

STALIN'S GPU TRIES TO MURDER TROTSKY

War Drive Against Labor's Rights on Full Blast

War Deal Attack on 'Aliens' Cloaks Anti-Labor Campaign

Roosevelt, Congress and the Big Business lobby in Washington were responsible for five major blows against the labor movement in the last few days—first fruits of the "defense" program:

1. The House adopted by 400-1 on May 28 the naval construction bill, which scuttles the Walsh-Healey Act so far as government shipbuilding goes and undoubtedly is the first step in wiping out the Act altogether.

The Walsh-Healey Act had forbidden the issuance of government contracts to employers unless they pay the prevailing wage. The unions have been able to make use of it in protecting union wage rates in some industries and in establishing the 40-hour week. The Act was administered by the Department of Labor, and government agencies have ruled out all competitive bids for contracts from companies not complying with provisions of the Walsh-Healey Act.

Under the law passed by the House Tuesday, however, there will be no competitive bids for naval construction. Instead the Navy, when authorized by the president, will negotiate contracts without advertising for bids. This provision wipes out application of the Walsh-Healey Act, the Naval Affairs Committee made clear to the House. It had been "discovered," the committee said, that the President had power to suspend the Walsh-Healey Act in an emergency connected with the national defense—and this was the emergency!

The shipbuilding bill also specified an end to the 40-hour week "on ship construction or other naval defense activities";

a 48-hour week would be worked, with time-and-a-half for the last eight hours. All experience testifies, however, that a lengthened work-week eventually is worked for the same salary as a shorter week. Another provision suspends the civil service safeguards to enable naval authorities to fire workers suspected of "fifth column" activities—which means a sword over the head of every trade unionist in the navy yards.

This ham-stringing of the Walsh-Healey Act came just two days after Roosevelt's speech promising that "social gains" would be preserved!

2. The Senate turned the

MICHIGAN CIO FOR ANTI-WAR STRUGGLE

But Haywood Blocks Convention's Sentiment

BAY CITY, Mich., March 27—Efforts of Emil Mazey, President of the powerful Briggs local of the United Auto Workers, to put teeth into the anti-war campaign of the Michigan CIO, were sidetracked by the resolutions committee of the Michigan CIO State

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WHY DOES STALIN WANT TO KILL TROTSKY?

Joseph Stalin has no weapons left in his political arsenal but guns in the hands of hired assassins.

His executioners have slaughtered tens of thousands of revolutionary workers in Russia. The sole crime of these workers was their opposition to Stalin's counter-revolutionary regime.

Last week his gunmen tried to snuff out the life of Leon Trotsky, the head, the heart, the soul of that opposition.

Trotsky embodies in his person everything that Stalin has debased, degraded, and betrayed—the living traditions of the workers' revolution in Russia and of the revolutionary movement of the workers of the entire world.

This is what Stalin's gunmen were aiming at when they broke in, machine guns blazing, to Trotsky's home in Coyoacan.

Throughout these years Stalin, the usurper, the gravedigger of the revolution, has vengefully pursued Trotsky, co-leader with Lenin of the revolution, its ablest defender, its most eloquent spokesman. Stalin has conducted this pursuit with all the vindictiveness and deliberate brutality of the apostate. He has carried it beyond the person of Trotsky to the members of Trotsky's family whom he has hounded to death, one after another.

Trotsky's daughter Nina, denied medical care, died of tuberculosis in Moscow in June, 1928. Her sister Zinaida, was driven by the persecution of her father and herself to take her own life in Berlin in January, 1933. Their brother Sergie, who shunned politics and contented himself with the life of a scientific worker, was arrested by Stalin in 1937 and, accused of poisoning workers in his factory, disappeared wholly from the ken of man. Trotsky's last son, his co-worker Leon Sedov, died in a Paris hospital on Feb. 15, 1938, under suspicious circumstances which French authorities under GPU pressure, refused to investigate, even though it was proved that Sedov had been marked out for assassination.

Trotsky himself was hounded out of his refuge in France and again out of Norway, under open and direct pressure from the Kremlin on these two countries. In Mexico Stalin's political hirelings tried to force his expulsion, but failed. The gunmen took up where they left off and last Friday's long and carefully planned attack was the result.

The assassination of Leon Trotsky, had it succeeded, would have been but the climax to Stalin's murder campaign against his op-

ponents. In August, 1936, Stalin began the farcical trials of the old Bolshevik leaders who, under Lenin and Trotsky, had conducted the revolutionary struggle crowned with success in 1917. In the next two years Stalin destroyed Lenin's entire general staff. Only Trotsky was left.

Abroad he did not hesitate to use the same methods, although, to his undoubted regret, he could not murder on quite the same scale. In Spain Stalin's GPU gunmen fastened themselves like leeches to the struggling body of the Spanish revolution and drew the blood of its best militants.

The names of Berneri and Barbieri, anarchists, Andres Nin, of the POUM, Marc Rein, son of the Second International leader Abramovich, Kurt Landau, Austrian militant, adorn this roster. Moulins, leader of the Spanish Fourth Internationalists, was done away with in 1937. Erwin Wolf, former secretary to Leon Trotsky, was kidnapped in Barcelona in September, that same year, and has never been heard from since.

In 1937 Ignace Reiss, a GPU foreign agent, broke with Stalin, reaffirmed his devotion to the workers' revolution, and solidarized with the Fourth International. On Sept. 4, 1937, his bullet-riddled body was thrown from a car near Lausanne, Switzerland. Swiss and French police later established the guilt of known GPU assassins, one of whom, Rossi, later went to Mexico.

August Klement, secretary of the Fourth International, was kidnapped in Paris on July 13, 1938. Two weeks later his headless and legless body was fished from the Seine.

All the blood that has been shed by this super-Mafia has not succeeded and will not succeed in exorcising the specter that haunts the covering dictator of the Kremlin, the specter of Trotsky and Trotskyism.

For Trotsky represents the living forces of the October Revolution and the promise of their resurgence.

Trotsky's is the authentic voice of the millions of the downtrodden toilers throughout the world.

Trotsky's is the banner of the world workers' revolution that must and shall be unfurled across continents drenched in the blood of imperialist war.

Against these, Stalin and his gunmen cannot and will not prevail.

To this the Fourth International, with Trotsky and after Trotsky, stands firmly pledged.



GEORGE MINK

On April 16, 1938, the Socialist Appeal reported the departure of George Mink for Mexico for the purpose of murdering Leon Trotsky. Superimposed is the United Press dispatch published by the New York Times on May 27, stating that Mexican authorities are looking for the G.P.U. gunman. Above, left, is a picture of Mink. See article, "Who is George Mink?" on Page 8.

1ST APPEAL

AN OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Saturday, April 16, 1938

Mink, Well-known G.P.U. Assassin, Is En Route To Mexico

Notorious Stalinist Agent Proceeds South Via Galveston: Served As Terror Chief For G.P.U. In Spain

TROTSKY'S LIFE IS MENACED!

By MAX SHACHTMAN

An international assassin is en route to Mexico. He sailed early this week from the port of Galveston, Texas, for the port of Vera Cruz, Mexico, to carry out the mission assigned to him by his gangster overlords: TO ORGANIZE THE MURDER OF LEON TROTSKY.

In this country he is known to certain circles by the name of George Mink—known to the Philadelphia police as a petty larceny crook—subsequently known to the workers on New York's waterfront as the financially well-heeled boss of the Workers Industrial Union.

American Is Hunted in Plot Against Trotsky

Police Link Him to Soviet Activities in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, May 26—Police have started a search for an American named George Mink in connection with the attempted assassination of Leon Trotsky, killed on Friday last. Some of the police officers who were known to have been in the city at the time of the attack were seen in the city of Mexico. It was said that Mink and Herbert Pissman, a German-born visitor to Trotsky, were being sought for questioning on the activities of the Russian secret police in Mexico. Mr.

Sheldon Harte, 35-year-old New Yorker, who was seized by the police, was still missing. He was one of Mr. Trotsky's body guards.

Flint CIO Hearing Hits Roosevelt War Plans

FLINT, Mich.—A Public hearing on welfare and WPA conditions, called by the CIO Council of Flint representing 35,000 organized auto workers, vigorously condemned local, state and national relief policy, in a meeting at the CIO Council Hall, Friday, May 24.

The hearing served not only as a means of putting the heat on the local welfare and WPA officials, but also to cap the victory of the UAW-WPA Local 12 officers, who were under fire for the past week from Stalinist forces in the UAW, who attempted to throw the President Ray Lawrence, Secretary General Johnson and other militant WPA union leaders out of office.

Joseph Pagano, national assistant director of WPA organization in the UAW, and Art Case, Regional Director and Board member from Flint, threw the WPA union into a turmoil early last week.

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Flint CIO Anti-War Resolution

The text of the Flint CIO Council resolution, demanding War Funds be turned over to the benefit of the unemployed, follows in full:

WHEREAS the United States Congress is approving over 3 billion dollars in appropriations for the war machine, and

WHEREAS the building of this largest peace time military force in the history of this country constitutes a preparation for the involvement of the U.S. in the present imperialist war now raging in Europe, and

WHEREAS this war is not a humanitarian war being fought in the interests of the people of this country or of Europe, but solely in the interests of a small ruthless clique of greedy industrialists and bankers, and

WHEREAS this war machine is being built up in the United States at the expense of the unemployed workers, as is proven by the cuts in the appropriations for all public works projects including WPA, NYA, etc.,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that this assembly, representing 35,000 organized workers in the city of Flint, gathered together at a Public Hearing at the CIO Council Hall, demand of the U.S. Congress that all war funds be turned over to the benefit of the Unemployed people of this country, that a ten billion dollar public works program be inaugurated to the effect that all unemployed workers can be provided with jobs at trade union wages, so that the U.S. Congress shall be instrumental in providing a policy that will feed the American people bread, not bullets, Jobs not Battleships, a Better Life in America, not death on some foreign battlefield.

Mink, GPU Assassin, Is Sought

Mexican Police Look For Notorious Kremlin Gunman

MEXICO CITY, May 27—Mexican police are seeking George Mink, agent of Stalin's G.P.U. (secret police) as the chief of the G.P.U. murder squad which attempted to assassinate Leon Trotsky and his wife last Friday, it was reported today by all press services.

Chief of Police General Jose Manuel Nun, who personally took charge of the investigation, had previously stated that the attack was undoubtedly organized by the Russian secret police.

The attempted assassination came on the heels of the recent purge of the Mexican Communist Party and a conference simultaneously held in Mexico City of GPU agents. Planned down to the last detail on a scale possible only to people commanding enormous resources, it was clearly the result of long preparation under direct orders of Stalin himself.

More than twenty Stalinist assassins disguised in police uniforms and armed with machine guns, rifles, and incendiary bombs, succeeded in breaking inside the walls surrounding the residence of Leon Trotsky last Friday, and sprayed fusillade after fusillade through the doors and windows of the bedroom where Comrade Trotsky and his wife were sleeping.

Robert Sheldon Harte, secretary-guard on duty at the outer door, was kidnapped. His fate is unknown, but it is feared that he is dead.

Comrade Trotsky and his wife, Cora Natalia, managed to save themselves from the assassins by rolling out of bed and jumping on the floor between the heavy stone walls. Comrade Trotsky escaped with slight cuts from flying glass. Comrade Natalia was unharmed.

Trotsky's Grandson Hurt The young grandson of Comrade Trotsky, whose adjoining room was likewise machine-gunned by the assassins succeeded in escaping with a wound on his foot from flying splinters.

The attack occurred at 4 A. M. The police on duty outside reported that they were surprised by the men in blue uniforms of the Mexican police who drove up in automobiles, held them at gun point and then tied them hand and foot. The assassins were headed by a man wearing the uniform of an army lieutenant. They carried extension ladders, rope ladders with grappling hooks, electric saws, and other tools which they later abandoned along with some of their unexploded bombs when they fled.

It is not yet clear how the band of assassins managed to penetrate inside the walls. Whether they succeeded in persuading the secretary-guard Harte to open the door through a clever ruse is not known. It is a rule of the household not to open the door at night. It is possible that they managed to scale the wall after first subduing the police on guard outside and from there killed Harte with an air gun which would not have awakened the other guards.

Once inside the walls, the gang

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Behind the Lines

Major "Neutrals" Must Revise Strategy In Face of Hitler's Victories

by GEORGE STERN

The pace of German conquest in Western Europe has completely upset the war's timetable for all the powers still "neutral." It probably has even upset Hitler's own timetable. It is doubtful whether even he calculated on so disastrous a revelation of Anglo-French weakness. Right now Britain faces the alternative of capitulation or invasion. The new French line along the Somme and the Aisne awaits Hitler's decision to strike for Paris.

Italy's entry into the war has been forecast from day to day for weeks. It is pretty clear that Hitler intends to use the Italian threat in the Mediterranean plus his own threat of blitzkrieg invasion to force British capitulation. If the British refuse, the invasion and Italian entry will probably be simultaneous. It will open a southern front in France and may materially hasten the coup de grace for that country. But it will also open a whole new theater of war in the Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Near East.

Japan is also pondering an end to its policy of so-called "non-involvement." This would require termination somehow of the stalemate it has created in China. The trial balloons about Sino-Japanese peace negotiations a week or so ago originated obviously in Tokyo. For Japan wants its hands free to pounce upon the East Indies and upon any section of the British Empire in the East that it can reach as soon as Bri-

tain collapses under German pressure.

The United States—i.e., Washington and Wall Street—has not yet definitely adapted its strategy to the prospects of an Allied defeat in Europe. If the Allies should by some remote chance succeed in stemming the Nazi tide and stabilizing a line capable of holding for a period of months, American intervention is likely to come within that period. If the Allies should go down quickly, as now appears quite probable, Washington-Wall Street will have to revise their total strategy. Japan may well be left a free hand in Asia and the U.S. will embark upon the gigantic arms program it will need to carry out to be ready for the resumption of military actions following a longer or shorter interval. A state of war may be declared in either case to facilitate rearmament.

In this changed situation the Moscow government must likewise decide its course. Hitler's quick victories do not quite accord with Stalin's timetable either. Stalin has to figure now whether there is any way of slowing down the Nazis without jeopardizing himself or whether he must take his place at Hitler's boot and hand over the Soviet Union to German exploitation. The mission of Sir Stafford Cripps to Moscow and the talk of a reappointment of a British ambassador indicates that this alternative is already being probed.

WORKERS' FORUM

Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about?—tell us what the bosses are up to—and the G-men and the local cops—and the Stalinists—send us that story the capitalist press didn't print and that story they buried or distorted—our pages are open to you. Letters must carry name and address, but indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Stalinists Fail to Draw Detroit Workers

Editor: Mother's Day, May 12, was the occasion for a "Peace Parade" here. The march was supported by several foreign groups of Communist Party origin, a few students—also C.P., plus Mazey's Briggs local and Dodge Local 3. That there were only two locals represented shows that the affair did not have the support of the International, and secondly that C.P. influence in the auto union movement is at its very lowest. Briggs has been an anti-war local for some time now—Dodge No. 3 has C.P. and S.P. influence. They gave the march whatever life and workingmen's spirit it had. The greater weight of the C.P. organizations however made it distinctly a petty-bourgeois outing. The march was a lagging, straggling, poorly organized flop. The paper estimated a crowd of 3,000—about right. Although there is a strong anti-war sentiment among the workers, this march did not draw them in. Detroit J. Darnell

St. Louis Spring Co. Workers Strike Again

Editor: Two weeks ago I wrote you that the St. Louis Spring Co. had a "stoppage." Well, the boss agreed to give a raise and a week's vacation with pay. But the boss welched, so 124 production workers went on a strike on Thursday, May 16. This is Local 282, United Auto Workers. Picketing is being conducted on a 24 hour schedule. Wages paid under the previous contract ranged from 30 to 55 cents an hour. Which of course is very low pay. The union is asking for a two and a half cents an hour increase this year and five cents an hour next year. But with the coming war, which will mean in-

SECOND CHICAGO MILK STRIKE WITHIN MONTH ENDS IN TRUCE

The second Chicago milk strike in a month ended in a truce on May 26, with the bosses withdrawing the wage cut of \$8. Negotiations for the settlement are now in progress. Arbitration will begin on June 10. The strike began as a lock-out, when the bosses posted a new wage scale. The Milk Wagon Drivers Union immediately turned it into a strike. After three days the bosses were howling for negotiations. Milk deliveries were completely tied up for eight days. The negotiations committee re-

turned its recommendation that the strike be settled pending arbitration of the issues on Saturday last. It took several ballots before the chairman of the meeting declared a majority for the negotiations committee's proposal. The first ballot showed the membership evenly divided. The strike was fought over the bosses' arbitrary decision to violate the agreement of the first strike, which terminated in an agreement that the weekly basic wage remain at \$48 until an agreement was arrived at.

Praises Appeal, But Defends Pacifists

Editor: I am glad you are determined in your anti-war stand and your efforts for the unemployed and for underpaid workers. But you make a serious mistake in condemning the religious pacifists who also work for these same things. It is true that religion has often been used as the opiate of the working people. But the religious pacifists are not guilty of that abuse. They are the most practical, realistic group of people in the world today. They do not condone the exploitation of workers in the guise of religion, or under any other circumstances. Baltimore, Md. John C. Paisley

(We'd like Brother Paisley to tell us what is practical and realistic about religious pacifism. How does it help organize the MASS struggle against WAR—which can only be the struggle to overthrow capitalism?—Editor.)

SWOC Convention Stifled by Surrender of Murray Leadership to War Drive

by MILLS

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) The second convention of the SWOC, May 14-17 in Chicago, can best be understood by outlining the background of the steel situation.

At the time the Steel Workers Organizing Committee entered the steel unionization drive, conditions in the industry were ripe for organization. This was especially true of the small plants throughout the country where working conditions were deplorable.

Wages were extremely low, and the boss was the supreme, undisputed ruler in the shop. Moreover, the work in small shops was of a character which required constant, intensive work without rest periods. The piece work system prevailed as the method of determining wages, and above all, the speed-up constantly oppressed the workers. Such conditions left an open field for any union which could challenge the authority and power of the boss.

For an organization with the backing of the United Mine Workers of America, the task of organizing these small plants was not a particularly difficult one. The SWOC had such backing, and it went forward to accomplish this task. In a short while, hundreds of these small plants were successfully organized, rates of

pay were substantially increased, and general working conditions were greatly improved. As a result, the workers in those plants began to look up to the leadership of the SWOC with great admiration and respect.

However, unions were a novelty to these workers. They had never seen them or participated in their formation; hence, the question of inner-union democracy was to small shop workers an abstract matter which they could not understand. As far as they were concerned, anything the leadership did was for the best interest of the organization. To them, the leaders were almost infallible.

BIG STEEL PLANTS' A DIFFERENT STORY

Among the workers in the large, integrated steel plants, the situation was entirely different. Here the success of the SWOC leadership fell far short of its claims and expectations. U.S. Steel recognized the union, it is true, but mainly because it wished to put itself in a better economic position as against its competitors. The "Little Steel" strike was a smashing defeat for the SWOC, and in the few remaining large plants under contract, no major gains were made by the union. The lodges covering these plants find it extremely difficult to maintain even a semblance of a solid organization. Dues fluctuate continually, and many times reach a dangerously low point.

Meanwhile, the corporations maintain an aggressive attitude. They continue to discriminate against union men, they continue to reduce the workers' earnings by manipulating the piece work and tonnage bonus rates; and finally, they continue to boldly speed up production and increase the efficiency of their plants at the expense of the workers. Technological unemployment hovers over the head of every worker in a steel plant. And when a steel worker sums up all of these conditions, he begins to ask himself, "What is the Union doing about it?"

The leaders talked a great deal about organization drives, but these drives were seldom seen; and when they were begun, it was generally upon the initiative of the rank-and-file leaders who did all of the work. Campaigns were based upon such issues as the check-off system, and 100% unionization, and not upon the issues which daily torment the worker at the machine. At the conclusion of the campaigns, apathy again set in, and accordingly, dues payments began to decline.

When the workers from these plants came to the convention of the SWOC in Chicago, they were not quite so willing to support the leadership in every move. They had begun to develop serious doubts about the highly praised preachers of "industrial peace." The leaders were well aware of this development; they came to the convention prepared to meet it.

Taking advantage of the financial weakness of the small lodges, the SWOC officials recommended that several small lodges unite and send a local SWOC Field Or-

ganizer to the convention as a proxy delegate. This was done in numerous cases; and as a result, scores of Field Organizers came to Chicago as delegates, each one of them carrying several proxy votes. Since these men were appointed by the SWOC "tops," they dared not vote against the leaders for fear of losing their jobs. Thus, from the very beginning of the convention any opposition group was defeated by virtue of the fact that the organizers held practically enough votes to control the convention.

Convention committees were appointed by Philip Murray, Chairman of the SWOC. In every case, an organizer headed the committee, and most of the committee members were organizers. Known dissenters were systematically kept off the committees. Every precaution was taken to see that the convention remained in safe hands.

GANG UP ON REAL DELEGATES

Several of the lodges from larger plants had taken the leadership in the pre-convention agitation for establishing a genuine International union in steel with elected leaders and representatives. The SWOC leaders had long opposed the idea, but catching wind of the trend, they came to the convention with a proposal that a Constitutional Convention be called. . . in 1942. From the floor came a demand that such a convention be called by 1941. Murray defended the proposal of the officers, and then, one after another, the organizers and job-seeking stooges began to hurl slanders and insults at those who opposed the idea of waiting until 1942. Murray pictured the rank-and-file demand as a personal attack upon himself, and then proceeded to attack its supporters. Needless to say, in all this confusion, Murray had his way.

While the convention was in session, the imperialist war guns were booming over Europe, and Roosevelt was making his war budget appeal to Congress. In spite of this dangerous atmosphere, the SWOC leaders proposed to the convention the most reactionary war resolution yet presented to any leading CIO union. The entire resolution was clothed with patriotic phrases. The government was promised support "in any emergency"; "Our country, right or wrong" was the central slogan. Murray pointed out that the purpose of the resolution was to "show the American people that we are ready to support our government." What he meant was that he wanted to show American capitalism that the S.W.O.C. leadership could line up the steel workers behind the imperialist war machinery.

The popular referendum on war, which was endorsed by the 1937 convention, was not even mentioned in the 1940 resolution. From the floor came a request that the 1937 stand be reaffirmed, but it was promptly shelved.

Meanwhile, a Canadian delegate described the conditions of the Canadian workers under the war regime. He told of how civil rights were destroyed, while profits mounted into millions of dol-

Chicago Lodge of Republic Steel Still Think Kelly a Killer

Delegates from Republic Chicago Lodge walked out at the SWOC convention when Mayor Kelly rose to speak. They, who know him best, still remember him as the mayor responsible for the Memorial Day Massacre of 1937 during the "Little Steel" strike. Chairman Murray had invited Kelly, made a long speech on his behalf, and Kelly spent his time explaining that he wasn't around when the cops shot the steel workers. (He didn't say anything about the way he arranged to whitewash the killers.)

But Murray's whitewash of Kelly didn't go with the Chicago delegates of the local to which the slain men had belonged. They left the hall while Kelly was there.

lars. He advised the American delegation that the best thing that they could do about the war situation was to stay out of it. For that concluding statement he received a thunderous ovation.

The leadership's desire to soothe the fears of American capital was discernible in every move that they made. This desire was most nakedly exposed when the question of unemployment came up. The Murray leadership proposed a conference of leaders of "Government, Business, Labor and the Farmers." Such a conference, they say, would discuss the problem of unemployment and come forth with some fruitful solution.

The six-hour day, which at present is the only demand which can really unite all steel workers—employed and unemployed—was hardly mentioned by the officials. However, this issue came up from the floor. Rank-and-file delegates put forth the six-hour day demand as their immediate answer to technological unemployment. Many delegates participated in the discussion, and while many of them spoke for a six-hour day, not a single one of them said anything about the conference proposed by the leadership. All of them talked about the effect of the new automatic strip mills, about the speed-up, about the need of shortening the hours of work and spreading the jobs. Only the paid apostles of class collaboration had anything to say in favor of their proposal for a "conference on unemployment."

The steel workers have no desire to "confer" with the slave-drivers and war-mongers of American industry to learn how to meet the problem of unemployment. The workers know the road THE SIX-HOUR DAY WITH EIGHT HOURS' PAY! It will not come if everything is left up to the leadership; it will come only when the steel workers themselves prepare to fight for it. To this end, the militants who attended the convention in Chicago pledged themselves. Let the leaders have their conferences with the bosses: the steel workers themselves prefer fighting!

Appeal Drive Gains, But Not Enough

The collection this week for the two-a-week Appeal was an improvement over the previous week's collection. \$209.25 was collected, an increase of approximately \$70.00 over the money collected during the week before.

But, sorry to say, we cannot be satisfied. The attack of the GPU assassins on Comrade Trotsky shows us how much more effective we could be if the Appeal were published twice-a-week. Had we been publishing the Appeal twice-a-week we would have been out on the streets with the news and the interpretation of the attempted assassination by Stalin's GPU much earlier.

Comrades, let nothing interfere with the collection of funds for the two-a-week Appeal. Our financial condition is such that the two-a-week Appeal drive must continue regardless of any other drive.

Everybody on his toes to fulfill the quota!

SCOREBOARD

Branch	Pledged	Paid	%
Upstate New York	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	100
Akron	10.00	10.00	100
St. Paul	200.00	160.00	80
Chicago	100.00	70.00	70
Minneapolis	300.00	200.00	67
Boston	170.00	112.50	66
Lynn	50.00	29.00	58
Flint	105.00	55.00	50
Detroit	75.00	36.35	48
New York City	950.00	412.00	43
East Chicago	25.00	10.00	40
Newark	100.00	30.00	30
Los Angeles	100.00	22.25	22
Buffalo	5.00	1.00	20
New Haven	55.00	7.00	13
National Office	550.00	41.00	7
Maritime Workers	780.00	40.00	5
San Francisco	100.00	0.00	0
Toledo	40.00	0.00	0
Philadelphia	25.00	0.00	0
Omaha	25.00	0.00	0
Baltimore	15.00	0.00	0
Seattle	15.00	0.00	0
Indianapolis	10.00	0.00	0
Oakland	10.00	0.00	0
Portland	10.00	0.00	0
Lorain	5.00	0.00	0
TOTAL	\$388.00	\$1286.10	33.

CLARKE SEES WARTIME OPEN SHOP TACTICS AT WORK IN SYRACUSE

By GEORGE CLARKE

SYRACUSE—This wide open-shop industrial center is all primed for big war-time production. General Motors, Crucible Steel, Solvay chemicals long ago "adapted" themselves to the "strain" of war. War means open-shop wages. Syracuse anticipated this general condition by many years. A skilled tool and die maker in Brown, Lipé & Shapin (GM affiliate manufacturing steering gears, headlights, etc.) makes less than a dollar an hour tops. In the unionized plants of GM the same work calls for \$1.25 to \$1.40 an hour. Naturally, proportionately worse conditions obtain for the unskilled.

And while wages trail far behind unionized plants, and hours are long and working conditions bad, Syracuse workers already have the bad smell in their nostrils—the smell of the pre-war depression that will be the post-war panic.

The "Democracy" They Enjoy

Over 9,000 families are on relief, according to Leon Abbott, county welfare commissioner. At least one out of every seven persons receive relief—which is a sure sign that at least one out of every six are unemployed.

These families, fortunate enough to be on the relief rolls, received \$8.32 on the weekly average. Estimating the families at an average of 4 persons, the relief can non-fodder of Syracuse enjoy the princely sum of 90 cents a day for food, clothing, shelter, fuel and the other necessities of life. They will probably be branded "Fifth Column" if they don't get too hysterical about the Morgan DuPont-Roosevelt war for "democracy," "civilization" and "the good life."

Not very long ago the local newspapers and the Chamber of Commerce were engaged in a big

crusade against "Bolshevism." The "Bolshevism" consisted of a low-cost housing project that succeeded in providing the tremendous number of 800 apartments. (There are almost 10,000 slum families in Syracuse.) But even this "wild-eyed Bolshevik" project was not entirely unprofitable for the solid citizens of the community. It appears that the slums were cleared for the project in NOT the poorest section of the city. These homes—of course!—were heavily mortgaged to the local banks, who were not entirely unhappy to relieve themselves of this property, at nice fat interest charges.

Workers Are Militant

With the exception of the militant truck drivers and a few of the minor trades, Syracuse is unorganized. There are a few weak SWOC lodges in the Crucible mills, a few of the smaller plants and mills under contract. And that's about the size of organization. But don't get the impression that Syracuse workers lack in militancy. For months on end the Remington-Rand workers battled as vicious a company terrorism as workers have seen anywhere. They didn't win—the labor movement was too weak and the company too powerful. But the real story is told in the fact that the only way Remington-Rand could defeat the workers was by closing down the plant.

"Hell will pop in this town one of these days," a worker told me, "and when it does we'll be fighting our own war where it should be fought."

The SWP is ready to move ahead in Syracuse. With several workers joining the party during my stay here, it is only a matter of time before an active, promising party organization is constituted.

GEORGE CLARKE IN TWIN CITIES ON COAST-TO-COAST TOUR

George Clarke, member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, now on a coast-to-coast speaking tour, is in Minneapolis and St. Paul this week-end. Time and place of his speaking engagements can be ascertained at the Minneapolis headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party, 919 Marquette.

His next speaking dates are:
 Omaha Sunday, June 2
 Denver Tuesday, Wednesday, June 4-5
 Salt Lake City June 7
 San Francisco June 10-16
 Fresno June 17
 Los Angeles June 18-25
 Comrade Clarke's comments from each city on the way in which American workers are reacting to the war drive will appear each week in the Appeal.

Stamp Plan Assailed by SWP Jersey Candidate for Senate

NEWARK, N. J.—George Breitman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for United States Senator, denounced the reactionary features of the "food stamp plan" as attempts to regiment the unemployed in preparation for America's entry in the War.

"Despite the publicity with which it was introduced by the local and federal politicians this month, the food stamp plan has been greeted with resentment against many of its features by ever increasing numbers of unemployed workers and their organizations," declared Breitman.

"They found out quickly enough that it was no 50% increase in their food allowances. Up till now the unemployed had been receiving surplus commodities given out by the Federal Surplus Commodity Corporation in addition to their food checks at the local stations.

"In effect they will not receive more than a 25%-30% increase, instead of the promised 50%. As for the voluntary aspect of the thing: Since the old FSCC stations will be closed, everyone who does not 'voluntarily' accept the food stamp plan will automatically

receive a cut in his total food budget.

Used Against Cash Relief

"In Newark, we know that this maneuver is intended to weaken the fight for cash relief, something Newark unemployed for almost five years have been fighting for. They are afraid that this 'increase' will be used by the local politicians to prepare a cut in their relief, as was done in Minneapolis after the introduction of the plan.

"They resent new restrictions: the order making them carry an identification card every time they go to a store, the right of federal inspectors to stop them when they leave a store and search their bags, the restrictions on their right to purchase household materials such as soap, or tobacco.

Stand of Various Groups

"This opposition to many features of the plan has already produced a strongly worded resolution from the Workers Relief & WPA Union, militant Newark unemployed organization, attacking the reactionary features of the plan, and calling upon the unemployed to organize to protect

themselves against the next stages in the development of the plan.

"On the other hand, the Stalinist-controlled shell of an organization, the Workers Alliance, last week issued a leaflet completely slurring over the dangerous features of the plan, saying to the unemployed: 'This is your plan! Learn how it benefits you!' Thus they demonstrate that although they use a more militant sounding language than a year ago, they still follow a policy which betrays and confuses the unemployed and weakens their fight for jobs and adequate cash relief."

Breitman concluded by pointing out how ridiculous a role the Socialist Party was playing in the food stamp question. "Unemployed workers in New York at the recent convention of the Unemployed & Project Workers Union saw members of the Socialist Party voting in a bloc against the food stamp plan's introduction in New York City, at the same time that Harry Laidler, S.P. member of the City Council, had been the most active proponent in that body to bring the plan to New York City."

COMING OFF THE PRESS!!!

TRADE UNION PROBLEMS

by FARRELL DOBBS

A comprehensive study of problems facing the American Workers

Price: 10¢

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by Joe Hansen

First of a series of 2c agitational pamphlets

Published for the S.W.P.

PIONEER PUBLISHERS
 116 UNIVERSITY PLACE NEW YORK, N. Y.

The Negro Question

by Robert L. Birchman

"Democracy" in British West Indies

British imperialism is moving swiftly to completely suppress freedom of speech, the right of assembly, the expression of grievances and criticism, in the West Indies. In Jamaica the Government is trying to enforce the "Undesirable Literature Law."

The Governor is given "absolute discretion" to ban the importation of any literature that violates the law and any person who imports, publishes, offers for sale, distributes, or reproduces any publication the importation of which has been prohibited shall be liable to imprisonment at hard labor for a term not exceeding twelve months or to a fine not exceeding \$100 (about \$500) or to both imprisonment and fine.

The People's National Party of Jamaica has protested the law. Their statement reads in part: "The Law does not specify the sort of literature or matter that may be prohibited but vests in the Governor alone an arbitrary and absolute power. The Law affords no safeguards nor means of redress whatever for persons affected by the use of its powers."

"We do most strenuously protest against the undemocratic and bureaucratic and oppressive form of the Bill. We protest against the arrogant assumption of arbitrary powers by any man to control and limit the constitution rights of freedom of thought and opinion...."

"The law is undemocratic, unnecessary and harsh and makes it possible to deny to the people of the country the ordinary rights of free thought and opinion."

A Letter from Jamaica

We have received a letter from Jamaica which states:

"Your May Day issue was exceptionally good and grand. Keep up the fight. The Jamaica Labor Weekly started republication but had to suspend on account of war-time repression. Yours for a Socialist World."

The Jamaica Labor Weekly was a militant labor paper which was published during 1938 and the first half of 1939 and appeared again for four issues during April and May of this year. It carried on a campaign against the war. We can be sure that the sentiments expressed in an article in May, 1939, are still the opinions of thousands of workers in the West Indies.

The article points out that Jamaicans will be called upon to fight for democracy and asks:

"HOW COULD JAMAICANS FIGHT TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY WHEN WE HAVE NOT GOT ANY? Although we Jamaicans are bitterly opposed to fascism and are ready to defend democracy when we get it here, WE ARE NOT GOING TO FIGHT FOR IMPERIALISM AND THE PERPETUAL ENRICHMENT OF THE POCKETS OF THE BRITISH CAPITALISTS."

An item from the Daily Gleaner, Kingston, Jamaica paper gives us something of a picture of the conditions in Jamaica. A. G. S. Coombs, President of the Jamaica Workers and Tradesmen's Union states that in the Montego Bay area two-thirds of the workers are unemployed and that those who are working only receive the miserable wage of 3 to 10 shillings a week and that this "only provides for food of the cheapest and most miserable order—not to mention clothing and housing."

The cost of living for workers in Kingston, according to official figures, has risen 17 percent since last August. Clothing costs rose by 25 percent and food by 22 percent in this period.

In Trinidad, British West Indies, the police commissioner has ordered the suppression of all labor union meetings. Groups or parades of more than ten persons have been banned and trade union meetings broken up and their officers arrested by the police, according to reports appearing in the U.S. Negro press.

Negroes Fear Effects of War Drive

"Negroes may suffer in U.S. drive for defense," is the telling headline of a story in the New York City Negro newspaper, the Amsterdam News, May 25. It reports that "speedy Congressional action to approve the executive's request for a billion dollars for armaments this week were seen to signal doom to the welfare of thousands of unemployed Negroes all over the country."

The point is that the cutting down of the WPA rolls will oust tens of thousands of Negroes who will get no benefits from the jobs created by the armament appropriations. For, the Amsterdam News points out:

"Negroes are not employed by the major airplane and munitions making concerns, a Jim-Crow policy of long standing, and of those employed in navy yards and the steel industry, very few are above the ordinary unskilled labor classification."

There's only one place they aren't going to discriminate against Negroes: in the front-line trenches. They'll use black skins for cannon-fodder—as long as blacks will go to the slaughter....

Millions in Gold for Britain's War Chest from Labor of African Miners

Natives in the Rand gold mines of South Africa are working overtime to pour gold into Britain's war-chest. In the first seven months of the war, these mines produced \$272,000,000 of new gold. The production output reached an all-time high in March in the Rand. It totaled 1,147,382 ounces. At the American price of \$35 an ounce, the March output was worth \$40,145,000. This is enough to buy a fleet of 535 American pursuit planes. It is not difficult to see who pays for the war. Not the masters who spend "their" gold, but the colonial people and the workers of the imperialist nations.

GPU Assassins Try to Murder Trotsky

(Continued from Page 1)

separated, part of them placing themselves between Trotsky and the rest of the guards who were sleeping in their rooms, spraying the guards' doors with frequent blasts of machine gun slugs.

Guards Answer Machine Guns
The guards reported that one of the assassins called out to them in English to stay in their rooms and they would not be hurt. They returned the fire, however. Whether any of the assassins were struck by the return fire is not known. The invaders had cut all the wires except that of the telephone upon overpowering Harte, and in the darkness only the flame from their machine guns could be seen.

Fearful Mechanized Device

The main body of assassins proceeded to the combined library and study of Comrade Trotsky, firing machine gun slugs wildly as they broke inside. From that vantage point they held their machine guns on the bedroom door of Comrade Trotsky, riddling it with bullets. At the same time others of the gang shot through the French door of the bedroom which opens upon the patio, thus directing a cross fire upon the beds where Comrades Trotsky and Natalia had been sleeping but few minutes before. Their pillows were riddled. More than seventy bullet holes were counted in the wall near the beds. Others of the assassins fired into Sergei's room at the same time.

Undoubtedly convinced that they had succeeded in their bloody assignment and fearing to break open the bedroom doors which are connected with a special mechanical protective device of which they apparently were aware, the assassins hurled incendiary bombs in the library and left with flames rapidly spreading among the books and magazines.

At the door through the wall, which also opens upon the garage, they stole two of the automobiles. They took Harte—perhaps already dead—with them.

Comrade Natalia rushed out of the bedroom and smothered the fire with blankets.

The alarm was flashed over the telephone by the remaining guards, and the Mexican authorities immediately responded with squads of police and secret service men.

Trotsky Names Mink

Comrade Trotsky named George Mink as one of the GPU assassins assigned to assassinate him and declared that the entire attempt was carried out on direct orders and under the personal supervision of Stalin, the Cain who has slaughtered the entire of the Bolsheviks who led the October revolution.

One of the automobiles was abandoned by the GPU assassins in Coyoacan, the other was found on a road ten miles west of Mexico City. In it was a coat from one of the police uniforms used by the gang.

The Mexican authorities have launched a thoroughgoing investigation. The five policemen detailed to guard the house under the supervision of J. Casas have been placed in custody for close questioning. The Mexican secret service is combing the country for suspects.

All Mexico Aroused

The attempted assassination created a sensation in Mexico. It was the most important story of the week. Every newspaper carried detailed accounts.

In expectation that another attempt will shortly be made—Stalin seems to believe that the headlines on the world war now raging will cover up the crime—the police guard has been reinforced at Coyoacan by the Mexican authorities. The internal guard system is likewise being greatly amplified and the entire interior within the walls completely rearranged and reinforced in preparation for the next attack.

SAY!

It's going to be a swell party!
(For the Twice-a-Week Appeal)

JUNE 1st, 1940
8:00 P.M.

Labor Temple

84th St. and 2nd Ave., N.Y.C.

Socialist Workers Party

Yorkville Branch

Music—Food—Refreshments

Dancing

ADMISSION 20c



A recent photograph of Natalia and Leon Trotsky.

WHO IS GEORGE MINK?

Just over two years ago—on April 16, 1938—the *Socialist Appeal* reported that George Mink, G.P.U. assassin, was on his way to Mexico with the assigned task of murdering Leon Trotsky.

"He sailed early this week," the *Appeal* reported on that date, "from the port of Galveston, Texas, for the port of Vera Cruz, Mexico, to carry out the mission assigned to him by his gangster overlords: to organize the murder of Leon Trotsky!"

We gave in detail at that time many of the known facts about Mink, notorious for many years internationally as a spy, terrorist, and executioner in the service of Stalin's G.P.U.

In 1935, the New York Times published a dispatch from Copenhagen, Denmark, dated July 30, which stated that "two Americans, George Mink and Nicholas Sherman, arrested two months ago, were condemned today to 18 months in prison under the accusation of espionage."

Subsequently Mink, under the name of "Alfred Herz" headed the murder squads of Stalin's G.P.U. in Spain. In Barcelona he was personally responsible for organizing and carrying out the assassinations of hundreds of militant anarchists, members of the P.O.U.M., and of the Fourth International.

The Spanish anarchists directly charged "Herz" with organizing the murder of the anarchist leader in Barcelona, Camillo Berneri, and his comrade Barbieri. This charge was published in this country by Carlo Tresca, editor of the anarchist weekly, "Il Martello."

The sinister figure of Mink appeared in the

murder of Moulin, Fourth Internationalist militant, and in the kidnapping and probable murder—they have never been seen since—of Marc Rein, son of the Russian Social Democrat Rafael Abramovitch, member of the bureau of the Second International, and of Erwin Wolf, former secretary to Leon Trotsky.

Having acquitted himself so well in his master's behalf in Spain, Mink returned to this country and left almost immediately for Mexico for his new job—the assassination of Leon Trotsky.

Reported at the same time as going to Mexico were a known French Stalinist official, Georges Fournial, and Roland Abbiatte, sought by French and Swiss police as one of the murderers in September, 1937, of Ignace Reiss. Reiss had broken with Stalin's G.P.U. and joined the Fourth International. When Swiss police raided Abbiatte's room (he was also known as "Rossi"), they found a map of Mexico City and its suburbs, and a duplicate of an application for a Mexican visa.

Other known G.P.U. agents who subsequently joined Mink, Fournial, and Abbiatte in Mexico included Tina Modotti, Italian Stalinist who was held for a time by Swiss police in the Reiss murder, and Sorrenti, also an Italian, who goes by the name of "Carlos Contrera."

These are the creatures assembled in Mexico by Stalin to "get" Trotsky, his most feared and most hated enemy. Their names are written down in the books of the international working class and will remain there until the working class of the whole world has its reckoning with Stalin and Stalinism.

Michigan CIO Halted In Stand Against War

(Continued from Page 1)

convention, in its annual meeting here this week-end.

The resolutions committee, under the domination of Allan Haywood, National CIO Organization Director and old time wheel-horse for the Lewis machine in the Miners Union, deliberately violated the sentiments of the rank and file delegates for a live wire program of action against Roosevelt's war preparations.

During Saturday's session the convention delegates had revolted against a milk and water resolution, submitted by the Resolutions Committee, had defeated the resolution and demanded from the floor that a great national campaign be launched with "mass demonstrations" to arouse the workers of Michigan not "to participate in any war launched by the imperialists of this country."

The final resolution that came out of the committee hopper, however, merely stated that the convention "was opposed to U.S. involvement in the war."

This despicable action of the resolutions committee was part of a deliberate drive by high CIO officials to tame the militant anti-war spirit displayed by the convention delegates.

Union-Label Bullets

Allan Haywood outlined the official CIO policy. "The CIO is supporting the preparedness drive," he stated, "and would help defend the country against any aggression, but it demands a voice on proposed emergency war measures and will insist that existing labor standards be defended."

Thus Haywood announced to the convention that the top CIO officials have already sold out to the Roosevelt war machine and only ask that the union label be placed on the bullets, the guns and uniforms that will be pro-

Defend Labor's Rights

The convention delegates were fully aware of the fact that the onrush war preparations of the Roosevelt machine signify an immediate attempt to destroy all of the labor legislation and union gains achieved in the last few years. The convention launched a drive to offset this move and to save labor's gains. A program was adopted pledging unalterable opposition to eliminating labor legislation for the national defense program.

The convention resolution stated its opposition "to any statutory lengthening of the work week, to any suspension of the Walsh-Healey Act, and to any move to abolish payment of overtime in the industries producing war and defense materials."

The resolution denounced the attempts of the Army and Navy officials to attempt to force labor to make sacrifices "while the employers continue to pile up their profits."

What the Score Is

While the convention was in session the *Detroit News*, organ of the Michigan moneybags, explained to the delegates what the national defense program really means. Criticizing union militants for being "cynically suspicious," it argued, "that as to certain trades the demand must be made, for quite legitimate reasons, that men be allowed to work longer than 40 hours. That will occur undoubtedly in the tool and die industry, where shortage of skilled men and facilities, it is predicted, will provide the chief 'bottleneck' of the whole program."

Thus the manufacturers are again taking the offensive, seeking, before the actual declaration

of war, to destroy one of the basic gains of American labor, the 40 hour week.

This anti-union drive, pushed on the pretext of "a shortage of skilled labor," is all the more hypocritical since the representatives of the manufacturers themselves admit that no such shortage exists. Ward's Automotive Reports, the most authoritative on the auto industry, point out in their latest study that "the industries' ability to produce motorized equipment is immediately available." Chester Cahn, attorney for the Tool and Die Manufacturers Association admitted that "Most of the tool-and-die work on the 1941 cars now in the shops will be finished by August 1st. I should say that would represent 80 or 85 per cent of the 1941 automobile requirements. After August 1 our industry will be in a position to offer its facilities either for aviation or to meet other demands."

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL FOR JUNE HAS TWO ARTICLES BY TROTSKY

The June issue of "Fourth International" is now off the press! Even finer than the outstanding Magazine, this second number of the Socialist Workers Party's monthly magazine again presents a lively, well-balanced table of contents for the Marxist reader. Leon Trotsky draws a "Balance Sheet of the Finnish Events." Trotsky is also represented in the department "From the Arsenal of Marxism," where one of his first documents on the Trotskyist movement appears.

Farrell Dobbs, National Labor Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, gives a second of his timely analyses of trade union problems in "FBI and the Unions," based on direct observation of the G-Men at work against the unions. George Novack appraises the political scene in "The Presidential Campaign."

FDR WAR PLANS HIT AT FLINT CIO HEARING

(Continued from Page 1)

when they jerked the charter of the Flint locals, suspended all officers, and appointed an administrator over the local.

The reasons given were pure red-baiting, and the method used an exact repetition of Homer Martin tactics. Without the local union's officers knowing a thing about it, the WPA administration was given a list of men as a new bargaining committee, and informed of the suspension of all local officers who had been elected by the rank and file in democratic meetings of the union.

Charter Returned

The dictatorial and uncalled for action aroused such a wave of anger and resentment among Flint unionists, in both the WPA Local and in the Fisher, Buick and Chevrolet locals, that Pagano and Case had to quickly rescind their action, and restore all former rights to the officers of Local 12, and give back its charter.

The old business of jerking charters, kicking out elected officers, and appointing administrators, is no longer popular among the UAW membership, who learned their lesson during the Martin fight. Pagano, Art Case, and other International officers spent an uncomfortable 24 hours immediately after the WPA union's charter was jerked. Dozens of phone calls from leading Flint unionists, constant visits from committees protesting the action, soon convinced them they had made a mistake.

The Public Hearing on Friday, in spite of the disruptive effects of the attempted ouster of the WPA Local's officers, was an impressive demonstration of solidarity between the UAW plant locals and the unemployed.

Representatives from Chevrolet, Fisher Body, and the Regional CIO Office spoke on the unemployed question and supported Local 12.

Militant resolutions were passed demanding the doubling of the Welfare Budget, the abolition of red tape in the city hospital and the admission for free hospitalization of all WPA workers and relief clients in case of illness.

Anti-War Resolution

A fighting blow at the present Congressional action appropriating billions for armaments was passed unanimously by the Hearing, in the form of a resolution demanding that "all war funds be turned over to the benefit of the unemployed people of this country, and that a ten billion dollar public works program be inaugurated."

ties either for aviation or to meet other demands."

The state convention, while defeated by the high CIO officials to a great extent in its attempts to launch a bold labor offensive, has served nevertheless to dramatize to the unionists of Michigan the war drive now unfolding and has begun the great educational work which will inevitably culminate in the auto centers in a furious class struggle between the workers and the manufacturers.

War Deal Drive Against Labor On Full Blast

(Continued from Page 1)

LaFollette Civil Liberties Bill into its opposite and adopted the monster on May 27. Even the New York Times had to refer to "amendments undreamed of a month ago, prior to European war developments," characterizing one of them as a "provision which is a deadly blow at the civil liberties of several million law-abiding residents."

One provision forbids employment of non-citizens beyond ten per cent of the personnel of any industry. Another forbids the employment of "any Nazi or Communist" without exception. Foaming at the mouth, the august Senators adopted these provisions by a vote of 47-20. LaFollette, father of the original bill, sat silently while it was turned into an anti-labor weapon.

3. Roosevelt's proposal to transfer the Immigration Service from the Labor to the Department of Justice was speedily adopted May 27 by the House, putting over four million non-citizens at the tender mercies of the FBI. Roosevelt's message to Congress on the proposal explained it all in one of its sentences:

"This reorganization will enable the government to deal quickly with those aliens who conduct themselves in a manner that conflicts with the public interest."

Since "the public interest" had already been defined by Roosevelt to include a ban on strikes—"Labor will not attempt to take advantage of its collective power to foment strikes" said Roosevelt, May 21—FBI control of aliens can play an unimaginable havoc with the trade unions, for the four million non-citizens are predominantly industrial workers, strong pillars of many unions. The FBI is given a weapon to turn these union men into scabs and stool-pigeons.

Anti-Labor Jokers in "Alien" Bill

4. Attorney General Jackson proposed on May 22 registration and fingerprinting of all non-citizens, making it compulsory for them to carry identification cards. In line with this the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 27 reported favorably a House-approved bill providing for fingerprinting and registration of aliens.

A grim joker is concealed in this move. For though the bill thus approved is referred to in press reports as merely providing for registration of aliens, it turns out that the bill is actually the notorious Smith "Omnibus bill," a compendium of all the anti-labor and anti-alien legislation proposed in Congress during the last twenty years. It had passed the House early in this session but had scarcely been conceded a chance to pass the Senate—until Roosevelt and Jackson's calls for legislation against aliens provided the avenue.

In addition to anti-alien provisions, this bill contains a broadly-worded provision making it a crime punishable by ten year sentences to publish or distribute books, pamphlets or other literature "advising the nations' armed forces to disobey their superiors or advocating the violent overthrow of government," or "by word of mouth or in writing or by transmission by radio, to knowingly or willfully advocate, abet, advise or teach the duty, necessity, desirability or propriety of overthrowing or destroying the government." Another section would make it a crime for any person to organize or help to organize any group teaching or advocating governmental overthrow.

5. The WPA appropriation bill was passed by the House on May 22 with a provision prohibiting employment of "Communists and members of Nazi bunds" on WPA projects, and requiring "loyalty oath" affidavits from applicants that they are neither. The WPA national office immediately indicated the breadth of the provision, saying it would seek determination from the Department of Justice "whether a 'Communist' must belong to the Communist party or whether the term can be applied to Trotskyists, Lovestonites and other dissident followers of the Communist philosophy." In a word, every militant on the WPA was to have a knife at his throat.

In the rabid atmosphere created by these and other acts of Roosevelt and Congress and the war hysteria they created with the aid of press, radio and movies, all manner of dark things flourished. Governor Rivers of the enlightened state of Georgia couldn't wait for Congress to do it, but on Monday, May 20 issued a proclamation—ordering all aliens to submit immediately to fingerprinting at police headquarters throughout the state—and followed this on May 25 with an order to revoke the business, occupational and professional licenses of all aliens by June 1. The effect of this may be indicated by the fact that in Georgia most business and professional men and various skilled workers are required to have licenses. Various cities in Florida and elsewhere also moved immediately to the fingerprinting of aliens.

A mob in Del Rio, Texas, drove three "Nazi agents" to the city limits and warned them not to return; the United Press reported this on May 22, referring to the victims as "professed Nazi agents"—and never troubled to check up or to correct the story. Actually the victims were members of the "Jehovah's Witnesses" sect; the "Nazi" literature they were distributing was the May 15 issue of their organ, *Consolation*, which, ironically enough, contained a bitter attack on the Hitlerite regime and an account of the vast number of the sects members in concentration camps. But the mob was sound enough in its reactionary instincts, for this sect is opposed to both sides in the war. In Philadelphia on May 23 a mob of University of Pennsylvania students attacked two "Young Communists." In Pekin, Illinois on May 25 ten men and women were attacked by a mob while distributing "Communist" literature. The attackers were, appropriately enough, American Legionnaires.

These hooligan acts are merely the harbingers of a wave to come, as Legionnaires and other "patriots" organize "sixth columns" to combat the "fifth column." Texas, which contributed the first incident of hooliganism, also contributed the most brazen of the "sixth column" proposals, when the Houston Chamber of Commerce proposed formation of a National Industrial Defense Corps, to be armed by the government, for "detecting and reporting acts of sabotage and sedition and in suppressing armed insurrection"—meaning strikes.

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Fight with the Socialist Workers Party for:

1. A JOB AND A DECENT LIVING FOR EVERY WORKER.
2. OPEN THE IDLE FACTORIES — OPERATE THEM UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL.
3. A TWENTY-BILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING PROGRAM.
4. THIRTY-THIRTY—\$30-A-WEEKLY MINIMUM WAGE—30-HOUR WEEKLY MAXIMUM FOR ALL WORKERS ON ALL JOBS.
5. \$30 WEEKLY OLD-AGE AND DISABILITY PENSION.
6. EXPROPRIATE THE SIXTY FAMILIES.
7. ALL WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED.
8. A PEOPLE'S REFERENDUM ON ANY AND ALL WARS.
9. NO SECRET DIPLOMACY.
10. AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY.
11. WORKERS' DEFENSE GUARDS AGAINST VIGILANTE AND FASCIST ATTACKS.
12. FULL SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY FOR THE NEGRO PEOPLE.

Fifth Column Bunk

A phrase has already been coined with which to justify every attack on legitimate militant labor organizations by the government and by vigilante organizations. Even before this country will officially be involved in the war every militant worker runs the risk of being designated as a member of the "fifth column" and physically attacked.

With the invasion of Norway and the Lowlands by Hitler, the term became popular and more or less applied to elements who were in the pay of the Nazis working for their victory.

That the Nazis have paid agents in all countries, including the United States, is to be taken for granted. But it is safe to say that there will be very few real Nazi agents who will be discovered and punished.

The major blows will fall upon innocent people of German extraction who have nothing to do with Nazi activities. And above all will the attack be centered on every worker fighting against the bosses for better conditions and against the war.

Everyone who will ask for higher wages, everyone who will demand better conditions, will be immediately reported to the Department of Justice as a member of the "fifth column." The foreign-born worker especially will be hounded to death.

It is very significant that Roosevelt decided to transfer the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization from the Labor Department to the Department of Justice, notorious for its anti-racial and anti-labor attitude.

Let the workers not be fooled by the hysterical cry of "fifth column." It is only another means to destroy those who are active in the campaign against the desire of the rulers of this country to involve it in the imperialist war.

Against the war mongers and their suppression of civil liberties!

CIO In Building Trades

The seventeen building trades international unions, embracing roughly a million members, constitute one of the most vital pillars upon which the edifice of the AFL rests. These unions, organized along craft lines with prohibitive initiation fees and high dues, are the most conservative influence within the AFL. Industrial unionism was opposed most bitterly by the bureaucracy of the building trades unions. This was symbolized most dramatically by the fist fight which took place at the San Francisco convention between John L. Lewis and Huthcheson, President of the Carpenters Union. Last August the CIO initiated a much publicized campaign to wrest control of the building trades from the AFL. A. D. Lewis, brother of John L. Lewis, was placed in charge of this campaign.

How far did the CIO get in the construction field after nine months of effort? A number of small subsidized locals of the Construction Workers Organizing Committee have been set up throughout the country. But despite the fact that there is no initiation fee required to join the union and the dues are \$1.50 per month—very low, considering the AFL standards—all these locals still embrace only a few thousand workers.

These have been recruited mostly from the ranks of the unemployed who had hopes for jobs through the CIO. But the CIO has no job control. Consequently the turnover in membership has been great, and among those remaining there is growing dissatisfaction with the failure to get any results. A group of plumbers in Queens who formed a local of the CIO in

the early days of its campaign have since quit, most of them joining the AFL locals in the field.

It is not difficult to understand the reasons for the failure of the CIO in the construction field. They are roughly as follows:

1. While not 100% organized, the building trades are nevertheless among the best organized trades in the country. They have been considered quite accurately the aristocrats of the working class, because of the conditions they have enjoyed. The industrial crisis, it is true, hit the building trades workers very hard. For several years (1930-33) construction was at an almost complete standstill. Even now when construction is quite active, unemployment is a burning problem. But the workers do not entertain any illusions that the CIO has any magic formula for solving this problem. The AFL locals have been trying to alleviate the situation through the six hour work-day and a system of rotation of work among the members.

2. The industrial form of organization which the CIO offers as against the AFL craft system is not as vital to the building trades workers as it is to the workers in the mass production industries, where the CIO has had its greatest successes. Despite various changes and simplifications that construction has undergone, the industry depends on skill and craftsmanship.

The workers are not the only ones divided along craft lines, this holds for the industry as a whole. A mason, for example, works for a mason contractor, an electrician for an electrical contractor, etc. But unlike the bosses, there is a painful lack of solidarity among the workers of the various crafts. To overcome the craft prejudices and to work for increased collaboration between the building trades unions and their eventual amalgamation, is the task of the progressive elements in the unions. This however can be achieved only through the existing unions. The militants understand that any attempt to achieve the industrial form of organization over the heads of the existing unions and against them can only create chaos and undermine the conditions the building trades workers have won through years of struggle.

3. The United Construction Workers Organizing Committee did not grow out of the existing unions but was counterposed to them from the outside. There has been no split in any of the AFL building trades unions which would form an initial basis for the CIO.

It is noteworthy that in the fields where the CIO emerged victorious, it first won over to its side the AFL unions and used them as the basis for great, dramatic and highly successful organization drives. This was the case in Auto, Steel, Textile and Rubber. In the building trades, however, the attempt has been made to start from scratch and to build a union parallel to existing powerful unions.

This false, disruptive initial step was of necessity coupled with reactionary methods. Having no access to the building trades workers, A. D. Lewis' campaign was therefore directed to the bosses. He promised them a "responsible" union that would give them no trouble, with a cheaper wage scale and an eight hour day. The employers were no doubt impressed by the offer. The Feb. 3 "News and Opinion," organ of the New York Building Trades Employers Association, in commenting on the CIO proposition states: "This is indeed a proposition for employers suffering under a six hour day and jurisdictional disputes." The yearnings of the employers for the CIO proposition increased when Lewis addressed them at a meeting which took place March 20, giving his offer in detail.

But the employers are practical men and they know that buildings are put up by men and not by wishful thinking. They therefore decided: "In all truthfulness, however, it must be said that the entire discussion of a CIO agreement is academic at least until its membership in all trades increases immeasurably." ("News and Opinion," April 3, 1940)

CIO Finds a Base in Small Homes

But how is the CIO going to increase its membership "immeasurably and in all trades"? Certainly not at the expense of the AFL. The offer of cheaper labor to the employers only served to consolidate the AFL membership. The CIO therefore turned to the only opening it could find in the industry: the field of small construction in N.Y., the one family homes. These slipped out from under union control in recent years. However, this is no small item. Right now there are in the New York area 8,400 small homes under construction, involving mortgage financing of more than \$40,000,000. The bulk of this construction is being done in Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island where 5,900 homes are under erection.

These small homes as a large scale development is a comparatively new field, given impetus by the F.H.A. scheme of guaranteed mortgages. The AFL unions, divided as they are along craft lines with craft autonomy, did not get together for a concerted organization drive.

Here is where the CIO drive, which is disruptive and injurious to the interests of the building trades workers in other respects, has one progressive feature. It brought home to the workers in the trade the fact that the industry is not fully organized, that failure to embrace all the workers in the industry and giving them the benefits of organization, will bring another union into the field. The CIO drive acted as a lever to lift the AFL unions, including the bureaucracy, out of their lethargy and to undertake steps to organize small home construction.

In order to counteract the lower CIO wage scale, the AFL New York Building and Construction Trades Council decided to organize small construction on the basis of a secondary wage scale which approximates that of the CIO. This was approved by all the locals affiliated with the council, with the exception of the bricklayers.

It can be expected that two rival campaigns to organize small construction will now develop in New York. The AFL unions have of course the greater advantage. They have powerful, long established unions and control of most of the construction field. Workers will naturally be far more eager to join the AFL unions. But this will not be achieved without an aggressive campaign, welcoming the unorganized workers into the unions and not treating them as second class citizens, as is the tendency in some of the locals.

The CIO will make headway only where the AFL unions are not on the job organizing the unorganized. The unorganized, working under the most appalling conditions, anxious for organization, will not wait much longer. They would welcome the AFL, but they will also accept the CIO rather than have no union at all.

It is significant that in New York City's borough of Queens a group of militant building trades workers who were left out in the cold by the refusal of the AFL to organize them took the second best choice and formed a local of the CIO. They are now carrying on a militant drive to organize small construction. This example will be multiplied unless the AFL acts quickly and aggressively.

The workers who are at present in the CIO will most assuredly come into the AFL if the AFL will undertake an organization drive without any further delay.

Minneapolis Teamsters Fight Roosevelt Armament Program

NOT ONE CENT TO THE BOSSES' WAR MACHINE

While labor "leaders" of the stripe of William Green and John L. Lewis are scurrying to support Roosevelt's armament program, genuine trade union militants are refusing to line up behind the bosses and their government.

Notable among the trade union militants are the famous Minneapolis teamsters' unions. Their answer to Roosevelt's war drive was given in the following editorial, from the May 23 NORTHWEST ORGANIZER, organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters' Joint Council. The editorial, entitled "Not One Cent to the Bosses' War Machine," follows in full:

"Above all, let us stop this hysterical chatter of calamity and invasion that has been running rife these last few days. . . ."

Colonel Charles Lindbergh was right when he characterized President Roosevelt's war-mongering of the past few days as "hysterical chatter." It is all that and more—all this talk about possible air or naval attacks on the United States is shrewdly utilized to frighten the people and gain their support for taking this nation into the war.

We haven't the slightest faith that Colonel Charles Lindbergh, a black reactionary, nor the Republican Party to which he belongs will keep this nation out of war any more than will Roosevelt. But we do agree with the Colonel's estimate (and Lindbergh knows a great deal about air power) that all talk of this nation's being invaded is "hysterical chatter."

In Roosevelt's talk last Thursday to Congress, in which he asked Congress to boost the bill for the war machine to over \$3,000,000,000, Roosevelt stated: "I know that our trained officers and men know more about fighting and the weapons and equipment needed for fighting than any of us laymen."

Where can the President find a responsible military man to agree with his claim that this nation is in danger from invasion? There is not a responsible authority in this country who seriously believes that the United States is liable to a real danger of invasion from any foreign power or combination of foreign powers.

Hugh Johnson has stated: "There is no great power that could invade continental United States."

Major-General Douglas MacArthur has called an attack on American ports impossible.

The late Admiral William Sims said that no foreign power or group of powers could operate across the ocean and stand a chance in combat with forces operating from the home base.

In the World of Labor

By Paul G. Stevens

British Imperialism's Hitlerite Regime in the Colonies

The increasing agitation to have the United States intervene on the side of Britain in the present war must be answered by the continual expose of the "democracy" in the British colonial empire. The following items from British labor papers reveal the oppression under which industrial and agricultural workers in South Africa live both in wartime and peacetime.

The paper of the Labor League of Youth, a militant organization of young revolutionary socialists in England, prints this story in its May issue:

"On April 3rd British troops fired on a crowd of Negro workers on strike in the copper mines of Northern Rhodesia.

"These miners had demanded a 25% rise in wages to offset the increased cost of living following the outbreak of war. The attempt of the mineowners to work the mines with blackleg (scab) labor had failed before the courage and solidarity of the workers. When police charges and tear-gas proved unavailing, the mineowners appealed to their agent, the Governor, for military assistance. Troops were rushed from Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia! 17 workers lost their lives, 29 others were wounded.

"... In 1938, the copper companies produced profit for the British capitalists amounting to £3,100,000. But the total wages bill for 15,000 black miners was only £500,000.

"Such fabulous profits are possible only because of the imperialist regime which has enslaved the African Negroes, denying them every human right except that of working for the British capitalist class. In the din and slaughter of the world war, it is more than ever necessary for the working youth in this country to understand that there is no difference between the methods of Hitler and the methods of our masters in their suppression of the colonial peoples. They are not fighting Hitlerism; they are fighting for profits."

Serfdom Decreed by British As Way of Life of Natives

George Padmore, Negro militant from the West Indies, now in London, describes the conditions of the agricultural worker in South Africa in the April issue of the Call, another British labor paper.

"... Before 1912 Africans who could find no home in the Reserves (land set aside for cultivation by natives, and usually unsuitable for agricultural and pastoral purposes—P.G.S.) were allowed to rent or work land as sharecroppers.

"... But as industry developed the big agrarians on the one hand and the mining companies on the other, discovered that the system of sharecropping kept thousands of natives off the labor market. ... In February, 1932, the landowners adopted a Resolution calling upon the Government to make a law to the effect that 'a native shall have no right to reside on the land of a white person otherwise than as a laborer.' Under pressure from these big agrarians the Government began to legislate against the squatters.

"All existing contracts between natives and

Smedley Butler has written that an invading army would have to bring over a million men and supplies. The whole merchant marine of the world totals only 3½ million tons.

Day after day, speech after speech, one move after another—in the Pacific, in Europe, at home—the President is hurdling this nation down the road that Wilson strode, to war.

It is false for Roosevelt to call his armaments program a Defense Program. The \$3 billions he asked for Thursday (and he has already upped it) will be spent for aggressive imperialist warfare on foreign soil to advance the interests of American Big Business. Roosevelt can no longer find it in him to ask for even one billion for the unemployed—but he can find billions and billions for war.

In his two terms as President, Roosevelt has asked for and received over 9 billions for arms. Both old political parties always united on this point and gave him all he asked for. Yet last week the President was told by the United States army that the army is so poorly equipped it is short of uniforms and blankets, that the air force hasn't one modern bomber, that the army is even short of ammunition. Even making allowances for the customary enormous graft of Big Business, WHERE HAS THE \$9,000,000,000 GONE TO? No wonder the big corporations, the steel and airplane and oil and ammunition manufacturers announce they are 100 per cent back of the President's program.

The President tells us his war budget will purchase 45,000 planes, build up the world's most formidable naval fleet, increase the regular army from 230,000 to 280,000, outfit one million ground troops with military equipment, anti-aircraft guns, tanks, etc.

This picture leaves us ice cold. One hundred and thirty million American people haven't one single penny invested abroad to defend—and mighty little at home to defend.

We can think of better ways of spending that \$3,000,000,000. Three billion dollars will give jobs to two million unemployed—and leave enough left over to construct a quarter of a million \$2,500 homes for those now housed in rat-infested fire-traps.

So far as we can see, the 64, 000, 000 workers in the United States, and their families, haven't a single vote in Congress. BUT WE VOTE NO TO ROOSEVELT'S ARMS BUDGET. NOT ONE PENNY TO THE WAR MACHINE! ALL WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED!

poor white farmers were immediately revoked. On the day of the enforcement of the Native Service Contract Act thousands of Africans who had established themselves on private lands found themselves ruined and homeless. Overnight these independent cultivators became serfs.

"... Under the terms of the new law every native living upon land owned by a European must work for his master for 180 days in the year. The farmer has the right to decide upon which days the native shall work. In order, therefore, to keep the black tied permanently to the farm, owners usually spread the 180 days over the whole year. In lieu of wages the native is usually given a plot of land on which to erect a hut and grow millet and kaffir corn. Any breach of the Service Contract Act makes the native liable to criminal prosecution and imprisonment. Those under 18 can be punished by flogging.

"... But the worst feature of this act is that no native can leave his job without the permission of his employer. If he runs away he can be arrested by the police, sentenced to a term of imprisonment as a vagrant and then returned to his master."

Puerto Rican Section Upholds Soviet Union Defense

An official resolution of the Independent Communist Party of Puerto Rico (Section of the Fourth International) states:

"The Independent Communist Party of Puerto Rico disavows and condemns the minority of the Socialist Workers Party for abandoning the official program of the Fourth International on the question of the defense of the USSR by putting the Soviet Union in the same imperialist camps as the capitalist countries which are fighting for the redivision of the world. . . ."

French Dictatorship Imitates Hitler In Creating Concentration Camps

The following excerpt is taken from a letter sent to British friends by French comrades, and published in *Workers' Fight*, May issue:

"The military and police dictatorship established in France, even prior to the war, now wages a relentless persecution against soldiers, workers and peasants alike. . . . The military administration usurps the functions of all local and civil administrations. Parliament meets only to acquiesce to the Government decrees. . . . The vicious attack on the Stalinist deputies is now extended to all militants and trade unionists. At least 10,000 are already in concentration camps. . . . A recent decree imposes the death sentence for 'preparing, furnishing or storing Communist literature.' For possessing a pamphlet by Marx, Engels, Lenin or Trotsky, the worker is liable to the extreme penalty. Special Commissions have ejected from the factories about 30,000 workers who were previously exempted on account of their special qualifications. Their crime is that they have shown oppositional tendencies. . . ."

Dictatorship Governs In Great Britain

(AN EDITORIAL)

Backed up against the wall, fearful of losing all the booty that it accumulated in the course of many generations, the British Parliament adopted a measure which grants it complete right to do as it pleases with labor and capital.

Soft-brained commentators proclaim the step as one which practically brings socialism to England.

The workers should clearly understand that the law passed by the British Parliament cannot in any way be designated as a step towards socialism. Just as Hitler's measures in controlling capitalist industry cannot by any stretch of imagination be considered socialist measures.

The foundations of socialism are laid when the workers take over government power and take the industries away from the capitalists. Nothing like that has happened in England. The capitalists are still there; they still own the factories and they still run the state.

What has happened in England is that the capitalist class is trying to run its industries more efficiently for war purposes.

Once more it is necessary to point out and to repeat over and over again that capitalism in decay is capable of organizing production only for the purposes of destruction.

* * *

In spite of all the ballyhoo about the rights of the capitalists being curtailed, the fact remains that it is the workers who will bear the brunt of the measures taken to save British imperialism.

Every right that the British worker gained in many years of struggle against the capitalists is now lost. He can be told where to work and he must obey. His wages can be reduced. His hours of work can be increased. His position is no better than that of the German worker.

As against the rights taken from the workers, the "sacrifices" of the capitalists are nothing at all.

A tax of 100% is levied on excess profits. It must be understood that it is not a tax of 100% on profits but on excess profits.

At best that means that a capitalist will be limited to the profits he made in peace time. And assuredly that limitation will not reduce his standard of living by one bit; nor will it compel him to work longer hours and subject him to the speed-up. Nor must one forget that besides the profit, the capitalists usually draws a nice salary. Whatever "sacrifices" the wealthy are compelled to undergo, are nothing in comparison to the enormous sacrifices of the working masses.

* * *

Naturally the masses are told that they must surrender their rights "only temporarily," for the duration of the war. The British workers must now fight for democracy for the future.

The British and also the French workers must now fight for something they haven't got. They must accept a complete dictatorship of the ruling class; they must accept a lower standard of living; they must suffer and die on the field of battle—and have faith that the capitalists will graciously return with thanks the rights that the workers are now deprived of.

But should the British and French imperialists win the war, the workers will discover that whatever rights they surrendered will not be given back so easily. All indications point to the conclusion that the period of capitalist democracy is at an end.

* * *

The tragic feature of the war is not the fact that the British and French and German workers are compelled to sacrifice. What constitutes the horrible tragedy is the fact that they are sacrificing for interests not their own.

To surrender certain rights, to accept a reduced standard of living, to fight and offer up their lives if necessary, are not things which the workers must recoil from if the emergency demands them. They must be ready to sacrifice everything—for their own interests—nothing for the interests of the capitalists.

Without the cooperation of the working masses the imperialists would be unable to carry on their wars. That is as certain as night follows day. That is why Major Attlee, one of the leaders of the Labor Party, was chosen by the British ruling class to introduce the law which places the British workers in practically the same position as the German workers.

For the British workers there is only one path to choose in order to defeat Hitler, and that is not the path of surrendering all their rights to the British imperialists.

To take power into their own hands, to free all the British colonies, to call upon the French and the German workers to overthrow their masters, to call upon the freed colonial peoples to help them in this struggle against Hitler—this is the only road to victory over Hitler.

This road will demand sacrifices—but they will be worthwhile sacrifices, for they will be in the interests of the working class and not of the British imperialists.