

# ROOSEVELT'S INTERVENTIONIST SPEECH WAS NOT AUTHORIZED BY THE PEOPLE!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



President Roosevelt is declaring war on the installment plan. That's the meaning of Roosevelt's fireside chat on December 29. Long words have been found to describe each one of the stages in Roosevelt's road to war. Right from the start Roosevelt lined us up for the British Empire, just as Russia lined up for Germany. The newspapers called it "NON-BELLIGERENT". That means: you're in the war, but you pretend you're not, because you haven't yet gotten around to sending the army. The day after Roosevelt's speech Al Smith and the New York TIMES invented another word. They called Roosevelt's new stage, "DYNAMIC NON-BELLIGERENT".

## Bankers Frankly Announce World Imperialist Aims

If you want to know the real meaning of Roosevelt's program of "national defense" and "short-of-war" aid to Britain, read the speech of Virgil Jordan, president of the National Industrial Conference Board, delivered on Dec. 10 at the convention of the Investment Bankers Association of America.

At such a gathering the truth could be told—there were no workers present, nor do the common people of the country read the American Banker in which the speech was published. (Dec. 11, 1940). Roosevelt's policy of "hemisphere defense" is called by its right name: good, old fashioned imperialism. The purpose of aid to Britain is frankly stated as that of making the United States the most powerful world imperialist power, and making Britain itself "a junior partner in a new Anglo-Saxon imperialism."

Roosevelt may talk about democracy, independence, and the defeat of fascism. But Jordan goes to the heart of the matter and reveals the real program of Roosevelt and big business.

Below we quote a few highlights from Jordan's speech.

### "U.S. IS ALREADY IN THE WAR"

"Whether this colossal commitment, of which the American community was, and still is, largely unconscious, was a wise one for the future of the American people is a debatable but now utterly idle question. . . .

"Whatever the outcome of the war, America has embarked upon a career of imperialism, both in world affairs and in every other aspect of her life. . . .

"We may be afraid of the unfamiliar and forbidding word, imperialism, in connection with the commitment we have made. We may prefer, in the current American fashion, to disguise it in a vague phrase like "hemisphere defense". . . .

"Southward in our hemisphere and westward in the Pacific the path of empire takes its way, and in modern terms of economic power as well as political prestige, the sceptre passes to the United States.

"We have no alternative, in truth, than to move along the road we have been travelling in the past quarter century, in the direction which we took with the conquest of Cuba and the Philippines and our participation in the last World War. . . .

"Even though, by our aid, England should emerge from this struggle without defeat, she will be so impoverished economically and crippled in prestige that it is improbable she will be able to resume or maintain the dominant position in world affairs which she has occupied so long. At best, England will become a junior partner in a new Anglo-Saxon imperialism. . . .

## Morale and the Boss War

It is now everywhere acknowledged that the military defeats suffered by the Italian forces have been due in great part to the apathy of the Italian soldier and civilian masses, who are very cynical concerning the noble aims of their bosses' war.

Striking confirmation of the existence of this spirit in the camp of the "democratic" imperialists is furnished by an article written by Major Philip Gribble of the British army about the English collapse in France, published in the Saturday Evening Post for December 14.

The following are some excerpts from the article: "The sad thing is the war's unpopularity. . . . It is one of the main causes of our reverses. We have no shouting and singing of national anthems.

"There is nothing very phony about this warfare. . . . The lack of conviction, the irresolution, the sense of resignation, and, above all, the sense of indifference, are wholly disillusioning. . . .

These disillusioned English soldiers are not yet singing The Red Flag, as did Italian soldiers captured by the Greeks. But it may be only a matter of time.

## Northrop Aircraft Company Cuts Hours of Work

Special to Labor Action  
LOS ANGELES, Calif.—The Northrop Aircraft Inc. created a temporary surprise last week when it announced that the work day would be cut 20%.

Some people thought the company was getting kindhearted.

However, it was later explained that the reason the plant was going from a ten hour to an eight hour day was because there was a shortage of basic materials.

"The change will be effective until we can obtain materials in sufficient quantities to restore the longer shift," M.T. Cohn, plant manager, explained.

One of the immediate benefits of CIO union organization would be to keep that 8 hour day as permanent.

At the Boeing plant in Seattle, Washington, where the company and AFL bureaucrats got together, via stool pigeons and ousted militant officers, the company's next move was to go from the 40 hour to a 45 hour week in the body department.

Incidentally, there is quite an argument over the shortage of basic materials between the J.P. Morgan controlled Aluminum Corp. of America, a powerful monopoly, and the local aircraft manufacturers. Apparently Morgan is trying to squeeze even more profits from his lucrative holdings.

## Lynn Food Union Seeks Rising Scale of Wages

Special to Labor Action  
LYNN, Mass.—Foodworkers of Lynn served notice that employers must expect to pay a rising scale of wages to meet higher living costs when the Allied Food Workers, Local 701, signed a six month's contract with Ansell's Hofbrau.

Union spokesmen explained that contracts for longer periods will be signed only when they contain a clause that provides for higher wages as living costs mount. When such clauses are not obtained only short term agreements will be negotiated, leaving the union free to take action at a later date.

The renewed contract with Ansell's won for the workers an increase in wages and protection of jobs for those workers drafted for military service.

## Lively Discussion At Coolidge Buffalo Meeting

BUFFALO, New York, Dec. 28—David Coolidge, National Secretary of the Workers Party now on a national speaking and organization tour, addressed an audience of thirty Negro and white workers on "Negroes. Is it Our Country?"

A lively discussion followed the lecture as several Stalinists and other workers took issue with the speaker on some of the points he had made. The audience responded with gusto as comrade Coolidge flayed the Stalinist policy in his summation.

David Coolidge is now in Ohio. From Ohio he goes to Illinois. See page 3 for the full schedule of his tour.

## Stalinists Run ASU Convention Lash Organizes Pro-War Student Movement

NEW YORK CITY—The American Student Union, the Stalinist controlled student organization, held its 6th National Convention over the weekend here. The convention was marked by monotonous Stalinist unanimity. Only one delegate, a girl from Northwestern University, dared to raise her voice in protest against the completely Stalinist character of the war resolution, passed by the convention.

The main political keynote of the convention was hit by Bert Witt, Stalinist National Secretary of the ASU, who called for a "Moscow-Chungking-Washington" axis. This slogan, representing both a political feeler of the Moscow government to Washington and a bit of wishful thinking on the part of the American Stalinists, did not, however, prevent the convention from endorsing the present Stalinist line. The convention characterized the war as imperialist and attacked the "aid to Britain" movement, but by its failure to condemn the role of the Soviet Union as a partner and agent of Hitler, gave its objective support to the Rome-Berlin-Moscow axis.

The one delegate who differed from the Stalinists declared that she believed Russia was no longer a democracy, and that Stalin had become "a partner of Hitler in the war." Her objection was quickly overridden and the convention proceeded with the usual Stalinist unanimity.

### Few Non-Stalinists

This ASU convention demonstrated that the organization is now an

## Violence Against Pickets Marks Fifth Month of Creosoting Strike

By S. MICHAELS

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana — The strike against the Republic Creosoting Co., called by District 50 of the United Mine Workers is in its fifth month. The workers went on strike in August for an increase in their \$14.70 weekly wage.

This strike has been called "the most vicious of 1940". One of the strikers, Joe Wildman was driving around the 88 acres that are being picketed, to round up the strikers to eat in the mess tent. 19 scabs opened fire on him. His car plunged into a ditch and Wildman hid behind it until a rescue party of strikers appeared. A bullet passed through the car only two inches from his chest, three bullets tore holes in the windshield and four more pierced the rear of the car.

And while Joe Wildman was dodging bullets from company armed scabs the company was pressing an

injunction suit against picketing because the strikers were using "violence." Two scabs were arrested by deputy sheriffs when one fired two shots and the other brandished a shot gun at two pickets.

Harold Horner, a plant superintendent, in driving a bunch of scabs through the picket line, ran into one of the pickets with his car and pinned him underneath the wheels. His excuse in the court was that the worker "fell" in front of the car. He charged that the pickets were guilty of the crime of overturning the car to release their fellow-striker. The court agreed with the Company. All the scabs and company officials have been found not guilty, but ten strikers have served ten days apiece rising out of these disturbances.

### Sheriff Sees Poorly

Sheriff Al Feeney testified that he had seen no violence about the plants and said that it was not his duty "to tell pickets what to do". The company has been asking that the sheriff deputize more scabs to "assist employees to return to work". The sheriff appeared at the next Board of Directors meeting of the Corporation and said "I'm going to take your advice." So pointing at various Board members he proceeded to deputize them, assigning a Vice-president to the back-gate from midnight to 6 a.m., a banker director to the front gate, etc. Of course, the gentlemen insisted that this it not what they meant. They wanted the property guarded and the scabs aided, not by them. After all why should they risk their lives and limbs? All they draw out of the business is a few millions in profits.

The wording of the appeal for an injunction by the Company raises the cry that has become so popular in the last few weeks, that it has a "contract with the Government, but is and has been unable to either manufacturer or ship the 'phenol' so contracted for, because of the unlawful, illegal and violent acts of the defendants hereinafter specifically set out; that the Government is demanding that said complainant make immediate delivery under its contract". Over two-hundred men have been out on strike these last five months. When working they produce material that is necessary in the manufacture of shells, and for this reason they have been attacked by the capitalist press while the labor press has kept quiet. But the strikers care not about the making of shells. They do care about making a living wage.

## Really?

We apologize for not reporting it earlier. But about two weeks ago the newspapers carried dispatches from Oslo to the effect that the Nobel Peace Prize would not be given this year.

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That means: you're in the war and make LESS pretense about it.

What was new about Roosevelt's speech?

Mostly the language and the tone.

For the first time, he openly named the "enemy" against whom he was piling up arms. He dropped all the diplomatic language that the head of one government is supposed to use in talking about another government with which it is not at war.

It wasn't "certain aggressor nations" any more. It was "the European and Asiatic war-makers" of Germany, Italy and Japan, "the unholy alliance of power and pelf to enslave the human race," "the Nazi masters," and so on.

Now we don't object to harsh language in describing the Nazis. Really, if that was Roosevelt's object then he didn't get hot enough by half.

But we didn't hear any such language from Roosevelt when Hitler's "modern slavery" first got started, with murder and terror against the trade unions and workers' parties. We didn't hear it, either from him or from the British imperial lords, for the following six years, during which Germany ran with workers' blood.

HE'S PUTTING THE NEEDLE ON THE PHONOGRAPH RECORD NOW IN ORDER TO HOP UP FOR THE WAR.

The workers, who didn't have to wait six years to denounce Hitlerism, don't want a war which is waged by the bosses on whose toes Hitler is stepping.

They don't want a boss war which will only wipe out all democracy at home.

That's why Roosevelt is declaring war "on the installment plan". He's like the salesman who tells you: "Lay it out a little at a time, and you'll never feel it."

Roosevelt is hoping we won't know we're in the war until he's got us in up to our necks.

"In effect, Mr. Roosevelt's speech was a declaration of war. . . . said the Seattle Times, with joy.

"Mr. Roosevelt spat in Hitler's eye," said the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, gleefully.

It's a "declaration of war without war," said the Swedish papers happily, according to a Stockholm cable.

It's a "declaration of undeclared war on Germany," said General Wood, head of Sears, Roebuck.

"President Roosevelt's speech was obviously designed to bring (Continued on page 4)





