

Preamble

to the Resolutions offered by The N. S. L. at the City College Anti-War Conference, March 23-24 - 1934

NOTE: — On the basis of the analysis following, the resolutions which the N.S.L. will present for adoption will be drawn up.

As the danger of war looms ever nearer, the workers, farmers, and intellectuals of all the countries of the world, and also of the United States begin more and more to feel and to see the necessity for one militant, united anti-war movement.

The reactionary hordes of imperialist finance capital, their profits dwindling through the most devastating crisis in the history of capitalism, move rapidly towards armed struggle as the only way out. The intensified drive for foreign markets in which to dump the goods they cannot sell at a profit at home, forces them into more and more open conflicts with their imperialist rivals. The greatly heightened speedup and cutting of wages are an integral part of capitalist rationalization.

Determined at all costs to save the crumbling capitalist system the imperialists turn to increased exploitation of the other stratas of the population at home and sanguinary imperialist conflicts abroad. Fascism, and its logical concomitant, imperialist war, becomes more and more the order of the day. Germany, and France, Italy and Japan, Great Britain and the United States, are arming to the hilt in scarcely concealed preparation for the holocaust in which they will soon be involved. Undeclared wars in South America and Manchuria, the Dolfuss coup in Austria, the black reactionary nationalism of Nazi Germany, Japanese threats at intervention in the Soviet Union are merely the most glaring manifestations of the tenor and tempo of imperialist contradictions in present day society. The failure of the League of Nations and the various disarmament conferences is an international byword. No great power heeds seriously the call of the Soviet Union for complete disarmament. The peace pacts and anti-war stands of the Soviet Union have been the only factors for peace in the sphere of international relations.

And what of our own government in the midst of this world turmoil of imperialist contradictions? The United States government has proven the most determined and aggressive of all imperialist nations in the suicidal struggle for profits and markets. The continual and ever more intensified exploitation of the colonial and semi-colonial peoples of Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Cuba, proceeds hand in hand with the development of semi-fascist governmental oppression at home. The N.R.A. has proven the weapon which the government uses at one stroke to grind down opposition at home and abroad. Government decree, in emulation of Hitler and Mussolini, becomes the godchild of "American individualism." We witness today the breaking of strikes, lowering of living conditions, and destroying of opposition. The wave of lynch terror that has swept the country in the unequalled series of lynchings, the outrageous statements of Governor Rolph of California, the Scotts-

boro, Angelo Herndon, and other frame-ups, show better than anything else the fascist trends of the government. This increased fascistization at home is logically followed by greater and greater efforts at manoeuvring into position for the next war.

Seventy-five per cent of the budget of the United States goes to pay for wars, past, present, or future. The \$570,000,000 Vinson Bill, the \$238 million Naval Works program, increased appropriations for CCC units all over the country count the money spent for war in the billions. The CCC and C.M.T.C. units are the first attempts at regimentation of the young people into military and quasi-military organizations. Hundreds of thousands of young workers are being herded into CCC camps where they are trained in jingoistic propaganda and given military drill as their jobs. They are being prepared as a base for the army that will so soon be sent out to "do and die" for "Democracy" and the U. S. Steel Corporation.

The R.O.T.C. is of special interest to us. Its growth in the colleges was the direct result of the last war. Ever since its establishment in 1916 it has existed as a measure for the propagandizing and preparing of thousands of college students to be petty officers (among whom the highest mortality rates prevail) in the armies of imperialism. Any fight against war is indissolubly linked up with the fight against R.O.T.C.

The Administrations of the colleges and universities have never protested against this method of "militarizing the centers of culture." The last war found these faculties wholeheartedly on the side of the war makers. Yet many of them have expelled students for anti-war activity.

Particularly at City College has there been a long history of struggle against R.O.T.C. Starting with the fight waged against its compulsory feature, a fight won not without casualties, the student body of the College has never rested. In 1931, 1932, and 1933 the struggle against R.O.T.C. reached new heights. The student body, thoroughly aroused, again and again demonstrated their opposition to R.O.T.C. The faculty answered this fight with a series of mass suspensions and expulsions. These actions culminated in the outrage of last Spring. The expelled and suspended students were one and all so treated for their struggle against R.O.T.C.—their case is the case against imperialist war and its preparations.

Any student movement against war cannot succeed unless it is itself united, and unites with that portion of the population who will stand upon a militant position of opposition to imperialist war. The working class alone can be the group which will do away with imperialist war. Only by uniting with the working class will the students be helping in this struggle.

C. C. N. Y. Chapter, N. S. L.