

The Struggle Against the Olympic Games

By I. AMTER

The working class must neglect NO front of the class struggle. The bosses don't. They are active in a thousand ways, working to win the workers and the working youth over to their side, to divide and demoralize the workers.

They are using today the 10th Olympiad Games, the biggest part of which are to be held in Los Angeles this summer, as just such an instrument. The bosses are using these games to distract the attention of the workers from their misery, hunger, wage cuts—the attacks on workers' rights, and the preparations for war on the Soviet Union. "Look!" the sport pages scream, "'American supremacy' is threatened in the mile run!" Or it is the half-mile, or something else. But the entire to-do about the Olympic games is necessary to distract the attention of the masses of sport-following workers in the United States from their own immediate job of fighting the robber war now going on in China, fighting for unemployment insurance and fighting against wage cuts. This entire fuss about the Olympic games is necessary in order to tie the American workers closer to the bosses' sport organizations, led in most cases by army officers.

Not only are the Olympic games being used to distract the attention of the workers from their own immediate problems, but the games are also being used to whip up a 1917 patriotism. The sport pages of the capitalist press fairly reek with the vilest chauvinism. "We Americans must conquer the aliens!" the papers shout.

The Soviet Union is being boycotted by the Olympics Committee. Negroes are discriminated against. A handful of corrupt "stars" take part in the games. The state government of California has appropriated a million dollars for the games—but gives no unemployment relief.

Chief of War Staff, General Douglas MacArthur (who only recently returned from an inspection trip of the fortifications and armed of the Baltic states ringing the Soviet Union) devotes much of his time and attention to the American Olympics Committee, in which he is a leading figure. On top of all this, the Olympic games are being held in the state of California, the state

which has held Tom Mooney imprisoned for sixteen years on the foulest frame-up known to American labor history.

In a word, the Olympic games show all the characteristics of bosses' sports generally. They "faithfully reflect the policies of the Hoover government" (resolution of the Cleveland National Conference, Labor Sports Union).

Against these Olympic games every worker—and not only the worker sportsmen—must fight! In the past many revolutionary workers—and Communist Party members, too—have merely tipped their hat to the workers' sports movement in this country and to the necessity of building it—and some revolutionists even consider sports as having nothing to do with the working class movement. These comrades should watch carefully the actions of the German Communist Party and its relations with the workers' sport movement. They would change their minds very quickly.

The militant workers must give their heartiest support to the Counter Olympic Campaign. Shop teams can be built. Individual workers in your shop who are athletically inclined may be brought closer to our movement through handing them an entry blank to the various open Counter-Olympic meets in the city—and bringing them to the meet. Teams can be built, particularly among the youth, in shops, unions, language and fraternal organizations, thus strengthening the particular organization at the same time.

Workers must support the Counter-Olympic Campaign to the best of their ability. The Labor Sports Union, the militant workers' organization on the field of sports, must be built at a much faster pace than heretofore. All workers' organizations should send delegates to the united front Counter-Olympic Conference to be held in New York Saturday afternoon, April 23rd, at the Finnish Progressive Hall, 15 West 126th Street, at 3 p.m. Workers should try, particularly, to get workers and organizations to this conference who are connected with shop teams, Y. M. C. A.s, etc.

Support the Counter-Olympic Campaign! Build a powerful workers' sport movement in the United States! The struggle against the Los Angeles Olympics is one front in the struggle against war!