

One more example of pestilent integration

Whereas the last CCOO congress in Spain was attended by the leader of the Employers Association (CEOE) (see p.8 of "The Internationalist Proletarian" n°8), the last CGIL congress was attended by the President of the Italian Government. For some, the reason for the scandal is the parliamentary affiliation of the aforesaid: the folklorically philo-fascist party Brothers of Italy. The presence of the Spanish Minister of Labor, who also participated, would be a reason for applause. However, beyond the different parliamentary varnish of the two speakers, **their political essence is the same** and is well summarized by the Italian president: *"But today is March 17th, the Feast of National Unity. (...) With this presence, this debate, today we can truly try to celebrate national unity. Because unity is not the annulment of opposition, which has an educational role for any community. Unity is the higher interest, the common destiny that gives meaning to the contrast". It had been 27 years since no prime minister had attended and spoken at the CGIL congress. (...) the outgoing secretary, called her a few weeks ago and invited her to the meeting. "The union dialogues with everyone without prejudice" (...)."* (El País, 18-03-2023).

This is just one more sign of the pestilent integration of the large so-called trade union organizations and of the complete loss of their character as class unions.

All the animals in the parliamentary zoo act according to the social-political content of the Fascist Labor Charter (1927), the basis of all current European and world labor legislation: *"In collective labor contracts, the solidarity of the various factors of production finds its concrete expression in the reconciliation of the opposing interests of employers and workers, and in their subordination to the superior interests of production".*

Fascism: military defeated but socially vanquisher

Since the end of the 2nd world slaughter, it was clear that: *"(...) the trade union dynamics continues to develop uninterruptedly in the full sense of state control and inclusion in the official administrative instances. Fascism, dialectical realizer of the old reformist instances, carried out that of the legal recognition of the trade union so that it could be the holder of the collective agreements with the bosses to the point of the effective imprisonment of any trade union organization in the articulations of the bourgeois class power. This result is fundamental for the defense and preservation of the capitalist regime precisely because the influence and use of trade unionist framing is an indispensable stage for any revolutionary movement led by the communist party."* (Revolutionary Party and Economic Action, 1951).

And this has been the Party's assessment, without palliatives, since the reconstitution of the C.G.L. as C.G.I.L.: *"it cannot dissimulate that not even the confederation that remains with the social-communists of Nenni and Togliatti is based on class autonomy. It is not a red organization, it is also a tricolor organization STITCHED ACCORDING TO THE MODEL OF MUSSOLINI."* (The Trade Union Splits in Italy, 1949).

The need of class unionism

From its beginnings Marxism has made clear the close and necessary tie between the immediate struggle (with its limitations) whose organ is the Class Union and the revolutionary perspective whose organ is the Communist Party.

"Now and then the workers are victorious, but only for a time. The real fruit of their battles lies, not in the immediate

result, but in the ever-expanding union of the workers. (...) This organization of the proletarians into a class, and, consequently into a political party, is continually being upset again by the competition between the workers themselves. But it ever rises up again, stronger, firmer, mightier." (Manifesto of the Communist Party, 1848).

"(...) is this saying that the working-class ought to renounce their resistance against the encroachments of capital, and abandon their attempts at making the best of the occasional chances for their temporary improvement? If they did, they would be degraded to one level mass of broken wretches past salvation. (...) By cowardly giving way in their everyday conflict with capital, they would certainly disqualify themselves for the initiating of any larger movement." (Value, Price and Profit, 1865, K. Marx).

The meaning of these passages is as profound as striking: a class that drags along an existence of humiliation, that is run over and crushed without even feeling the impulse to rebel and undertake the immediate struggle against this situation, is incapable of abolishing the slavery to which it is subjected.

Convicted inside the integrated trade union prison?

While some want to make us renounce the union organization by handing it over to the ruling class, others want to lock us inside the integrated union prison. Neither one thing nor the other.

Already the theses of the International make clear that, although we are not scissionists by principle in the trade union plane, the communists: *"5. (...) ought not to hesitate before a split in such organizations, if a refusal to split would mean abandoning revolutionary work in the trade unions, and giving up the attempt to make of them and instrument of revolutionary struggle, the attempt to organize the most exploited part of the proletariat"*. (II Congress of the Communist International, 1920).

The Characteristic Theses of our Party, after stating that *"7. The party never adopts the method of forming partial economic organizations comprising only workers who accept the principles and leadership of the communist party."* They impose a task to the militants and to the Party themselves: *"(...) It is the task of the party, in unfavorable periods and periods of passivity of the proletarian class, to foresee the forms and encourage the appearance of organizations with economic objectives for the immediate struggle, which may even assume totally new aspects in the future, after the well-known types of corporation, industrial union, company council, etc. (...)"* (Characteristic Theses, 1951).

The **function of integrated unionism** is to control any small glimmer of class organization even for the immediate struggle: to integrate it, and if it resists, to betray it and stifle it.

The **function of communists** is the opposite: to stimulate this immediate struggle without ceasing to show its limitations, to elevate politically the workers who undertake it, to link it with the higher objective of the abolition of wage labor, of the communist revolution. If we – Marxists – desert this function, only the action of opportunism remains and the seams of the Mussolinian straitjacket cannot be broken.

This function can only be done today by **ORGANIZING THE CLASS UNION, OUTSIDE AND AGAINST THE TRADE UNION PRISON OF THE WORKERS' MOVEMENT** for which the denominations of democratic or subsidized trade unionism, HR branch, trade union services company, etc. are valid.