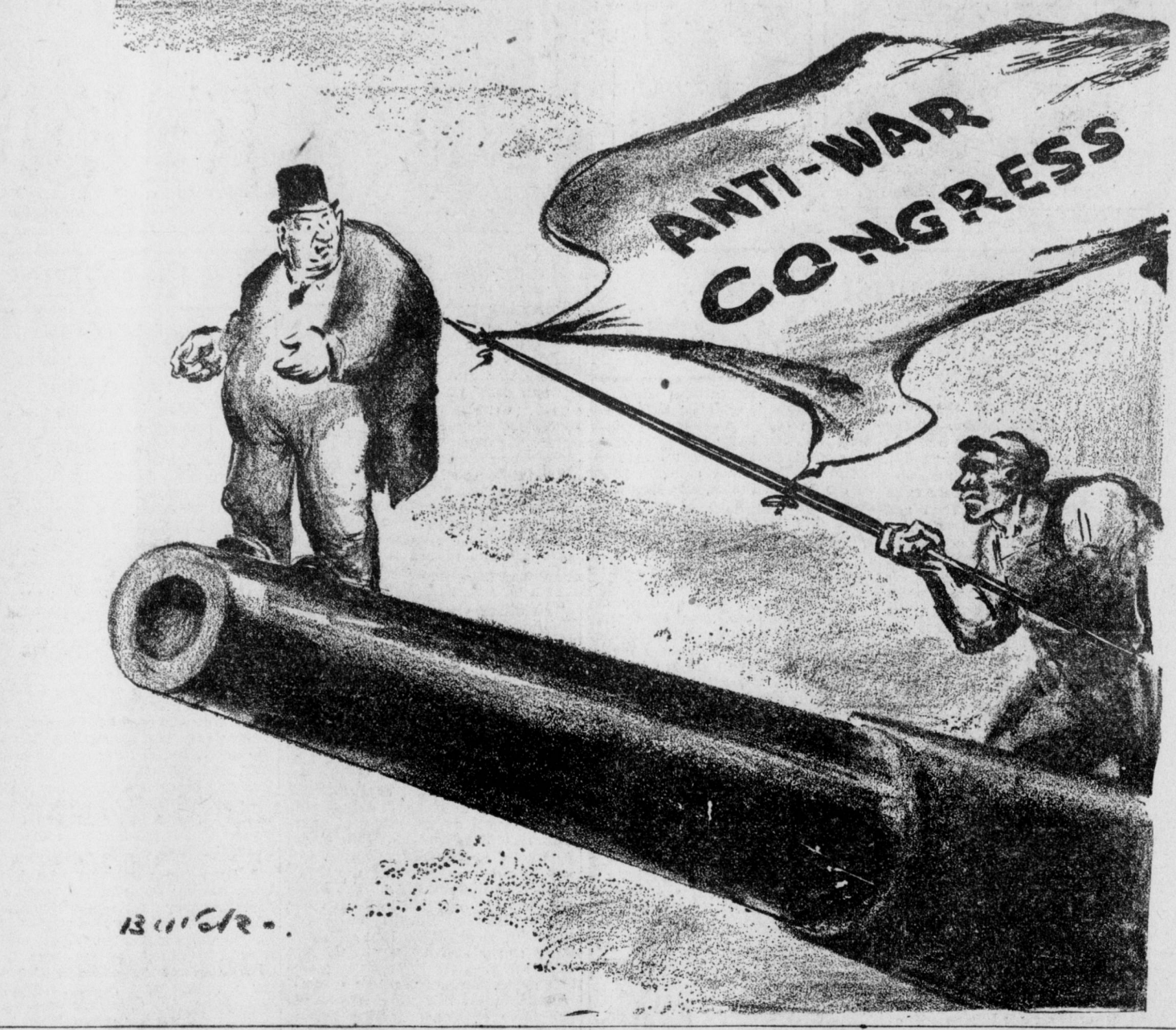
But only a conscious slanderer could find a basis in my paragraph for anything to the contrary.

Being Personal. I may be too "personal and subjective" as Comrade Anon charges, but it is better to be that way openly, than to disguise one's personal malice in the form of an "objective" heresy-hunt like Comrade Anon's. I am attempting a humorous and literary column in the Daily Worker. Some people think it should be written in the style of the sterile pedants, the comma-hunters and in-grown cultists, whose dead hand has been so loyal to the movement.

I am trying to write simply. I am trying to be "human and casual," so that some outsiders may be persuaded that Communism isn't the exclusive property of a little cult speaking a peculiar jargon. I am sure to make many minor deviations, but they are not worth an anonymous theorist's study. Let him study the new attitude in the Soviet Union toward literary men; they are not watched like prisoners for deviations, but are given some creative freedom. As long as their fundamental loyalty is sound, they are trusted. But, Comrade Anon doesn't trust me; his letter is not a comradely disagreement but the spiteful attack of a foe.

Why it was printed with an editorial note of approval, is also another of these deep mysteries, I will never understand.

Making Him "Walk the Plank!"



Soviet Purchases of Copper, Cotton, Held Back Pending Credit

Immediate Placing of Orders Await Gov't Action on Credits

NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—Although the Soviet Union is ready to place orders immediately for the purchase of \$20,000,000 worth of copper, the present negotiations between American and Soviet representatives may fall through because of lack of credit facilities, it was reported today.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is negotiating credits for Soviet purchases, it was reported, but the copper producers are not satisfied with the present arrangements.

Soviet proposals for the immediate purchase of 500,000 bales of cotton are also being held up because of inadequate government credit facilities.

The extension of normal commercial credit by the Government to float Soviet purchases would enable many American manufacturers to sell their present stock of "surplus" goods, with the consequent employment of American workers, it was pointed out.

Tries Suicide by Hunger Gov't Orders 50 Per Cent Slash in Vet Insurance Payments

Will Affect 613,000 Veterans With a Cut of \$36,600,000

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—As a result of economies instituted in the Veterans Administration of the Roosevelt government, war veterans will have their insurance policy dividends slashed 53 per cent.

About 613,000 veterans are affected by the order. They will lose about \$36,600,000.

The United States Army has just been granted \$54,000,000 for equipment in addition to the regular Army budget appropriation of \$295,000,000.

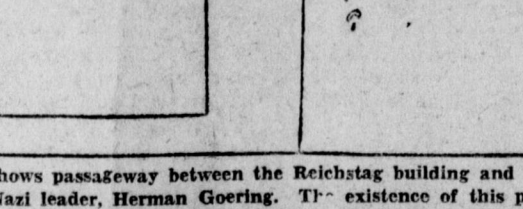
Mayors' Conference Faces Relief Problem

CHICAGO, ILL., Sept. 22.—Mayors of 180 cities are meeting here to discuss the acute relief situation facing their municipalities this winter.

Two Federal officials, Harry Hopkins, Federal Relief Administrator, and Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of Interior and Public Works Administrator, will address the mayors tomorrow.

Who Set Fire to the Reichstag Building?

"Nazis Led Picked Band of Storm Troopers Thru Tunnel from Goering's House"



The first article of this series, published yesterday, outlined the political background in Germany on the eve of the fire and showed how the Reichstag fire was the signal for an unprecedented reign of Fascist terror. Today's article describes the actual burning of the Reichstag.

Emergency Relief Stops Orders for 40,000 Families Doomed to Starvation; Urge Campaign for Jobless Insurance

Will Affect 613,000 Veterans With a Cut of \$36,600,000

NEW YORK.—Food and clothing distributed to the unemployed by the Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee to an average of 40,000 families a week was stopped yesterday. Coming on top of the wholesale relief cuts and evictions instituted by the city through the Home Relief Bureau and the culmination of the Gibson committee, which has also distributed relief, this will add tremendously to the misery of the million and a half jobless in this city.

The emergency committee was the recipient of "surplus" government wheat which was later turned into flour. Part of the wheat was bartered for other staple food articles and distributed among the jobless.

In the beginning of the month predictions were already forthcoming that the committee will exhaust its reserves in a few weeks. Yet no measures were taken by Mayor O'Brien and the city officials to continue relief.

The Unemployed Councils continually demanded that the city take steps to assure that no family shall remain without relief. It proposed to the municipal assembly a Workers' Relief Ordinance "providing a minimum maintenance allowance" to all jobless. This ordinance would make it mandatory for the city to assure "\$7 per week in cash for each unemployed worker and \$5 for each dependent" with a graduated reduction for smaller children.

The ordinance is conditional pending the adoption of federal unemployment insurance. The precarious condition of the unemployed with the constant menace that even the starvation relief will stop, makes it necessary to develop a wide movement to force the government to adopt unemployment insurance.

L. A. Hunger March to Be Held Oct. 2

Will Make Demand for Jobless Insurance

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Sept. 22.—Sunny California's playground, for the rich and land of starvation for the unemployed will witness a huge hunger march on October 2. This decision was reached at a conference representing 60,457 workers, which was attended by 233 delegates from 143 organizations.

The conference drafted a bill for state unemployment insurance and gave its endorsement to the Federal Workers' Unemployment Insurance Bill.

A telegram supporting the Cuban workers in their struggle against imperialism was adopted. Also resolutions demanding the release of Tom Mooney, Scottsboro Boys and militant unemployed workers in jail here. Fifty dollars was collected immediately to print leaflets for the county hunger march. A good representation of Mexican workers at the conference assured a large number of these oppressed workers as participants in the march.

SOVIET UNION CHARGES JAPAN SEEKS TO SEIZE CHINESE EASTERN R. R.

Issues Sharp Note Accusing Japanese of Using Puppet Rulers in Manchukuo

(Special Cable to the Daily Worker.)

MOSCOW, Sept. 22.—Charging that the Japanese government, through its puppet rulers in Manchukuo was attempting to seize the Chinese Eastern Railway, the Soviet Government today issued a sharp note to the Tokio authorities and the Japanese ambassador in Moscow.

The Soviet Vice-Commissar of Foreign Affairs, Sokolnikov, today made the following declaration to the Japanese ambassador in Moscow:

"According to reliable information received by the Soviet government, the Manchukuo authorities, under instructions from the Japanese government, propose the nearest days, unilaterally, to carry out the various changes in the management of the Chinese Eastern Railway, completely breaking the established order, particularly proposing by this course the violation of the rights of the Soviet manager, placing the latter practically under the dependence of a Manchukuoan assistant.

"The Manchukuo authorities, under the instructions of the Japanese government, also outline various police measures against Soviet employees of the Chinese Eastern Railway.

"The Soviet government has empowered me to give its warning that the carrying out of these or similar measures at Harbin, violating the existing status of the railway by established agreements, shall be regarded by the Soviet government as a fact contradictory to the obligations undertaken by the Tokio and Mukden governments and qualified as an unpardonable attempt of seizure

of the railway. "The Soviet government is of the opinion that the direct responsibility of these violations falls on the Japanese government. "Not Manchukuo, which is powerless and unable to answer for the events in Manchuria, but the Japanese government, the actual master in Manchuria, must bear the direct responsibility of all violations of agreements of the Chinese Eastern Railway, and also the seizure of the railway which is being prepared." The Soviet ambassador in Japan, Tmurenov, was instructed to make the same statement to the Japanese government at Tokio.

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