

# Growth of Tendencies Towards Fascism

THE year 1929 has been one of developing resistance of the workers to the increased pressure of capitalist rationalization. It has been marked by a steadily growing radicalization of important sections of the American working class, which found expression in bitterly fought battles with the employers. At the same time, 1929 has witnessed the entrance of new and heretofore relatively passive strata of the working class, into the arena of the class struggle.

The further trustification of American industry, coupled with certain structural changes in the government in the direction of state capitalism, have exerted tremendous influence on the form and content of these struggles. To a growing extent, big business is identical with the state power. The "economic conference" recently set up by Hoover, is typical of this change. Under the administration of this president of finance capital, the process of direct open fusion of the state power with finance capital will proceed at an accentuated rate.

## Big Class Battles in 1930.

The struggles of 1930 and the coming period which will unquestionably be of much greater proportions than those of 1929, will be predominantly political struggles. They will be gigantic class battles with the class lines sharply drawn—with ever larger sections of the working class facing, not relatively small sections of the bourgeoisie, but locked in struggle with the capitalist class as a whole and its most powerful instrument of domination—the state power.

The bourgeoisie is not blind to the significance of Gastonia, of New Orleans, of the growing strength and influence of the Trade Union Unity League. It recognizes them for what they are—forerunners of greater, fiercer class battles. And the employing class recognizes that these battles to an increasing extent will be led by the one vital living force in the American labor movement today, the Communist Party.

With the A. F. of L. tied to it by a thousand threads of common interest with Muste and the "left" reformists of the Lovestone, Lore, Cannon stripe, daily confusing and betraying the workers, the bourgeoisie sees in the Communist Party its one implacable enemy, mobilizing the workers on all fronts for revolutionary struggle. Therefore, in its preparation for the coming class battles at home, and for the war which is clearly close at hand, the bourgeoisie directs its main line against the Communist Party and those organizations under its ideological leadership.

Under this procedure state laws, covering sedition, criminal syndicalism, etc., are usually invoked. Such was the case in the recent conviction and railroading to prison of Communist Party members, in California, Chicago, Woodlawn, Pa., and Martins Ferry, Ohio. Some 35 states have such laws on their statute books, relics of the wave of white terror of

1917-21. They are being pressed into service to smash the new upsurge of revolutionary struggle.

The attack on our Party will grow in direct ratio to the sharpening of the class struggle and the imminence of war. It is now in its preliminary stage and is marked by three peculiarities:

(1) The drive against the Party is directed chiefly by city, county and state governments. The National Government, thru the Department of Justice, while sending every aid to local attacks on the Party, especially in deportation cases, has not yet launched a direct attack to outlaw the Party on a national scale. This strategy has had the bad effect of somewhat localizing our campaigns of resistance.

(2) The attack is declared to be essentially directed against individual members of the Party and not yet against the Party as such. The methods used by the state in Chicago is typical of these attacks. Some 100 workers were arrested first. Subsequently 27, comprising the entire district leadership, were charged with sedition and held under heavy bond. The same method was used in Martins Ferry, Ohio, where three workers were recently railroaded to jail for 5 to 10 years at hard labor on the charge of criminal syndicalism. The prosecutor in charge of this case stated that while the Communist Party as such remained legal, all individual Communists brought before him would receive the same treatment. This strives to more or less obscure the fundamental issues involved—namely the efforts to destroy the Party. At the same time its practical effect is to seek to outlaw the Party.

(3) Attacks on the Party are not confined to the police and courts. Extra-legal fascist attacks are on the increase. It is notable that those fascist attacks occur as a rule (alho not always) in sections where there is either no law which can be readily applied to directly cripple the Party, or where for various reasons the local governmental institutions do not respond rapidly in putting such laws into effect. This illustrates once more the well known fact, that changes in the superstructure of society—state, legal forms, etc., lag behind

changes in the relation of forces, the form and content, etc., of the class struggle.

(4) Active participation of the A. F. of L. and the reformists generally (the social-fascists) in these attacks on the Party. Endless instances of this can be quoted: the miners' strike, New York needle trades struggles, and the textile struggles in the South. It is the open boast of the A. F. of L. Executive Council, that the A. F. of L. is the best bulwark of American capitalism in its struggles against Communism and the Communist Party.

The "worthies" enrolled under the power of Cannon, Lovestone, Muste, have already demonstrated on numerous occasions, their readiness to serve their masters in much the same manner.

The Communist Party and the revolutionary working class organizations will meet the growing threat of the capitalist class. It will defeat fascism and social fascism. They will not terrorize us and we will not budge one inch from the leadership of the mass battles of the working class which will grow in 1930.

The district has to maintain an average of about 55 new members each week in order to reach its total of 600 by February 10. That this total is practically realizable is indicated by the growing interest of the Party members in the results and the quickened pace of the recruiting.