

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. VI—No. 49

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1942

267

FIVE (5) CENTS



Judging by the groans and moans coming out of the mansions of the wealthy and executive offices of the corporations, the capitalists are on the road to the poorhouse.

No worker should be a sucker and feel anything but contempt for these hypocritical performances. The capitalist class is doing very well. Even the Commerce Department of the U. S., one of the most conservative of government agencies, is forced to point out that clear profits in 1942, after all taxes are paid, will be only 5% less than in 1941, a banner year. That means that for the bosses 1942 has been a very good year indeed.

The more conservative wing of the capitalist class is starting a big campaign against the \$25,000 ceiling on salaries. Not that salaries play an important role in the bosses' incomes. Compared with dividends, interest and other forms of income of the capitalists, salaries are unimportant. But the \$25,000 limitation has become a symbol to the capitalist class of a certain amount of restraint placed upon them in their drive to make fortunes out of the war. They want to abolish even this symbol.

The ceiling limitation is, according to those shouting for its repeal, unconstitutional and takes away incentive. However, the ceilings placed upon the workers' wages are very constitutional and very good for incentive, according to the Congressmen and the capitalist press.

CIO Convention Evaded Lesson Of The Elections

Facts Reported By Convention Delegates Lead to Conclusion That Workers Need A Labor Party to Protect Their Interests

By Felix Morrow

The 1941 convention of the CIO in Detroit adopted a resolution for "independent political action" to seek the election of "pro-labor" candidates and especially of "members of trade unions." The convention further instructed the incoming executive board to devote efforts and funds to carrying out this political work.

Logically, therefore, one might have expected that this year's convention of the CIO, in Boston Nov. 9-13, would have had before it a report from the executive board summarizing the board's activities in the political field and drawing a balance sheet of the experience. However, there was not a word said about the previous convention's instructions and what had been done to carry them out.

During the preceding year and in the elections the CIO leadership had generally interpreted the Detroit convention instructions to mean support of the Democratic Party. Much time and money had been expended by the CIO top and secondary leadership in attempts to re-elect Democratic incumbents, particularly in the key states of Michigan, California and New Jersey.

CONVENTION RESOLUTION

There was a formal "resolution on the recent elections," but it analyzed nothing. Here are its main sections:

"WHEREAS the efforts of the people to secure the election of win-the-war candidates met with severe setback . . .

"Candidates of disunity, of labor baiting, of appeasement took advantage of the dissatisfaction of the hope with the insufficiently aggressive mobilization of the people for the war, with the division of counsel in our war leadership. . .

"In instances where the line was drawn sharply and clearly . . . candidates pledged to unity behind total war action were victorious. Elsewhere with issues beclouded, with the forces of labor and other supporters of the

leadership of our Commander-in-Chief not always united, and with the finger not accurately pointed out to the purveyors of confusion and of internal opposition, the candidates qualified for membership in a true win-the-war Congress went down to defeat. . .

"The task requires that the CIO mobilize more effectively than ever for the purpose of focusing nation-wide attention upon the significance of the activities of elected officials. . . and for voicing the insistence of the American people on unity. . . behind our Commander-in-Chief. . .

This resolution comes very close to being double-talk. It explains nothing. The irrefutable fact is that millions of workers voted with their feet in the elections, in such numbers as to blow up all pre-election estimates. The Associated Press expected 34 millions to vote; Gallup predicted 30 millions. Actually only 26 millions voted. Those who did not vote were predominantly workers. This has now been attested to by the Gallup poll, which reports:

GALLUP ESTIMATE

"Of four major occupational groups the institute's preliminary findings reveal that in proportion to their numbers professional and business people went in greatest numbers to the polls. Farmers came next, and then white collar workers. LABOR UNIONS TURNED OUT FEWER IN PROPORTION TO THEIR NUMBERS THAN ANY OF THE OTHER MAJOR GROUPS." (N. Y. Times, Nov. 24.)

Among the factors suggested

why the workers did not vote are: "Their failure to turn out votes by the Gallup poll as explaining may have been due to apathy. It (Continued on page 2)

BOSSSES RIDE IN ROLLING NIGHT CLUBS WHILE RAILROADS PACK IN WORKERS 83 TO A CAR

By B. FORREST

CHICAGO — The railroads are paying for expensive advertisements in the daily papers asking the traveling public not to become too impatient with them if there aren't enough seats to go around because of the heroic efforts being made to transport soldiers and war supplies.

Here are a few facts that may shed a little light on the "heroism" of the railroads. Daily at 2:15 P. M. the New York Central's "Pacemaker" steams out of Chicago, carrying 500 passengers for New York at \$30 per head per round trip. An hour and forty-five minutes later the Twentieth Century Limited pulls out with 140 passengers at a round trip minimum fare of \$83.45.

As the difference in fares would indicate, the Century is what the boys on the road call the "Bankers' Special." The Central uses the same number of

cars for the 500 common folk riding the Pacemaker as are reserved for the 150 privileged ones on the Century. Naturally, the Century supplies stenographers, long distance telephones and a night club so that the big shots can ride in the style to which they are accustomed.

THE ROLLING CLUB

The second example is what is famous around Chicago as the "Deerpath." This is a specially adapted Pullman club-lounge car operated at the tail of the Chicago & Northwestern suburban train pulling out of gilt-edged Lake Forest at 8:00 A. M. and returning out of Chicago at 5:10 P. M.

The Deerpath is a rolling club in which 50 or 60 millionaire commuters hold membership. These steel barons, packers, and bankers buy regular tickets. In addition they pay a special annual fee of \$8,250 for the operation of the rolling club. They pro-rate this among the members as they do the cost of air-conditioning, remodeling and redecorating.

The only commuting club car

mails," as were all the previous Nov. issues. THE MILITANT was informed on Dec. 1 that the copies of the Nov. 14 issue "were being disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Section 725, Postal Laws and Regulations," that is, were being destroyed. The Nov. 7 issue has also been destroyed.

Maritime Labor Defends Right to Sue Shipowners

SIU, SUP Conduct Struggle to Retain Power of Jones Act

The embattled maritime unions again crossed swords with the shipowners and their reactionary allies in Washington when they discovered last week an attempt to smuggle through Congress a bill which would nullify the Jones Act.

The Jones Act is considered by maritime labor as its "Magna Charta" for it gives the workers the right to sue the shipowners for injuries received in line of work and awards them minimum maintenance wages when they are sick during periods of the working contract.

Taking advantage of the fact that many seamen are now working directly for the government on ships operated by the War Shipping Administration, a bill is being pushed through Congress which would abrogate the Jones Act for the duration of the war and place all maritime workers under the reduced and fixed compensation rates which apply to all federal employees.

The present form of the bill was sneaked through the House without public hearing and is now before the Senate Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. The fight for the retention of the Jones Act is being led on the East Coast by the Atlantic & Gulf District of the Seafarers International Union, and on the West Coast by the Sailors Union of the Pacific.

Red Army's Offensive Staggers Germans At Stalingrad And Rzhev

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION PROTESTS ATTACK ON 'MILITANT'

Declares Banned Issues Do Not Violate Espionage Act Properly Construed in the Light of Previous Decisions

The Amer. Civil Liberties Union has protested the action of the Post Office Department in withholding from the mails the November issues of THE MILITANT, a press release issued by the ACLU declared last week.

According to the statement, "an examination of the issues barred discloses no material that can be properly construed as violating the Espionage Act in the light of previous decisions. 'The issues contain, the Union says,' material criticizing the alleged imperialist phases of the war, the government's labor policy, and Negro discrimination."

CHARGES NOT SPECIFIC

"No specific charges have been made nor hearing granted," the ACLU declares. "Post Office rules require hearings only in cases of revocation of second-class mailing privileges. Individual issues of a publication, books or pamphlets may be excluded from the mails without specifications or hearings." The Post Office has not yet indicated whether it intends to demand the revocation of THE MILITANT'S second-class rights.

NOVEMBER ISSUES BARRED

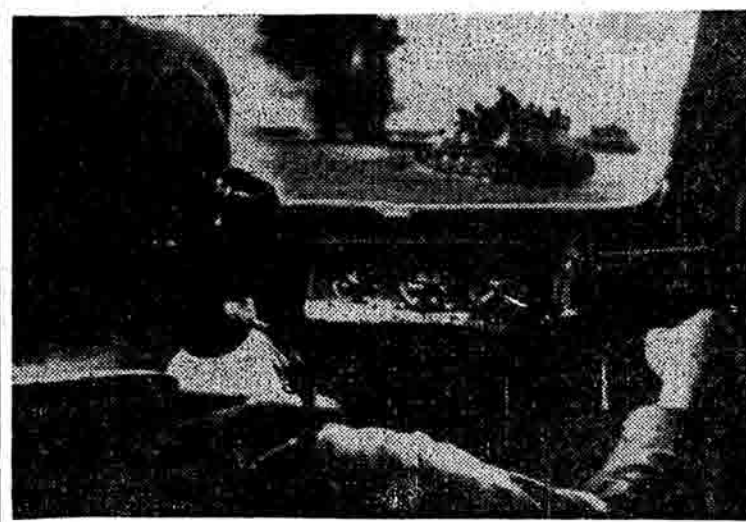
Meanwhile, the Nov. 28 issue of the paper was "withheld from the

Nov. 7 issue has also been destroyed.

Protests against this high-handed action of the Post Office in barring THE MILITANT from the mails are increasing. The Call, organ of the Socialist Party, thinks that "Now is the time to rally to the bill of rights," while Labor Action, a labor weekly published in New York, "stands solidly with THE MILITANT and demands. . . Hands off the labor press! . . ."

Further comments by the labor press on the matter will be found on page 2 of this issue.

Tanks Slash Hitler's Flank



This Soviet tankist follows his armored unit toward the German lines north of Stalingrad. Units like this have driven across the Don River at several points and are taking a heavy toll of Hitler's siege army.

The Task Now Is To Arouse German Revolt

By MICHAEL CORT

The German troops have been retreating for the past two weeks under the blows of the Red Army in the south at Stalingrad and in the center on the Rzhev front.

On Nov. 18 an encircling movement was launched by the Soviet forces at Stalingrad and 300,000 German troops besieging this city were being squeezed from all sides.

On the central front Hitler's strategic position is likewise becoming grave. Here his troops were already at their "minimum winter positions" — positions they had held all last winter in the face of repeated Red Army drives. Now, however, the Soviets appear to have broken through north of Rzhev and driven to within 50 miles of the Latvian border. A German retreat from Rzhev would endanger Hitler's entire central and northern position.

MANY SURRENDERING

While the Red Army communicates list captured arms by the thousands and the German dead at 155,700, the more significant development is the number of prisoners taken. Up to Dec. 1 the count is placed at 66,000 captured on the Stalingrad front alone. This is in sharp contrast to the Russian offensives of the winter of 1941 when the Soviet communiques claimed very few prisoners.

For the first time there are signs of demoralization among the German troops. "Miserable groups of soldiers. . . are creeping out to meet the Red Army and proclaiming themselves delegates for larger groups ready to surrender," wrote the N. Y. Times correspondent from Moscow on Nov. 25.

Associated Press dispatches tell of one instance where three Nazi divisions, along with their commanding staffs surrendered in a body.

DEVELOPMENTS INSIDE OF GERMANY

The declining morale of the soldiers at the front is meanwhile (Continued on page 3)

Both Parties Are Condemned For Defeat Of Poll Tax Bill

Randolph Hits Role Of Roosevelt, GOP And Senate Liberals

Responsibility for the defeat of the anti-poll tax bill in the Senate lies not only on the poll taxers, but also on the Roosevelt administration, the Republican Party and the "liberal" Senators, said A. Philip Randolph, director of the Negro March-on-Washington Movement, in a statement released last week.

"The most disgraceful spectacle of democracy in action witnessed in America in contemporary times was the bi-partisan conspiracy of Republican and Democrats to defeat the anti-poll tax bill," said Randolph. "It served definitely to disillusion the Negro masses, North, South, East and West, with respect to the Republican Party constituting the ship for their salvation, or the Democratic Party representing any hope whatsoever."

"It also served to make Negroes completely aware of the fact that the New Deal, even under President Roosevelt's leadership, is absolutely bankrupt so far as providing any fundamental answer to the problem of the Negro masses is concerned. In the highways and the byways, in the factories and on the farms, on the railroads and the steamships, in the hotels and domestic kitchens,



A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

the Negro will have one thought and that is that 'the president let us down at a crucial hour in our history.'

"TO BE LAID ASIDE"

"The final speech of Senator Barkley on the poll tax sounded passionate. However, his willingness to make the deal indicates that he was meticulously following the cue of the president in his speech last Tuesday in which he said: 'While long-range social and economic problems are by no means forgotten, they are a little like books which for the moment we have laid aside in order that we might get out the old atlas to study the geography of the battle areas. . .

"Although the president expects the suffering people of Italy and other countries under fascist domination to strike out through underground and open rebellion for democratic ideals, values and principles, in America we must put our democratic interests on the shelf and make recourse to the atlas of geography which is primarily concerned with the foreign front. This, we submit, is a contradiction which the President shouldn't expect the American people to accept. . .

"The liberal senators failed and failed miserably in upholding the principles of American liberalism, which have found expression in struggles for income taxes, abolition of slavery,

Business Booming

Big business profits have sky-rocketed 400% since the war started!

This is the essence of a detailed analysis of corporation profits made on Nov. 23 by James G. Patton, President of the Farmers' Union. Patton listed business profits for last year at \$15,500,000,000 and estimated that 1942 figures would reach \$17,200,000,000.

Attacking the NAM statement that such profits were "reasonable," Patton pointed out that by such a yardstick the returns to labor and the farmers were "exceedingly poor."

Enough said. We can well understand his fear of having the people think,

Shipbuilders' Graft Is Exposed By House Body

During the past year the South Portland (Maine) Shipbuilding Company received from the U. S. government fees amounting to \$5,040,000, or a return of 2,000% on its investment. (Most of the capital for its investment was also supplied by the government.)

Even in a period of war profiteering this is a pretty good record, especially when the company didn't even bother to turn out its first contracted "Liberty Ship" until after an entire year of planning and re-planning.

The House Merchant Marine Committee has been investigating the relationships between the U. S. Maritime Commission and the South Portland yard, and on Nov. 25 reported that "the company was receiving a fee for the trouble of incorporating, choosing a name for that company, holding an occasional directors' meeting and delegating the performance of its contract duties."

The report continued that the company "contributed substantially nothing to the performance contracts other than the layout of the yards and the layout is

There are pretty damning words to come from a House Committee and a logical conclusion would be that the Committee favored either criminal actions against the officials involved, or at least a cancellation of contracts. But no! As if shocked by its own audacity in attacking "private enterprise," the Committee suddenly changes its tone when it comes to making recommendations, and merely asks for a revision of the contract so as to "eliminate construction delays."

The reason for the construction delays? Here is how the Committee explains it: ". . . the attempt to build ships before the facilities were completed and from the difficulty in obtaining sufficient supervisors and skilled workmen."

In other words, the government has invested \$19,000,000 in a plant that has given the owners a 2,000% profit and resulted in the building of 8 ships after a year of grafting and bungling, and the fault lies with the workers who are not skilled enough to do the job! There's Washington logic for you.

THE BENDIX CASE

Same Boss Who Led Fight Against North American Strikers Is Head of Firm Charged With Conspiring With Axis Employers

By C. CHARLES

Remember the North American Aviation Company strike in California during June, 1941?

The strike for a 75 cent an hour minimum and a real union agreement was broken, mainly by the bayonets of the U. S. Army, amid the howl of the aviation manufacturers and the capitalist press that the strike was crippling the armament effort.

While the hypocritical chorus of damnation against the strikers was filling the air, the Bendix Aviation Corporation of South Bend, which is closely linked up with the North American Company, was taking a leading role in an international conspiracy.

So close is the connection between North American and Bendix, that the chairman of North American and the president of Bendix is one and the same person, E. R. Breech.

AIRCRAFT CONSPIRACY

Other partners in the conspiracy were German, Japanese, Italian, French and British aircraft parts and instruments companies. The aim of the schemes between these concerns and Bendix, manufacturer of the greater part of the aviation instruments produced in this country, was to limit competition and extort monopoly prices from manufacture and sale of aircraft instruments and parts.

Thus while Breech, as chairman of the North American Aviation Company, was fighting against the strikers' wage demands, claiming that the strike was harming the preparation for the war against the Axis, the same Breech, as president of Bendix, was, according to government charges, participating in a plot with the aviation companies of the Axis nations.

PARTNERS

The complaint accuses Bendix of gaining up:

With Siemens Apparate und Maschinen of Berlin to divide monopoly control in the sale of aircraft instruments;

With the *Officina Meccanica Italiana* of Rome to limit competition in aerial photographic apparatus;

With the *Tokio Keiki Seisakusho* of Japan to charge monopoly

prices and divide the territory of the world in the sale of rate-of-climb indicators;

With Bosch of Germany and the *Societe Anonyme Atr-Equipement* of France to fix prices and eliminate competition in the sale of deicers, fuel injection nozzles and superchargers;

With the *Joseph Lucas company* of England for the sale of aircraft instruments, and with English and French carburetor companies.

According to the agreement with Siemens, which was signed on Dec. 17, 1936, the Nazi firm was to have as its domain Germany, Danzig, Austria and Hungary while the American concern was to have Canada and the United States.

The anti-trust division accuses Bendix of having made payments to the German company as late as April, 1941.

The government also charges that Bendix agreed with the German firm not to sell a secret airplane instrument to the Canadian government for war use after Sept. 1939 when World War II began.

VASSALS OF GM

Bendix and North American are organically linked up with each other. They both are partial subsidiaries of General Motors Corporation. GM is the largest single shareholder in both firms, owning 19% of the total stock of Bendix and over 29% of the North American stock, enough to give GM control over the two companies.

The tight hold that GM has over both Corporations is further exemplified by the fact that E. R. Breech, chairman of North American and president of Bendix is also a member of the board of General Motors.

The General Motors Corporation is one of the most powerful in the U. S. It in turn is dominated by the duPont chemical interests, owners of another mighty industrial empire.

Thus the strings of the conspiracy to establish an international cartel with the owners of the key aviation industries of the Axis powers, lead high up into the citadels of American capitalism and America's 60 families.

In a statement on the same day the charges were filed in court the Bendix Corporation dep-

lored the action and declared it to be "nothing short of tragic because the defense of the company will occupy so much time that is needed for the war effort." They are still playing the old refrain they used against the North American strikers.

DIFFERENT TREATMENT FOR BOSSES AND WORKERS

On the whole the government's policy "for the duration" has been not to prosecute anti-trust cases. In all probability this latest case will be allowed to lie dormant along with the many other charges of monopoly against leading U. S. firms.

During the North American strike all sorts of vile lies were told about the strikers. How different it is with Bendix! Bendix, a sister firm of North American, is an honorable, respected and patriotic concern.

Its stockholders and officials will not be attacked by naked bayonets or a lynch campaign in the press. Such treatment is reserved for workers fighting for a 75 cent an hour minimum wage.

U. S. Industrial Accidents Outnumber War Casualties

By LARISSA REED

Since the United States entered the war, seven times as many American workers have been killed in industrial accidents as have died on the battle fronts, the National Safety Council reported on Nov. 21. Against a total of 48,956 either killed, missing or wounded in the war, 44,500 workers have been killed and 3,800,000 wounded in industry.

Who is responsible for this appalling loss of workers' lives? The Travelers Insurance Company demonstrated in a study made a few years ago that 98% of all industrial accidents can be prevented. In practically all cases, the accident could have been prevented if the employers had been held responsible for introducing known methods of prevention, including close and watchful care over the physical and mental condition of their employees.

"THERE IS A CONNECTION"

The Encyclopedia of Social Sciences points out: "There is frequently a connection between the profit motive and private ownership on one side and the hazardous nature of industrial processes on the other. . . Under existing economic relationships dangerous processes are sometimes continued because they are profitable, methods of prevention or safety are neglected because they are costly." From this same authority, we learn that not more than 2% of all accidents are of the so-called "Act of God" or wholly unpreventable type. The remainder could be prevented "if it were not for practical consider-

Speedup, Fatigue, Greed for Profits Result in Heavy Toll

ation of cost and interference with production and profit."

Thus millions of workers have been killed and maimed — and millions more will become victims of industrial accidents this year — because profits, not prevention, come first with the bosses.

THE 40-HOUR WEEK

Under the pretext of aiding the war effort, the capitalists are whipping up a nationwide campaign of propaganda to lengthen hours and speed up production in the plants. All scientific studies have proven that fatigue brought on by too long hours and speed-up is the prime cause of industrial accidents.

British experience in munitions plants during World War I showed that accident frequency was two and one half times as great in a 12 hour working day as it was when working hours were later reduced to 10 hours per day. Moreover production output gradually diminished so that less was produced in the 12 hour than in the 10 hour day.

Josephine Goldmark and Mary D. Hopkins in a study made during and after the last war in the United States, proved what every worker knows; that even the 10 hour day is too long; that the fatigue it induces leads to a very high frequency of industrial accidents. These findings, published in an official document of the U. S. Government, Public Health Bulletin No. 106, Feb., 1920, proved that the 8 hour day was

Jim Crow Still Here



WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF TRAINING
UNITED STATES MARITIME SERVICE
ENROLLING OFFICE

New Orleans, La.,
29 October, 1942.



Reference is made to your letter of recent date to the Training Division, Boston, Mass., regarding employment in the merchant marine as a radio operator.

You are informed that there is no training for colored men in the radio department, however, we are enclosing an information circular containing full information on the Apprentice Seaman Training.

If, after checking over the circular, you desire to enroll for this training you should fill out the enclosed form, "Application for Enrollment as Apprentice Seaman", and mail to the Commandant, U. S. Maritime Service, National Theatre Building, Washington, D. C., if approved you will be notified when and where to report for enrollment.

Very truly yours,

J. V. Clark,
Ensign, USMS,
Enrolling Officer.

Discrimination against Negroes by the War Shipping Administration's radio training school is clearly shown by the above letter sent to a Negro applicant. Widespread protests over this Government Jim Crow policy led to the transfer—but not the dismissal—of Yale V. Clark, the official who made the ruling.

CIO Convention Evaded Lesson Of The Elections

(Continued from page 1)

may have been due to the fact that labor is less enthusiastic about the present Administration than formerly. In the past it has given the Administration heavy support."

The CIO resolution, however, did not even mention the fact that millions of trade unionists were so indifferent to the outcome of the elections that they did not vote.

The fact of this indifference was of course so well known that it came out repeatedly in the speeches of delegates who discussed the resolution. But, unfortunately, not one delegate attempted to explain WHY the workers voted with their feet.

NO EXPLANATION

In typical bureaucratic fashion, Van A. Bittner, Murray's second-in-command in the United Steel Workers, blamed the workers, saying: "Many of our own people forgot all about protecting themselves on the political field and did not go out and vote or did not take the interest in the elections that they should." WHY the workers didn't think it would protect them to vote Democratic, Bittner did not try to explain.

Bittner concluded in the language of traditional "pure and simple" unionism: "Build our unions, organize the unorganized, so that we can say, regardless of what politicians may do, our unions are going to protect labor."

On this point Bittner was effectively answered by the next speaker, Ben Probe of the Jackson County (Michigan) Industrial Council, who said:

"Organizing a l o n e is not enough because you may have 100% closed shop, but that isn't going to get a raise in wages. Collective bargaining as we have come to know it has probably been taken over by the government. If you want to get a raise in wages, if you want to call a strike, you are going to have to go to the government." In short, wily-nilly the unions are in politics.

But Probe stopped short there instead of discussing the basic question: the kind of politics that labor must carry on. Yet that question was sharply posed by Probe's own evidence: "We found in Michigan that probably any where from 25 to 35% of our people were not even registered to vote." And nobody could claim that the auto orkers of Michigan are indifferent union members!

THE ALP VOTE

One delegate, ex-Socialist Jack Altman of the Retail and Wholesale Workers, contrasted the results elsewhere with the fact that in New York State the American Labor Party polled the biggest percentage vote in its history — 18 per cent of New York City's vote. But the obvious conclusion — that where the workers were given a half-chance to vote for independent labor political action they did so in large numbers — Altman did not have the courage to draw, although it was obviously on the tip of his tongue. His sole proposal was that "the CIO set up a political committee that will organize our forces in every state," to elect good candidates, "yes, even Roosevelt in 1944 if we are still in the war."

The Stalinist formula in the discussion on the elections was the hoary old one about the line being correct but that it had not been carried out. Thus Adams of the West Coast longshoremen: "The program of CIO in the political field is right, but it has got to be carried out." Similarly Merrill of the Office and Professional Workers: "The political problem before us is a problem of massing support behind the Commander-in-Chief. . . Labor had this very real responsibility which in many areas we failed to really discharge."

CIO President Philip Murray's genuine lack of understanding of the whole question was indicated when, after four delegates had spoken briefly, a fifth sought the floor. In irritation, Murray grumbled: "Let's not take all day. I don't know what's so world-shaking about this question." Political action of the trade unions — what's so important about that? It is clear that Murray remains basically, as in his AFL days, a "pure and simple" trade unionist, that is, the most slavish kind of supporter of the capitalist parties.

UAW LEADERS SILENT

It should be noted that none of the workers' leaders took the floor on the question of the elec-

tions. Yet they knew better than anybody else in the convention what a striking change has taken place among the most active CIO workers. In 1936 and 1938 (which was not a presidential-election year), the Michigan workers had been the backbone of the electoral victories of the Democrats in the state and Congressional elections. The local unions had enthusiastically mobilized and put over "their" candidates. In stark contrast, this year, no amount of exhortation from on top could get the workers down below to bestir themselves for the very same candidates.

Why were the auto workers' leaders silent on the floor? They had gone through the motions of submitting to the resolutions committee a "triple victory" program: 1. To win the war; 2. To maintain our democratic institutions; 3. To win the peace. All its formulations were somewhat to the left of the official CIO line and were rejected. The UAW leaders made no attempt to fight for their line on the floor on any point.

One formulation in the "triple victory" program is particularly worth noting. It calls for "re-orientation of the functions of the CIO and its international unions." It declares that necessity "to place the major emphasis of our work on programs and activities

of a broad economic and political nature." This formulation half-openly recognizes that "to deal effectively with the various emergency and normal legislative and administrative bodies of the government" has become the major problem of the labor movement. In short, that politics has become the province of the trade unions.

Once this is recognized, the "solution" proposed by Murray & Co.—vainly begging Roosevelt for more labor representatives on the various government boards and bodies — appears utterly ludicrous. Certainly Roosevelt cannot appoint labor representatives to the most important body of all — Congress!

All the facts reported to the convention about the elections, all the discussions on all the questions, logically lead to but one conclusion: LABOR NEEDS ITS OWN PARTY. An independent Labor Party, rallying behind it not only the organized workers but also the still-larger body of those as yet unorganized, and the workers' families and the dirt farmers and agricultural workers — in short, the overwhelming majority of the nation.

This was the conclusion obviously indicated by all questions at the convention. But, tied to Roosevelt and through him to the Democratic Party, the CIO leadership evaded the plain answer.

How the French Came Into Domination of Morocco

By MARK BRADEN

France's seizure of Morocco in 1900-1912 is a long record of broken promises, secret treaties, military expeditions, bribes and coercion.

Writing in 1899, Professor E. D. Adams declared that "The main characteristic of French colonization has always been conquest by military expeditions." The French imperialists used such expeditions against the Moroccans on numerous occasions, but they did not hesitate, when they saw the need for it, to make all kinds of promises about preserving the independence of Morocco.

In a treaty signed with Britain in 1904 — which recognized Britain's "claim" to Egypt — the French government declared that it was not "its intention to change the political status of Morocco." But the treaty left the way open for France to do just this by stating that France would "see to the tranquility of the country and lend her assistance for all the administrative, financial and military reforms it is in need of."

The German imperialists did not view this with pleasure — they preferred to "assist" Morocco themselves. So in 1906 at the Algeiras conference France "appeared" Germany by ceding 100,000 square miles of the Sudan to Germany in return for recognition of her "special position" in Morocco.

Having previously appeased Italy—all these conferences also made secret treaties pertaining to boundaries, economic spheres of influence, etc. which were kept from the people for years — France was able to move in more openly to destroy the political independence of Morocco.

FRENCH PRETEXT

The French imperialists constantly utilized the device of provoking individual attacks by the natives to justify their own aggressions. The English humanitarian, Edmund Morel, who long crusaded against the slave trade, sums up: "These 'incidents' were quite unimportant but they gave the military of the French Algerian administration the necessary excuse for military action. . . they were never more than a pretext to cover political designs" (*Black Man's Burden*).

Thus in 1907 the French shelled Casablanca and occupied the city; similarly at Ujda the French army moved in after the desecration of a native cemetery had provoked a disturbance. Having eliminated all her capitalist rivals except Spain, and then moved in with her army, France was ready to destroy the political independence she had guaranteed in 1906.

Agents of the big capitalists arrived to exploit the economic resources of the country. Its agricultural products of wheat, barley, maize, olives, figs and almonds were supplemented by large-scale planting of cotton, breadwheat and potatoes. Capital was exported from France to develop the harbors of the fine ports on the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts.

sume the loan. In the face of their army he "consented" and tried to raise payment by taxing his subjects.

But the Riff tribes, who only nominally paid him allegiance, revolted. The French army went out to meet them under the command of General Lyautey. The French demanded of Sultan Hafid that since he could not keep "order," a protectorate had to be established. He reluctantly agreed in the face of the military situation. Thus France broke her promise and smashed the political independence of Morocco.

FRENCH DOMINATION

General Lyautey immediately proceeded to organize a colonial administration. Troops were garrisoned wherever possible. A French civil administration was established. More capital was imported. The trade of Morocco jumped, with big profits mostly for the French capitalists. From 95 million francs in 1910, total trade climbed to 222 million in 1913, and then to 2,644 million francs in 1927.

But big profits to the French capitalists did not convince the natives that France was bringing them "civilization." In the northern section of Morocco which Spain controlled, revolt after revolt flared up. In the French section, the revolt of 1910 was scarcely "pacified" before a new upsurge occurred at Fez in 1912. No sooner did General Lyautey suppress this, then in the South the tribes rose again. By this time the French had almost 40 battalions in Morocco who were hard-pressed in their brutal efforts to maintain "tranquility."

PLUNDER AND WAR

This brief summary shows how, in the space of 12 years, France eliminated all her capitalist rivals except Spain, economically penetrated Morocco, destroyed its independence and made it another profitable link in her vast African Empire. This process of the partitioning of Africa amongst the great capitalist powers was inextricably bound up with their preparations for the World War; they divided and plundered a continent only to fight for its redistribution.

And now they are fighting again. General Eisenhower stands at the grave of General Lyautey and praises him as an "empire-builder." Roosevelt and Eisenhower pledge that they are "protecting" French possessions until a "free" France can resume its own control. What they mean is that, notwithstanding the noble words of the Atlantic Charter, the Allies mean to hold Morocco and the rest of French Africa in subjection until its masters are "free" from their rival, Germany. But such "freedom" of large capitalist powers to oppress and exploit millions of colonial peoples and deny them their national independence, is rank hypocrisy.

When the large powers try to justify their carving up of Africa, they speak of "bringing civilization to the dark continent." Let the apologists of French capitalism answer the question: Besides plundering Morocco for the big banks, what have you done for the people of Morocco; where is the progress you promised them? In exchange for the destruction of their independence, what have you given them?

'Labor Action' Protests Post Office's Action

The Nov. 30 issue of *Labor Action*, a labor weekly published in New York, sharply criticizes the Post Office for withholding the November issues of THE MILITANT from the mails. An article, entitled "Post Office Department Dictators Bar Mailing of Labor Newspaper," says in part:

"An examination of the last three issues of THE MILITANT can offer no serious reason or explanation for this move. There are no 'military secrets' revealed, or any other news that could fall into a similar category.

"Could it be that the ban was placed on THE MILITANT for its references to examples of Jim Crowism in the American Army; its illustrations of how the capitalist class of America is making huge war profits; its criticism of the recently adopted tax program that places the burden of the war effort on labor?

"We are of the opinion that THE MILITANT is under attack for exactly these reasons. If this is true — and there is still no statement from the Washington officialdom responsible for this disgraceful action — then it means that a labor paper representing

a certain political point of view can be banned at any time that its opinion doesn't FULLY coincide with that of Roosevelt and the American ruling class. Could there be a greater illustration of totalitarian action, of an anti-democratic blow against the American labor movement?"

The article then points out that the attack on THE MILITANT must be regarded as an attack on the whole labor press, including *Labor Action* and trade union papers of the AFL and the CIO, which could also be suppressed if the present attack against THE MILITANT is successful. The article then concludes:

"As THE MILITANT has stated in a press release issued this week (a release which was completely ignored by the boss press), we must 'preserve the right of all labor papers for a free press unhampered by reactionary bureaucrats!'"

"Labor Action stands solidly with THE MILITANT and demands that the Washington authorities restore its full mailing rights. HANDS OFF THE LABOR PRESS! FOR A FREE PRESS IN AMERICA!"

Comment Of 'The Call' On The 'Militant' Ban

An editorial in the Dec. 4 issue of *The Call*, organ of the Socialist Party, makes the following comment on the withholding of *The Militant* from the mails:

"If this vigorous but comparatively obscure paper can be suppressed or intimidated because of its forthright criticism of the administration, then, as the editors of *The Militant* state, 'no labor paper will be safe to utter the slightest criticism or to stand up for its democratic rights.' Or, as Norman Thomas declared at the recent dinner of the Workers Defense League, any publication which is not 100% addicted to adulation of the President is likely to find itself in hot water.

"It goes without saying that *The Call* and the Socialist Party do not reaffirm its historic stand in regard to freedom of criticism because of any sympathy with the Trotskyites or any belief in their principles. . . .

"Our protest against, our opposition to, post office or any administrative censorship stems from deeper causes, which have already been listed at length in these columns. We must be eternally on guard against the ready acceptance of totalitarian regimentation. We must protest unceasingly against any attempt at suppression of criticism. We must be ready to fight unhesitatingly against any manifestation of dictatorship.

"What happened to *The Militant* is especially bad because the paper was not even informed by the authorities of the fact that two issues were 'not being released.' Only when complaints came in that two successive issues had not been received by subscribers were questioners at the post office told that the issues were 'being withheld from dispatch.' . . .

"Now is the time to rally to the bill of rights."

SUBSCRIBE NOW

READ

THE MILITANT

WEEKLY

Six Months \$1.00

One Year \$2.00

(Clip and Mail This Coupon)

THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

116 University Place New York, N. Y.

I enclose \$..... Please send my subscription to:

Name

Address

City State

The Negro Struggle

By Albert Parker

How the Post Office Attack On Our Paper Affects the Struggle Against Jim Crow

The present activities of the Post Office in preventing THE MILITANT from going through the mails are closely connected with the whole struggle to smash Jim Crowism in the United States.

The Post Office's objections to THE MILITANT are not based on what we have to say about the Negro struggle alone. What the Post Office dislikes about this paper is its whole pro-labor policy. But an important part of this policy is its uncompromising stand against Jim Crowism wherever it exists, including Washington.

Mr. Calvin Hassell, assistant to the Solicitor of the Post Office Department in Washington, has stated that in his opinion "to urge Negroes to fight for their rights at the present moment" justifies the withholding of any issue of a paper from the mails.

This is one "crime" to which we certainly plead guilty. With all the energy at its command this paper has been urging the Negro masses to fight for their rights at the present moment. In fact, so long as we are making a confession, we could add that we have even been trying to convince the Negro people that it's more important for them to fight for their rights today than it was before Pearl Harbor.

We believe that if the Negro people don't fight for their rights in this period, they may find it impossible to fight for them after this "war for democracy" is ended. We not only believe this, but we've said it in print hundreds of times, and we wish we were in a position to tell it to every Negro worker in the country. We certainly have not been secretive in this crime of telling the Negro people that they should fight for their rights now, and why, and how.

Not only that, but we've even been urging all the white workers to help the Negro people in their fight, and trying to get the white workers to fight side by side with their Negro brothers against all defenders of Jim Crow.

Of course, Mr. Hassell and those in the administration whose orders he is carrying out do not like to have the Negro people told that they should fight for their rights in wartime as in peacetime. They don't like it when THE MILITANT prints such articles. But they also don't like it when any other paper, including the Negro press, does the same.

As an example of the administration's attitude on this question, we reprint sections of an editorial printed in the March 14, 1942 issue of the Pittsburgh Courier, and entitled "Cowing the Negro Press":

"In view of the hysteria that seems to be the inevitable accompaniment of war, colored citizens will not be surprised to learn that their only militant spokesman, the Negro press, is being closely watched and investigated by government agents.

"Offices of at least two of the largest Negro newspapers have

been visited by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation since Pearl Harbor.

"Mrs. Charlotta A. Bass, editor and publisher of the militant 'California Eagle,' states that FBI agents have visited her office and interrogated her about possible receipt of Japanese or German funds because her paper courageously condemned color discrimination and segregation in National Defense.

"This sort of thing is an obvious effort to cow the Negro press into soft-pedaling its criticism and ending its forthright exposure of the outrageous discriminations to which Negroes have been subjected. . .

"Of course it is easy to understand why those in authority do not relish having these undemocratic practices investigated and exposed, especially when our country has assumed the role of champion and arsenal of democracy.

"But Negroes feel that along with the victory for democracy abroad there must also be victory for democracy at home; and until this double victory is achieved, neither they nor their newspapers will remain silent.

"Instead of trying to frighten Negro editors into silence, we suggest that the FBI investigate those forces and institutions within America that are fostering and spreading fascism and disunity by treating Negroes as second-class citizens."

Now we are not trying to pretend that THE MILITANT is like the Negro press. For one thing, we maintain our paper has a more consistent policy against all the forces responsible for Jim Crow; for another, our paper advocates the only program to achieve racial equality.

But THE MILITANT is like the Negro press, or a great part of the Negro press, in this respect: We both expose Jim Crow practices, and we both tell the Negro masses to fight for an end to them.

If THE MILITANT can be suppressed for this "crime," isn't it obvious that the administration's next step would be to go after the more outspoken Negro papers? Wouldn't the administration consider cracking down on the activities of organizations like the March-on-Washington Movement? Wouldn't it have the effect of making many Negro editors less likely to print things for which this paper was gagged? Wouldn't all this result in a setback to the movement for Negro equality?

THE MILITANT fights for the rights of all the workers, and that is why its suppression would be a blow to the whole labor movement. It would be at least as great a blow at the struggle for Negro emancipation. That is why all workers, including the Negro workers, should protest the activities of the Post Office Department and send financial contributions to THE MILITANT, 116 University Pl., New York City, to help it in its fight to maintain the freedom of the press.

The Military And Political Effects Of The Turn In War

By A. ROLAND

No sooner do the "democracies" score a major victory in the war than an instantaneous change is noted in their politics. War is the extension of politics, by the other means. The policies pursued in a period of defeat are necessarily different from those put into effect when victory is the perspective.

This simple lesson is lost on the liberals and social democrats. These elements seize eagerly on any concessions made by capitalist governments during periods of stress or defeat. Such "velvet gloves" temporarily slipped on, the liberals interpret as real new skin, the sign that capitalism is recovering its health and ability to go forward.

Churchill permitted the British labor leaders to tell the masses that their lot would be entirely different after the war. Never again would they be subjected to the misery and suffering of the past. The defeat of Hitler was all that was necessary to usher in a brand new world. Churchill took labor into his cabinet. He himself remained pretty much silent on the social question—so long as England was under the black cloud of defeat.

The wily prime minister acted in canny fashion again when the war threatened to engross a discontented India. He called on the "leftist of the left," that man of rectitude, Sir Stafford Cripps, to ally the fears of the Indians that they might not be given their share of the democracy that was to spread all over the world.

TIME GAINED

The Cripps' mission gained the badly needed time that Churchill wanted to steer the Empire into a brighter period. It is clear now that Churchill's pent-up feelings strained him to the utmost limits of endurance. The moment a ray of victory appeared, the moment the turn in the war came, he could contain himself no longer.

With a great bellow he announced that he had not become prime minister to see the liquidation of the British Empire. He meant to hold on to what he had. That, incidentally, was notice not only to Mahatma Gandhi and Rajagopalachari, but to Roosevelt and Willkie as well. Churchill was serving notice that he did not intend to give up India to either the Indians or the United States without a bitter struggle.

Cripps was shown the door without ceremony. He had been squeezed dry and was of no further use. True, Morrison was at the same time elevated into the Cabinet. His over-ready acceptance shows how little he had learned from the lesson of Cripps, how little he understood the turn in politics in the coming period.

At the very moment when Churchill makes it plain that India need expect nothing from England, this labor light, Morrison, says: "There is a lot of talk about India, but again I prefer facts. The fact is that Britain has offered to the people of India full liberty to make their own constitution for themselves, even if it means complete independence. Whatever destiny they want for their own country after the war, they can have, provided only that nothing is done during the war to endanger the chances of victory for the United Nations." The role of Morrison is to do in England what Cripps did in India—to gain time for Churchill up to the point where the capitalists once more feel strong enough to cast aside the labor leaders.

The turn in the war brought its political changes in the

Canada after the company had violated an agreement to pay equal wages for women. According to a spokesman for the UAW, the companies in the Windsor area had agreed during a hearing before the Canadian War Labor Board to equalize the pay for women. Yet the Ford Motor Co. then hired women at 50c an hour to do the same work for which men receive 75c.

In Pittsburgh, Local 2 of the Aluminum Workers of America is scheduled to take a strike vote on Dec. 4 unless wages for women are equalized. The union claims that the women employed by ALCOA are doing men's work which pays 87c an hour, although they receive only 72c.

It can be put down as a certainty that the bosses are not going to pay women equal wages, no matter how many WLB rulings are issued, unless the unions back up their demands with militant action. Unless the unions back up their demands with militant action, we will simply have a repetition of what happened in the last war.

A Clear Trend to the Right Is Shown As Capitalists See Approach of Victory

United States as well. The affair Darlan is a symptom of the new atmosphere. The "expediency" formula can lead quite far. It is only under the warm rays of the sun of victory that a United States official can say that the Army would be willing to treat even a Goering in the same way if he brought over the entire Luftwaffe. And it is not outside the realms of possibility that the United States might see itself allied with Franco if Germany invades Spain.

Already the Allies are conducting a radio propaganda in Italy inviting its leaders—outside of Mussolini, who must be sacrificed in any case—to come to terms in a separate peace. For such a separate peace the Allies do not think in terms of Italian democrats, but rather of General Badoglio and the King.

The political atmosphere is changing internally as well as externally. Internal and external policies mutually affect each

other. We may expect that more and more attempts to "discipline" the American working class will be made as the end of the war approaches. The N. Y. Times recognizes the turn in politics in England, but of course says little on the corresponding changes here.

The Times correspondent, Raymond Daniell, writes an article under the correct heading: "British Cabinet Shifts Build Up Conservatives. The Party Thus Gives Notice That It Is Not Now Concerned with Reforms." The analysis made by this writer deserves quotation:

"Many shrewd observers see in the political changes announced at the opening of this week a clear indication that so far as domestic policy is concerned Mr. Churchill has decided to be a Tory Prime Minister of a coalition government without suffering the distractions of having an advocate of sweeping post-war reforms at his elbow in the inner

circle of the government. It is notable that at times of severest stress the voices of Toryism become subdued while the advocates of change are encouraged to give tongue to hold plans for building a post-war world." Daniell goes on to say that anybody who felt at such a period that England was undergoing any basic social change would find himself sadly mistaken.

Thus even the capitalist press admits the distinct turn towards reaction at the very first moment when the ruling class is encouraged to feel that it will be victorious. One may well ask: how much greater will reaction become as the victorious end of the war comes in sight?

The capitalists of the victorious countries will no longer need to mask their real designs under any form of dissimulation. The politics of the war will become plainer, just as in the last war. It is still too early to see the entire trend in this direction, but the beginnings are already obvious. The working class must realize what is happening and counter the moves of reaction by their organized resistance.

Some Lessons Of The Anti-Poll Tax Defeat

Two significant conclusions can be drawn from the defeat of the anti-poll tax bill in the Senate last week. One is the extent to which a ruling minority will go to resist even a minor concession to the masses. Another is the the Senate plays in the political life of this country.

In the Minneapolis trial a year ago the defense made a distinction between advocating and predicting violence and went on to explain that the prediction of Marxists that the capitalist class will use violence to oppose the introduction of socialism is based on theory and history. To a certain extent the determined action of the opponents of the anti-poll tax measure confirms this contention.

The measure that was filibustered to death by a group of Senators from the poll tax states is not a very radical one. It merely provides that no poll tax be required as a condition to vote for candidates for federal offices. Voting for state candidates would still be limited to those who paid a poll tax. It does not threaten to dispossess the Southern ruling class of its property and power. But it does constitute a breach in the dam erected by that class to prevent the masses, especially the Negro masses, from interfering in any way whatever with the political control exercised by the landlords and capitalists of the Southern states.

Significant is the action of the Southern reactionaries for the circumstances under which the bill was debated were such that a favorable vote could be expected. Not even the struggle against German imperialism and the consequent necessity of mobilizing all possible forces behind that struggle could budge the representatives of the Southern reactionaries. The liberals argued that to mobilize the Negro masses behind the war effort it was necessary, at the very least, to make them this insignificant concession. But these arguments fell on deaf ears. It seems that the Southern Senators would rather lose the war against Hitler than take a chance on giving the vote to the white and colored masses in federal elections.

The real defenders of the Negro people did not, of course, support the bill because it would obtain their support for the war, but because it was a measure to increase the democratic rights of the masses in the South. The question of the support of the Negro people for the war is mentioned to show that even such an argument had no effect.

It can be argued that the power and wealth of the Southern ruling class is not at all threatened by eliminating the qualification of a poll tax to vote in Federal elections. That is true. It may also be true that if the Southern ruling class were really convinced that in order to win the war it must yield on this point, it would do so. The Negro and white masses in the South would continue in their miserable state if the anti-poll tax bill were to be enacted into law. There is no poll tax in the North and still the masses do not have the power, and the Negroes are still subjected to a hateful discrimination.

All this is true, but not relevant to the point that the Southern Bourbons feel that their power is threatened by the anti-poll tax measure and because of that they are willing to go to extreme lengths to defeat it. War or no war, they will brook no interference with their complete political and economic control.

If, then, the rulers of the South will not yield on a minor matter under circumstances when yielding would seem to benefit them, will they yield to a majority of the people wanting to deprive them of their economic and political power and compel them to earn a living by honest labor? The answer is that in all probability the Southern ruling class will use every form of violence to prevent the majority from exercising its democratic right to establish a socialist society.

In killing the anti-poll tax bill the Senate justified the hope that the "founding fathers" had in that body as a check upon the House of Representatives. It also justifies the demand of all progressives for the abolition of the Senate

and the establishment of a unicameral legislative body.

When the Constitution of the United States was amended to provide for popular elections of Senators, instead of their election by state legislatures, there were people who concluded that no serious objection could henceforth be raised against the Senate as an anti-democratic chamber. The killing of the anti-poll tax bill proves the contrary.

The fact that every state has an equal number of Senators, regardless of size of population, necessarily characterizes the Senate as an anti-democratic body. To give a state of several hundred thousand population the same representation as a state of several million is a violation of all democratic principles. It is by virtue of that fact that the Southern Democrats wield an influence over legislation altogether out of proportion to the number of people they represent, even excluding the fact that, because of the poll tax, they are elected by a very small proportion of potential voters in their states.

The states having the largest number of inhabitants are those where industry has been concentrated and where the workers constitute the vast majority. If a labor party were to be organized on a national scale, its greatest support would naturally come from the populous industrial centers that have woefully inadequate representation in the Senate.

Now and then, it is true, a reactionary measure passed in the House of Representatives is killed in the Senate. A few progressive Senators occasionally succeed in filibustering a reactionary measure. But our attitude to an essentially reactionary institution must not be determined by an occasional success in defeating a reactionary measure. The best that can be hoped for in the Senate is for a few progressives to prevent the enactment of a piece of reactionary legislation now and then.

And this can be done only by virtue of the reactionary rules of the Senate enabling a minority of Senators to filibuster a bill to its death. In the long run democratic forces cannot and should not depend upon reactionary institutions and reactionary rules of procedure.

When the American workers become more conscious politically and organize a national party of their own against all parties openly favoring the capitalist system, the reactionary character of the Senate will become more obvious. For then, far more frequently than at present, progressive legislation will be introduced. Not only the Southern Senators but all the reactionaries will unite against such legislation. The Senate will be, as was intended by the chief framers of the Constitution, the bulwark of reaction.

It is necessary to support the struggle to abolish the reactionary rules of procedure governing the passing of legislation in the Senate. But, far more important, it is necessary to demand the total abolition of the Senate in the interests of true democracy, without, of course, creating the illusion that the mere abolition of the Senate will solve the social and economic problems confronting the American masses.

Next Week's Classes

of the New York School of Social Science

Wed., Dec. 9, 8:15 P. M.

World Economy Is Ripe for Socialism

C. CHARLES, Instructor

Fri., Dec. 11, 8:15 P. M.

Perspectives of the Indian Revolution

JOHN G. WRIGHT, Instructor

At 116 University Place—2d Fl.

Women In Industry

How to Enforce the War Labor Board's Equal Pay Decision

By MARIE TAYLOR

In response to the demands of workers throughout the country, the War Labor Board last week handed down a decision recognizing the principle of equal pay for equal work done by women. Whether this decision will actually be accepted in practice, and result in raising the sub-standard wages now being paid to thousands of women in industry, remains to be seen. This depends almost entirely on how the unions back up this ruling with demands of their own to enforce equal pay for women.

There is nothing new about this decision of the WLB. The principle of equal pay for equal work has been "on the books" of many agencies of the federal government for more than forty years.

During the first world war, the War Labor Conference Board set up the following guiding principle: "If it shall become necessary to employ women on war work ordinarily performed by men, they must be allowed equal pay for equal work."

In 1917 the chief of the Bureau of Ordinance of the War Dept. issued this order: "The standard of wages hitherto prevailing for

men in the process should not be lowered when women render equivalent service." (Quoted from the Nov. 29 N. Y. Times.)

Yet in spite of these rulings by the government agencies, wages for women in World War I averaged from 25 to 50% less than those of men doing the same work.

In order for equal pay for women to become an actuality, unions must fight to enforce this principle. Many leading unions have already raised slogans and campaigned for equal pay for women, but the bosses continue to pay women lower rates. Now that the WLB has ordered the abolition of the double standard of wages, it is up to the unions to see that the bosses abide by this decision.

In Canada, despite the notorious labor-hating policies of the government, which has cooperated with the bosses by outlawing strikes, suppressing unions and arresting union leaders, the workers have taken militant action to equalize wages for women. Last week 14,000 members of the CIO United Auto Workers went out on strike in 3 plants of the Ford Motor Co. of

Soviet Drives Stagger Germans On Two Fronts

(Continued from page 1)

matched by signs of ferment among the German workers at home. Nazi repressions have sharply increased and published lists of "radio criminals," "saboteurs" and "defeatists" have doubled and tripled during the past months.

Information from one German underground source states that 1,108 workers were killed or imprisoned during the single month of Sept., 1942. (Nation, Nov. 21.) This list, compiled from official announcements in Germany, is the largest for any single month since the Nazis seized power.

An indication of the uneasiness felt by the fascist rulers is the fact that a foreign spy is considered less of a criminal than a revolutionary worker. High treason (that is, advocating revolution against the fascists) is viewed within Germany as the worst possible offense — and treated accordingly.

The United Press on Dec. 1 quotes an illegal German radio as saying that Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler has withdrawn all his SS (Elite Guard) troops from the fronts and that they will henceforth be used for the original purpose — "to keep order and discipline among the population and army in Germany."

While we must be cautious in accepting all such reports on their face value, it is inevitable that Hitler's military reverses will encourage the German masses to greater resistance. The German workers were never supporters of Hitlerism, but rather its first victims.

However, the difficulties in overthrowing Hitler are enormous. His stranglehold upon the people will not be easily broken and thousands of them may be slaughtered at the first sign of an uprising.

WHAT GERMAN WORKERS FEAR

Moreover, the German workers' capacity to fight Hitler has been limited by their fear of the consequences of an Allied victory. Most of them lived through the post-war period when the Treaty of Versailles allowed the Allies to plunder prostrate Germany. They fear that should Hitler be defeated by England and the United States, another, and even worse, Versailles will be imposed upon them and their children.

The "United Nations" pattern of the post-war world is being made unmistakably clear to them. Roosevelt's deal with the French fascist Darlan and Stimson's endorsement of the Austrian pretender Otto von Habsburg can hardly inspire them to struggle against their own fascists. Many of the Nazi leaders could be no less valuable to the "strategy" of the "United Nations" than was Darlan. The German workers understand this and distrust the "democratic" imperialists.

But they have no more reason for trusting Stalin than Churchill and Roosevelt. Stalin has not opposed the imperialist aims of the "United Nations." He has made no condemnation of the Darlan or Prince Otto deals. He does not criticize Churchill's arrogant warning to the Indian and colonial workers that the British Empire has no intention of free-

ing them after the war is over. He has not pledged the aid of the Soviet Union to the German workers in their struggle to free themselves from Hitler. He has not summoned them to a joint struggle for the establishment of the Socialist United States of Europe.

The Stalinist bureaucracy in the USSR has rejected the policy of conducting a revolutionary war and has labeled all Germans, worker and capitalist alike, as enemies of the Soviet people. This is the keynote of its propaganda today.

HATE — GERMAN PROPAGANDA

Ilya Ehrenburg, journalist and mouthpiece for the Kremlin, slanders the German workers when he writes: "The German's hatred for other peoples is a natural condition." (The Worker, Nov. 28.)

And he gives Goebbels a propaganda weapon when he adds: "Our hatred was directed . . . against everything that today represents Germany. We hate the Germans."

There was a time when Hitler feared that his armies of occupation might be "poisoned by the virus of Bolshevism." But Stalin

Where You Can Get THE MILITANT

Boston—Adelman's Newsstand

284 Tremont St.

Chicago—Socialist Bookshop,

Room 421, 160 N. Wells St.

Detroit—The Saturday Book-

shop, Room 5, 3513 Wood-

ward Ave., open Saturday

evenings from 6 to 9 o'clock.

Minneapolis—Shinder's News

Agency, Hennepin Ave. and

6th St.; Pioneer News Agency,

238 2nd Ave. South.

Newark (Downtown)—News-

stand, 11 Springfield Ave.,

near Court House.

New Haven—Nodelman's

News Depot, 106 Church St.,

near Chapel.

New York (Harlem)—News-

stands north west corner of

Lenox Ave. and 125th St.

and at the northeast corner

of Lenox Ave. and 135th St.

New York (Garment Area)—

Newsstand, corner of 38th

St. and 7th Ave.

New York (Manhattan)—14th

St., between 4th and 7th

Aves.; Newsstands on 42nd

St., between 4th and 5th

Aves.

Rochester—Newsstand, Main

St. and Clinton Ave., south-

east corner.

Roxbury, Mass.—Friendly

Variety Newsstand, Grove

Hall.

Seattle—Eckhart News, 102

Washington Street.

BASIC TRAINING COURSE IN MARXISM

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

from 8:15 to 9:45 O'clock

Starting Dec. 8, 1942

Friends and members are urged

to enroll now

Inquire 4th floor

116 UNIVERSITY PL., N. Y.

WHY we Defend The Soviet Union

By ALBERT GOLDMAN

Pioneer Publishers

116 University Place

New York City

NEW YORK BRANCH OF CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

presents

"TRIAL BY ERROR"

A VERY LIGHT OPERETTA

on behalf of

The Minneapolis Defendants

Sentenced One Year Ago

DANCING — REFRESHMENTS

WERDERMANN'S HALL, 160 Third Avenue

(near 16th St.) 9:00 P. M.

December 12, 1942

Subscription 50 Cents

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the
Working People.

VOL. VI—No. 49 Saturday, December 5, 1942

Published Weekly by
THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASS'N
at 116 University Place, New York, N. Y.
Telephone: ALexandria 4-8647

Editor:
GEORGE BREITMAN

THE MILITANT follows the policy of permitting its contributors to present their own views in signed articles. These views therefore do not necessarily represent the policies of THE MILITANT which are expressed in its editorials.

Subscriptions: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for six months.
Foreign: \$3.00 per year, \$1.50 for six months. Bundle orders: 5 cents per copy in the United States; 4 cents per copy in all foreign countries. Single copies: 5 cents.

"Registered as second class matter February 13, 1941 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

JOIN US IN FIGHTING FOR:

1. Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions. Special officers' training camps, financed by the government but controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.
2. Trade union wages for all workers drafted into the army.
3. Full equality for Negroes in the armed forces and the war industries—Down with Jim Crowism everywhere.
4. Confiscation of all war profits. Expropriation of all war industries and their operation under workers' control.
5. For a rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.
6. Workers Defense Guards against vigilante and fascist attacks.
7. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade Unions.
8. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.
9. Defend the Soviet Union Against imperialist attack.

War Aims One Year After Pearl Harbor

A year has passed since Pearl Harbor. The casualty lists are becoming longer and longer. The people in this country have the right to ask, "What are we fighting for?"

Are they fighting to bring Darlan to power in France? Are they fighting to place the Habsburgs of Austria back to the throne? To many people it appears so.

In the first world war the slogan was that the war was being fought to end Kaiserism; is the second world war being fought to place the Kaisers of Austria back on the throne from which they fled before the aroused masses of that country?

So it seems, judging by the attitude and statements of the State and War Departments and of the President himself.

Archduke Otto of Habsburg is the pretender to the throne of Austria-Hungary. His father ruled over a prison house of peoples, a center of class and national oppressions of the vilest type. The Germany of Kaiser Wilhelm was a model of liberalism compared to the Austro-Hungarian feudal-capitalist set up. Otto has tied his hopes for restoration with the Allied camp.

On Nov. 19, Secretary of War Stimson wrote to "Otto of Habsburg" as head of the "military committee for the liberation of Austria," informing him that he had been "accepted by this Department." Thus Otto is recognized as head of an Austrian Battalion of the American Army.

The very heading of the letter to Otto reeks of reaction. It is addressed to "Otto of Habsburg," using a form very similar to that which is used in addressing royalty. It appears from the letter that the war Department took the initiative in the move, or at least went more than halfway to meet the vestige of a decayed monarchy.

The War Department consulted the State Department before acting, so the feeble excuse of ignorance cannot be advanced.

As an added straw in the wind it can be pointed out that Otto's mother, the former Empress Zita, enjoys "social advantages" in Washington. These advantages went so far as being a guest at a week end at the President's home in Hyde Park last summer.

According to many liberals, the relationship with Darlan is merely a mistake or a temporary wartime expedient to facilitate the military conquest of Northern Africa. This explanation has been suggested by the president himself.

But in the relations with Habsburg even this pretext will not hold water. Habsburg is not even the feeble force that Darlan was. The news of the "progress" in the status of Otto will be met by the Austrian masses with hostile indifference if not active opposition.

As a matter of fact, both Darlan and Otto have absolutely no roots among any section of the masses of either France or what was formerly Austria-Hungary.

They are hated and despised figures among the

people of the two countries. Neither of them has ever made any pretense of being democrats. They both have been bred in a tradition of reaction and hatred of democracy and have acted according to this tradition.

In their relations with Otto, the State and War Departments have contemptuously disregarded the liberal and semi-radical Austrians even though these are pro-Ally and have a measure of support among the people of Austria.

What is behind this close relationship, this bowing and scraping before impotent and isolated crass and bloody reactionaries? What is this war being fought for?

Washington officials may seek to suppress *The Militant* for raising such questions. But suppressions will not answer these questions, nor stop the masses from thinking about them and asking them.

What Happens To The Overtime Pay?

Last spring President Roosevelt asked the unions to voluntarily surrender premium pay for weekend and holiday pay on the ground that "in wartime it puts a brake on production." In reply to the question of what would happen to the money which the workers give up, he promised on April 8, in a letter to the Chicago emergency conference of the United Auto Workers, that:

"It is the intention of the government to renegotiate contracts with the employers wherever necessary to insure that the savings from relinquishment of double or premium time go not to the employer but the nation."

Late in the summer, Roosevelt decided to make the surrender of premium pay mandatory, and he issued an executive order on Sept. 9 decreeing its abolition. In this order he said that all government agencies and departments would "immediately open negotiations to alter provisions in existing contracts" so that the premium pay taken from the workers would not be kept by the employers.

Since that time there have been no reports by the government on the extent to which contracts have been negotiated. But last week the Stalinists spilled some of the beans.

In a statement printed in the Nov. 28 issue of *UE News*, the Stalinist-dominated leadership of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers categorically states:

"To date, only an insignificant number of the many government contracts have in fact been renegotiated."

And the same UE leaders are quoted in a Nov. 23 *Daily Worker* as saying that "This provision of the order has been substantially ignored, so that unless the companies agree to turn over the Thanksgiving Day savings to the government, these firms will pocket millions of dollars to which they are not entitled."

In an effort to save face before their own members, the UE leaders organized a campaign to persuade the employers under contract with the UE to agree to give the Treasury the money involved in Thanksgiving overtime.

Two days after Thanksgiving the *Daily Worker* reported the only results of this campaign thus far made public. In the metropolitan area, the story boasted, 11 plants employing 7,000 workers had complied with the UE request. At the estimated figure of \$4 per worker, this means \$28,000 would go to the government. The difference between "millions" and \$28,000 remained in the bosses' pockets.

The employers, government officials, labor leaders and Stalinists all argued that the payment of premium wages was impeding production. By pressure and threat and executive decree they took it away from the workers. Now the workers can see the real reason for their action, and its result.

Randolph's Statement

On the front page of this issue is an article which merits the closest attention of every worker: a report of the statement made last week by A. Philip Randolph, union leader and director of the March-on-Washington Movement, on the occasion of the defeat of the anti-poll tax bill in Congress.

The deal which saved the poll-tax was made possible only through the collaboration of the Republican and Democratic Parties, Randolph points out. It showed "that the New Deal, even under President Roosevelt's leadership, is absolutely bankrupt, so far as providing any fundamental answer to the problem of the Negro is concerned." And "that the liberal senators failed and failed miserably in upholding the principles of American liberalism."

In many ways, then, Randolph's was an excellent analysis of the lessons of the fight over the poll tax. But it was not an adequate analysis. It is true that he promised that the March-on-Washington Movement would intensify its activities on behalf of the democratic rights of the Negro and white workers.

But Randolph's statement did not indicate the political step which should be taken by all who are aware of the real role of the New Deal, the old parties and the capitalist liberals.

It is not enough to condemn the enemies of the workers. It is also necessary to organize a fight against them and to try to take political power out of their hands. The need of the workers today, white and Negro, and of all those who would defend and extend the democratic rights of the masses in wartime, is a nation-wide independent labor party based on the trade union movement.

WORKERS' FORUM

These columns are open to the opinions of the readers of THE MILITANT. Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers, but keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed. — Editor.

False Propaganda On 40-Hour Week

Editor:

All the hue and cry about the 40-hour week being responsible for a shortage of war workers is just so much boss propaganda. The labor balters in Congress, and elsewhere, are trying to give the people the impression that the law won't let workers spend more than 40 hours on the job. The facts are, as most *Militant* readers know, that the law merely says that overtime shall be paid after 40 hours — the workers can labor as long as they want to.

Even the so-called Gallup Poll has come out with a survey that explodes the boss propaganda on this point. The poll revealed that 79% of the war workers were willing to stay on the job more than 40 hours per week, but they wanted overtime pay for it.

And what's wrong with that, I should like to ask? The bosses are making enormous profits out of this war and there's no reason why they can't pay overtime to the men that really do the producing.

L. R.
CHICAGO

Glad We Intend To Fight It Out

Editor:

We have been visiting the people on our mailing list to explain why they weren't receiving the paper. We had some very encouraging comments, especially from our colored friends.

Each paper that is sent there is seen by many people other than those we send it to. Being afraid we had stopped sending it be-

cause perhaps their subscriptions had run out, they were scraping together some money to send to you. They were pleased to find that we intend to fight to be able to send them the papers.

M. J.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sends Contribution, Wants Farm Articles

Editor:

I received your letter telling the reason why the Nov. 7 and 14 issues of THE MILITANT were not received. We subscribers demand that those two issues be released. Also we protest the interference with THE MILITANT's mailing rights in the future.

Enclosed you will find 50c. in postage stamps which is a small contribution to help in your fight. Also, as a farmer, I would like it if you would carry more articles on the subject of agriculture, farm problem, the farm bloc, etc.

M. A.
LIMA, N. Y.

Cost of Living Squeezes \$16 Worker

Editor:

I have just been listening to a bond-selling radio program — that 10% campaign — and out of curiosity I worked out just what a person earning \$16 a week (minimum wage in my work) would have left out of his pay. Whew! I think that is a subject that should be covered by *The Militant*. I'll bet few realize what it amounts up to for a low-paid worker.

Besides that, our dollar is

shrinking all the time. We all know butter is 55c. per pound. Ceilings were supposed to have been placed but we can't even see the ceiling. Things are going up and up and it's hard enough to make ends meet on \$16. But when you begin to take 10% off that amount — then it's really tough. Then of course there are all the hidden taxes that cut it down even more.

I know this has been going on for some time and maybe I've been slow in coming to, but it sure is hitting me between the eyes (and in the pocket-book, now).

R. Q.
Allentown, Pa.

Imperialists and Their Arguments

Editor:

Nationalism has played both progressive and reactionary roles in history; imperialism only reactionary ones.

The imperialisms of Germany and Italy, for demagogic purposes and in necessity of justifying themselves before a proletariat more or less advanced, use nationalistic arguments in their apologies. They present a cynical rehash of progressive nationalism.

For the same reasons the United States and England must use internationalism as an argument in their propaganda; but the internationalism of these countries is as false and rotten as the nationalism of Germany and Italy. It is the difference between a fascism that masks itself in the uniforms of the past and a fascism (as yet only in its embryonic stage) that must mask itself in the dress of the future.

EGIDIO MATTINA,
Easton, Pa.

Workers' BOOKSHELF

VICTORY AND AFTER, by Earl Browder. International Publishers. New York, 1942. \$5.00, 256 pages.

Browder's book marks a new low point for the Stalinists in this country. Supposedly written as a "systematic presentation of the point of view of the Communist Party of the United States," it essentially apologizes for the very existence of that party and underwrites every reactionary policy of American capitalism.

Any worker who opens the book for a political answer to his daily problems will be wasting his time. The book was written for the purpose of alleviating all uneasiness about the "menace of Communism" amongst the capitalists, and seeks by apologetic scraping and bowing to make a respectable place for the Communist Party in the capitalist world.

Chapter V is entitled "Is Communism a Menace?" Browder explains in great detail that it is not. It should be surprising to many workers, including members of the Communist Party to find a leading "Communist" scoffing at the possibility of communism. But the explanation is simple. Browder is no communist. Consider this paragraph penned by him:

"Mr. Hoover thinks the capitalist system is such a delicate organism that if it has any competition with a socialist system anywhere in the world it will simply curl up and die of a belly-ache, and, therefore, to save capitalism, we must kill off socialism by war wherever it might appear."

"Mr. Hoover's judgment upon capitalism is worse than anything which I, as a spokesman for the Communists, have ever uttered against it. For I firmly believe that Mr. Hoover's theory is a slander against capitalism. I believe that it is possible for capitalism to continue in the United States even if there is socialism in the Soviet Union." (Pp. 76-77.)

The theory of the possibility of the reconciliation of the interests of the capitalist class and the working class is not the exclusive property of the William Greens and the Social-Democratic labor fakery. It is being taught by the Stalinist labor fakery as well:

"Secondly as a practical matter, national unity in the United States is above all a problem of adjusting class interests without the severe struggles by which this has usually been accomplished." (Browder's italics, Pp. 83.)

The most significant part of the book is the section in which Browder advances the idea that the workers must sacrifice, but the bosses should not be asked to give up anything! He speaks words that many workers in his own party will surely read with disgust.

Speaking of "equality of sacrifice," he says: "Any attempt to interpret literally the phrase 'equality of sacrifice' would of course, not help prosecute the war to victory, but would hopelessly sabotage it. There is not, and cannot be, any literal equality of sacrifice as between workers and capitalists in this war. The workers must make the main sacrifices, and they have enough

common sense to know, and enough patriotism not to object to it." (P. 86.)

On the high income allowances for the bosses and executives:

"The labor movement has not protested this generous allowance to the privileged classes, understanding that even in besieged civilization such persons trained to luxury and idleness must be handled gently and indulgently. Even the Communists have shown no disposition to urge more drastic restrictions on the upper classes." (P. 87.)

On the running of the war:

"We must find a way to finance, organize, and fight this war through to victory, a way which is acceptable to the owning class (industrialists, financiers, bondholders with their most important hired men)." (P. 87.)

On the claims of the bosses and business executives:

"... The claims of property owners and coupon clippers ... must be compromised with generosity in their favor." (P. 88.)

"Business executives have been so completely habituated to receiving incomes scaled up to a certain equality with property incomes of the highest brackets that they will inevitably be favored at the expense of the masses and of the total war effort. This may be deplored from abstract considerations, but it must not be rejected." (P. 89.)

Following these ideas, the political perspective of the C. P. shapes up as follows:

"To the extent that they are prepared to subordinate their own special interests and ideologies to the needs of victory in this war, Tories and Communists can severally and jointly contribute to national unity, together with all others." (Browder's italics, P. 124.)

Limitations of space do not permit full examination of Browder's ideas. The above samples are displayed to demonstrate how little communism there remains in the so-called Communist Party. Those workers who seek communism today must seek elsewhere. Browder in his book refers to the Trotskyist party as a "super-revolutionary ghost." Perhaps this clue will show advanced workers where to seek.

Reviewed by HARRY FRANKEL

BOUND VOLUMES OF THE MILITANT 1941

Now Available at

\$3.00 each

Limited Supply-Order Immediately from
THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
116 University Place — New York City

Why Is the Times Worried About Hitler's Weakness?

By ANTHONY MASSINI

Many readers of the Nov. 20 N. Y. Times must have been puzzled by the cryptic paragraph that concluded the lead editorial on "The Test Of Hitler's Power":

"What the African expedition precipitates, in short, is a test of Hitler's power over all of Europe. There are signs of uncertainty in the German plans, delays and waverings that suggest that the master strategist is taken by surprise and is improvising moves with counters he is not sure of. This is an opportunity for the Allied forces, BUT IT IS A PERIL, TOO, FOR IT SUGGESTS THAT THERE MAY ALREADY BE GREATER WEAKNESS THAN WE REALIZED UNDER THE FACADE OF NAZI POWER. The decisive battle may develop, in fact, before we are ready to fight it."

It is not accidental when the Times writes in such a half-revealing, half-vague style. That is its method of getting ideas across to the class-conscious supporters of capitalism without taking the responsibility for advocating opinions which are not very popular at present with the majority of the people.

But despite this precaution, a careful reading of this paragraph, and especially of the part capitalized, should convince everyone that the editors of the Times (and the farsighted sections of American capitalism for whom they speak) are genuinely concerned about the possibility that Hitlerism may be weaker than is generally supposed.

Why should the Times consider that possibility "a peril," especially when day-in and day-out it keeps warning its readers that Hitler is by no means defeated, even if Allied forces succeed in driving the Axis troops off the African continent?

There can be only one reason. The Times fears that Hitler may be crushed before the Allies are ready to come to final grips with him, that is, crushed by the revolutionary action of the masses of Europe and or the Red Army. The Times is worried about this possibility—and wants its readers to think about it—because it knows the defeat of Hitler under such conditions would mean the establishment of workers' governments throughout Europe. That would indeed be a peril to all those like the Times who are more afraid of socialism than they are of fascism!

Inventions and Fate of The 'Joads' After the War

By C. CHARLES

For hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers, the question of what will happen after the war has been settled. If the capitalist system still exists, they are going to be unemployed.

Such is the fate in store for them as a result of the development of a mechanical cotton picker. After 40 years of effort, completion of the machinery was announced by the head of the International Harvester Company on Nov. 20.

So far only a dozen or so machines have been made because of shortages of materials. As soon as the war is over, or if the government releases the necessary raw material during the war, the machine will be put into mass production.

Each machine replaces between 50 to 80 cotton pickers.

The machine will also mean the ruin of additional hundreds of thousands of dirt farmers, who will be forced into the ranks of the unemployed as were the Joads of Oklahoma in the novel and motion picture, "The Grapes of Wrath."

Cotton picking is backbreaking work and the invention of the machine could mean the freeing from this monotonous, dreary, hard toil of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children. However, with capitalist ownership of the means of production, this new machine means the doom of these workers.

If the workers owned the means of production this machine would be hailed with joy, instead of arousing the dread of unemployment. Instead of meaning even greater profits for the few and hunger for many, as it does now, every such advance in technique in a socialist society would mean more food, clothing, shelter and education for the masses.

Starvation in Puerto Rico And the New Food Program

By HOWARD ALLEN

President Roosevelt appointed Governor Herbert Lehman as Director of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation on Nov. 22. His new assignment, the Governor said, "would involve getting food, clothing, medicine and other assistance to the peoples of occupied countries as soon as their nations were freed of the Axis yoke."

The new director said nothing about Puerto Rico, where appalling conditions of starvation, squalor and misery exist. Puerto Rico is not under the Nazi yoke; it is an American colony.

The diversion of merchant shipping from Puerto Rico which virtually cut off the island from the mainland has resulted in a disastrous depletion of food stocks and in a complete collapse of the U. S. dominated economy of Puerto Rico.

On Sept. 1 40% of the workers were unemployed. Seven weeks later, the number of unemployed rose from 160,000 to 225,000. By Nov. 12 325,000 were without work and more than 165,000 families without any income at all.

While the incomes of the workers have been plunging downwards, the cost of living has zoomed to more than double pre-war levels. Rice, for example, which sold for 4½c per pound in July, 1939, had risen to 10c per pound by October 1942.

While Puerto Rican industrial and agricultural workers starve, and Relief Director Lehman promises aid to Nazi-dominated lands in the future, Congress debates a \$5,000 investigation of Roosevelt-appointed Governor Tugwell's Puerto Rican administration.

Can it be that "the humanitarians" in Washington are less concerned about starvation in Puerto Rico than starvation in lands now controlled by Hitler because the conquest of Puerto Rico has already been completed?